NPCC, Inc.

NORTHEAST POWER COORDINATING COUNCIL, INC.
1040 AVE. OF THE AMERICAS, NEW YORK, NY 10018 (212) 840-1070 FAX (212) 302-2782

NPCC REGIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE

AGENDA FOR MEETING #15-1
February 18, 2015 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. EST
February 19, 2015 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. EST
NextEra Energy Office
700 Universe Boulevard
Juno Beach, Florida USA
Attire: Business Casual

Dial-In: 415-655-0003 (USA) / 416-915-6530 (Canada) **Guest Code: 28840965**

For Reference:
Glossary of Terms Used in NERC Reliability Standards, dated January 29, 2015
NPCC Glossary of Terms, dated January 18, 2012

Introductions and Chair's Remarks

NPCC Antitrust Compliance Guidelines

Agenda Items:

1.0 Review of Agenda

2.0 RSC Meeting Minutes

2.1 Approval of Minutes: Final Meeting Minutes 12-4-14

3.0 Drafting Team Members and Executive Tracking Summary

3.1 NPCC Members on NERC Drafting Teams
3.2 Executive Tracking Summary
3.3 NERC Project Tracking Spreadsheet

4.0 Open Action Items

4.1 Open Action Items List

5.0 Items Requiring RSC Discussion / Approval

5.1 NERC Weekly Standards Bulletin
5.2 NERC RAPA Meeting
5.3 NPCC RCC Meeting Minutes
5.4 NERC Bulk Electric System Update
5.5 New NERC Web Page Dedicated to Canadian Resources
5.6 Vice Chairs and Executive Committee Members Positions
5.7 RSC Scope of Work
5.8 Abnormal low number of Canadian Nominations
5.9 Project 2014-03 Revisions to TOP and IRO Standards

5.10 BARC SDT

5.11 Project 2014-04 Physical Security

6.0 NERC Reliability Standards

http://www.nerc.com/pa/Stand/Pages/Standards-Under-Development.aspx

6.1 Currently Posted Projects

Project	Comment Period End Date	Ballot Period End Date	Standards Developer	2/18/15 Call-In
New Standards Balloting and Commenting System			Barbara Nutter	11:00AM
Project 2015-02 - Emergency Operations Periodic Review			Laura Anderson	2:15PM
Project 2015-03 - Periodic Review of System Operating Limit Standards			Marisa Hecht	2:00PM
Project 2015-04 - Alignment of NERC Glossary of Terms and Definitions Used in the Rules of Procedure (Appendix 2 of the Rules of Procedure)			Lacey Ourso	1:45PM
Project 2007-06.2 - System Protection Coordination			Scott Barfield McGuiness	12:45PM
Project 2008-02 Undervoltage Load Shedding (UVLS) & Underfrequency Load Shedding (UFLS) PRC-004 Misop			Scott Barfield McGuiness	1:00PM
Project 2010-14.1 Phase 1 of Balancing Authority Reliability-based Controls: Reserves	3/16/15 (F)	3/16/15 (A)	Darrel Richardson	1:15PM
Comments: (I) – Informal; (F) – Formal **Ballots:** (I) – Initial; (A) – Additional; (F) – Final				

6.1.1 RSC develop a policy for comments on NERC postings other than standards.

6.2 Ballot History (Since last RSC Meeting)

6.3 Comment Form History (Since last RSC Meeting)

7.0 NERC Drafting Team Nominations

http://www.nerc.com/pa/Stand/Pages/Drafting-Team-Vacancies.aspx

7.1 Currently Posted Drafting Team Vacancies

7.1.1 None at this time

7.2 Closed Drafting Team Nominations (Since last RSC Meeting)

7.2.1 None at this time

7.3 Solicitation For Informal Development Teams

7.3.1 None at this time

8.0 NPCC Regional Reliability Standards*

https://www.npcc.org/Standards/default.aspx

8.1 Current Activities: RSAR for Disturbance Monitoring Standard PRC-002-NPCC-01

8.2 Activities on Hold: Regional Standard BAL-002-NPCC-01: Regional Reserve Sharing

9.0 NPCC Non-Standards*

https://www.npcc.org/Standards/SitePages/NonStandardsList.aspx

9.1 Directories:

9.1.1 Directory #1 Design and Operation of the Bulk Power System (Status of CO7/CP11 Review).

Mr. Dunbar's 1/26/15 email message to the RSC

9.1.2 Directory#3 Maintenance Criteria BPS – (Retirement Approved on 10/15/2014 effective April 1st, 2015).

9.1.3 Directory#7 SPS (Status of NERC RAS)

9.2 Directory Clarifications

9.2.1 TFSP Clarification for the IESO- Market Assessment and Compliance Division (MACD). (Status of TFSP Clarification)

10.0 RSC Member Items of Interest

10.1 RSC Roster*

11.0 Standards Activity Post NERC BOT Approval*

(Since last RSC Meeting)

11.1 NERC Filings to FERC
http://www.nerc.com/FilingsOrders/Pages/default.aspx

11.2 FERC Orders / Rules
http://www.nerc.com/FilingsOrders/Pages/default.aspx

11.3 Federal Register
https://www.federalregister.gov/

11.4 FERC Sunshine Act Meeting Notice

11.5 FERC Open Meeting Summaries

12.0 NERC Meetings

12.1 Standards Committee (SC)
http://www.nerc.com/comm/SC/Pages/default.aspx

January 21st - Call	February 18th - Call	March 11th - Meeting
April 15th - Call	May 20th - Call	June 10th - Meeting
July 15th - Call	August 19th - Call	September 23rd Meeting
October 21st - Call	November 18th - Call	December 9th - Meeting

12.2 Standards Committee Process Subcommittee (SCPS)
http://www.nerc.com/comm/SC/Pages/Standards%20Committee%20Process%20Subcommittee%20SCPS/Standards-Committee-Process-Subcommittee-SCPS.aspx

12.3 Standards Committee Project Management and Oversight Subcommittee (PMOS)
http://www.nerc.com/comm/SC/Pages/ProjectManagementandOversightSubcommittee(PMOS).aspx

12.4 Member Representatives Committee (MRC) Meeting
http://www.nerc.com/gov/bot/MRC/Pages/AgendaHighlightsandMinutes2013.aspx

12.5 Board of Trustees (BOT) Meeting
http://www.nerc.com/gov/bot/Pages/Agenda-Highlights-and-Minutes-.aspx

12.6 Reliability Issues Steering Committee (RISC)
http://www.nerc.com/comm/RISC/Pages/AgendasHighlightsandMinutes.aspx

13.0 NERC Compliance Tools (Since last RSC Meeting)

13.1 Compliance Analysis Reports (CARs)
http://www.nerc.com/pa/comp/Pages/Compliance-Analysis-Reports.aspx

13.1.1 There have not been any CARs posted since the last RSC meeting

14.0 NERC Items of Interest (Since last RSC Meeting)

14.1 Lessons Learned
http://www.nerc.com/pa/rrm/ea/Pages/Lessons-Learned.aspx

14.1.1 Five new Lessons Learned have been issued since the last RSC meeting.

14.2 Alerts
http://www.nerc.com/pa/rrm/bpsa/Pages/Alerts.aspx

14.2.1 There has been no new NERC Alert released since the last RSC meeting.

14.3 Five Year ERO Performance Assessment

15.0 Other Items of Interest

15.1 2015 Regional Entity Business Plans and Budgets

15.2 NPCC Compliance Committee (CC)

January 14th – Call	February 18th – Call	March 17-18th Meeting
April 15th – Call	May 13th – Call	May 19-21st Workshop
June 16-17th Meeting	July 15th – Call	August 19th – Call
September 22-23rd Meeting	October 14th – Call	November 10-12th Workshop
December 3-4th Meeting		

16.0 Future RSC Meetings and Conference Calls

16.1 RSC 2015 Meeting Dates

February 18th-19th, 2015 NextEra Energy Offices, Juno Beach FL
April 15th & 16th, 2015 Dominion Offices, Richmond VA
June 23rd & 24th, Saratoga NY
October 7th & 8th, Montreal Quebec
December 3rd & 4th, Albany NY

16.2 RSC 2015 Conference Call Schedule (calls can be scheduled as needed)
all Calls are planned to start at 10:00 a.m. (call: 415-655-0003 (USA) / 416-915-6530 (Canada), Guest Code 29086775)

January 16	January 30	February 13
March 6	March 20	April 2
May 1	May 15	May 29
June 12	July 10	July 23
August 14	August 28	September 11
September 25	October 23	November 6
November 20	December 18	

Respectfully Submitted,

Guy V. Zito, Chair RSC
Assistant Vice President-Standards
Northeast Power Coordinating Council, Inc.

Northeast Power Coordinating Council, Inc. (NPCC)

Antitrust Compliance Guidelines

It is NPCC's policy and practice to obey the antitrust laws and to avoid all conduct that unreasonably restrains competition. The antitrust laws make it important that meeting participants avoid discussion of topics that could result in charges of anti-competitive behavior, including: restraint of trade and conspiracies to monopolize, unfair or deceptive business acts or practices, price discrimination, division of markets, allocation of production, imposition of boycotts, exclusive dealing arrangements, and any other activity that unreasonably restrains competition.

It is the responsibility of every NPCC participant and employee who may in any way affect NPCC's compliance with the antitrust laws to carry out this commitment.

Participants in NPCC activities (including those participating in its committees, task forces and subgroups) should refrain from discussing the following throughout any meeting or during any breaks (including NPCC meetings, conference calls and informal discussions):

- Industry-related topics considered sensitive or market intelligence in nature that are outside of their committee's scope or assignment, or the published agenda for the meeting;
- Their company's prices for products or services, or prices charged by their competitors;
- Costs, discounts, terms of sale, profit margins or anything else that might affect prices;
- The resale prices their customers should charge for products they sell them;
- Allocating markets, customers, territories or products with their competitors;
- Limiting production;
- Whether or not to deal with any company; and
- Any competitively sensitive information concerning their company or a competitor.

Any decisions or actions by NPCC as a result of such meetings will only be taken in the interest of promoting and maintaining the reliability and adequacy of the bulk power system.

Any NPCC meeting participant or employee who is uncertain about the legal ramifications of a particular course of conduct or who has doubts or concerns about whether NPCC's antitrust compliance policy is implicated in any situation should call NPCC's Secretary, Ruta Skučas, Esq. at 1-202-470-6428.

NORTHEAST POWER COORDINATING COUNCIL, INC.
1040 AVE. OF THE AMERICAS, NEW YORK, NY 10018 (212) 840-1070 FAX (212) 302-2782

NPCC REGIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE

AGENDA FOR MEETING #14-5
December 4th, 2014, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. AST
Halifax Marriott Harbourfront Hotel
1919 Upper Water Street
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 3J5 Canada
Attire: Business Casual

Dial-In: 415-655-0003 (USA) / 416-915-6530 (Canada) **Guest Code: 29086775**

For Reference: Glossary of Terms Used in NERC Reliability Standards, dated October 1, 2014
NPCC Glossary of Terms, dated January 18, 2012

Attendees:

	Name	Organization	Sector (s)	Day(s)	Comment
1.	Kal Ayoub	FERC	Guest	1	
2.	Guy Zito	Northeast Power Coordinating Council		1	
3.	Lee Pedowicz	Northeast Power Coordinating Council		1	
4.	Gerry Dunbar	Northeast Power Coordinating Council		1	Via Phone
5.	RuiDa Shu	Northeast Power Coordinating Council		1	
6.	Herb Schrayshuen	Power Advisors, LLC – Proxy for NextEra Energy, LLC	4	1	Via Phone
7.	Jim Grant Proxy for Greg Campoli	New York Independent System Operator	2	1	
8.	Chris de Graffenried	Consolidated Edison Co. of New York, Inc.	3	1	Via Phone
9.	Kelly Dash	Consolidated Edison Co. of New York, Inc.	1	1	Via Phone
10.	Vijay Puran	NYS Department of Public Service	6	1	Via Phone
11.	Kathleen Goodman	ISO-NE	2	1	Via Phone
12.	Khaqan Khan	IESO	2	1	Observer

13.	Alan MacNaughton	New Brunswick Power Corporation	1	1	
14.	Si-Truc Phan Sector 1 Proxy for Sylvain Clermont	Hydro-Québec TransÉnergie	1/2	1	
15.	Chantal Mazza	Hydro-Québec TransÉnergie	Guest	1	
16.	Martin Boisvert	Hydro-Québec TransÉnergie	Guest	1	Observer
17.	Brian Robinson	Utility Services	5	1	
18.	Brian Shanahan	National Grid	1	1	Via Phone
19.	Muhammed Ali	Hydro One Networks	1	1	
20.	Ben Wu	Orange and Rockland Utilities	1	1	
21.	Tom Neglia	Orange and Rockland Utilities	3	1	Via Phone
22.	Connie Lowe	Dominion Resources Services	4	1	Via Phone
23.	Mark J. Kenny	Northeast Utilities	1	1	Via Phone
24.	Ron Falsetti	AESI	Guest	1	

Introductions and Chair's Remarks

Lee Pedowicz called the meeting to order at 8:25PM on Thursday December 4th, 2014.

Guy Zito provided an overview updates on the Fall Workshop and General Meeting.

NPCC Antitrust Compliance Guidelines

The NPCC Antitrust Compliance Guidelines were read by Lee Pedowicz.

Agenda Items:

1.0 Review of Agenda

The RSC Draft Meeting Agenda was reviewed by Guy Zito.

2.0 RSC Meeting Minutes

2.1 Approval of Minutes: September 17-18, 2014 RSC Meeting #14-4*

Corrected Don Weaver's information on the meeting minutes on the attendee list.

Herb Schrayshuen made a motion for approval.

Jim Grant seconded the motion.

The Meeting Minutes were approved as read.

3.0 Drafting Team Members and Executive Tracking Summary

3.1 NPCC Members on NERC Drafting Teams*

Guy provided updates on the drafting teams and pointed out that SDT participation is not open to public.

3.2 Executive Tracking Summary*
RuiDa Shu provided updates on the Executive Tracking Summaries, main updates are on the final ballot results on the recent standards.

3.3 NERC Project Tracking Spreadsheet (*link*)
RSC counted as a group there are approximately 16 standards active at the moment.

4.0 Open Action Items*

4.1 Open Action Items List

Item	Description	Owner	Due	Status
4.1	Coordination with the Compliance Committee to develop Joint Activity Action List	Greg Campoli/Guy Zito	RSC Meeting	Update: Guy Zito provided updates on the RSAWs. CC will review RSAWs going forward.
4.2	New York Adoption of More Stringent/Specific NPCC Criteria – determine more stringent criteria and submit filing	Gerry Dunbar	October, 2014	Update: Since Kristin Halper has completed the legal review, this item will be removed from Open Action list.
4.3	NPCC outreach program development – discussion item: members provide input and opportunities for development of an outreach program	RSC	RSC Meeting	Update: Ongoing, two outreaches have been done with NYPA.
4.4	Revise the Directory Development Manual to address cost effectiveness	G. Dunbar		Update: This item should be removed, manual has went through the review, approved and document is posted on

				NPCC website.
4.5	Follow up with NERC on current RSAW development process	Guy Zito		Update: This item should be removed, RSAWs will be addressed by the Compliance Committee

5.0 Items Requiring RSC Discussion / Approval

5.1 NERC Weekly Standards Bulletin

5.2 NERC RAPA Meeting

5.3 NPCC RCC Meeting Minutes

5.4 NERC Bulk Electric System Update

5.5 Canadian Provincial Summaries

5.6 PRC-006-2 (UFLS)

Si Truc raised the concern that the regional standard has variance compare to the continent wide standard to the frequency curve. There is no overlapping coverage at this point.

NERC ask Hydro Quebec to send in a SAR for this particular variance, and HQ planning coordinators are planning to submit a SAR to RSC for discussion first then to NERC.

Herb Schrayshuen raised the concern on the approval process issues for this particular SAR since HQ has its own interconnection system.

5.7 Regional Disturbance Monitoring Standard

Guy Zito provided a brief overview on the differences between the regional standard and continent wide standard. Regional standard is based on the A15 criteria and a study done by TFSP. Continent wide standard is looking into updating equipment. Regional standard is targeted at the A10 station list, but continent wide standard will be targeting the BES elements.

Action Item: Guy Zito and Lee Pedowicz will follow up with TFSP to ensure the implementation all line up and get the SDT to start the process.

5.8 RSC Work Plan 2015-2016

Lee Pedowicz provided his updates on the revisions on the RSC Work Plan 2015-2016. RSAWs should be removed from the RSC Work Plan 2015-2016.

Guy Zito would like to send this plan out to all the members of RSC to review it next week.

6.0 NERC Reliability Standards

http://www.nerc.com/pa/Stand/Pages/Standards-Under-Development.aspx

6.1 Currently Posted Projects

Project	Comment Period End Date	Ballot Period End Date	Standards Developer	12/4/14 Call-In
Project 2014-01 Standards Applicability for Dispersed Generation Resources	12/10/14	12/19/14	Katherine Street	
Project 2014-03 Revisions to TOP and IRO Standards	12/3/14	1/6/15	Ed Dobrowolski	
Project 2014-02 - Critical Infrastructure Protection Standards Version 5 Revisions	1/8/15	1/8/15	Ryan Stewart	
Comments: (I) – Informal; (F) – Formal **Ballots:** (I) – Initial; (A) – Additional; (F) – Final				

TOP-001-3: Most of the concerns from RSC have been addressed by the SDT.

-The word "address" is replaced with "maintain".

-In R10 SDT removed the bullet.

-In R7 was addressed by SDT regarding the neighboring utilities.

-SDT did not address the word ensure because they feel it is necessary to do a Real-Time Assessment every 30 minutes. SDT want to make sure someone is performing the Real-Time Assessment.

Project 2014-01 Standards Applicability for Dispersed Generation Resources:

-Si Truc asked when the comments are due to Lee Pedowicz so he can wrap up and submit it to NERC on December 19th, 2014.

-RSC reviewed the comments submitted by Mike Jones.

-Decision is to have the members of RSC to review and comment on this for another week submit it to Lee Pedowicz by December 12th, 2014.

-Action Item: Guy Zito and Lee Pedowicz will take the comments from the RSC members and address them accordingly before submit it to NERC.

Project 2014-02 - Critical Infrastructure Protection Standards Version 5 Revisions

-Guy Zito indicated that he has send the materials to TFIST to review.

-Guy Zito indicated that there is concerns expressed by the SDT from Dispersed Generation on access controls for Wind Mills Farms. There are push backs from the Wind Farm industry due to some sites contains 5000+ Wind Generators and each of them will require an electronic key card access. There will be discussion on this issue to determine if CIP-006 SDT or Dispersed Generation SDT will make an update.

6.1.1 NERC Projects Comment Period Guidelines

6.2 Ballot History (Since last RSC Meeting)*

Rui Da Shu reviewed the Ballot History in the meeting.

6.3 Comment Form History (Since last RSC Meeting)*

Rui Da Shu reviewed the Comment Form History document in the meeting.

7.0 NERC Drafting Team Nominations
http://www.nerc.com/pa/Stand/Pages/Drafting-Team-Vacancies.aspx

7.1 Currently Posted Drafting Team Vacancies
7.1.1 None at this time
7.2 Closed Drafting Team Nominations (Since last RSC Meeting)
7.2.1 None at this time
7.3 Solicitation For Informal Development Teams
7.3.1 None at this time

8.0 NPCC Regional Reliability Standards*
https://www.npcc.org/Standards/default.aspx

8.1 Current Activities: Regional Standard Processes Manual

Guy Zito provided updates to RSC members on the Regional Standard Processes Manual, it is approved by NERC on November and it is filed to FERC.

8.2 Current Activities: Regional Standard BAL-002-NPCC-01: Regional Reserve Sharing

9.0 NPCC Non-Standards*
https://www.npcc.org/Standards/SitePages/NonStandardsList.aspx

9.1 Directories:
9.1.1 Directory #1 Design and Operation of the Bulk Power System
9.1.1..1 Directory #1 CO7 and CP11 Comment Responses.

Jim Grant asked for the target date for completion of Directory #1 with consideration of the survey New England will have to do.

Estimated completion date is June 2015.

9.1.2 Directory#3 Maintenance Criteria BPS – (Retirement Approved on 10/15/2014 effective April 1st, 2015).

9.2 Directory Clarifications
9.2.1 TFSP Clarification for the IESO- Market Assessment and Compliance Division (MACD).
9.3 Criteria (A) / Guides (B) / Procedures (C) Documents
9.4 Directory Manual (Revisions Approved by the RSC on 10/03/2014)

10.0 RSC Member Items of Interest
10.1 RSC Roster*

Guy Zito indicated that this will be the last RSC meeting for Muhammed Ali from Hydro One, he will be moving to another position and his current position is being posted for hiring.

11.0 Standards Activity Post NERC BOT Approval*
(Since last RSC Meeting)

11.1 NERC Filings to FERC
http://www.nerc.com/FilingsOrders/Pages/default.aspx

11.2 FERC Orders / Rules
http://www.nerc.com/FilingsOrders/Pages/default.aspx
11.3 Federal Register
https://www.federalregister.gov/
11.4 FERC Sunshine Act Meeting Notice
11.5 FERC Open Meeting Summaries

12.0 NERC Meetings

12.1 Standards Committee (SC)
http://www.nerc.com/comm/SC/Pages/default.aspx

January 15th - Meeting	January 29th - Call	February 12th - Call
March 12th & 13th - Meeting	April 9th - Call	May 14th - Call
June 10th & 11th - Meeting	July 16th - Call	August 20th - Call
September 23rd & 24th Meeting	October 22nd - Call	November 19th - Call
December 9th & 10th - Meeting		

12.2 Standards Committee Process Subcommittee (SCPS)
http://www.nerc.com/comm/SC/Pages/Standards%20Committee%20Process%20Subcommittee%20SCPS/Standards-Committee-Process-Subcommittee-SCPS.aspx

February 6th & 7th	March 12th & 13th	April 23rd Call
June 10th & 11th	July 29th	October 1st
October 28th	December 9th	

12.3 Standards Committee Project Management and Oversight Subcommittee (PMOS)
http://www.nerc.com/comm/SC/Pages/ProjectManagementandOversightSubcommittee(PMOS).aspx

February 21st - Call	February 28th - Meeting	April 17th - Meeting
June 10th	September 30th	October 16th - Call
November 6th - Call		

12.4 Member Representatives Committee (MRC) Meeting
http://www.nerc.com/gov/bot/MRC/Pages/AgendaHighlightsandMinutes2013.aspx

January 8th	February 5th	April 9th
May 6th	July 16th	August 13th
October 15th	November 12th & 13th	

12.5 Board of Trustees (BOT) Meeting
http://www.nerc.com/gov/bot/Pages/Agenda-Highlights-and-Minutes-.aspx

February 6th	April 23rd	May 7th
August 14th	October 29th	November 13th

12.6 Reliability Issues Steering Committee (RISC)
http://www.nerc.com/comm/RISC/Pages/AgendasHighlightsandMinutes.aspx

February 13th - Call	March 19th - Meeting	April 9th - Call
May 7th - Meeting	June 17th - Meeting	June 10th - Call
August 14 - Meeting	September 12th - Meeting	October 7th – Call
November 13th - Meeting	December 2nd - Meeting	

13.0 NERC Compliance Tools (Since last RSC Meeting)

13.1 Compliance Analysis Reports (CARs)
http://www.nerc.com/pa/comp/Pages/Compliance-Analysis-Reports.aspx

13.1.1 There have not been any CARs posted since the last RSC meeting

13.2 Reliability Standard Audit Worksheets (RSAWs)
http://www.nerc.com/pa/comp/Pages/Reliability-Standard-Audit-Worksheets-(RSAWs).aspx

13.2.1 There are five RSAWs have been posted for comment since the last RSC meeting.

Guy Zito indicated that this item should be removed since RSAWs will be handled by the CC going forward.

13.3 Compliance Application Notices (CANs)
http://www.nerc.com/pa/comp/Resources/Pages/Compliance-Application-Notices.aspx

13.3.1 There have not been any new CANs posted since the last RSC meeting

Guy Zito indicated this item should be removed from the agenda since there is no more new CANs being released.

14.0 NERC Items of Interest (Since last RSC Meeting)

14.1 Lessons Learned
http://www.nerc.com/pa/rrm/ea/Pages/Lessons-Learned.aspx

14.1.1 Three new Lessons Learned have been issued since the last RSC meeting.

14.2 Alerts
http://www.nerc.com/pa/rrm/bpsa/Pages/Alerts.aspx

14.2.1 There has been no new NERC Alert released since the last RSC meeting.

14.3 Five Year ERO Performance Assessment

15.0 Other Items of Interest

15.1 2015 Regional Entity Business Plans and Budgets

Action Item: Guy Zito will be working on the department goals for 2015 in the next a few weeks.

15.2 Quality Review of NERC Standards

16.0 Future RSC Meetings and Conference Calls

16.1 RSC 2014/2015 Meeting Dates

Feb. 19th – 20th, NextEra Energy Offices
April 10th & 11th, NPCC Offices
June 18th & 19th, Saratoga, NY
September 17th & 18th, Montreal, Quebec
December 4th, Halifax, Nova Scotia
February 18-19, 2015, NextEra Energy Offices

RSC members agreed and finalized on the dates for the next meeting at NextEra Energy Office in Juno Beach, Florida Wednesday-Thursday, February 18th-19th, 2015.

April 15th and 16th at Dominion's Offices in Richmond VA.

June 23rd and 24th in Saratoga Spring NY.

October 7th and 8th in Montreal Canada.

December 3rd and 4th in Albany NY.

16.2 RSC 2014 Conference Call Schedule (calls can be scheduled as needed) all Calls are planned to start at 10:00 a.m. (call: 415-655-0003 (USA) / 416-915-6530 (Canada), Guest Code 29173141)

July 3	July 18	August 1
August 15	August 29	September 12
September 26	October 10	October 24
November 7	November 21	December 19

The meeting adjourned at 12:00AM on Thursday, December 4, 2014.

Respectfully Submitted,

Guy V. Zito, Chair RSC
Assistant Vice President-Standards
Northeast Power Coordinating Council, Inc.

Northeast Power Coordinating Council, Inc. (NPCC)

Antitrust Compliance Guidelines

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- Their company's prices for products or services, or prices charged by their competitors;
- Costs, discounts, terms of sale, profit margins or anything else that might affect prices;
- The resale prices their customers should charge for products they sell them;
- Allocating markets, customers, territories or products with their competitors;
- Limiting production;
- Whether or not to deal with any company; and
- Any competitively sensitive information concerning their company or a competitor.

Any decisions or actions by NPCC as a result of such meetings will only be taken in the interest of promoting and maintaining the reliability and adequacy of the bulk power system.

Any NPCC meeting participants or employee who is uncertain about the legal ramifications of a particular course of conduct or who has doubts or concerns about whether NPCC's antitrust compliance policy is implicated in any situation should call NPCC's Assistant Secretary, Andrew Fawbush at 904-598-6133.

NPCC Representatives on NERC Standards Drafting Teams						
Project No.	**Project Title**	**DT Type**	**NPCC Representatives**	**Company**	**Telephone**	**E-mail Address**
2007-02	Operating Personnel Communications Protocols	Standard	Tom Irvine	Hydro One Networks	705-792-3004	tom.irvine@hydroone.com
2007-06	System Protection Coordination	Standard	David Cirka	National Grid	781-907-3240	david.cirka@us.ngrid.com
2007-06.2	Phase 2: System Protection Coordination	Standard	RuiDa Shu Po Bun Ear	NPCC Hydro-Quebec TransEnergie	917-934-7976	rshu@npcc.org ear.po-bun@hydro.qc.c
2007-11	Disturbance Monitoring	Standard	Lee Pedowicz Vladimir Stanisic	NPCC AESI	212-840-1070 905-875-2075 x253	lpedowicz@npcc.org vladimirs@aesi-inc.com
2007-17.3	Protection System Maintenance and Testing - Phase 3 (Sudden Pressure Relays)	Standard				
2008-02	Undervoltage Load Shedding	Standard	Charles-Eric Langlois	Hydro-Quebec TransEnergie	514-879-4100	langlois.charles-eric@hydro.qc.ca
2009-03	Emergency Operations	Standard	Connie Lowe	Dominion Resource Services, Inc.	804-819-2917	connie.lowe@dom.com
2010-01	Training (PER)	Standard	Mark Grear	Constellation	410-470-4380	mark.grear@constellation.com
2010-02	FAC Five-Year Review Team	Standard	John Beck	Con Edison	212-460-4244	beckj@coned.com
2010-03	Modeling Data (MOD B)	Standard				
2010-04	Demand Data (MOD C)	Standard	Andrey Oks	NPCC	212-840-1070	aoks@npcc.org
2010-05.1	Protection Systems: Phase 1 (Misoperations)	Standard	Paul Difilippo	Hydro One Networks	647-328-7068	paul.difilippo@hydroone.com
2010-05.2	Special Protection Systems (Phase 2)	Standard	John Ciufo Charles-Eric Langlois	Hydro One Networks Hydro-Quebec TransEnergie	416-345-5258 514-879-4100	john.ciufo@hydroone.com langlois.charles-eric@hydro.qc.ca
2010-13.3	Phase 3 of Relay Loadability: Stable Power Swings	Standard				
2010-14.1	Balancing Authority Reliability-Based Control, Phase 1: Reserves	Standard	Michael Potishnak	Representing NPCC	413-323-8834	mpot@charter.net
2010-14.2	Balancing Authority Reliability-Based Control, Phase 2	Standard	Michael Potishnak	Representing NPCC	413-323-8834	mpot@charter.net
2010-17	Definition of Bulk Electric System	Standard	Brian Evans-Mongeon Phil Fedora Ajay Garg Jennifer T. Sterling	Utility Services NPCC Hydro One Networks Exelon	802-552-4022 212-840-4909 416.345.5420 630-437-2764	brian.evans-mongeon@utilitysvcs.com pfedora@npcc.org ajay.garg@HydroOne.com jennifer.sterling@exeloncorp.com
2012-09	IRO Five-Year Review	Standard	John Mulhern	Con Edison	212-580-6791	mulhernj@coned.com
2012-13	NUC - Nuclear Plant Interface Coordination	Standard	Kevin Donnelly	Con Edison	914-933-2962	donnellyk@coned.com
2013-03	Geomagnetic Disturbance Mitigation	Standard	Emanuel Bernabeu Kenneth Fleischer Luis Marti	Dominion NextEra Energy Hydro One Networks	804-432-8780 561-691-2456 416-345-5317	emanuel.e.bernabeu@dom.com kenneth.fleischer@fpl.com luis.marti@hydroone.com
2013-04	Voltage and Reactive Control (VAR)	Standard	Sharma Kolluri	Entergy	504-576-4045	vkollur@entergy.com
2014-01	Standards Applicability for Dispersed Generation Resources	Standard	Brian Evans-Mongeon	Utility Services	802-552-4022	brian.evans-mongeon@utilitysvcs.com
2014-02	Critical Infrastructure Protection Standards Version 5 Revisions	Standard	Greg Goodrich	NYISO	518-356-7591	ggoodrich@nyiso.com
2014-03	Revisions to TOP/IRO Reliability Standards	Standard	Kyle Russell	IESO	905-855-6475	kyle.russell@ieso.ca
2014-04	Physical Security	Standard	Kathy Judge	National Grid	508-860-6040	kathleen.judge@nationalgrid.com
2015-02	Emergency Operations Periodic Review	Standard	Connie Lowe	Dominion	804-819-2917	connie.lowe@dom.com
2015-03	Periodic Review of System Operating Limit Standards	Standard				
2015-04	Alignment of NERC Glossary of Terms and Definitions Used in the Rul	Standard				

Source = NERC Standard Drafting Team Rosters - May 2014

Change Control: Changes Since March 2014:

Projects Removed:

1. Project 2010-13.2, Phase 2 of Relay Loadability: Generation

Projects Added:

1. Project 2014-04, Physical Security
2. Project 2015-02 - Emergency Operations Periodic Review
3. Project 2015-03 - Periodic Review of System Operating Limit Standards
4. Project 2015-04 - Alignment of NERC Glossary of Terms and Definitions Used in the Rules of Procedure (Appendix 2 of the Rules
5. Project 2007-06.2 - Phase 2: System Protection Coordination

NPCC Representative Changes:

1. Project 2010-17, Removed Jennifer Dering as the NPCC Representative as she is no longer at NYPA
2. Project 2012-13, Added Kevin Donnelly, Con Edison, as the NPCC Representative
3. Project 2014-03, Added Kyle Russell, IESO, as the NPCC Representative
4. Project 2014-04, Added Kathy Judge, National Grid, as the NPCC Representative

Revised: #REF!

Tab Name	Last Revised	Summary of Changes
NERC RS Exec Tracking Summary	1/30/2015	
NERC RSAWs	1/30/2015	
NPCC RRS Tracking Summary	#REF!	- Regional Standard Processes Manual; Following NPCC BOD approval, NERC posted the proposed NPCC Regional Standard Processes Manual for a 45-day industry review through 8 p.m. Eastern on Wednesday, May 7, 2014
NPCC Doc Tracking Summary	#REF!	- C-00 (Discontinued) - C-05 (Retired) - C-07 (Retired) - C-21 (Retired) - C-44 (Retired)
NPCC Directory Tracking Summary	#REF!	- Directory #1, Design and Operation of the Bulk Power System posted in Open Process - Directory Development and Revision Manual - Comment Response Document posted
NPCC Directory Interpretations	#REF!	- Directory #3 Interpretation on behalf of Hydro One Networks included
Quarterly Filing to NSUARB	#REF!	Annotated worksheet to indicate that "Revisions to D#7 and D#12 approved by the Full Members on 7/9/2013. "

Prior Revision

Tab Name	Last Revised	Summary of Changes

NERC Reliability Standards Executive Tracking Summary

Revised: 1/30/2015

Line No.	Project No. / Title	Associated Standard	SAR Posted?	Posted for Comment?	Posted For Ballot?	Industry Approved?	NERC BOT Approved?	Petitioned for FERC Approval?	FERC Approved	Comments	Project Status
2	2012-INT-07 - Interpretation of CIP-005 for AEP									This interpretation is being prepared for an initial 30-day formal comment period.	
6	Project 2007-06 — System Protection Coordination	PRC-001-3, PRC-027-1	Yes 1st (Thru 7/10/07)	Yes (PRC-027-1 Thru 12/31/13)	Yes (PRC-027-1 Additional Thru 12/31/13)						Under Development
8	Project 2007-11 — Disturbance Monitoring	PRC-002-2	Yes 1st (Thru 4/20/07)	NA	Yes (Final 11/6/14)	Yes (11/6/14)	Yes (11/13/14)	Pending for Approval			Under Development
12	Project 2007-17.3 - Protection System Maintenance and Testing - Phase 3 (Sudden Pressure Relays)	PRC-005-4	Yes (Informal Thru 3/14/14)	Yes (Formal Thru 6/2/14)	Yes (Inital Thru 6/2/14)						
13	Project 2008-01 — Voltage and Reactive planning and control (Informal Development Project)	VAR-001 and VAR-002	Yes 2nd (Thru 3/26/10)								Under Development
14	Project 2008-02 — Undervoltage Load Shedding	PRC-006-2	Yes (Thru 10/9/13)	N/A	Yes (Final Thru 10/31/14)	Yes (10/31/14)	Yes (11/13/14)	Pending for Approval			Under Development
18	Project 2009-02 — Real-time Reliability Monitoring and Analysis Capabilities	"New"	Yes 2nd (Thru 2/18/10)	Yes 1st (Informal Thru 4/4/11)						Concept White Paper posted for informal comment period	Under Development
19	Project 2009-03 — Five-Year Review of Emergency Operations EOP-001, EOP-002, EOP-003, and IRO-001	EOP-001-2b, EOP-002-3, EOP-003-1, EOP-004-2 (P81, RBS), EOP-005-2 (P81, RBS), EOP-006-2 (RBS), EOP-008-1 (RBS), EOP-009-1, IRO-001-5	Yes (Thru 12/5/13)	NA	EOP-011-1 Yes (Final Thru 11/6/14)					Project initiated as a 5-year review to clarify scope, avoid potential concurrent revisions to EOP standards (Cold weather SAR)	Under Development
20	Project 2009-04 — Phasor Measurement Units										Project has not started
21	Project 2009-05 — Resource Adequacy Assessments	"New"	Yes 2nd (Thru 3/30/06)								Under Consideration for Development
22	Project 2009-07 — Reliability of Protection Systems	"New"	Yes 1st (Thru 2/18/09)							Pending prioritization - may be postponed	Under Consideration for Development
24	Project 2009-20 — Interpretation of BAL-003-0 R2 and R5 by Energy Mark, Inc.	BAL-003-0.1b	x	x	Yes (Recirc Thru 2/26/10)	Yes (2/26/10)					Under Development
27	Project 2010-02 — Connecting New Facilities to the Grid	FAC-001, FAC-002, FAC-003-3, FAC-008-3, FAC-010-2.1, FAC-011-2, FAC-013-2, FAC-014-2	Yes (Informal Thru 1/17/14)	Yes (Formal Thru 5/15/14)	Yes (Final Thru 6/23/14)	Yes (6/23/14)	Yes (8/14/14)	Yes (8/22/14)		Two projects (FAC Review, Project 2010-02) were consolidated and are being initiated as a 5-year review	
30	Project 2010-05.1 — Protection Systems: Phase 1 (Misoperations)	PRC-004-3	Yes 1st (Informal Thru 7/11/11)	Yes (Formal Thru 7/9/14)	Yes (Final Thru 8/7/14)	Yes (8/7/14)	Yes (8/14/14)	Pending for Approval		Ballot will be extended one day at a time to achieve a quorum.	Under Development
31	Project 2010-05.2 – Special Protection Systems (Phase 2 of Protection Systems)	RAS Definition	Yes (Informal Thru 3/19/14)	NA	Yes (Final Thru 11/6/14)	Yes (11/6/14)	Yes (11/13/14)	Pending for Approval			
32	Project 2010-06 — Results-based Reliability Standards	Results-based Reliability Standards Transistion Plan								Transistion Plan posted 7/26/10	
36	Project 2010-13.3 Relay Loadability: Stable Power Swings	PRC-026-1	For Comment (Thru 9/19/10)	Yes (Formal Thru 12/24/14)	Yes (Final Thru 12/1614)						
38	Project 2010-14.1 — Phase 1 of Balancing Authority Reliability-based Control: Reserves	BAL-002-2	NA	Yes (Formal Thru 12/11/14)	Yes (Additional Thru 12/12/14)					As of July 28, 2010 this project has merges Project 2007-18 - Reliability-based Controls and is now Project 2010-14 - Balancing Authority Reliability-based Control into a single project	
39	Project 2010-14.2 Periodic Review of BAL Standards	BAL-004, BAL-005-0.1b, BAL-006-2	Yes (Thru 8/14/14)							A 30-day informal comment period for BAL standards (SAR) is now open through 8/14/14.	Under Development
40	Project 2010-16 — Definition of System Operator	NERC Glossary Of Terms	Yes 1st (Thru 12/3/10)	Yes 1st (Thru 12/3/10)							Under Consideration for Development
43	Project 2010-INT-03 Interpretation of TOP-002-2a R2, R8, and R19 for FMPP	TOP-002-2a, R2, R8 and R19								Standards Committee curtailed work in April 2011 - revived in January 2012 to see if a Rapid Revision was feasible. Overtaken by filing of TOP standards.	
45	Project 2012-01 Equipment Monitoring and Diagnostic Devices	FUTURE									
46	Project 2012-02 Physical Protection	FUTURE									
49	Project 2012-08.2 — Phase 2 of Glossary Updates	NERC Glossary Of Terms								Modify existing definition of Transmission Operator and Generator Operator	
50	Project 2012-09 IRO Five-Year Review	Various IRO standards	x	Yes (Thru 9/20/13)						Five year review	Under Development
51	Project 2012-13 NUC - Nuclear Plant Interface Coordination	NUC-001-2.1	Yes (Informal Thru 3/13/14)	Yes (Formal Thru 5/22/14)	Yes (Final Thru 7/3/14)	Yes (Final Thru 7/3/14)	Yes (8/14/14)	Pending for Approval		Five year review	
52	Project 2012-INT-03 Interpretation of CIP-007 for TECO									This interpretation is on hold pending finalization of Project 2012-INT-04 (Interpretation of CIP-007 for ITC).	
55	Project 2013-01 — Cold Weather Preparedness	"TBD"	Draft for Comment (Thru 10/24/12)								
57	Project 2013-03 Geomagnetic Disturbance Mitigation, Stage 2	TPL-007-1	NA	Yes (Formal Thru 11/21/14)	Yes (Final Thru 12/1614)						
59	Project 2014-01 - Standards Applicability for Dispersed Generation Resources	PRC-001-1x1(X), PRC-019-2 and PRC-024-1(X)	Yes (Thru 12/19/13	Yes (Formal Thru 1/22/15)	Yes (Initial Thru 1/22/15)						
60	Project 2014-02 - Critical Infrastructure Protection Standards Version 5 Revisions	CIP	Yes (Thru 2/18/14)	Yes (Formal Thru 1/8/15)	Yes (Final Thru 2/2/15)						
61	Project 2014-03 Revisions to TOP and IRO Standards	TOP-001-3	Yes (Formal Thru 3/24/14)	Yes (Formal Thru 1/6/15)	Yes (Final Thru 1/21/15)						
62	Project 2014-04 Physical Security		Yes (Informal Thru 3/28/14)	Yes (Formal Thru 1/13/15)	Yes (Initial Thru 4/24/14)						

Acronyms;
SAR- Standards Authorization Request
RS- Reliability Standard
DT- Drafting Team
SC- NERC Standards Committee
TBD- To Be Determined
BOT- NERC Board of Trustee

NERC Reliability Standard Audit Worksheet (RSAW) Executive Tracking Summary

Revised: **1/30/2015**

ding the individual documents may be found at:
http://www.nerc.com/pa/comp/Pages/Reliability-Standard-Audit-Worksheets-(RSAWs).aspx

RSAW#	Title	Posted for Comment?	RSAW Issued?	Comments
BAL-001-1	Real Power Balancing Control Performance	x	3/28/2014	New RSAW Posted
BAL-00202	Contingency Reserve for Recovery from Balancing Contingency Event	x	8/19/2014	Draft RSAW Posted
BAL-003-1	Frequency Response and Bias Settings - redline of prior version	x	1/21/2015	Draft RSAW Posted
BAL-005-0.2b	Automatic Generation Control	x	5/20/2013	Revised RSAWs Posted
CIP-001-2a	Sabotage Reporting	x	10/13/2012	
CIP-002-5.1	Cyber Security - BES Cyber System Categorization	Yes (Thru 1/9/15)	11/25/2014	Draft RSAW Posted
CIP-003-7	Cyber Security - Security Management Controls	Yes (Thru 1/9/15)	11/25/2014	Draft RSAW Posted
CIP-004-7	Cyber Security - Personnel & Training	Yes (Thru 1/9/15)	11/25/2014	Draft RSAW Posted
CIP-005-7	Cyber Security - Electronic Security Perimeter(s)	Yes (Thru 1/9/15)	11/25/2014	Draft RSAW Posted
CIP-006-7	Cyber Security - Physical Security of BES Cyber Systems	Yes (Thru 1/9/15)	11/25/2014	Draft RSAW Posted
CIP-007-7	Cyber Security - System Security Management	Yes (Thru 1/9/15)	11/25/2014	Draft RSAW Posted
CIP-008-7	Cyber Security - Incident Reporting and Response Planning	Yes (Thru 1/9/15)	11/25/2014	Draft RSAW Posted
CIP-009-7	Cyber Security - Security Management Controls	Yes (Thru 1/9/15)	11/25/2014	Draft RSAW Posted
CIP-010-3	Cyber Security - Configuration Change Management and Vulnerability Assessments	Yes (Thru 1/9/15)	11/25/2014	Draft RSAW Posted
CIP-011-3	Cyber Security - Information Protection	Yes (Thru 1/9/15)	11/25/2014	Draft RSAW Posted
CIP-014-1		Yes (thru 4/24/14)		
COM-002-2a	Communication and Coordination	x	11/14/2012	
COM-002-4	Operating Personnel Communications Protocols	Yes (Thru 1/31/14)		
COM-003-1	Operating Personnel Communications Protocols	Yes (Thru 4/5/13)		
EOP-001-2.1b	Emergency Operations Planning	x	8/9/2013	Revised RSAWs Posted
EOP-002-3.1	Capacity and Energy Emergencies	x	3/20/2014	Revised RSAWs Posted
EOP-003-2	Load Shedding Plans	x	10/13/2012	
EOP-004-2	Event Reporting	N/A	10/15/2013	New RSAW
EOP-005-2	System Restoration from Blackstart Resources	x	7/17/2013	Revised RSAWs Posted
EOP-006-2	System Restoration Coordination	x	7/17/2013	Revised RSAWs Posted
EOP-008-1	Loss of Control Center Functionality	x	6/28/2013	Revised RSAWs Posted
EOP-011-1	Emergency Operations	Yes (Thru 9/25/14)	1-/20/2014	Draft RSAW Posted
FAC-001-2	Facility Interconnection Requirements	Yes (Thru 6/25/2014)		The draft RSAW is posted for feeback through June 25, 2014.
FAC-002-2	Facility Interconnection Studies	Yes (Thru 6/25/2014)		The draft RSAW is posted for feeback through June 25, 2014.
FAC-003-3	Transmission Vegetation Management	N/A	4/24/2014	Revision serves to clarify guidance for Requirement R6 regarding initial inspections for calendar year 2014 by expanding the Note to Auditor section
FAC-008-3	Facility Ratings	x	3/20/2014	Revised RSAWs Posted
FAC-013-2	Assessment of Transfer Capability for the Near-Term Transmission Planning Horizon	x	10/13/2012	
IRO-001-4	Reliability Coordination- Responsibilities	Yes (Thru 11/10/2014)	10/16/2014	Revised RSAWs Posted
IRO-002-2	Reliability Coordination - Facilities	x	3/20/2014	
IRO-002-4	Reliability Coordination - Monitoring and Analysis	Yes (Thru 11/10/2014)	10/16/2014	Revised RSAWs Posted
IRO-003-2	Reliability Coordination - Wide-Area View	x	3/20/2014	
IRO-005-3.1a	Reliability Coordination - Current-Day Operations	x	5/20/2013	Revised RSAWs Posted
IRO-008-2	Reliability Coordinator Operational Analyses and Real-time Assessments	Yes (Thru 12/22/2014)	11/5/2014	Revised RSAWs Posted
IRO-010-2	Reliability Coordinator Data Specification and Collection	Yes (Thru 11/10/2014)	10/16/2014	Revised RSAWs Posted
IRO-014-1	Procedures, Processes, or Plans to Support Coordination Between Reliability Coordinators	x	10/13/2012	
IRO-014-3	Coordination Among Reliability Coordinators	Yes (Thru 11/10/2014)	10/16/2014	Revised RSAWs Posted
IRO-017-1	Outage Coordination	Yes (Thru 11/10/2014)	10/16/2014	Revised RSAWs Posted
MOD-028-2	Area Interchange Methodology	N/A	10/10/2013	New RSAW

RSAW#	Title	Posted for Comment?	RSAW Issued?	Comments
MOD-031-1	Demand and Energy Data	Yes (Thru 11/22/13)		Draft RSAW posted along with Draft Standard
NUC-001-2		N/A	4/24/2014	Revised RSAW represent the initial release for the errata versions of the Reliability Standard
PER-001-0.2	Operating Personnel Responsibility and Authority	x	5/20/2013	Revised RSAWs Posted
PER-003-1	Operating Personnel Credentials	x	1/23/2013	
PER-005-1	System Personnel Training	N/A	10/15/2013	Revised RSAWs Posted
PRC-001-1	System Protection Coordination	N/A	4/24/2014	Revised RSAW represent the initial release for the errata versions of the Reliability Standard
PRC-002-NPCC-01	Disturbance Monitoring	Yes (Thru 10/21/2014)	9/19/2014	Revised RSAWs Posted
PRC-004-2.1a	Analysis and Mitigation of Transmission and Generation Protection System Misoperations	x	3/28/2014	Revised RSAWs Posted
PRC-004-3	Protection System Misoperation Identification and Correction	Yes (Thru 3/19/14)		Draft RSAW posted along with Draft Standard
PRC-005-1.1b	Transmission and Generation Protection System Maintenance and Testing	x	3/28/2014	Revised RSAWs Posted
PRC-005-2	Protection System Maintenance - Edits from Comments Received	x	10/14/2014	Draft RSAW Posted
PRC-006-2	Automatic Underfrequency Load Shedding	Yes (Thru 10/8/14)	9/10/2014	Revised RSAWs Posted
PRC-010-1	Undervoltage Load Shedding	Yes (Thru 8/7/2014)		
PRC-023-2	Transmission Relay Loadability	N/A	10/10/2013	Revised RSAWs Posted
PRC-025-1	Generator Relay Loadability	Yes (Thru 3/11/13)		
PRC-026-1	Relay Peformance During Stable Power Swings	Yes (Thru 12/2/2014)	11/12/2014	Draft RSAW Posted
TOP-001-1a	Reliability Responsibilities and Authorities	x	5/20/2013	Revised RSAWs Posted
TOP-001-3	Transmission Operations	Yes (Thru 1/7/2015)	12/3/2014	Revised RSAWs Posted
TOP-002-2.1b	Normal Operations Planning	x	3/20/2014	Revised RSAWs Posted

NPCC Regional Reliability Standards Executive Tracking Summary

Revised: 3/24/2014

Further details regarding the individual documents may be found at: http://www.npcc.org/regStandards/UnderDev.aspx

Line No.	Regional Standard ID	Regional Reliability Standard Title	RSAR Posted?	Posted for Comment?	Posted For Ballot?	Industry Approved?	NPCC BOD Approved?	NERC BOT Approved?	Petitioned for FERC Approval?	FERC Approved	Comments	Project Status
1	BPS-501-NPCC-01	Classification of Bulk Power System Elements (Withdrawn by RSC 8/07/09)	Yes (Thru 2/4/08)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Withdrawn by RSC 8/07/09	Withdrawn
2	PRC-002-NPCC-01	Disturbance Monitoring	Yes (Thru 9/10/08)	Yes (Thru 10/24/09)	Yes (Thru 1/6/10)	Yes (1/6/10)	Yes (1/9/10)	Yes (11/4/10)	Yes (5/31/11)	Yes (10/20/11)	10/24/11 - Approved Standard posted publicly	Completed
3	PRC-006-NPCC-01	Automatic Underfrequency Load Shedding Program	Yes (Thru 8/25/08)	Yes (Thru 11/2/11)	Yes (Pre-ballot Thru 11/2/11)	Yes (11/18/11)	Yes (11/30/11)	Yes (2/9/12)	Yes (5/4/12)	Yes (2/21/13)		Completed
4	PRC-002-NPCC-02										- Regional Standard Authorization Request (RSAR) has been submitted and approved - Drafting Team Nomination period ended March 25, 2013 - Draft Team kick-off conference call was Monday April 8, 2013	Under Development
5	PRC-002-NPCC-01, Interpretation R1.1		x	x	x	Yes (TFSP 10/19/12)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Posted on the NPCC website under "Regional Standards General" on 6/24/13	Completed
6	PRC-002-NPCC-01, Interpretation R1.2.2		x	x	x	Yes (TFSP 4/8/13)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Posted on the NPCC website under "Regional Standards General" on 6/24/13	Completed
7	PRC-002-NPCC-01, Interpretation R4, R5, and R6		x	x	x	Yes (TFSP 5/16/13)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Posted on the NPCC website under "Regional Standards General" on 6/24/13	Completed
8	BAL-002-NPCC-01	Regional Reserve Sharing	Yes (Thru 11/2/10)	Yes (Thru 12/16/11)	Yes (Thru 1/6/10)						Nomination Form posted - nominations due by 11/10/11	Under Development
9	PRC-012-NPCC-01	Special Protection Systems	Yes (thru 8/18/08)									On Hold
10	Regional Standard Processes Manual	Regional Standard Processes Manual (RSPM)	N/A	Yes (Thru 10/20/13)	Yes (Thru 1/27/14)	Yes (1/27/14)	Yes (3/11/14)				NERC posted the proposed NPCC Regional Standard Processes Manual for a 45-day industry review through 8 p.m. Eastern on Wednesday, May 7, 2014	

x

Acronyms;
RSAR- Regional Standards Authorization Request
RRS- Regional Reliability Standard
DT- Drafting Team
SC - NERC Standards Committee
TBD- To Be Determined
BOD- NPCC Board of Directors
BOT- NERC Board of Trustee

NPCC Document Open Process Executive Tracking Summary

Revised: 2/3/2015

Further details regarding the individual documents may be found at: https://www.npcc.org/Standards/SitePages/NonStandardsList.aspx

Line No.	Type	Document	Description	Latest Revision	Comments	Status
1	Criteria	A-01	Criteria for Review and Approval of Documents	Mar-05		
2	Criteria	A-10	Classification of BPS Elements	Dec-09		
3	Criteria	A-15	Disturbance Monitoring Equipment Criteria	Aug-07		
4	Guideline	B-01	NPCC Guide for the Application of Autoreclosing to the Bulk Power System	Feb-13		
5	Guideline	B-12	Guidelines for On Line Computer System Performance During Disturbances	Nov-07		
6	Guideline	B-25	Guide to Time Synchronization Substation Equipment	Nov-08		
7	Guideline	B-26	Guide for Application of Disturbance Recording Equipement	Sep-06		
8	Guideline	B-27	Regional Critical Asset Identification Methodology	Feb-08		
9	Guideline	B-28	Guide for Generator Sequence of Events Monitoring	Feb-12		
10	Procedure	C-01	NPCC Emergency Preparedness Conference Call Procedures - NPCC Security Conference Call Procedures	May-13		
11	Procedure	C-15	Procedures for Solar Magnetic Disturbances Which Affect Electric Power Systems	Jan-07		
12	Procedure	C-25	Procedure to Collect Power System Event Data	Sep-07		
13	Procedure	C-29	Procedures for System Modeling:Data Requirements and Facility Ratings	Mar-07		
14	Procedure	C-30	Procedure for Task Force on System Protection Review of Disturbances and Protection Misoperations	Dec-09		
15	Procedure	C-33	Procedure for Analysis and Classification of Dynamic Control Systems	Apr-06		
16	Procedure	C-39	Procedure to Collect Major Disturbance Event Data	Dec-09		
17	Procedure	C-43	NPCC Operational Review for the Integration of New facilities	Aug-08		
18	Procedure	C-45	Procedure for Analysis and Reporting of Protection System Misoperations	Nov-14		

NPCC Directory Executive Tracking Summary

Revised: 2/3/2015 Further details regarding the individual documents may be found at:

Line No.	Document	Developed From	Title of Directory	Responsible Task Force	Latest Version	Comments	Status	
1	Directory #1	Criteria A-2	Design and Operation of the Bulk Power System	TFCP	Dec-09	CP11/CO7 Reviewing Phase 2 Draft	CO7/CP11 has completed drafting responses to comments received in the 2nd Open Process Posting and has returned the draft to the TFCO and TFCP. Task Forces currently considering unresolved issues.	x
2	Directory #2	Criteria A-3	Emergency Operations	TFCO	Jun-09			
3	Directory #3	Criteria A-4	Maintenance Criteria for Bulk Power System Protection	TFSP	Jun-09	TFSP has completed a Technical Comparision of D#3 with PRC-005-2 and has recommended that D#3 can be retired.	RCC approved the TFSP retirement recommendation and on October 15th, 2014 the NPCC Full Members approved the retirement of D#3 effective April 1st, 2015 to coincide with the enforcement date of PRC-005-2.	
4	Directory #4	Criteria A-5	Bulk Power System Protection Criteria	TFSP	Dec-09	TFSP reviewing D#4 in accordance with NRAP review.	TFSP has completed a periodic review of Directory#4 and the revised document was posted to the Open Prpocess to receive comments through Feb. 2, 2015.TFSP will review comments at its next meeting in March 2015.	
5	Directory #5	Criteria A-6	Reserve	TFCO	Oct-12			
6	Directory #6		Regional Reserve Sharing		Apr-12			
7	Directory #7	Criteria A-11	Special Protection Systems	TFSP	Jul-13			
8	Directory #8	Criteria A-12	System Restoration	TFCO	Oct-10	TFCO working group CO11 reviewing initial Phase 2 draft of Directory #8.	TFCO will post Directory#8 to the Open Process at the conclusion of the CO-11 review.	
9	Directory #9	Criteria A-13	Verification of Generator Gross and Net Real Power Capability	TFCO	Dec-11			
10	Directory #10	Criteria A-14	Verification of Generator Gross and Net Reactive Power Capability	TFCO	Dec-11			
11	Directory #12		Under frequency Load Shedding Program Requirements	TFSS	Jul-13		NPCC anticipates retiring Directory#12 once PRC-006-NPCC-1 is fully implemented.	
12	Directory Manual		Directory Development and Revision Manual	N/A	Dec-13		On October 6th, 2014 the RSC approved revisions to the Directory Manual which incorporated cost considerations into the development of new or revised criteria as mandated by the NPCC BOD.	x

NPCC Directory Criteria Clarifications

Revised: 2/3/2015 Further details regarding the individual documents may be found at: https://www.npcc.org/Standards/Directory%20Interpretations/Forms/Public%20List.aspx

Line No.	Document	Title of Directory	Date Final	Task Force Review	Posted Open Process?	RCC Approval	Comments	Status
1	Directory #8 Interpretation	System Restoration	6/18/2012	TFCO	N/A	N/A	Interpretation on behalf of the NYSRC	Complete
2	Directory#3 Interpretation	Maintenance Criteria for Bulk Power System Protection	8/28/2012	TFSP	N/A	N/A	Interpretation on behalf of Bangor Hydro	Complete
3	Directory #3 Interpretation	Maintenance Criteria for Bulk Power System Protection	12/14/2012	TFSP	N/A	N/A	Interpretation on behalf of Con Ed	Complete
4	Directory #3 Interpretation	Maintenance Criteria for Bulk Power System Protection	2/15/2013	TFSP	N/A	N/A	Response Clarified - Interpretation on behalf of Acumen Engineered Solutions	Complete
5	Directory#3 Interpretation	Maintenance Criteria for Bulk Power System Protection	10/25/2013	TFSP	N/A	N/A	Interpretation on behalf of Hydro One Networks	Complete
6	Directory#3 Interpretation	Maintenance Criteria for Bulk Power System Protection	Pending	TFSP	Yes on October 16th, 2014.	Pending	Interpretation on behalf of IESO-MACD	Criteria Clarification Request on behalf of the IESO-Market Assessment and Compliance Division (MACD) posted to Open Process through Nov. 30th, 2014. TFSP has reviewed comments received and revised the interpretation accordingly. Interpretation currently pending RCC approval.

x

Quarterly Application to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board (NSUARB) for Approval of NPCC Regional Reliability Criteria

Revised: **2/3/2015**

Line No.	Filing Period	Filing Due	Filing Submitted	Comments
1	October 1 to December 31, 2012	3/1/2013	3/1/2013	This filing is NPCC's initial quarterly filing covering the October 1 to December 31, 2012 period and covers the changes to the NPCC Criteria as a result of voting by the Full Members of NPCC.
2	January 1 to March 31, 2013	6/1/2013	N/A	No changes were made during the refeenced period which required filing.
3	April 1 to June 30, 2013	9/1/2013	N/A	No changes were made during the referenced period which required filing.
4	July 1 to September 30, 2013	12/1/2013	11/25/2013	Revisions to D#7 and D#12 approved by the Full Members on 7/9/2013.
5	October 1 to December 31, 2013	3/1/2014	N/A	No changes were made during the referenced period which required filing.
6	January 1 to March 31, 2014	6/1/2014	N/A	No changes were made during the referenced period which required filing.
7	April 1 to June 30, 2014	9/1/2014	N/A	No changes were made during the referenced period which required filing.
8	July 1 to September 30, 2014	12/1/2014	N/A	No changes were made during the referenced period which required filing.
9	October 1 to December 31, 2014	3/1/2015	Pending	(1) 10/15/14 NPCC Full Members approved retirement of D#3 effective 4/01/15 coinciding with enforcement date of PRC -005-2.
10		3/1/2015	Pending	(2) 10/6/14 the RSC approved revisions to the Directory Manual which incorporated cost considerations into the Manual.
11	January 1st to March 31st 2015	6/1/2015	N/A	No changes were made during the referenced period which required filing.

Milestone Keys:

Project Tracking Spreadsheet: 2014 Project Work Plan (Status Updated: 11/19/2014)

IC- Initial Comment
IB- Initial Ballot
AB - Additional Ballot
PB- Presented to BOT
F-Projected filing with
FYRP- Five-year Review Posting
FYRR - Five-year Review Recommendation to SC

This worksheet displays estimates of anticipated standards development milestones for projects in 2014, and it is intended to be a project management tool for use in tracking the status of projects under development compared to their anticipated milestones. Detailed information for each project is available from their respective project pages on the NERC website. Projects that remained from 2013's Project Tracking Spreadsheet that were not prioritized in the RSDP, but that are continuing beyond the first quarter of 2014, are also represented here. Projects not anticipated to continue beyond the first quarter of 2014 are not included (information for those projects remains available under the "Standards Under Development" page on the NERC website). Note that projects listed here represent known projects for 2014. As facts and circumstances warrant, it may be necessary to update this tool, and additional projects may be added in response to regulatory directives, input from RISC, or to meet goals of the NERC strategic plan.

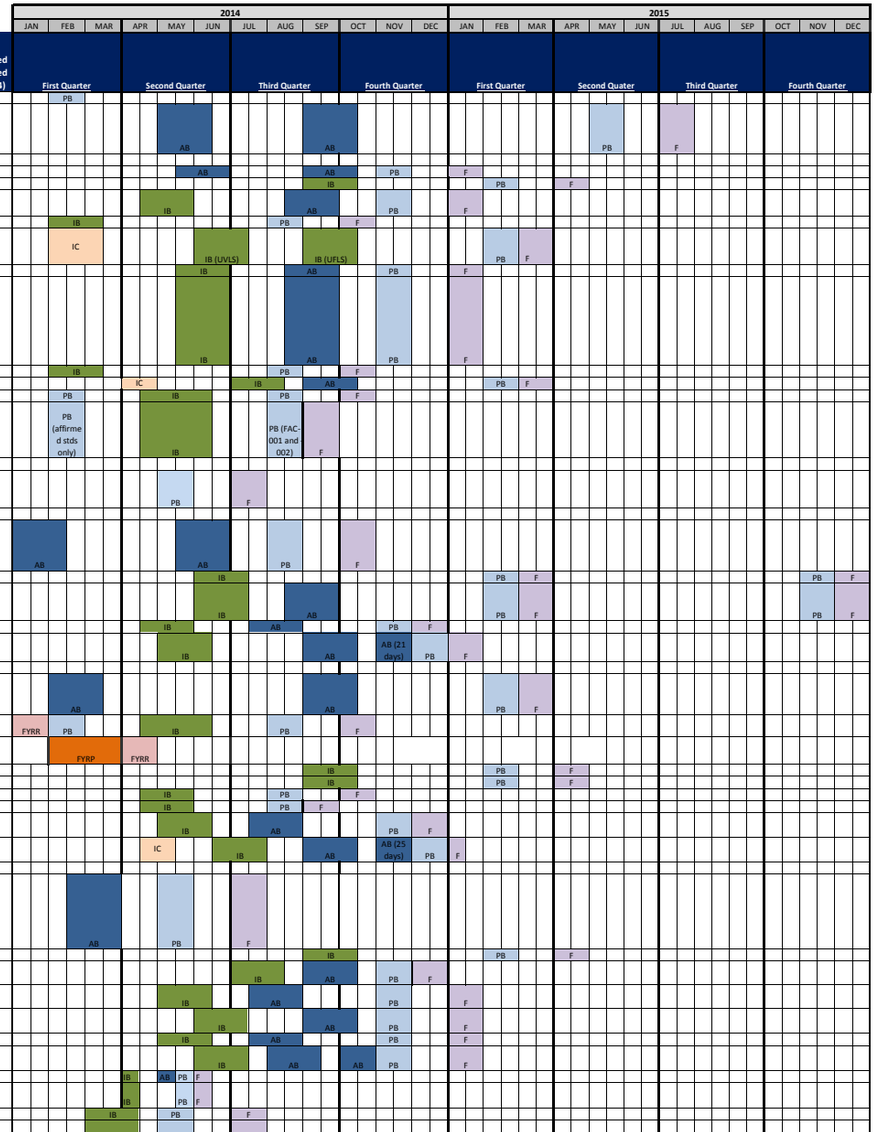
Project Status

No Issues with Project
Project Off Schedule by One Quarter
Project Off Schedule by Two or more Quarters
No Development Work in Progress

Projected Posting Schedule

The above is a link to the schedule of upcoming postings, which is updated weekly. It includes near term posting projections.

Project Number	Activity/Project (Project Names Hyperlinked to Project Page)	Deliverable	Deadline, if any	Priority in 2014-2016 RSDP, if applicable (see Note 1, below)	2013 PB1 Reqs	Number of Directives	# of Guidances (see Note 2)	Directionally consistent with IERP findings	Comments	PMOS Liaison	NERC Contact	Status: Green, Yellow, Red	Milestones: Planned vs. Actual/Projected (See Notes 3 and 4)
2007-06	System Protection Coordination	PRC-001, PRC-027		N/A		1		Yes	A 21-day informal comment period for the preliminary draft 5 of PRC-027-1 concluded on October 21. The SDT will not respond but will consider the comments at its upcoming meetings.	Jennifer Sterling	Al McMeekin	Project extended to address an additional issue by FERC	Plan Actual/Projected
2007-11	Disturbance Monitoring	PRC-002, PRC-018		Medium	2		1	Yes	Passed final ballot.	Jennifer Sterling	Steve Crutchfield		Plan Actual/Projected
2007-17.3	Protection System Maintenance: Sudden Pressure Relays	PRC-005		Medium (prioritized by SC March 2014)	1	1		Yes	Passed final ballot.	Charles Yeung	Jordan Mallory		Plan Actual/Projected
2008-02	Undervoltage Load Shedding and Underfrequency Load Shedding	PRC-010, PRC-022, PRC-006, PRC-004		High	2	1	1	Yes	PRC-010-1 and PRC-006-2 passed final ballot. Next Step is to request authorization to post revised PRC-004 that includes UVLS.	Jennifer Sterling	Katherine Street (UVLS) and Lacey Ourso (UFLS)	Delayed to coordinate with the development of the SPS definition	Plan Actual/Projected
2009-02	Real-time Reliability Monitoring and Analysis Capabilities	New Standards or revisions to TOP and IRO standrds	January 31, 2015 deadline to address concerns in NOPR proposing to remand TOP/IRO standards	High		2		TBD	January 31, 2015 deadline to address concerns in NOPR proposing to remand TOP/IRO standards; the directives associated with this project are being addressed in Project 2014-03; consider consolidating the two projects on this spreadsheet.	Jennifer Sterling	Ed Dobrowolski		Plan Actual/Projected
2009-03	Emergency Operations	EOP-001, EOP-002, EOP-003 being replaced by EOP-011		High	14	3	2	Yes	Passed final ballot.	Gary Kruempel	Laura Anderson	Delayed to coordinate with UVLS balloting	Plan Actual/Projected
2010-02	Connecting new facilities to the grid/Five-year Review of FAC standards	FAC-001, FAC-002		Low		1	1	Yes	Passed final ballot.	Ken Goldsmith	Mallory Huggins		Plan Actual/Projected
2010-04	Demand Data (MOD C)	MOD-016, MOD-017, MOD-018, MOD-019, MOD-020, MOD-021		N/A	10	10	4	Yes	Passed final ballot.	Scott Miller	Darrel Richardson		Plan Actual/Projected
2010-05.1	Phase 1 of Protection Systems: Misoperations	PRC-003, PRC-004		N/A			2	Yes	Passed final ballot.	Jennifer Sterling	Scott Barfield		Plan Actual/Projected
2010-05.2	Special Protection Systems: Phase 2 of Protection Systems	PRC	Self-imposed deadline for definition of SPS is February 2015 for coordination with other PRC projects.	Medium				Yes	Passed final ballot.	Jennifer Sterling	Al McMeekin		Plan Actual/Projected
2010-13.3	Relay Loadability Stable Power Swings	PRC	December 31, 2014 deadline to address phase 3 directives covered by this project	Medium (prioritized by SC March 2014)		3		n/a	Additional 21-day comment and ballot period will conclude on November 24, 2014.	Charles Long	Scott Barfield		Plan Actual/Projected
2010-14.1	BARC Directives and Issues-Project 2010-14.1 Balancing Authority Reliability-based Controls	BAL-001, BAL-002, BAL-013		N/A	4			Yes	BAL-002-2 did not pass additional ballot. An additional comment period and ballot will be conducted that concludes in January.	Ron Parsons	Darrel Richardson	Project extended to address an additional issue raised by FERC	Plan Actual/Projected
2010-14.2	Phase 2 of Balancing Authority Reliability-based Control: Time Error, AGC, and Inadvertent	BAL-005-0.1b, BAL-006-2		Medium	11	7	6	Yes	An informal comment period concluded on August 14, 2014.	Ken Goldsmith	Sean Cavote		Plan Actual/Projected
2012-09	Implementation of IRO Review Recommendations	IRO-003, IRO-004, IRO-008, IRO-009, IRO-010		Medium	2	2		On hold pending TOP/IRO project	Many FYRT recommendations being addressed in Project 2014-03	Brian Murphy	Soo Jin Kim		Plan Actual/Projected
2012-13	Implementation of NUC Review Recommendations	NUC-001		Low				Yes	Passed final ballot.	PMOS Oversight	Stephen Eldridge		Plan Actual/Projected
2013-03	Geomagnetic Disturbance Mitigation Stage II	TPL-007	FERC filing deadline of January 21, 2015	High		14		n/a	A 25-day formal comment period and ballot will conclude on November 21, 2014.	Brian Murphy	Mark Olson		Plan Actual/Projected
2013-04	VAR Directives	VAR-002		N/A	3	6	5	Yes	Passed final ballot.	Ron Parsons	Soo Jin Kim		Plan Actual/Projected
2014-01	Standards Applicability for Dispersed Generation Resources	Various	Goal is to complete (including regulatory approval) prior to BES Phase 2 implementation 7/1/2016	Medium (prioritized by SC January 2014)				n/a	PRC-004-2.1a, PRC-004-3, PRC-005-2, PRC-005-3, and VAR-002-3 passed final ballot. PRC-001-1.1(X), PRC-019-2, and PRC-024-	Gary Kruempel	Sean Cavote		Plan Actual/Projected
2014-02	CIP Version 5 Revisions	CIP	FERC filing deadline for certain directives of February 3, 2015.	High (prioritized by SC March 2014)		8		n/a	Standards addressing two time-sensitive directives passed final ballot. Standards incorporating four directives will be posted for an additional comment period and	Scott Miller	Marisa Hecht and Ryan Stewart		Plan Actual/Projected
2014-03	TOP/IRO Revisions	TOP/IRO	Deadline of January 31, 2015	High (prioritized by SC March 2014)				TBD	8 of 9 standards passed final ballot. Remaining standard (TOP-001-3) posted for comment and ballot concluding in	Brian Murphy	Ed Dobrowolski		Plan Actual/Projected
2014-04	Physical Security	CIP-014	Deadline of June 5, 2014			7		n/a	Passed final ballot.	Brian Murphy	Steve Crutchfield		Plan Actual/Projected
TBD	TPL Directive	TPL-001	Goal is to complete directives and file in time for FERC action prior to implementing TPL-001-4	Medium (prioritized by SC March 2014)		1		n/a	May not move forward.	Ron Parsons	Ed Dobrowolski		Plan Actual/Projected



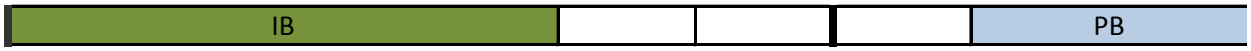
Note 1: The prioritizations here reflect those prioritizations assigned as part of the 2014-2016 Reliability Standards Development Plan (RSDP). In its approach to prioritizing Reliability Standards projects, the RSDP considered how Reliability Standard family priorities are applied to individual projects and outstanding work. Specific elements included: (1) RISC Category Rankings; (2) regulatory directives; (3) regulatory deadlines; (4) Reliability Standard requirement candidates for retirement; (5) the IERP content and quality assessments; and (6) additional considerations (fill-in-the-blank status and five-year assessment commitments). Some projects were not prioritized in the RSDP, as they were originally anticipated to be complete before the end of the first quarter of 2014, and those projects have an "N/A" designation in this column. Other projects have been added to the Project Tracking Spreadsheet that were not prioritized in the RSDP. These were added in response to regulatory directives that were issued following completion of the RSDP, and they will be prioritized according to the same process during the first quarter of 2014 according to the same process described in the RSDP. Those projects are designated as "Pending Prioritization in 1Q 2014." As discussed in the 2014-2016 RSDP, the prioritization will occur in collaboration between NERC Staff and the Standards Committee.

Note 2: Refers to guidances from regulatory orders for standards activity to consider, but that do not carry the same effect as a directive.

Note 3: In the columns at right, in some cases, an "additional ballot" is not indicated for planning purposes, but if consensus is not supported on an initial ballot, or if substantive changes occur, one will be scheduled.

Note 4: In the columns at right, there are no "plan" milestones in some cases because the project was originally planned to be complete in 2013, and the project's "actual" milestones have extended into 2014).

Note 5: In the column labeled "directionally consistent with IERP findings," directionally consistent indicates whether the Standard Drafting Team, when the project is completed, considered the recommendations from the Independent Expert Review Project and the Paragraph 81 project. After the Standard Drafting Team has considered the recommendations, the materials posted with the standards will describe the Standard Drafting Team's consideration of the findings.


IB
PB

		F

RSC Meeting #14-3, Agenda Item 4.0 Open Action Items

Item	Description	Owner	Due	Status
4.1	Coordination with the Compliance Committee to develop Joint Activity Action List	Greg Campoli	RSC Meeting	Ongoing Guy Zito provided updates on the RSAWs. CC will review RSAWs going forward.
4.3	NPCC outreach program development – discussion item: members provide input and opportunities for development of an outreach program	RSC	RSC Meeting	Update: Ongoing, two outreaches have been done with NYPA.

DRAFT

NERC
NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY CORPORATION

Weekly Standards & Compliance Bulletin

February 2–8, 2015

ACTIVE STANDARDS POSTINGS

Current and Upcoming Ballots (ballot periods close at 8:00 p.m. Eastern)			
Project	**Action**	**Start Date**	**End Date**
Project 2014-02 – Critical Infrastructure Protection Standards Version 5 Revisions – CIP-003-7, CIP-004-7, CIP-007-7, CIP-010-3, CIP-011-3	Final Ballots in the Old System	01/23/15	02/02/15
NEW Project 2010-14.1 – Phase 1 of Balancing Authority Reliability-based Controls: Reserves – BAL-002-2	Additional Ballot in the Old System	03/06/15	03/16/15

Join Ballot Pools (ballot pool windows close at 8:00 a.m. Eastern)			
Project	**Action**	**Start Date**	**End Date**
--	--	--	--

Posted for Comment (comment periods close at 8:00 p.m. Eastern)			
Project	**Action**	**Start Date**	**End Date**
NEW Project 2010-14.1 – Phase 1 of Balancing Authority Reliability-based Controls: Reserves – BAL-002-2	Comment Form	01/29/15	03/16/15

OTHER ACTIVE COMMENT PERIODS

Posted for Comment			
Posting	**Action**	**Start Date**	**End Date**
CIP V5 Transition Program Lessons Learned Posted for Comment: Lessons Learned documents on Programmable Electronic Devices, Interactive Remote Access, and EACMS Mixed Trust Authentication have been posted for stakeholder comment on the CIP V5 Transition web page.	Submit comments to TransitionProgram@nerc.net.	01/08/15	02/06/15

GENERAL STANDARDS NEWS

NEW Project Pages Available for New Projects

Project pages are now available for the following new projects or project phases:

- Project 2007-06.2 – System Protection Coordination
- Project 2008-02.2 – Phase 2 Undervoltage Load Shedding: Misoperations
- Project 2015-02 – Emergency Operations Periodic Review
- Project 2015-03 – Periodic Review of System Operating Limit Standards
- Project 2015-04 – Alignment of NERC Glossary of Terms and Definitions Used in the Rules of Procedure

QUICK LINKS

Ballot Results
Projected Standards Posting Schedule
Project Tracking Spreadsheet
Standards Related Questions – Single Portal
NEW 2015–2017 Reliability Standards Development

NEW Special Election for Standards Committee Segments 8 and 9

NERC is holding a special election for one vacancy in Segment 8 (Small Electricity Users) and two vacancies in Segment 9 (Federal, State, and Provincial Regulatory or other Government Entities) of the Standards Committee. Nominations for these vacancies will be accepted through February 17, 2015 in preparation for special elections for each vacancy for one-year terms ending December 31, 2015.

Anyone may submit a nomination. However, the nominee must be from an entity registered in the particular segment for which the nomination is received. To nominate, first submit the nominee's name and requested fields using this submittal link. Next, email the

completed Word version of the nomination form to Monica Benson by February 17, 2015. As nominations are received, they will be posted on the Standards Committee's Election web page. The special elections will be conducted February 26 to March 9, 2015.

The announcement about the election contains additional detail.

Standards Balloting and Commenting System Goes Live Today

The Standards Balloting and Commenting System (SBS) will go live today. Projects that have been balloted in the original balloting system will continue to final ballot in the same balloting software. The Balloting and Commenting page provides the status of each ballot; in the "Current and Upcoming Ballots" table, the "System" column will indicate either "Old System" or "SBS" and link directly to the appropriate web page for balloting and review of associated project documents.

In order to ballot and comment in the new SBS, stakeholders should take the following actions:

- **Register in the New SBS:** Membership is different from the old balloting system and registration in that older system will not transfer to the SBS. All stakeholders must register in the SBS. Each membership role (Voter, Proxy, and Contributor) requires registration. All stakeholders must be registered and vetted in order to join a ballot pool. Please allow up to six business days for a new registration to be vetted.
- **Reset Password (for stakeholders already registered in the SBS):** Each previously registered SBS member must reset their password in order to access the system, as revalidation is required every six months and thus the time will have lapsed for many current SBS members. Log in to the SBS and click "Reset Password."
- **Confirm Registration:** Visit the SBS page, select "Users" on the top toolbar, and then select "Registered Ballot Body."
- **Review the SBS Training Webinar:** NERC hosted a training webinar for the SBS on January 22. Stakeholders who were unable to attend can review the presentation and slides on the Standards Webinars page.
- **Review Additional Materials**: The Balloting and Commenting page contains links to additional resources, including more detailed information on registration, vetting, and permissions; slide presentations from previous training sessions; and information about the features of the SBS.

Please direct SBS-related questions to ballotadmin@nerc.net.

GENERAL COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT NEWS

QUICK LINKS
Reliability Assurance Initiative
CIP V5 Transition Program
Reliability Standard Audit Worksheets
Risk-Based Registration Initiative

NEW Enforcement Date for PRC-005-3

On January 22, 2015 FERC issued a final rule approving PRC-005-3 – Protection System and Automatic Reclosing Maintenance. The standard will become enforceable on April 1, 2016.

NEW CIP V5 Transition Update

Industry comments on the draft FAQs that were posted through November 25, 2014 are now available on the CIP V5 Transition Program web page. The comments are posted on the Implementation Study, Lessons Learned, and FAQs subpage under "Feedback on Lessons Learned and FAQs Previously Posted for Comment."

NEW NERC Implementing the Risk-Based CMEP through Training, Outreach, and Oversight

Through the Reliability Assurance Initiative (RAI), NERC completed the design of the risk-based Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program (CMEP) and is now focusing on the program implementation. In particular, NERC and the Regional Entities will concentrate their efforts on four critical areas: training, continued outreach, oversight, and development of objective metrics to measure the success of the risk-based CMEP. Most of these activities will be implemented in phases throughout the year, as outlined in the NERC's latest risk-based CMEP update (Item 3 in the agenda for the February 11 NERC Board of Trustees Compliance Committee open session).

Please note that because the RAI was completed in 2014, NERC will no longer include references to RAI in its communications. The information accumulated on the RAI page will soon be duplicated on the Compliance and Enforcement page. The RAI page will remain in place during 2015, with all of its current content, while the Compliance and Enforcement page undergoes improvements.

NEW Physical Security Standard Implementation Update

NERC has developed a new web page to house guidance and resources related to the implementation of CIP-014-1 – Physical Security, which will become enforceable on October 1, 2015.

During the implementation period for CIP-014-1, with the support and engagement of industry stakeholders and the Regional Entities, NERC will issue guidance documents, provide training to industry and ERO compliance and enforcement staff and conduct other outreach efforts to improve industry's understanding of the requirements of CIP-014-1 and help ensure that industry is technically ready to implement the

requirements in the standard according to the timeframe provided in the implementation plan. These activities are also designed to ensure that the ERO Enterprise enforces CIP-014-1 consistently, reasonably, and transparently.

The web page includes background information on the standard and links to CIP-014-1, the FERC order approving CIP-014-1 and the Project 2014-04 – Physical Security web page, where stakeholders can find information about FERC-directed revisions to CIP-014 to address the use of the term "widespread" in Requirement R1. Over the course of the year, NERC will add guidance documents to this web page, which is housed on the Critical Infrastructure page, under "CIP Outreach" on the left side of the page.

Register Now for the Risk-Based Approach to the Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program Industry Outreach Event

Register to attend in person or via webinar for an industry outreach event on the Risk-Based Approach to the Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program on March 5, 2015 in Atlanta, GA. The event will focus on the ERO's implementation of its risk-based approach to the Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program (CMEP), resulting from activities under the Reliability Assurance Initiative.

During the one-day event, a panel of participants from NERC, Regional Entities, and stakeholder companies will discuss the components of the transformed risk-based ERO Enterprise CMEP, which includes the application of risk-based CMEP concepts to CIP Version 5. Agenda topics and discussions will incorporate feedback obtained from the November 2014 industry outreach events, as well as any lessons learned during initial implementation and rollout.

STANDARDS SUBJECT TO FUTURE ENFORCEMENT

The following standards are subject to future enforcement. Please refer to the U.S. Enforcement Dates page for more detail:

U.S. Enforcement Date	Standard(s)
April 1, 2015	BAL-003-1 – Frequency Response and Frequency Bias Setting; EOP-010-1 – Geomagnetic Disturbance Operations; PRC-005-2 – Protection System Maintenance
July 1, 2015	MOD-032-1 – Data for Power System Modeling and Analysis; PRC-006-NPCC-1 – Automatic Underfrequency Load Shedding
October 1, 2015	CIP-014-1 – Physical Security

January 1, 2016	FAC-001-2 – Facility Interconnection Requirements; FAC-002-2 – Facility Interconnection Studies; NUC-001-3 – Nuclear Plant Interface Coordination
April 1, 2016	CIP-002-5.1 – Cyber Security – BES Cyber System Categorization; CIP-003-5 – Cyber Security – Security Management Controls; CIP-004-5.1 – Cyber Security – Personnel & Training; CIP-005-5 – Cyber Security – Electronic Security Perimeter(s); CIP-006-5 – Cyber Security – Physical Security of BES Cyber Systems; CIP-007-5 – Cyber Security – System Security Management; CIP-008-5 – Cyber Security – Incident Reporting and Response Planning; CIP-009-5 – Cyber Security – Recovery Plans for BES Cyber Systems; CIP-10-1 – Cyber Security – Configuration Change Management and Vulnerability Assessments; CIP-011-1 – Cyber Security – Information Protection; NEW PRC-005-3 – Protection System and Automatic Reclosing Maintenance
July 1, 2016	MOD-025-2 – Verification and Data Reporting of Generator Real and Reactive Power Capability and Synchronous Condenser Reactive Power Capability; PER-005-2 – Operations Personnel Training; PRC-019-1 – Coordination of Generating Unit or Plant Capabilities, Voltage Regulating Controls, and Protection; PRC-024-1 – Generator Frequency and Voltage Protective Relay Settings
July 1, 2017	MOD-033-1 – Steady-State and Dynamic System Model Validation

BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND FERC ACTION

NEW NERC Filings to FERC

On January 26, 2015, NERC filed with FERC an answer to comments submitted in response to the December 11, 2014 NERC petition for approval of Risk-Based Registration initiative Rules of Procedure revisions. NERC also filed with FERC comments in response to the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking proposing to approve BAL-001-2 – Real Power Balancing Control Performance.

NERC 2015 filings are posted here.

NEW NERC Board of Trustees Meeting Agenda Packages and Schedule of Events Posted for February 11–12, 2015

Agenda packages for the Compliance Committee, Corporate Governance and Human Resources Committee, Finance and Audit Committee, Standards Oversight and Technology Committee, Member Representatives Committee, and Board of Trustees meetings on February 11–12, 2015 in San Diego are now available. A schedule of events has also been posted.

UPCOMING EVENTS

For information about other NERC events, such as meetings and conference calls for standard drafting teams, other standing committees, subcommittees, task forces, and working groups, please refer to the NERC calendar.

Workshops and Conferences

- EOP and FAC Technical Conference on Periodic Reviews – February 17–18, 2015 (Register)
- Risk-Based Approach to the Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program Industry Outreach Event – March 5, 2015, Atlanta, GA (Register to Attend In Person by February 23) (Register to Attend via Webinar by February 23)
- Human Performance Conference – March 17–19, 2015, Atlanta, GA (Agenda) (Registration) (Hotel Reservations)
- Spring Standards and Compliance Workshop – April 1–3, 2015, Atlanta, GA (Register by March 24) (Hotel Reservations by March 9)

Webinars

- NEW Project 2008-02.2 – Phase 2 Undervoltage Load Shedding: Misoperations Webinar – 1:00–2:00 p.m. Eastern, February 3, 2015 (Register)
- State of Standards Webinar – 1:00–4:00 p.m. Eastern, February 4, 2015 (Agenda) (Register)
- Lessons Learned Webinar – 2:00–3:00 p.m. Eastern, March 12, 2015 (Register)
    - During this webinar, NERC will review the Lessons Learned submitted since the November 18, 2014 Lessons Learned webinar.

Standing Committee Meetings and Conference Calls

- Standards Committee Conference Call – 11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. Eastern, February 3, 2015 (NEW Agenda)
- Board Committees, Member Representative Committee, and Board of Trustees Meetings – February 11–12, 2015, San Diego (Meeting Registration) (Hotel Reservations)
- Standards Committee Conference Call – 1:00–5:00 p.m. Eastern, February 18, 2015
- Compliance & Certification Committee Meeting – March 3–4, 2015, Atlanta, GA (Register)

ABOUT THE WEEKLY STANDARDS & COMPLIANCE BULLETIN

This weekly bulletin compiles a list of standards and compliance projects with actionable deadlines, as well as upcoming events, recently posted resources, other NERC documents posted for comment, and other relevant news and information. Please email Mallory Huggins with feedback

on this bulletin. The current bulletin and old bulletins are available under "Program News" on both the Standards home page and the Compliance & Enforcement home page.

If you would like to receive this bulletin or be added to the distribution list for a particular standards project, please email Arielle Cunningham. For questions or more information about any of the compliance news listed in the bulletin, please contact Brooke Thornton.

NPCC, Inc.

NORTHEAST POWER COORDINATING COUNCIL, INC.
1040 AVE. OF THE AMERICAS, NEW YORK, NY 10018 (212) 840-1070 FAX (212) 302-2782

December 5, 2014

Members, Reliability Coordinating Committee
and
Members, Task Force on Coordination of Operation
Members, Task Force on Coordination of Planning
Members, Task Force on Infrastructure Security and Technology
Members, Task Force on System Protection
Members, Task Force on System Studies

Re: Minutes of the September 10, 2014 RCC Meeting

Sir / Madam:

Attached are the minutes of the September 10, 2014 meeting of the NPCC Reliability Coordinating Committee; as approved at the December 2, 2014 RCC meeting.

Sincerely,

Phil Fedora

Philip A. Fedora
Assistant Vice President-Reliability Services

cc: NPCC Staff

NORTHEAST POWER COORDINATING COUNCIL
Reliability Coordinating Committee Minutes
September 10, 2014

Mr. Briggs called the meeting of the Reliability Coordinating Committee (RCC), held at the New York Times Square Residence Inn by the Marriott to order at 10:00 am.

Attendance

Officers of the Reliability Coordinating Committee

Alden Briggs, Chair	New Brunswick Power Corporation
Michael Schiavone, Co-Vice Chair	National Grid USA
Brian Evans-Mongeon, Co-Vice Chair	Utility Services, Inc.

Sector 1 - Transmission Owners

Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corp.	(via written proxy)
Central Maine Power Company	David Conroy
Consolidated Edison Company	Mike Forte
of New York, Inc.	Peter Yost (Alternate)
Hydro-One, Inc.	Ajay Garg (Alternate)
Long Island Power Authority	(proxy to Robert Eisenhuth – via phone)
National Grid USA	Michael Schiavone
New Brunswick Power Corporation	(proxy to Alden Briggs)
New York Power Authority	(proxy to Randy Crissman)
New York State Electric & Gas Corp.	(proxy to Dave Conroy)
Northeast Utilities	Brad Bentley
Nova Scotia Power Incorporated	(via written proxy)
Rochester Gas & Electric Corporation	John Allen (Alternate - via phone)
The United Illuminating Company	Jonathan Appelbaum (Alternate)
Vermont Transco	Hantz Presume

Sector 2 – Reliability Coordinators

Hydro-Québec TransÉnergie	Pierre Paquet
Independent Electricity System Operator	Mark Wilson
ISO-New England, Inc.	Don Gates (Alternate – via phone)
New Brunswick Power Corporation	Alden Briggs
New York Independent System Operator	Dana Walters (Alternate)

Sector 3 – Transmission Dependent Utilities, Distribution Companies and Load Serving Entities

Hydro-Québec Distribution	(proxy to Abdelhakim Sennoun – via phone)
New York Power Authority	(proxy to Randy Crissman)
Long Island Power Authority	(proxy to Robert Eisenhuth – via phone)
Northeast Utilities	Dwayne Basler

Sector 4 Generation Owners

Dominion Energy Marking, Inc.	Mike Garton
	Connie Lowe (Alternate)
Dynegy, Inc.	Jim Watson (via phone)
Entergy Nuclear Northeast	Raey Yohannes (via phone)
Long Island Power Authority	(proxy to Robert Eisenhuth – via phone)
New York Power Authority	Randy Crissman
NextEra Energy Resources	(via written proxy)
Northeast Utilities	(proxy to Dwayne Basler)
Ontario Power Generation, Inc.	(via written proxy)

Sector 5 – Marketers, Brokers, and Aggregators

Constellation Energy Commodities Group	(via written proxy)
HQ Energy Marketing Inc.	(via written proxy)
HQ Energy Services (US) Inc.	(via written proxy)
Long Island Power Authority	(proxy to Robert Eisenhuth– via phone)
New York Power Authority	(proxy to Randy Crissman)
PPL EnergyPlus, LLC	(via written proxy)
Utility Services	Brian Evans-Mongeon

Sector 6 – State and provincial Regulatory and/or Governmental Authorities

New York Power Authority	(proxy to Randy Crissman)
New York State Department of Public Service	Ed Schrom (Alternate)

Sector 7 – Sub-Regional Reliability Councils, Customers, other Regional Entities and Interested Entities

New York State Reliability Council, LLC	(via written proxy)

NPCC Staff

Sal Buffamante	Assistant Vice President Compliance Audits and Investigations
Gerry Dunbar	Manager of Reliability Criteria Requirements
Ben Eng	Manager, Compliance Audits and Investigations – O&P
Phil Fedora	Assistant Vice President, Reliability Services
Kristin Halper	Regulatory Attorney
Damase Herbert	Compliance Attorney
Brian Hogue	Information Systems & Security Management

Stanley Kopman	Assistant Vice President Compliance, Registration & Enforcement
Neeraj Lal	Senior Reliability Assessment & Performance Analysis Engineer
Quoc Le (via phone)	Manager, System Planning and Protection
Michael Lombardi	Manager, System Studies
Jennifer Budd Mattiello	Vice President and Chief Operating Officer
John Mosier, Jr.	Assistant Vice President of System Operations
Andrey Oks	Manager, Reliability Performance Criteria Assessment
Frantz Roc	Manager, Information Technologies
Paul Roman	Manager, Operations Planning
Ralph Rufrano	Manager, Event Analysis
Edward Schwerdt	President and Chief Executive Officer

Guests

Guillaume Beaudoin	Hydro-Quebec TransEnergie
Kelly Dash	Consolidated Edison
Paul DiFilippo (via phone)	Chair, Task Force on System Protection
Marc Dusseault	Chair, Task Force on Coordination of Planning
Gregory Goodrich	Chair, Task Force on Infrastructure Security & Technology
Abdelhakim Sennoun (via phone)	Hydro-Quebec Distribution
Bill Temple	Northeast Utilities
Isen Widjaja (via phone)	Chair, Load Modeling Working Group

Quorum Statement

Mr. Fedora indicated that a quorum had been achieved, by member attendance, proxy or alternate designation. He also noted having received the following written proxies:

Sector 1 – Transmission Owners
Paul Casey – Nova Scotia Power, Inc.
James McCloskey - Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corporation

Sector 4 – Generator Owners
David Ramkalawan – Ontario Power Generation
Allen Schriver – NextEra Energy Resources

Sector 5 – Marketers, Brokers, and Aggregators
Yannick Vennes – HQ Energy Marketing Inc.
Louis Guilbault - HQ Energy Services (US) Inc.
Glen McCartney – Constellation Energy Commodities Group, Inc.

Sector 7 – Sub Regional Reliability Councils, REs, and Others
Roger Clayton – New York State Reliability Council

Antitrust Guidelines for NPCC Meetings

Mr. Fedora reviewed the NPCC Antitrust Guidelines in the Agenda package, and suggested contacting NPCC Inc.'s Secretary, Andrianne S. Payson, at (212) 424-8218 for further information.

President & CEO Report

Mr. Schwerdt reported on the following items:

Bulk Electric System (BES) Implementation
Mr. Schwerdt noted the excellent work being done on BES by staff and by all entities in the Northeast. To date, NPCC has received exception requests and self-determined notifications for over 1,500 potential bulk electric system elements. Of those, NPCC has completed processing approximately 400 applications and NERC has completed its review of some 170. All NPCC applications processed by NERC have been approved. The number and complexity of applications being received by other Regions, including SPP, SERC and WECC is beginning to increase. With the September 1, 2014 end of the intentional slow roll out of the application, NPCC elements represent some 50 percent of the BES activity.

ERO Strategic Plan and Metrics
He then reported that the ERO Executive Management Group, comprised of the President of NERC and the Presidents of the Regional Entities will be meeting on September 24-25, 2014 to begin development of Strategic Goals and Metrics for the 2015–2018 time period. Updated goals in the areas of: standards; compliance, registration, risks to reliability; and coordination; and collaboration will be established. In addition, revised ERO-wide program execution effectiveness metrics regarding: implementation of risk-based registration criteria; timeliness and transparency of compliance results; percent of self-identified non-compliances; mitigation aging curve; Reliability Assurance Initiative (RAI) reforms; quality and availability of planning and engineering models and data, achieving an effective oversight model, and ERO Enterprise infrastructure and applications will be reviewed. As these ERO Enterprise objectives are set, they should translate into and be operationalized in future action items for the RCC, RSC, CC and the respective technical Task Forces.

NPCC Events Analysis Secure Portal

Lastly, he highlighted the availability of a new NPCC secure portal for the sharing of detailed events analysis information between registered entities, and congratulated the Events Analysis and IT staffers for achieving this objective. The opportunity to share CEII information, within a secure mechanism, significantly augments the work being done to publicize and supplement with Regional insights lessons learned from events.

Chair Report

Meeting Agenda

Mr. Briggs indicated he would be adding a status report regarding the Eastern Interconnection Data Sharing Network (EIDSN) to the Agenda; no other changes to the meeting Agenda were submitted.

The RCC then approved the Agenda.

Development of the 2015-2016 Task Force/RCC Work Plans

Mr. Briggs reminded the Task Force Chairs that their 2015-2016 Work Plans are due for review and approval at the December RCC meeting. Following review and approval of their respective plans, the RCC will then approve their proposed 2015-2016 Work Plan.

Nominating Committee

Mr. Briggs reminded the RCC that Mr. Schiavone would succeeded him as RCC Chair in 2015. He asked for volunteers to form a Nominating Committee to recommend a candidate (or candidates) for Co-Vice Chair for consideration at the December RCC meeting and subsequent NPCC BOD approval. Messrs. Garton and Appelbaum volunteered to serve on the Nominating Committing.

Mr. Briggs indicated that Mr. Fedora would help to coordinate their efforts. He encouraged anyone interested in the RCC Co-Vice Chair position to contact the Nominating Committee. Mr. Fedora then reviewed the RCC procedures concerning the selection and representation for the RCC Co-Vice Chairs provided in the Agenda package.

RCC CEII 'restricted access'

Mr. Fedora reminded the RCC that an executed NPCC CEII Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) is required to be on files at NPCC in order to access the RCC CEII 'restricted access' web link on the NPCC Member web site. Ms. Halper reviewed the corporate and individual NPCC CEII NDAs included in the Agenda package.

2015 RCC Meeting Dates

Mr. Fedora stated the following dates have been confirmed:

- ✓ Wednesday, February 25, 2015 – New York City Location TBA
- ✓ Wednesday, June 3, 2015 – New York City Location TBA
- ✓ Thursday, September 10, 2015 – New York City Location TBA
- ✓ Tuesday, December 1, 2015 – Wolf Road Marriott, Albany NY

Consent Agenda

The Reliability Coordinating Committee approved the following Consent Agenda items (all written proxies in favor, with three abstentions: Sector 4, Generator Owners – David Ramkalawan, Ontario Power Generation, Inc., Sector 5, Marketers, Brokers, and Aggregators - Louis Guilbault, HQ Energy Services (US) Inc., and Yannick Vennes, HQ Energy Marketing Inc.):

June 4, 2014 Meeting Minutes

The Draft-For-Approval Minutes of the June 4, 2014 Reliability Coordinating Committee were approved, with corrections noted.

RCC Membership Changes

The following changes to RCC Membership were approved:

Sector 2 - Reliability Coordinators

- ✓ Mr. Leonard Kula, Director Operations of the Ontario Independent Electricity System Operator to succeed Mr. Mike Falvo as the Alternate.

Sector 3 -TDUs, Distribution. and LSE

- ✓ Mr. Richard Lagrange, Manager Planning and Reliability of Hydro-Quebec Distribution to succeed Mr. Stephane Dufresne as the Member.
- ✓ Mr. Abdelhakim Sennoun, Analyst Supply Planning of Hydro-Quebec Distribution to serve as the Alternate.

Task Force Roster Changes

The following changes to Task Force and Working Group memberships were approved:

Task Force on System Studies

- ✓ Mr. Michael R. Lombardi, Manager of System Studies of Northeast Power Coordinating Council, Inc. as the Secretary.

Task Force on Coordination of Planning

- ✓ Mr. David Bradt, Manager of Transmission Planning of the United Illuminating Company to replace Mr. Christian Bilcheck as the Member.
- ✓ Mr. Abdelhakim Sennoun, Analyst Supply Planning of Hydro-Quebec Distribution as the Member.
- ✓ Mr. Simon Couture, Analyst Supply Planning of Hydro-Quebec Distribution as the Alternate.

CP-8 Working Group on Review of Resource and Transmission Adequacy

- ✓ Mr. Jean-Dominic Lacas, Analyst Supply Planning of Hydro-Quebec Distribution as the Member.

- ✓ Mr. Abdelhakim Sennoun, Analyst Supply Planning of Hydro-Quebec Distribution as the Alternate.

SS-37 Working Group on Base Case Development

- ✓ Mr. Michael R. Lombardi, Manager of System Studies of Northeast Power Coordinating Council, Inc. as Chair.
- ✓ Mr. Eric H. Allen of North American Electric Reliability Corporation to move from the Member to observer.
- ✓ Mr. Dean Latulipe of National Grid to move from the Member to observer.
- ✓ Mr. Kalyam Abhyankar of ISO-NE to replace Mr. Steven Judd as the Member.
- ✓ Mr. Zeqiu Li of ISO-NE to serve as the Alternate.
- ✓ Mr. Brad Greer of New Brunswick Power Corporation to replace Mr. Pat Masterson as the Alternate.

SS-38 Working Group on Inter-Area Dynamic Analysis

- ✓ Mr. Mohsen Zamzam, member of Con Ed, has retired - no replacement has been named.

A-10 Implementation Plan Update

Approved as provided in the Agenda package.

2015 NPCC Long Range Adequacy Overview Scope & Schedule

Approved as referenced in the Agenda package.

2015 NPCC (2016-2020) Tie Benefits Scope & Schedule

Approved as provided in the Agenda package.

Reliability Coordinating Committee Actions

Modification of the Hydro-Quebec Type II SPS #151 (at Arnaud 735kV)

Mr. Beaudoin described the modification of the Type II SPS #151 at the Arnaud 735 kV bulk power facility provided in the Agenda package.

Following the addition of the new Romaine-2 hydro plant, he stated that studies have shown that overvoltage may occur in the new 315 kV system for particular islanded conditions. The requested modification to SPS #151 is needed to avoid equipment damages in some special configurations.

In accordance with NPCC Reliability Reference Directory No. 7 – "Special Protection Systems", the Task Force on System Protection has reviewed the proposed modification and has accepted that the protections associated with this modification are designed in conformance with the intent of Directory No. 7.

Mr. Dusseault said that the Task Force on Coordination of Planning reviewed this request at its August 14, 2014 meeting, and is recommending RCC approval of the modification.

The RCC then approved the Modification of the Hydro-Quebec Type II SPS #151 (at Arnaud 735kV) as provided in the Agenda (all written proxies in favor, with four abstentions: Sector 4, Generator Owners – David Ramkalawan, Ontario Power Generation, Inc., Sector 5, Marketers, Brokers, and Aggregators - Louis Guilbault, HQ Energy Services (US) Inc., Yannick Vennes, HQ Energy Marketing Inc., and Glen McCartney, Constellation Energy Commodities Group, Inc.).

Retirement of NPCC Directory No. 3 - Maintenance Criteria for BPS Protection

Mr. Dunbar summarized the materials provided in the Agenda package. On March 20, 2014 FERC issued a Final Rule approving Reliability Standard PRC -005-2 Protection System Maintenance. The revised standard provides latitude for time and performance based relay maintenance programs in addition to incorporating the new definition of Protection Systems.

In accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure and to ensure that the NPCC regional criteria is not inconsistent with the newly revised standard PRC-005-2, the NPCC Task Force on System Protection (TFSP) undertook a technical evaluation of the criteria in Directory No. 3 Maintenance Criteria BPS Protection.

The TFSP has completed a comprehensive technical comparison of NPCC Directory No. 3 Maintenance Criteria BPS Protection and PRC -005-2. Accordingly, the TFSP has recommended the following actions:

- ✓ Directory No. 3 should be retired as a criteria document effective April 1, 2015 to coincide with the FERC approved enforcement date of PRC-005-2; and,
- ✓ Directory No. 4 should be revised prior to the retirement to ensure that no reliability gaps exist.

In order to facilitate the transition from PRC-005-1b to PRC -005-2, which provides for a prolonged implementation plan of (12 years), NPCC will consider the development of a regional guideline based on the maintenance intervals formerly contained in Directory No. 3. In this manner entities which have been using the maintenance intervals in Directory No. 3 to demonstrate compliance with PRC- 005-1b may continue to rely on the regional guideline for compliance purposes and NPCC as the regional entity can demonstrate that its criteria are not inconsistent with PRC -005-2 as the standard is implemented.

The RCC then recommended Membership approval of the Retirement of NPCC Directory No. 3 - Maintenance Criteria for BPS Protection as provided in the Agenda package (all written proxies in favor, with four abstentions: Sector 4,

Generator Owners – David Ramkalawan, Ontario Power Generation, Inc., Sector 5, Marketers, Brokers, and Aggregators – Louis Guilbault, HQ Energy Services (US) Inc., Yannick Vennes, HQ Energy Marketing Inc., and Glen McCartney, Constellation Energy Commodities Group, Inc.).

Preliminary Assessment Report of the 2013 Criteria Compliance Enforcement Program (CCEP) Implementation Plan

Mr. Kopman reported as per the Criteria Compliance Enforcement Program CCEP-1 Process Document (revised March 18, 2014), the Compliance Committee (CC) is required to provide a preliminary assessment report to the RCC on the annual CCEP certification forms. The report is to include any related non-monetary sanction recommendations and is to be presented at the 3rd Quarter RCC meeting for approval.

On June 18, 2014, the CC met to discuss the Criteria Certification Forms submitted in accordance with the CCEP-1 Process Document and the 2013 CCEP Implementation Plan. Upon preliminary assessment of all of the CCEP Certification forms associated with the 2013 CCEP Implementation Plan, the CC did not discover any alleged incidents of Reporting Full Member noncompliance to report to the RCC. As a result, the CC does not have any non-monetary sanction recommendations to present to the RCC.

The RCC then approved the Preliminary Assessment Report of the 2013 CCEP Implementation Plan, as provided in the Agenda package (all written proxies in favor, with three abstentions: Sector 4, Generator Owners – David Ramkalawan, Ontario Power Generation, Inc., Sector 5, Marketers, Brokers, and Aggregators – Louis Guilbault, HQ Energy Services (US) Inc., and Yannick Vennes, HQ Energy Marketing Inc.).

Status Reports

Mr. Briggs referred the RCC to the materials provided in the Agenda package; the RCC discussed the following Agenda items:

NPCC Regional Standards Committee (RSC) Report

Mr. Dunbar explained that the RSC continues to be actively involved in the NERC Standards development, coordinating Regional comments and ballot recommendations; he highlighted the following items from the materials provided in the Agenda package:

- ✓ Development of the continent wide Cost Effective Analysis Process (CEAP) Version 2 and pilots; and,
- ✓ Development of the continent wide Disturbance Monitoring Standard PRC-002-02.

NPCC Reliability Directory Status Report

Mr. Dunbar reported that Directory No. 1 was posted to the Open Process for two 45 day comment periods, with the most recent posting concluding on July 7, 2014. The combined CP11/ CO7 Working Group has reconvened to address comments, develop draft responses and revise the draft of Directory No. 1 as necessary. The final draft is anticipated to be presented to the RCC at its December 2, 2014 meeting.

He also reported that the RSC approved a posting to the NPCC Open Process to consider additional revisions to the NPCC Directory Manual that will incorporate cost considerations for new or revised NPCC criteria (as directed by the NPCC Board).

NPCC Compliance Committee

Mr. Kopman provided a brief summary of the materials provided in the Agenda package, highlighting the following:

- ✓ Status of the NERC Risk Based Registration Initiative;
- ✓ Multi-Regional Registered Entity (MRRE) process to be used by the Regional Entities and the MRRE entities that identifies a Lead Regional Entity (LRE) and the affected Regional Entities; and,
- ✓ RAI related Enforcement programs, including the "triage process" implementation.

Mr. Buffamante then summarized the following Audit Program activities described in the Agenda package:

- ✓ Implementation CIP- 014 Physical Security Standard;
- ✓ Development of the CIP version 5 Transition Guidance Document protocol; and,
- ✓ RAI compliance oversight framework.

SP-7 Working Group Review of Protection System Misoperations

Mr. Briggs referred the RCC to the material provide in the Agenda package.

Load Modeling Working Group Update

Mr. Widjaja stated that the SS38- Load Modeling Working Group (LMWG) is actively pursuing benchmarking the three actual system events in support of meeting the NPCC Board approved 2014 target goal. The LMWG expects to provide a summary of these events and its benchmarking efforts at the December 2, 2014 RCC meeting.

UFLS Adequacy Assessment

Mr. Le summarized the SS-38 Working Group on Inter-Area Dynamic Analysis UFLS Adequacy Assessment Study update provided in the Agenda package; a final report and recommendations for review and approval at the December 2, 2014 RCC meeting.

TFIST Cyber Update
Mr. Goodrich summarized the activities related to Project 2014-02 - Critical Infrastructure Protection Revisions, as described in the Agenda package.

Physical Security Update
Mr. Goodrich summarized the materials presented in the Agenda package related to Physical Security activities.

2014-2015 Task Force Work Plan Progress
The Chairs of the NPCC Task Forces provided a brief summary of their respective 2014-2015 Task Force Work Plan Progress reports provided in the Agenda package.

NPCC Reliability Assessment Program (NRAP) Highlights Report
Mr. Fedora indicated that the '*NPCC Reliability Assessment Program Highlights Report*' has been updated as of August 29, 2014 and is posted on the NPCC website.

NERC Agenda Items

Operating Committee (OC)
Mr. Mosier reviewed the following September 2014 NERC Operating Committee Agenda items:

- ✓ OC Strategic Plan Review;
- ✓ GridEx III; and,
- ✓ AC Substation Equipment Task Force Status; and,
- ✓ Essential Reliability Services Task Force Concept Paper.

Planning Committee (PC)
Mr. Fedora mentioned that the AC Substation Equipment Task Force Status and the Essential Reliability Services Task Force Concept paper was also planned to be discussed at the September PC meeting; he reviewed the following additional items from the Draft September 2014 NERC Planning Committee Agenda:

- ✓ Integration of Variable Generation Task Force Recommendation Report Endorsement; and,
- ✓ Physical Security Guidelines (CIP-014).

Critical Infrastructure Protection Committee (CIPC)
Mr. Hogue reviewed the following items on the September 2014 NERC Critical Infrastructure Committee Agenda:

- ✓ CIP V5 Transition from version 3 and CIP V5 Revisions;
- ✓ CIP-014 Implementation;
- ✓ Coordination with the North American Transmission Forum-Security Practices Group; and,

- ✓ Three CIPC subgroup Charters updated for lessons learned from GridEx II; and,
- ✓ GridSecCon 2014 activities.

Informational Items

Mr. Briggs referred the RCC to the materials included in the Agenda package. The following Informational Items were discussed at the meeting:

Operational Highlights

Mr. Mosier briefly described the review by the NPCC Task Force on Coordination of Operation of the May 25, 2014, Loss of Off-Site Power to the Millstone Nuclear Station.

Mr. Fedora referred to the schedule of Task Force presentations provided in the Agenda package planned by Northeast Utilities regarding the event. Following these presentations, each of the Tasks will review the findings and causal analysis identifying the contributing factors in the disturbance together with the mitigating actions to be pursued by Northeast Utilities for lessons learned, and will present their findings at the December 2, 2014 RCC meeting.

Events Analysis Program – Overview and Status

Mr. Rufrano provided a status and overview of the Events Analysis program provided in the Agenda package.

Definition of the Bulk Electric System (BES)

Mr. Fedora described the recent activities related to the Regional processing of submitted BES Self-Determined Notifications and Exception Requests and NERC's review and approval of the Regional recommendations.

Eastern Interconnection Reliability Assessment Group (ERAG) Activity Update

Mr. Roman highlighted the recent ERAG group activities described in the Agenda package.

NPCC 2014 General Meeting Agenda

Mr. Fedora referred the RCC to the Agenda provided in the Agenda package – the NPCC 2014 General Meeting is scheduled for December 3, 2014 in Halifax. Nova Scotia.

Eastern Interconnection Data Sharing Network (EIDSN)

Mr. Briggs provided an update on EIDSN activities; he explained its purpose is to replace the NERC net tool. The transition from NERC net to EIDSN is anticipated to occur in the second quarter of 2015.

Other Matters

With no other matters to consider, the RCC meeting was adjourned.

Next RCC Meeting Date	**Location**
December 2, 2014	Harbourside Marriott – Halifax, Nova Scotia

Distribution of Approved Minutes

NPCC Full & General Member Representatives and Alternates
Members, NPCC Board of Directors
Members, NPCC Reliability Coordinating Committee
Members, NPCC Public Information Committee
Members, NPCC Compliance Committee
Members, NPCC Regional Standards Committee
Members, NPCC Task Force on Coordination of Operation
Members, NPCC Task Force on Coordination of Planning
Members, NPCC Task Force on Infrastructure Security and Technology
Members, NPCC Task Force on System Protection
Members, NPCC Task Force on System Studies
NPCC Officers
NPCC Staff
Andrew J. Fawbush, Esq.
Andrianne S. Payson, Esq.
and
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission – Mike Bardee, David O'Connor, Juan Villar
La Régie de L'Énergie – Daniel Soulier
Ontario Energy Board – Peter Fraser
United States Department of Energy – David Meyer
New Brunswick Department of Energy and Mines – David Sallows
Nova Scotia Utility & Review Board – S. Bruce Outhouse, Q.C.

North American Electric Reliability Corp.
Bulk Electric System Exception Process Flow Diagrams
May нф, 2013

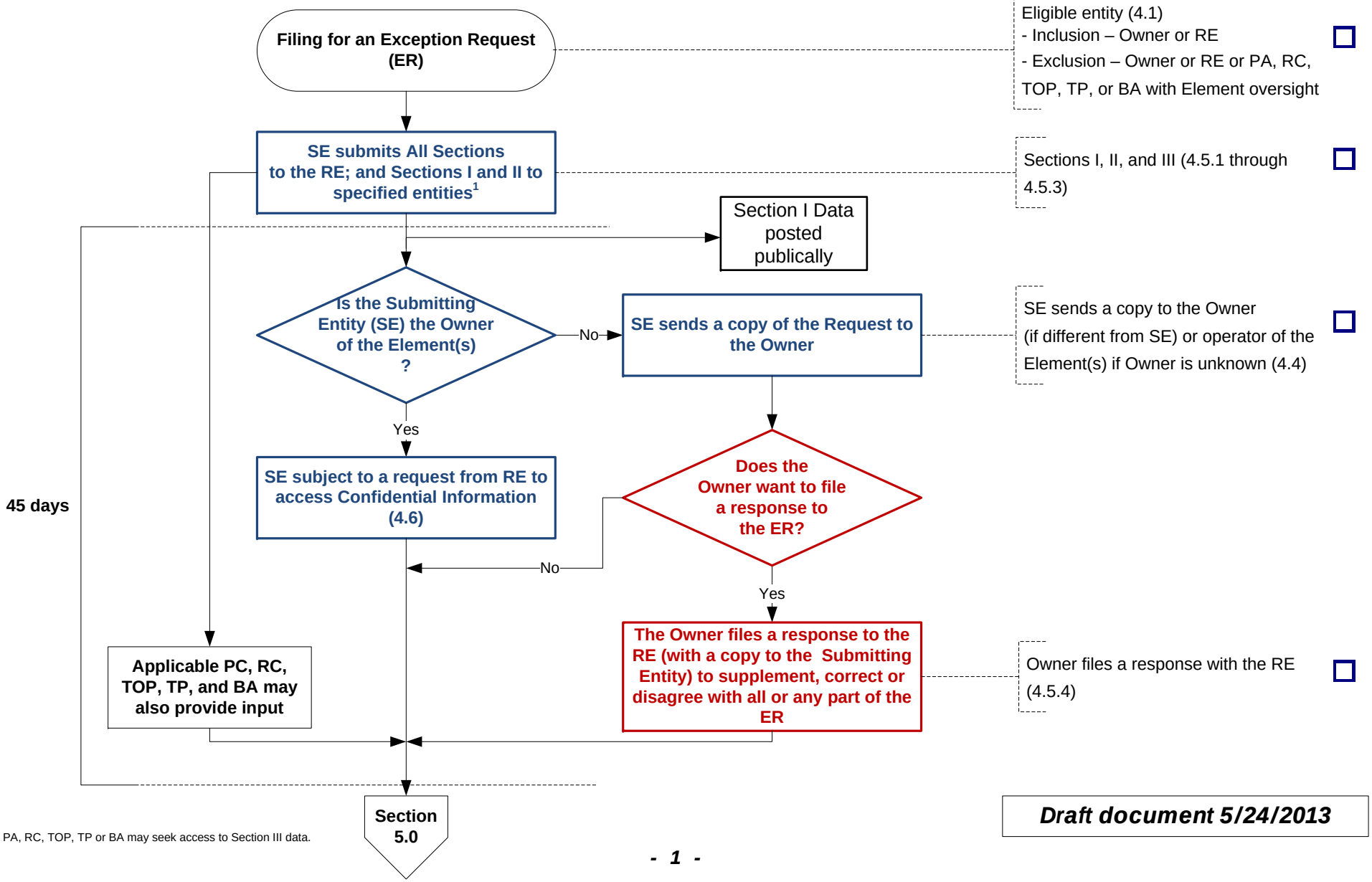
Note: Every effort has been made to ensure that the content of these flow diagrams match the Bulk Electric System Exception Process as described in the NERC Rules of Procedure. However, in the case of discrepancies between the NERC Rules of Procedure and these flow diagrams, the NERC Rules of Procedure govern.

BES Element Exception Process

Section 4.0 - Form, content and submission on an exception request

(from the Submitting Entity's perspective)

Timeline	Flowchart	Checklist



Eligible entity (4.1)
- Inclusion – Owner or RE
- Exclusion – Owner or RE or PA, RC, TOP, TP, or BA with Element oversight

☐

Sections I, II, and III (4.5.1 through 4.5.3)

☐

SE sends a copy to the Owner (if different from SE) or operator of the Element(s) if Owner is unknown (4.4)

☐

Owner files a response with the RE (4.5.4)

☐

[1] Owner, PA, RC, TOP, TP or BA may seek access to Section III data.

Draft document 5/24/2013

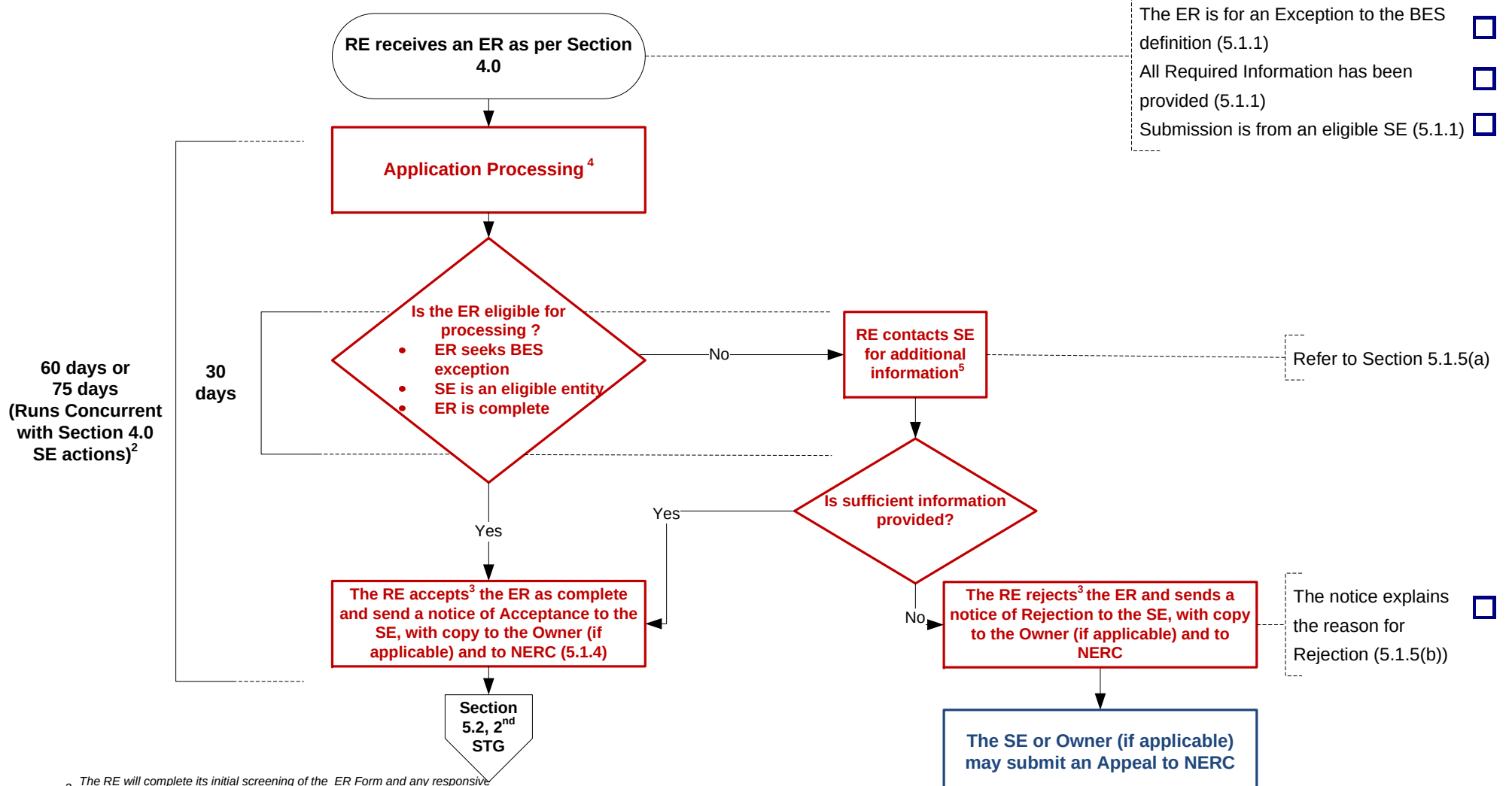
BES Element Exception Process

Section 5.0 – Review, acceptance or rejection, and reccomendation regarding ER

(from the Regional Entity's perspective)

FIRST STAGE – Initial Screening

Timeline	Flowchart	Checklist



Checklist

- Assign a unique identifier to ER (5.1.2)[6]
- The ER is for an Exception to the BES definition (5.1.1)
- All Required Information has been provided (5.1.1)
- Submission is from an eligible SE (5.1.1)
- The notice explains the reason for Rejection (5.1.5(b))

2 *The RE will complete its initial screening of the ER Form and any responsive document filed by an Owner no later than either 60 calendar days after receiving the ER or 30 calendar days after receiving any responsive document from the Owner, whichever is later. Included in this timeframe is 45 days of the Section 4 Process since the action of the SE and RE run concurrently.*

3 *The RE may either accept the ER in its entirety, reject the ER in its entirety, or if the ER is for more than one Element, may accept it with respect to a subset of the Elements and reject it with respect to the remainder based on the similarity of the evidence presented for the Exception Request.*

4 At any stage before the issuance of a final Recommendation, a Submitting Entity may provide supplemental information which may reset the evaluation timeline. (Section 6.0)

5 If additional information is provided, the initial screening time will be extended to 15 days after the receipt of the additional information.

6 When the RE is the SE, after a unique identifier is assigned the process proceeds to section 5.2 second stage.

Draft document 05/24/2013

BES Element Exception Process

Section 5.0 – Review, acceptance or rejection, and reccomendation regarding ER

(from the Regional Entity's perspective)

SECOND STAGE – Substantive Review

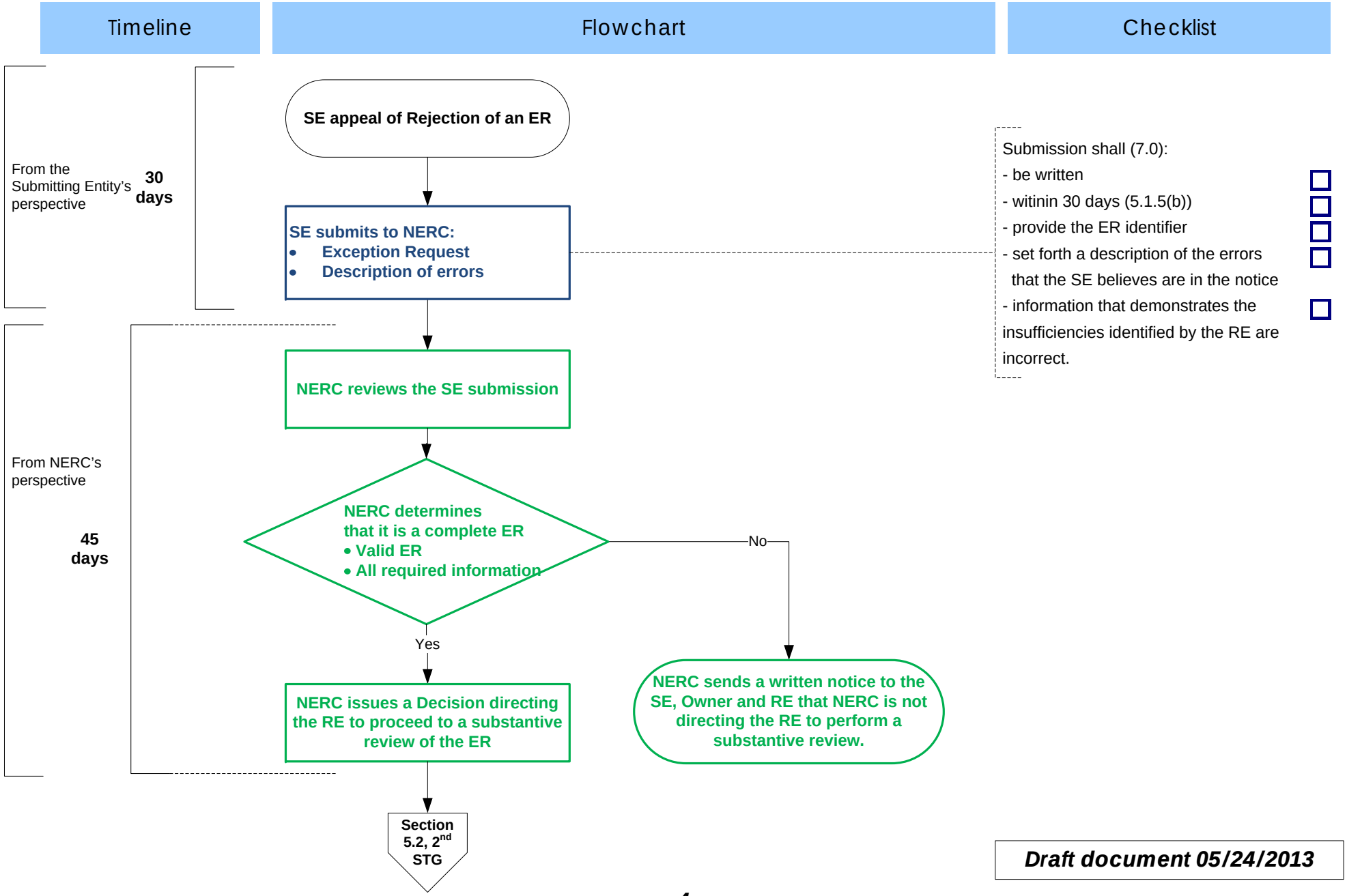
Timeline	Flowchart	Checklist
Up to 6 months	**RE sets milestones and sends copy to Submitting Entity and Owner, if different.**	Set milestones pursuant to Section 5.2.2. ☐
	Is the RE Recommendation to disapprove ER? — Yes → **Review and Opinion from Technical Review Panel[8]**	TRP Opinion pursuant to Sections 5.0(iii), 5.2.4, and 5.3 ☐
	No	The notice is in accordance with Section 5.2.3 ☐
	The RE issues a Recommendation to NERC and SE (and Owner if different from the SE)[7]	The Recommendation (5.2.3): ☐ - includes an evaluation - states the Elements covered - States the basis of the Recommendation - includes information considered by the RE in arriving at its Recommendation
	Section 8.0	

7 At any stage, pursuant to section 6.0, before the issuance of a final Recommendation a Submitting Entity may provide supplemental information which may reset the evaluation timeline.

8 A Technical Review Panel opinion is only required where a Regional Entity intends to issue a disapproval Recommendation to NERC. The Technical Review Panel consists of not less than three (3) individuals appointed by the Regional Entity senior executive (CEO, President, General Manager, etc.).

BES Element Exception Process

Section 7.0 – Appeal of Rejection of an ER Application based on its completeness

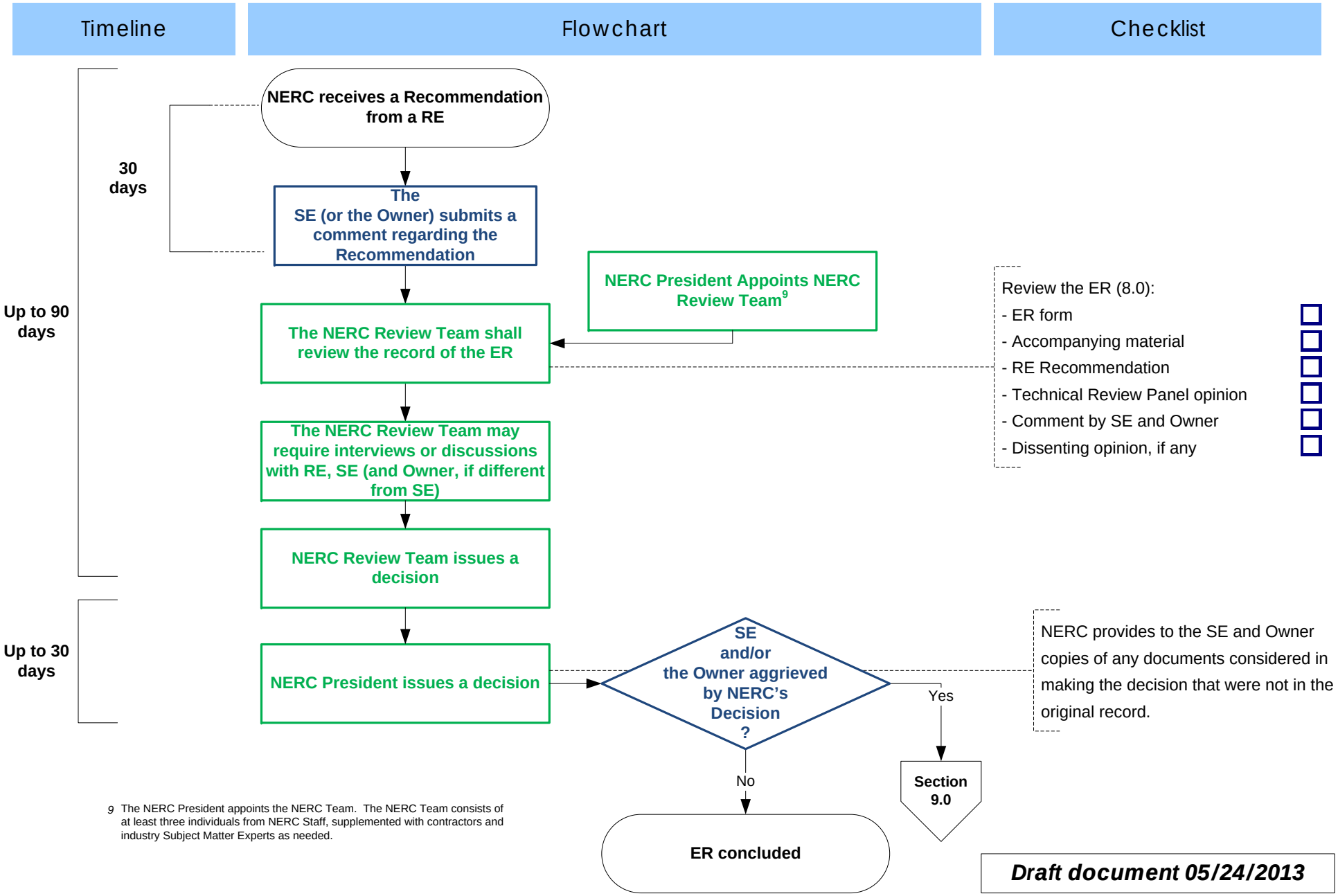


Draft document 05/24/2013

BES Element Exception Process

Section 8.0 – Approval or Disapproval of an ER

(from NERC's perspective)



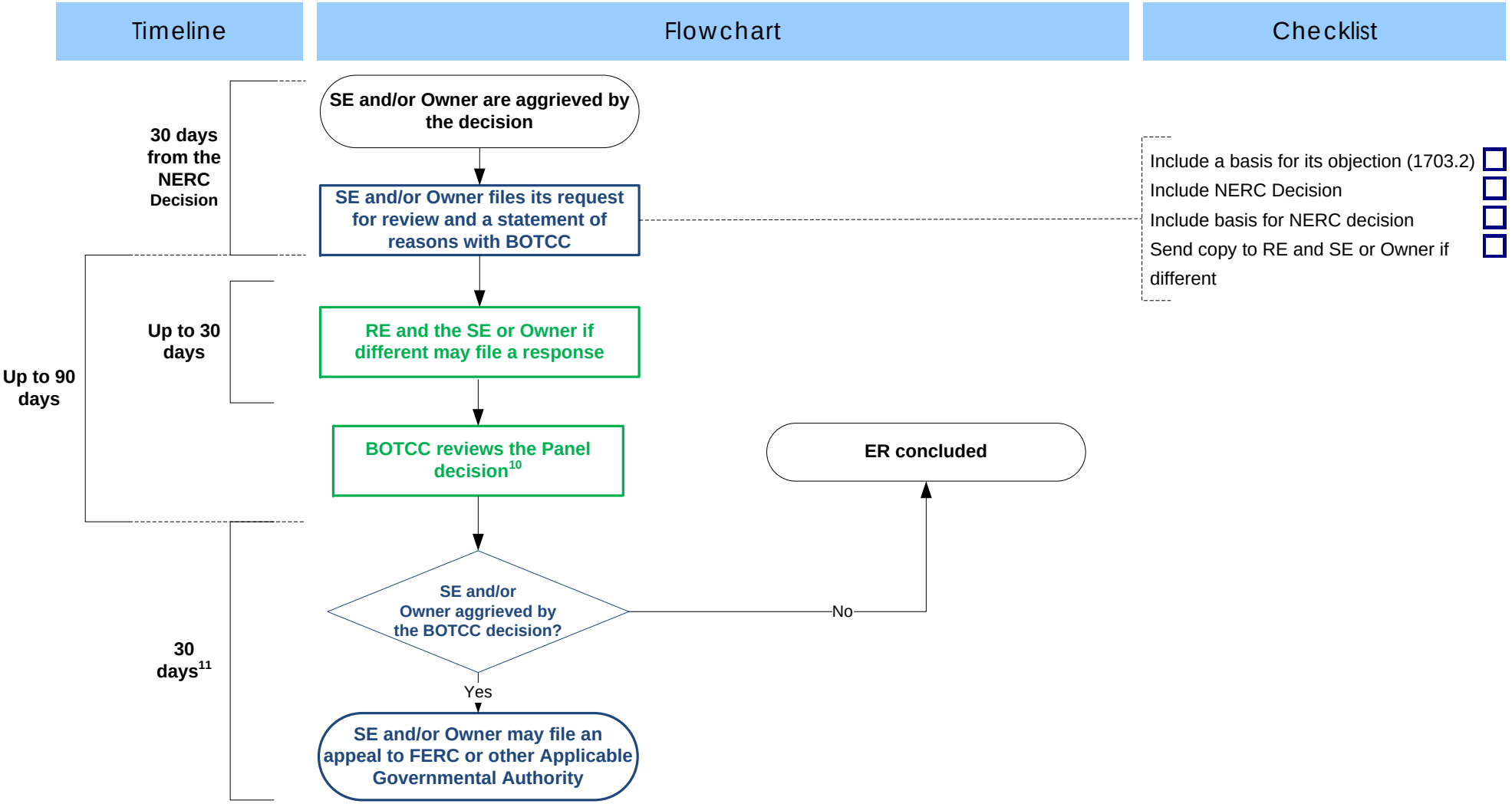
9 The NERC President appoints the NERC Team. The NERC Team consists of at least three individuals from NERC Staff, supplemented with contractors and industry Subject Matter Experts as needed.

Draft document 05/24/2013

BES Element Exception Process

Section 9 – NERC BOT Review of a Decision

(from Submitting Entity and NERC perspective)



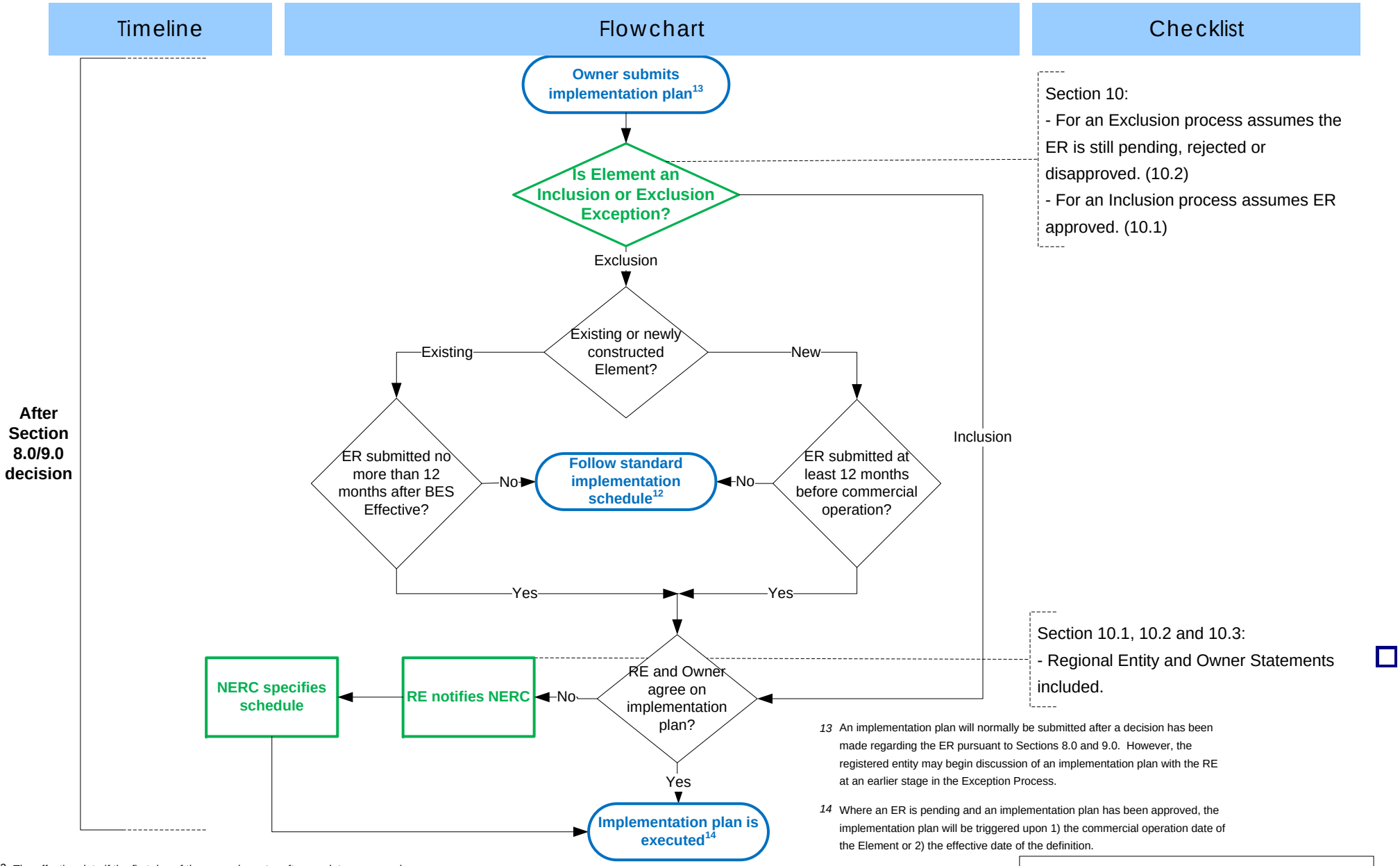
10 The Board of Trustees Compliance Committee may extend the deadline date for its decision to a date more than 90 days following submission of the challenge, by issuing a notice to the SE, the Owner (if different) and the RE stating the revised deadline date and the reason for the extension.

11 Within thirty (30) days following the date of the decision of the BOTCC, or within such other time period as is provided for in the legal authority, rules or procedures of the Applicable Governmental Authority.

BES Element Exception Process

Section 10.0 – Implementation Period for Exceptions

(from the Regional Entity's and NERC's perspective)



13 An implementation plan will normally be submitted after a decision has been made regarding the ER pursuant to Sections 8.0 and 9.0. However, the registered entity may begin discussion of an implementation plan with the RE at an earlier stage in the Exception Process.

14 Where an ER is pending and an implementation plan has been approved, the implementation plan will be triggered upon 1) the commercial operation date of the Element or 2) the effective date of the definition.

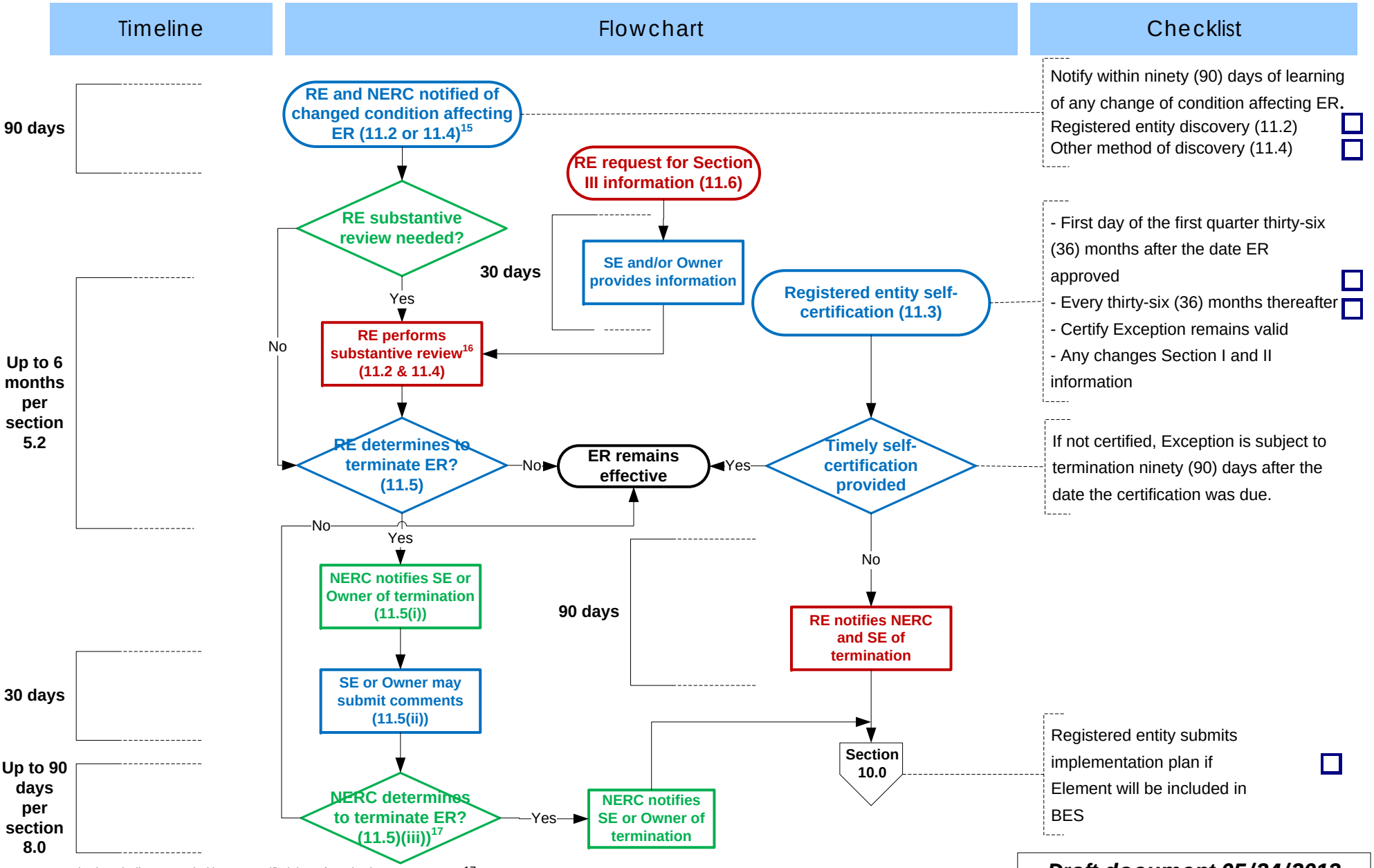
12 The effective date if the first day of the second quarter after regulatory approval (July 1, 2013 for U.S. jurisdictional entities) or if no regulatory approval is required then the first day of the second quarter after NERC Board adoption. The implementation period is 24 months after the applicable effective date.

Draft document 05/24/2013

BES Element Exception Process

Section 11.0 – Termination of an Approved Exception

(from the Regional Entity's and NERC's perspective)



15 An Exception is typically approved without a specified date of termination, see section 11.1.

16 Upon request by the Regional Entity, the Submitting Entity(ies) and/or Owner if different shall provide within thirty (30) days the most recent versions of any Section III Required Information so requested.

17 NERC review is in accordance with Section 8.0.

Draft document 05/24/2013

NERC
NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY CORPORATION

BES Frequently Asked Questions

Version 1.5
August 22, 2014

RELIABILITY | ACCOUNTABILITY






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Preface

The North American Electric Reliability Corporation's (NERC) mission is to ensure the reliability of the North American bulk power system (BPS). NERC is the electric reliability organization (ERO) certified by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to establish and enforce Reliability Standards for the BPS. NERC develops and enforces Reliability Standards; assesses adequacy annually via a 10-year forecast and summer and winter forecasts; monitors the BPS; and educates, trains, and certifies industry personnel. ERO activities in Canada related to the reliability of the BPS are recognized and overseen by the appropriate governmental authorities in that country.[1]

NERC assesses and reports on the reliability and adequacy of the North American BPS, which is divided into eight Regional Entity areas, as shown on the map and table below. The users, owners, and operators of the BPS within these areas account for virtually all the electricity supplied in the United States, Canada, and a portion of Baja California Norte, Mexico.

NERC Regional Entities

NERC Regional Entities Map



FRCC	Florida Reliability Coordinating Council
MRO	Midwest Reliability Organization
NPCC	Northeast Power Coordinating Council
RF	ReliabilityFirst
SERC	SERC Reliability Corporation
SPP-RE	Southwest Power Pool Regional Entity
TRE	Texas Reliability Entity
WECC	Western Electricity Coordinating Council

[1] As of June 18, 2007, FERC granted NERC the legal authority to enforce Reliability Standards with all U.S. users, owners, and operators of the BPS and made compliance with those standards mandatory and enforceable. Equivalent relationships have been sought and for the most part realized in Canada and Mexico. Prior to adoption of §215 in the United States, the provinces of Ontario (in 2002) and New Brunswick (in 2004) adopted all Reliability Standards that were approved by the NERC Board as mandatory and enforceable within their respective jurisdictions through market rules. Reliability legislation is in place or NERC has memoranda of understanding with provincial authorities in Ontario, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Québec, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, British Columbia and Alberta, and with the National Energy Board of Canada (NEB). NERC standards are mandatory and enforceable in Ontario and New Brunswick as a matter of provincial law. Manitoba has adopted legislation, and standards are mandatory there. In addition, NERC has been designated as the "electric reliability organization" under Alberta's Transportation Regulation, and certain Reliability Standards have been approved in that jurisdiction; others are pending. NERC standards are now mandatory in British Columbia and Nova Scotia. NERC and the Northeast Power Coordinating Council (NPCC) have been recognized as standards setting bodies by the Régie de l'énergie of Québec, and Québec has the framework in place for Reliability Standards to become mandatory. NEB has made Reliability Standards mandatory for international power lines. In Mexico, the Comisión Federal de Electricidad (CFE) has signed WECC's reliability management system agreement, which only applies to Baja California Norte.

1. Version History

The following is the history of changes to this document.

Version	Date	Change(s) Made	Change Tracking
1.0	May 6, 2014	Original Publishing	
1.1	June 4, 2014	Editorial changes to 7.1 Added FAQs: 2.7, 2.8, 4.7, 5.13, 5.14, 5.15, 6.4, and 7.8.	
1.2	June 26, 2014	Updates to 2.8, 3.1. Added FAQs: 2.9, 2.10, 2.11, 3.2, 4.8, 6.5, 6.6, 6.7, 7.9, 7.10, 7.11, 9.2, and 10.1.	
1.3	July 1, 2014	Updates to 2.5	
1.4	July 23, 2014	Factual corrections to 2.5	
1.5	August 25, 2014	Factual correction to 2.2 Added FAQs: 2.12, 7.12	

2. General Questions

2.1. When will the revised BES definition be effective?

The definition will be effective July 1, 2014.

2.2. What are the processes associated with implementing the new BES definition?

- Notification of Self-Determination: Facility owners notify Regional Entities of Elements excluded from the BES (by application of the BES definition) that were previously included in the BES, as well as Elements that are now included in the BES by application of the BES definition that were previously not included.
- Local distribution exclusions: In accordance with FERC Order No. 773-A, Entities may petition FERC for Facilities to be excluded as local distribution at any time.
- Rules of Procedure Exception process: Entities may request that Facilities either be included in the BES or excluded from the BES after applying the BES definition.

2.3. How will the ERO implement the BES definition?

The ERO has developed a process and single web-based tool for asset owners to provide industry with a uniform method to notify the Regional Entities of changes and to identify BES inclusions or exclusions as directed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC) Order Nos. 773 and 773-A, as well as the March 20, 2014 Order[2] approving the Revised Definition.

- Provide a uniform process for Self-Determined Notifications of newly identified BES inclusions or exclusions.
- Provide a common tool for Entities to submit Exception Requests.
- Create a consistent method for the Regional Entities and NERC to efficiently process BES Exception Requests.
- Address regulatory requirements in FERC Order Nos. 773 and 773-A, as well as the March 20, 2014 Order approving the Revised Definition.

2.4. What should Entities do to prepare for July 1, 2014?

Step 1: Identify BES Facilities and Elements

NERC suggests that each Entity that owns or operates Facilities and Elements apply the revised BES definition to such Facilities and Elements to determine if they are included in the BES. This analysis should identify Facilities and Elements that:

i. should be included in the BES, or
ii. may be excluded from the BES, based on the revised BES definition.

[2] *Order Approving Revised Definition*, 146 FERC ¶ 61,199 (March 20, 2014) http://www.nerc.com/FilingsOrders/us/FERCOrdersRules/E-7.pdf

After July 1, 2014, Entities are required by the NERC Rules of Procedure[3] to notify their Regional Entity of new Self-Determined Inclusions and Exclusions from application of the bright-line BES definition.

Step 2: Perform a Gap Analysis

Each Entity owning or operating Facilities and Elements that have been newly identified for inclusion in the BES should perform a gap analysis for both:

i. Registration (and Certification, if applicable), and
ii. Compliance with applicable Reliability Standards.

Step 3: Develop BES Implementation Plans

An Entity with newly included Facilities or Elements may need to develop a registration implementation plan (which may include the need for Certification or a revision to an existing Certification), a compliance implementation plan, or both. In either case, the Entity should submit its implementation plan(s) to the applicable Regional Entity for review and concurrence.

Additional information on preparations is contained in the *BES Definition Implementation Guidance Document* and the *BES Definition Reference Document*, which are posted at:

http://www.nerc.com/pa/RAPA/Pages/BES.aspx.

2.5. How do currently registered owners of existing dispersed power producing resources need to report their Facilities on July 1, 2014 when Inclusion I4 takes effect?

Dispersed power producing resources with an aggregate nameplate rating greater than 75 MVA should already be included as BES, based on the former NERC BES Definition. In cases where dispersed power producing resources with an aggregate nameplate rating greater than 75 MVA have not been included as part of the BES, a Self-Determined Notification should be submitted. See the section below for MRO and WECC for a summary of information that should be included with the Notification.

Inclusion I4 within the new BES Definition clarifies which parts of the Facility are considered BES. Based on the approved BES Definition, the individual dispersed generators and equipment that aggregate to ratings of greater than 75 MVA are included in the BES. Inclusion I4 further clarifies that the elements between individual devices or machines and the point where the aggregate nameplate rating is greater than 75 MVA are not BES Elements.

Regional differences in past implementation of the former BES Definition with regard to dispersed power producing resources have led to inconsistencies, which the application of the new BES Definition is intended to address. The following outlines the specific

[3] See Section of 501 of the Rules of Procedure "Scope of the Organization Registration and Organization Certification Programs" located at http://www.nerc.com/pa/RAPA/Pages/BES.aspx.

steps involved in achieving consistent implementation of the new BES Definition across the ERO for dispersed power producing resources.

In FRCC, NPCC, RF, SERC, SPP, and TRE: Registered Entities that own or dispersed power producing resources already considered by their Regional Entity to be part of the BES based on the former definition do not need to submit a Self-Determined Notification (provided that the elements 100 kV and above between the point where the aggregate nameplate rating is greater than 75 MVA and the point of Interconnection to the BES, as well as the individual wind turbines, were also already considered to be part of the BES). There is no obligation to submit a Notification through the BESnet system stating that elements below 100 kV used for common point delivery below a 75 MVA aggregation point are excluded, or that individual turbines are included.

In MRO and WECC: The Regional Entities did not consider the individual devices or machines comprising a dispersed power producing Facility where the aggregate nameplate rating is greater than 75 MVA to be part of the BES. In these cases, the Registered Entity must complete a Self-Determined Notification of inclusion. Registered Entities must submit supporting information with the Self-Determination, which should include one-line diagrams of the facility showing individual machines or devices, the lines used to deliver capacity to common points of connection, and the substation and other Facilities up to the point of transmission interconnection, as well as the point(s) at which output is aggregated and exceeds 75 MVA. The Registered Entity should submit a summary list of the Elements that comprise the facility that are considered part of the BES, including the number, manufacturer (and model), and nameplate MVA rating of the individual machines or devices. Explicitly identifying each of the Elements within the BESnet application is not required. The Regional Entity will review the one-line diagrams and the summary list to validate that the BES Definition was applied correctly. In some instances, additional documents may be requested by the Regional Entity to perform this validation. Registered Entities that submit a valid notification under this approach are permitted up to a two year transition period to bring the newly identified BES Elements into compliance with applicable NERC Reliability Standards.

2.6. Our existing dispersed generation Facility has a generator addition that will bring its aggregate nameplate rating over the 75 MVA threshold of Inclusion I4. How does this affect the Facility's status in the BES and what reporting is expected for the change?

Under the scenario above, this is a change in the Facility's inclusion/exclusion status per the "bright line" in Inclusion I4. The Entity should use the BESNet application to provide a notification of inclusion of this Facility. Supporting details should be provided, including one-line diagrams. The Regional Entity will examine the one-line diagrams for identification of the number, manufacturer (and model), and nameplate MVA rating of the individual machines or devices, the number of collector lines, and the collector substation and other substation Facilities up to the point of transmission interconnection, as well as the point at which output is aggregated and exceeds 75 MVA. In some instances, additional documents may be requested by the Regional Entity.

However, it is not necessary for the owner to provide details in the BESNet application for each individual dispersed machine or device and step-up transformer, nor the individual non-BES collector lines, beyond the one-line diagram, provided the one-line diagram clearly indicates the size of the individual machine or device and their step-up transformers. BESNet should be used for reporting the Facility status change in the aggregate.

2.7. If the ownership of an Element that was granted an Exception (inclusion or exclusion) changes, what is necessary to do to retain the Exception?

The new Element owner must notify the appropriate Regional Entity of the change of ownership. The Regional Entity will then make the reassignment of ownership in the BESNet for the Exception.

The former Element owner also must notify the appropriate Regional Entity of the change in its assets.

2.8. Are there any additional Reliability Standard development projects involving dispersed generation Facilities (Inclusion I4)?

The Project 2014-01 Standard Drafting Team is focusing on identifying Reliability Standard requirements applicable to dispersed power-producing resources. The list developed from the Standards Authorization Request (SAR) may provide a subset of applicable Reliability Standards. Once the Standard Drafting Team concludes its work, NERC will determine next steps, including alignment with the Risk-Based Registration Initiative.

2.9. What is the "Special Notification Submission Period?"

Registered Entities submitting Notifications of Exclusion may perceive a potential compliance benefit in submitting those Notifications as soon as possible, resulting in the possibility of a large number of Notifications being submitted on July 1. In order to reduce the potential for congestion, NERC has established a period beginning July 1, 2014, and ending September 1, 2014, during which all complete and valid notifications of exclusion submitted will be deemed to have been submitted on July 1 for purposes of determining compliance obligations (in so doing, all entities that submit within that period will have the same potential compliance date, reducing any perceived incentive to submit on July 1). Thus entities are encourage to pace their submission of Notifications of Exclusion within this period.

2.10. Does the "Special Notification Submission Period" apply to Notifications of Inclusion as well?

No. Because Notifications of Inclusion are already subject to a transition period, there is no need for the "Special Notification Submission Period" to apply to Notifications of Inclusion.

2.11. Does the "Special Notification Submission Period" apply to Exception Requests?

No. There is no direct relationship between Notifications of exclusion and Exception Requests for exclusion. Exception Requests are processed differently than Self-Determined Notifications, and the submission date of an Exception Request does not have a direct relationship with the dates associated with Compliance and Enforcement. Instead, once an Element is excluded from the BES through an approved Exception Request, for all cases in which the excluded Element would have previously been subject to Reliability Standards and Requirements, compliance obligations for those standards will be considered to have ceased upon the affirmative determination of the exception request.

2.12. Can you provide any guidance about the level of detail needed in one-line diagrams submitted with Self-Determined Notifications or Exception Requests?

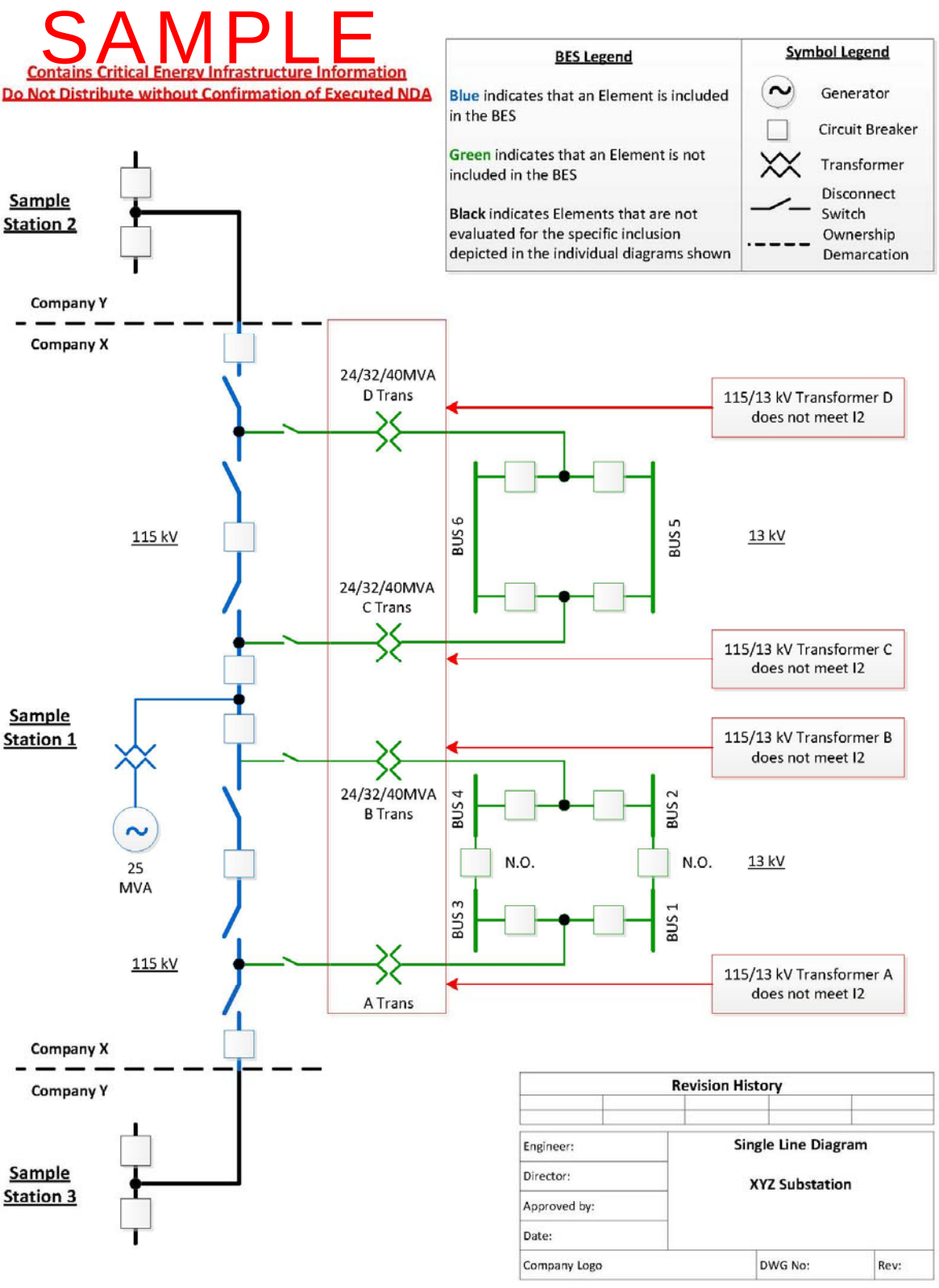
The level of detail required for one-line diagrams submitted in support of SDN or ER is illustrated in the BES Definition Reference Document Version 2, April 2014. The entity submitting an inclusion or exclusion SDN or ER should submit a one-line diagram possessing the following attributes:

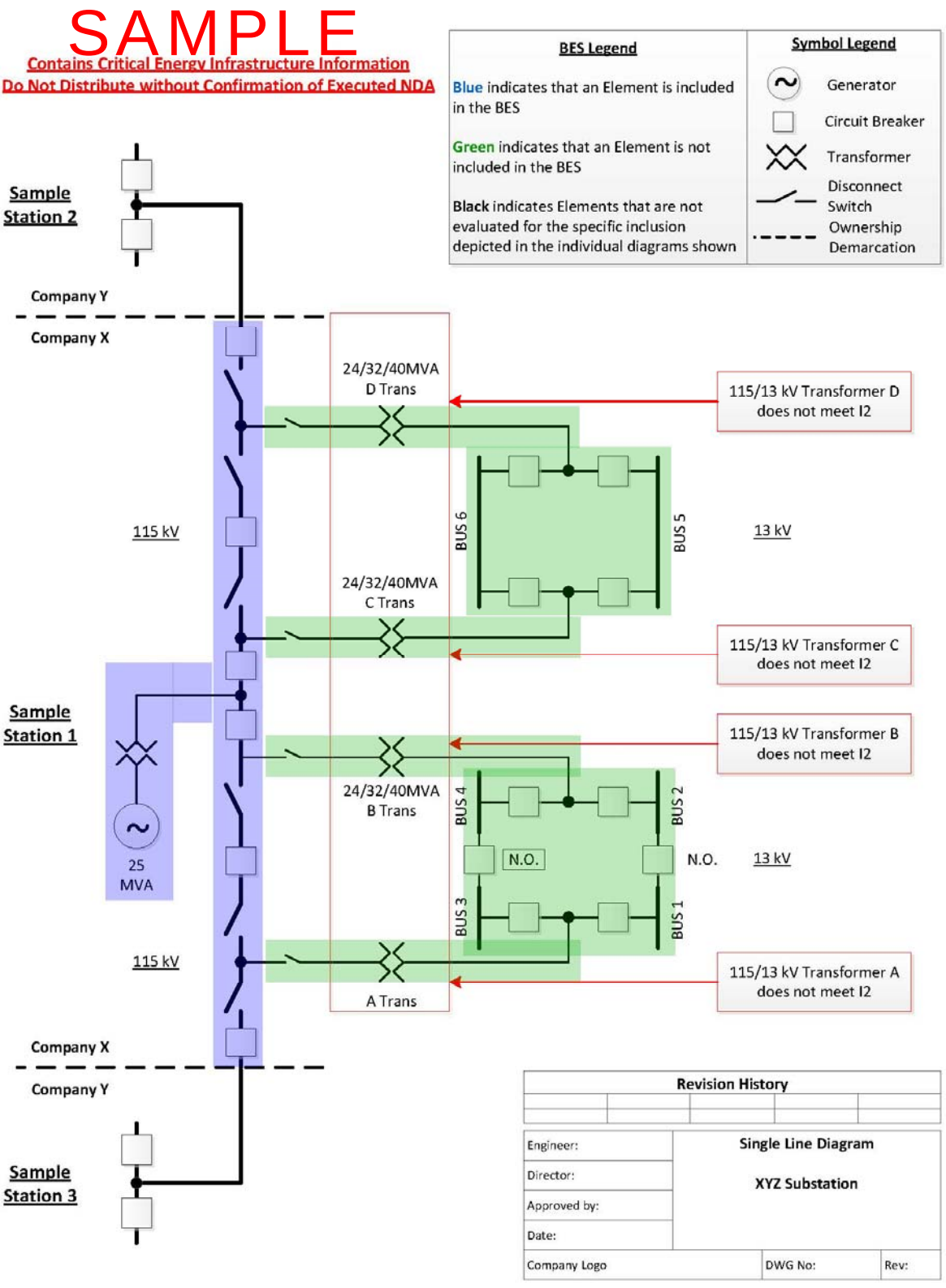
1. One-lines should be complete, officially approved diagrams with company approval blocks. Simplified one-lines may be provided as visual aids but must be accompanied by complete, official company one-lines.
2. If considered CEII, the one-lines must be clearly marked as such.
3. One-lines should clearly indicate change of ownership points and clearly identify the owners on each side of a facility. In the case of joint ownership the joint ownership parties should be indicated on the diagram.
4. The diagrams should clearly indicate the status (BES or non-BES) on the diagram of all facilities; not limited to those expressly identified in the SDN or ER. This can be done by highlighting Elements as Blue (BES) or Green (non-BES) as illustrated in the BES Definition Reference document (Version 2, April 2014).
5. The Elements specifically called out for inclusion or exclusion should be clearly marked (such as with a box, circle, etc…).
6. The applicable provision(s) of the BES core definition, inclusions and exclusions, should be indicated for each element.
7. A sufficient portion of the surrounding system should be provided to enable the Regionals Entity/NERC reviewer to apprehend the context of the Element. The following should be included as relevant to the particular Element:
    a. Portray the complete sub-transmission system less than 100 kV but greater than 50 kV and the sub-transmission system to a bus less than or equal to 50 kV.
    b. Neighboring sub-stations on either end of a transmission line Element.

c. Neighboring substations related to Elements that are part of a local network or radial transmission line.

8. All BES and non-BES generating resources on the diagram should indicate name plate rating, regardless of whether they are the subject of the SDN or ER or not.
9. All breakers/switching devices with indication of whether they are normally opened or normally closed.

Sample diagrams conforming to the above guidance are included on the following pages for reference.


SAMPLE
Contains Critical Energy Infrastructure Information
Do Not Distribute without Confirmation of Executed NDA
BES Legend
Blue indicates that an Element is included in the BES
Green indicates that an Element is not included in the BES
Black indicates Elements that are not evaluated for the specific inclusion depicted in the individual diagrams shown
Symbol Legend
Generator
Circuit Breaker
Transformer
Disconnect Switch
Ownership Demarcation
Sample Station 2
Company Y
Company X
24/32/40MVA D Trans
115/13 kV Transformer D does not meet I2
115 kV
BUS 6
BUS 5
13 kV
24/32/40MVA C Trans
115/13 kV Transformer C does not meet I2
Sample Station 1
115/13 kV Transformer B does not meet I2
24/32/40MVA B Trans
BUS 4
BUS 2
N.O.
N.O.
13 kV
25 MVA
BUS 3
BUS 1
115 kV
115/13 kV Transformer A does not meet I2
A Trans
Company X
Company Y
Sample Station 3
Revision History
Engineer:
Director:
Approved by:
Date:
Single Line Diagram
XYZ Substation
Company Logo
DWG No:
Rev:


SAMPLE
Contains Critical Energy Infrastructure Information
Do Not Distribute without Confirmation of Executed NDA
BES Legend
Blue indicates that an Element is included in the BES
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Symbol Legend
Generator
Circuit Breaker
Transformer
Disconnect Switch
Ownership Demarcation
Sample Station 2
Company Y
Company X
24/32/40MVA D Trans
115/13 kV Transformer D does not meet I2
115 kV
BUS 6
BUS 5
13 kV
24/32/40MVA C Trans
115/13 kV Transformer C does not meet I2
Sample Station 1
115/13 kV Transformer B does not meet I2
24/32/40MVA B Trans
BUS 4
BUS 2
N.O.
N.O.
13 kV
25 MVA
BUS 3
BUS 1
115 kV
115/13 kV Transformer A does not meet I2
A Trans
Company X
Company Y
Sample Station 3
Revision History
Engineer:
Director:
Approved by:
Date:
Single Line Diagram
XYZ Substation
Company Logo
DWG No:
Rev:

3. Training and Reference Resources

3.1. Will there be any training prior to July 1, 2014?

Yes.

Several webinars and workshops have been scheduled and several training resources are available. Schedules and logistics for the webinars and workshops are posted in the Implementation Schedule. NERC has also posted several training videos on its website. These videos cover both the BES definition and how to apply it, as well as the Bulk Electric System Notification and Exception Tool (BESnet) application.

The following available reference documents may also be of particular interest:

BES Definition Reference Document – Provided to assist Entities with application of the revised BES definition; provides examples of applications of the revised BES definition on specific of BES Elements.

BES Implementation Guidance Document – Provides implementation guidance on the transition to the new BES definition.

All of this information is posted on the NERC Bulk Electric System (BES) Definition, Notification, and Exception Process Project Page, located at:

http://www.nerc.com/pa/RAPA/Pages/BES.aspx .

3.2. Will there be any training after July 1, 2014?

Yes. In addition to the resources above, NERC is planning on hosting two additional webinars describing how to use the BESnet application. These will be announced shortly. NERC may schedule additional webinars as needed.

4. Notification of Self-Determination Process

4.1. When can I start entering in my BES Self-Determined Notifications?

The BESNet application will be available to receive BES Self-Determined Notifications on July 1, 2014.

4.2. Can a Registered Entity discuss matters with the Regional Entity prior to submitting a Self-Determined Notification and/or Exception Request?

Yes. NERC encourages Registered Entities to contact applicable Regional Entities to achieve common understanding of the application of the "bright-line" BES definition and corresponding identification of the BES Elements, and to discuss evidentiary expectations before submitting a Self-Determined Notification or Exception Request.

This will help minimize the potential number and extent of submitted BES Exception Requests. Refer to the *BES Notification Review Guidelines* for additional information.

4.3. What information will I need to supply with a notification of self-determinations?

A "Regional Entity BES Notification Review Checklist" is included in the *BES Notification Review Guidelines*, located at:

http://www.nerc.com/pa/RAPA/Pages/BES.aspx.

The checklist details information the Regional Entities will consider to support notifications of self-determinations. For example:

- Is the Self-Determined Notification exclusion being submitted on the basis of the Element being a Distribution Element? If yes, provide a record of the status of the Entity's petition filed with FERC.
- Was a sufficiently detailed one-line diagram(s) provided with the Self-Determined Notification?
- Were normally open switches marked in the diagrams?
- Was appropriate hourly integrated flow information provided to support E2 and E3 Exclusions?

The Regional Entities may request additional information, as needed, under existing authority.

4.4. Am I required to notify the Region of a change of BES status due to the new BES definition?

Yes. In Order No. 773, at Paragraph 317, FERC also determined that "registered entities are obligated to inform the Regional Entity of any self-determination that an element is no longer part of the BES." Refer to the *BES Notification Review Guidelines* for additional information.

Conversely, if the result of application of the new BES definition is that an element should be added to the BES, Entities should file a Self-Determined Inclusion Notification with their Regional Entity.

4.5. If nothing has changed in my Element's BES status after applying the new BES definition, do I need to submit a BES Self-Determined Notification?

No.

4.6. Do newly identified Elements require the submittal of Self-Determined Inclusion Notifications?

Yes. Self-Determined Notifications for newly included Elements should be submitted through the BESNet application to the Regional Entity during the 24-month implementation period for the BES definition, beginning July 1, 2014.

In addition, newly identified exclusions of Elements that were previously part of the BES under the prior definition require similar Self-Determined Exclusion Notification through the BESNet application to the Regional Entity.

4.7. Which Entity should provide Self-Determined Notifications for jointly-owned Elements?

For jointly-owned facilities, a lead owner, on behalf of the joint owners, should submit any Self-Determined Notifications.

4.8. Under legacy Regional BES definitions, certain transmission elements were considered as BES, but will now be excluded under the new BES definition. What should be submitted in the Self-Determination Notifications?

Elements excluded by application of the new BES Definition must be reported through the self-determined notification process in the BESNet application. This encompasses any such elements included in the BES by legacy Regional BES definitions (for example, line sections tapped directly off a BES line, transformers with the only primary terminal operated at 100 kV, etc…).

The Entity is expected to supply unique circuit identifiers for each of the newly-excluded Elements along with a one-line diagram clearly identifying the Elements being excluded.

5. Exception Request Process

5.1. What process will NERC utilize to make evaluate BES Exception Requests?

Appendix 5C of the NERC Rules of Procedure sets forth the procedure for requesting and receiving an Exception from the application of the BES definition. Appendix 5C is available at:

http://www.nerc.com/pa/RAPA/Pages/BES.aspx.

5.2. What supporting information is needed to submit an exception request?

A "BES Exception Process Review Checklist" is included in the *BES Exception Request Evaluation Guidelines,* located at:

http://www.nerc.com/pa/RAPA/Pages/BES.aspx.

Those considerations provide specificity regarding the data and studies that the Regional Entities and NERC require to evaluate an Exception Request and provide submitting entities with additional information as to the level of analysis expected.

As a general principle, studies should model actual control settings and configurations, model the Year One horizon, address a range of system conditions in terms of load level and generation dispatch, and include an explanation of why the system conditions and contingencies studied are sufficient to address the most limiting system conditions relevant to the requested Exception.

5.3. Who evaluates and approves Exception Requests?

Appendix 5C of the NERC Rules of Procedure governs the process by which an Entity may request and receive an Exception.

The Regional Entities will review exception requests in accordance with the *BES Exception Request Evaluation Guideline*. NERC reviews the Regional Entity recommendations, and then NERC decides all BES Exception Requests, subject to an appeal process.

5.4. What is a technical review panel? Who is on it? How are they chosen?

A Technical Review Panel (TRP) is appointed by the Regional Entity to review the Regional Entity's proposed recommendation and provide an opinion on the Exception Request before a Regional Entity issues a Recommendation to NERC to disapprove an Exception Request in whole or in part.

A copy of the TRP's opinion will be provided to the Submitting Entity, and Owner if different, and the Regional Entity. The Regional Entity will not be bound by the opinion of the TRP, but the opinion will become part of the record associated with the Exception Request that is sent to NERC as part of the Regional Entity's Recommendation.

Each Regional Entity is required to establish provisions for a TRP consisting of not less than three individuals appointed by the Regional Entity senior executive (CEO, President, General Manager, etc.). Panel members could be drawn from the Regional Entity's staff, from other Regional Entities' staffs, consultants, or other subject matter experts. However, all panel members must comply with Subsection 7 of Section 403 of the NERC Rules of Procedure on the use of industry subject matter experts and Regional Entity Members, cannot have participated in the review of the subject Exception Request, and must have the required technical background to evaluate Exception Requests.

It is important to note that the TRP differs from the NERC review panel described under Section 8 of Appendix 5C of the NERC Rules of Procedure.

5.5. What is the NERC review panel? Who is on it?

The NERC review panel is a body established by NERC in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure, Appendix 5C, to evaluate Exception Requests and review the Recommendation and accompanying materials (including the Technical Review Panel's opinion, if applicable) provided by the Regional Entity associated with a particular Exception Request.

The NERC president will appoint a team of no less than three persons with the required technical background to evaluate Exception Requests. NERC contemplates that its review teams would be drawn from NERC staff resources, supplemented by contractors as necessary, but situations may arise in which NERC may need to call on consultant subject matter experts to participate as members of NERC review panels, who must comply with the conflict of interest process.

It is important to note that the NERC review panel differs from the TRP described under Section 5 of Appendix 5C of the NERC Rules of Procedure.

5.6. How long will the process take?

In general, assuming a complete application, no appeals, and taking the allotted time for each subtask, the process could take up to 11.5 months, but is anticipated to be shorter for less complicated Exception Requests.

If the Exception Request is appealed to the NERC Board of Trustees Compliance Committee pursuant to Section 1703 of the NERC Rules of Procedure, the process could take an additional 8.5 months, totaling 20 months. This does not include timing related to an appeal to the applicable legal authority or Applicable Governmental Authority.

A Regional Entity, upon consultation with NERC, may extend the time frame of the substantive review process for individual Exception Requests beyond the allotted six months pursuant to Section 5.2.2 or in the case where the Registered Entity supplements its Exception Request pursuant to Section 6.0.

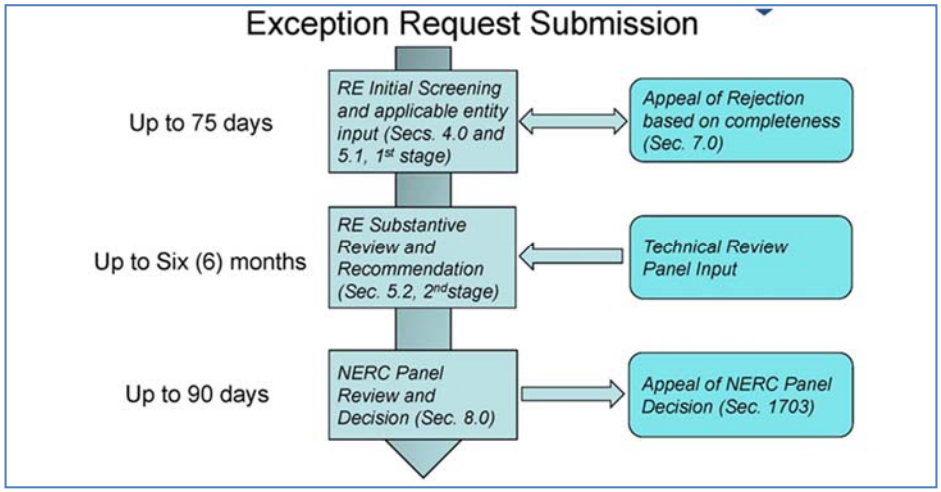


Figure 1: Example of the NERC Exception Process Timeline

5.7. How can an Entity appeal a Rejection of an Exception Request?

Sections 5.1.5b and 7.0 of Appendix 5C of the NERC Rules of Procedure specifically address how a Submitting Entity can appeal a Rejection of an Exception Request by the Regional Entity. Section 5.1.5b states:

> If the Regional Entity rejects the Exception Request in accordance with Section 5.1.5 (a), the Regional Entity's notice shall explain the reason for the Rejection. The Submitting Entity may, within thirty (30) days after receipt of the Rejection, appeal to NERC in accordance with Section 7.0 of this Exception Procedure to reverse the Rejection and to direct the Regional Entity to proceed with a substantive review of the Exception Request.

Also, Section 7.0 states:

> The Submitting Entity may submit to the NERC Director of Compliance Operations, with a copy to the Regional Entity and Owner if different, information that demonstrates that the insufficiencies in an Exception Request Form identified in the notice of Rejection by the Regional Entity pursuant to Section 5.1.5 are incorrect or otherwise do not warrant Rejection of the Exception Request, and that the Exception Request should be accepted and proceed to substantive review. A Submitting Entity's submission to NERC under this Section 7.0 shall be in writing, shall provide the Exception Request which received the Rejection (using the identifier assigned to the Exception Request pursuant to Section 5.1.2), and shall set forth a description of the errors that the Submitting Entity believes are in the notice of Rejection. The Submitting Entity's submission must demonstrate that it is eligible (in accordance with Section 4.1) to submit the Exception Request and that all Required Information for the Exception Request has been provided. NERC will

review the Submitting Entity's submission and the reports submitted by the Regional Entity or Regional Entities pursuant to Section 5.1.5 with respect to the Exception Request, and if NERC determines that the Submitting Entity is eligible (in accordance with Section 4.1) to submit the Exception Request, that all Required Information has been provided, and that the Exception Request should proceed to substantive review, NERC shall, within forty-five (45) days after receiving the submission, issue a decision directing the Regional Entity to proceed to a substantive review of the Exception Request in accordance with Section 5.2. NERC will send a written notice to the Submitting Entity, the Owner if different, and the Regional Entity stating that NERC either directs the Regional Entity to proceed to a substantive review or that NERC does not direct such a review.

5.8. How can an Entity appeal the NERC decision?

Section 9.0 of Appendix 5C to the NERC Rules of Procedure specifically addresses how an Entity can challenge approval or disapproval of Exception Requests. Section 9.0 states:

> A Submitting Entity or Owner aggrieved by NERC's Approval or Disapproval of an Exception Request or termination of an Exception may, within thirty (30) days following the date of NERC's decision, challenge such determination pursuant to Section 1703 of the NERC Rules of Procedure. If neither a Submitting Entity nor Owner challenges, within such period, NERC's determination with respect to any Element to which the Exception Request or the Exception applies, such determination shall become effective with respect to such Element on the thirty-first day following the date of the NERC decision.

5.9. Who can submit BES Exception Requests?

Section 4.1 appendix 5C of the Rules of Procedure states:

> The Owner of an Element may submit an Exception Request for either an Inclusion Exception or an Exclusion Exception regarding that Element.
>
> A Regional Entity, Planning Authority, Reliability Coordinator, Transmission Operator, Transmission Provider, and Balancing Authority that has (or will have upon inclusion in the BES) the Elements covered by an Exception Request within its Scope of Responsibility may submit an Exception Request for the inclusion in the BES of an Element or Elements owned by a Registered Entity, provided that before doing so, (i) the Submitting Entity conferred with the Owner about the reasons for an Exception, and (ii) could not reach agreement regarding the submission

of such an Exception Request. (If the Owner agrees with submitting an Exception Request, the Owner should be the Submitting Entity.)

Only a Regional Entity may submit an Exception Request for the inclusion in the BES of an Element or Elements owned by an Owner that is not a Registered Entity.

Only an Owner or a Regional Entity may submit an Exception Request for the exclusion from the BES of an Element.

5.10. What happens if my system configuration changes after I have an approved Exception Request?

Pursuant to Section 11 of Appendix 5C of the NERC Rules of Procedure, Submitting Entities must notify the appropriate Regional Entity, with a copy to NERC, within ninety days of learning of any change of condition that would affect the basis for NERC approving an Exception Request. If a Regional Entity obtains information that indicates an Exception may no longer be warranted it must also notify NERC. In either instance, NERC will review the notification and determine whether to direct the Regional Entity to perform a substantive review to verify continuing justification for the Exception.

The Submitting Entity and Owner will be notified if the Regional Entity makes a Recommendation to terminate the Exception and will have thirty days from the date of the notice to submit comments or information to NERC to show that the Exception continues to be justified and should remain in effect.

When an Element is included in the BES as a result of the termination of an Exclusion Exception, an implementation plan detailing the schedule for complying with any Reliability Standards applicable to the newly included Element will be developed in accordance with Section 10 as if it were an Inclusion Exception.

There is also a periodic certification process, every thirty-six months, requiring each Registered Entity possessing an Exception to certify that the basis for an Element being included or excluded in the BES through the Exception remains valid. If the certification is not made, the Exception will terminate ninety days after the date the certification was due.

5.11. What if I have Elements that cross multiple Regional Entity boundaries?

Exception Requests for Elements that cross multiple Regional Entity boundaries should identify all Regional Entities involved. The Regional Entities will then determine which Regional Entity will take the lead for coordinating the Exception Request and collecting any additional information from the Entity.

5.12. Do I need to go to my Reliability Coordinator or Balancing Authority before submitting my BES Exception Request?

NERC encourages Entities to coordinate with their Reliability Coordinator and Balancing Authority.

Section 4 of Appendix 5C of the NERC Rules of Procedure requires that the Submitting Entity send copies of Section I and II information to each Planning Authority, Reliability Coordinator, Transmission Operator, Transmission Provider, and Balancing Authority that has, or will have upon inclusion in the BES, the Elements covered by an Exception Request within its Scope of Responsibility. Failure to provide Section I and II information may result in Rejection of the Exception Request as incomplete.

The BES Notifications and Exceptions Tool (BESNet) application handles these notifications.

5.13. If an Exception Request is to be submitted for a jointly-owned Element, which Entity should submit the request?

For jointly-owned facilities, a Lead Submitting Entity, on behalf of the joint owners, should be the Entity submitting any Exception Request.

5.14. What if I don't submit a BES self-determined BES notification for an exclusion or an inclusion as a result of the new BES Definition?

Entities are obligated to notify Regional Entities of changes in its status including BES Elements as required in the NERC Rules of Procedure Section 501.1.3.5. Failure to submit a self-determined BES notification for an Element does not exempt an Entity from compliance obligations (see Paragraph 312 of FERC Order No. 773).

5.15. Should I concurrently file a BES Exception Request with NERC and a petition to exclude local Distribution Elements with FERC?

Order 773-A[4] at Paragraphs 89 and 93 explain that "the two processes are separate, not concurrent and will be used for different determinations" and that FERC "does not direct entities to seek an exception from NERC before seeking a local distribution determination from the Commission."

If concurrent requests are filed with both FERC and NERC, the Exception Request submitted through the NERC BES Notification and Exception Process will be placed "on hold" until FERC has made a determination.

Under the scenario below, three facilities (A, B and C) have not had prior FERC determinations that they are local distribution facilities. Facilities X, Y and Z have had FERC determinations. All six facilities are considered local distribution by the owner.

Paragraph 93 of Order No. 773-A states:

[4] For ease of reference, Order No. 773-A is available at:
http://www.nerc.com/FilingsOrders/us/FERCOrdersRules/Final_Rule_Rehearing_Clar_BES.pdf

> Thus, if an entity believes its facility is a local distribution facility but after applying the bulk electric system definition including inclusions and exclusions the facility is not excluded, the entity may apply to the Commission to determine whether the facility is used for local distribution. Thus, as explained above, the Final Rule contemplates two separate and distinct processes and does not direct entities to seek an exception from NERC before seeking a local distribution determination from the Commission.

For Facilities A, B and C:

- **Step 1**: Apply the BES core definition – are the facilities above 100kV? – Yes.
- **Step 2**: Do any inclusions or exclusions apply? – If Facilities A, B, and C, are eligible for an Exclusion E3, then they are excluded by definition from the BES.
- **Step 3**: A, B, and C are excluded from the definition of BES.
    - **Step 3a**: Enter this information into BESNet as a notification of self-determined exclusion. Will be reviewed for validation by the Regional Entity with oversight by NERC that the definition was properly applied and no mistakes occurred. The entity must notify the Regional Entity/NERC of any changes in accordance with ROP Section 501.1.3.5.
    - **Step 3b**: If the Regional Entity or NERC disagrees with the self-determined exclusion, there are two options. First, the entity may apply to FERC for determination that these are local distribution facilities.
    - **Step 3c**: Second, if FERC disagrees that these are local distribution, the entity may submit an exclusion exception request. If granted, the entity must submit a certification that the exclusion exception remains valid in accordance with ROP Appendix 5C.

For Facilities X, Y and Z:

- **Step 1**: Apply the BES core definition – are the facilities above 100kV? – Yes.
- **Step 2**: Do any inclusions or exclusions apply? – No, however, FERC has made prior determinations that the facilities are local distribution.
- **Step 3**: The entity should discuss with the Regional Entity whether the FERC determinations are consistent with the approved BES definition.
    - **Step 3a**: If the Regional Entity agrees that the facilities can be removed from application of the BES definition, the Entity may enter this into BESNet as a notification of self-determined exclusion. Will be reviewed for validation by the Regional Entity with oversight by NERC that the FERC determinations are consistent with the proper application of the BES definition. The Entity must notify the Regional Entity and NERC of the change of status of these facilities in accordance with ROP Section 501.1.3.5
    - **Step 3b**: If the Regional Entity or NERC disagrees with the self-determined exclusion, discussions should continue between NERC, the Regional Entity and the Entity to resolve the issue.

6. BES Notification and Exceptions Tool (BESNet)

6.1. What is the BESNet application and for what will it be used?

The BES Notifications and Exceptions Tool (BESNet) is an ERO-enterprise tool that provides a workflow-based on-line process that emulates the BES Exceptions Procedure, as outlined in NERC Rules of Procedure Appendix 5, to route, evaluate, and take actions on Exception Requests and Self-Determined Notifications.

Requests for Exceptions and Notifications of Self-Determination to the BES will only be accepted through the BESNet application.

Entities that anticipate submitting a BES Exception Request should contact their applicable Regional Entity, review the relevant training and resource materials, and establish a user account for the BESNet application.

6.2. When will BESNet be available for submitting Exception Requests or Self-Determined Notifications?

The web-based BESNet application will be available July 1, 2014, for entering Exception Requests or Self-Determined Notifications.

6.3. Will there be software-related User Guides?

Users Guides for the BESNet application will be available and posted at:

http://www.nerc.com/pa/RAPA/Pages/BES.aspx.

The *BESNet Users Guides* will be updated periodically based on feedback received by the user group.

6.4. Is the information I enter into the BESNet application safe and secure?

NERC has undertaken a number of steps to secure the BESNet application:

- The BESNet databases are fully encrypted.
- During development, “white-box” and “gray-box” software security assessments were performed, and potential vulnerabilities were identified and addressed.
- Penetration tests of the BESNet infrastructure were performed and passed in 2013 and 2014, and will be periodically repeated.
- BESNet servers are monitored by a third party.
- Internal and external vulnerability scans are routinely performed on the ERO Environment.
- User vetting process is performed during account set-up.
- All application access and communication between servers in the BESNet environment is encrypted via SSL protocols that have been verified to be free of the “Heartbleed” vulnerability.

6.5. Am I required to register for BESnet access?

Entities who intend to submit Self Determined Notifications or Exception Requests must have an ERO Enterprise account with access to the BESnet application in order to do so. Additionally, all entities registered as a Reliability Coordinator, Planning Authority, Transmission Operator, Transmission Planner, or Balancing Authority must have an ERO Enterprise account with access to the BESnet application in order to ensure receipt of notifications of any BES Exception Requests made by other Registered Entities (e.g. Transmission Owners, Generator Owners) for facilities within the recipient's area of responsibility.

6.6. Our company is divided into several organizational units that are exclusively registered as different NERC Functional Entities. How should we register for BESnet access?

We are asking all registered entities to set up an Entity Administrator. The BESnet application grants access to users based on NCR number, so one person's account can have access to multiple NCRs. Depending on how your company is organized, you may have an account with access for all NCRs, an account for each NCR, or any mix of the two. The same is true for regular (non-administrator) user accounts. Storing and processing of actual submissions is handled by NCR, rather than being associated with a specific user.

6.7. I am preparing a series of Self-Determined Notifications (SDNs) and Exception Requests (ERs) for a number of Elements on my transmission system. How should the groupings of Elements be organized so as to provide an orderly and efficient approach that will minimize effort, aid review and expedite approval?

When submitting either an SDN or an ER, multiple Elements (either at the same location or at different locations within the geographic boundaries of a Regional Entity) may be included in one submission with all such Elements or sets of connected Elements separately identified. The Elements within a submission must share a common basis for their BES categorization, and should be similar in form and/or function to aid in efficient processing (for example, all transformers of a certain type, size, or configuration).

Each submission should be as straightforward as possible while including the largest grouping of similar Elements. Considerations to keep in mind include:

a) SDNs must be submitted separately from ERs. Because the method pf processing SDNs, is different than that of ERs, there is no way in the BESNet application to create a single submission that contains both a Notification and an Exception Request.
b) The basis (Core Definition, Not Core Definition, the specific Inclusions, and the specific Exclusions) for an underlying Element or Elements classification within a single submission cannot be mixed. For example, a user cannot submit an SDN

based on both I1 AND I2. While you can include multiple elements in a single submission, their BES classification must share a common basis.

c) Submissions may be grouped on a geographical basis, a regional basis, or any other basis that you desire (for example, Eastern Operating Company, Western Operating Company, etc.)
d) Multiple inter-regional Elements cannot be submitted as part of a single SDN or ER.
e) The BESNet "association" function should be used for interrelated submissions. For example, an entity could place generation related exclusions in one ER, and then use the "Associated Exception Request" function to link to another ER containing related transformer and/or line Elements.
f) Include supporting documentation with your submissions that provide sufficient evidence supporting the basis for BES classification. Include one-line diagrams that provide sufficient detail to support the basis of your submission. Google maps or other aerial photographs are not sufficient.
g) A short summary of the logic being applied, which references the submitted supporting documents and cross references any relevant NERC guidance, will expedite the review process.

7. Compliance and Registration Questions

7.1. What is the implementation plan for the new BES definition, and when do the related compliance obligations begin?

The new BES definition becomes effective July 1, 2014. According to the *Implementation Plan for Project 2010-17: Definition of BES*, the compliance obligations begin:

- Twenty-four months after the applicable effective date of the definition (for newly identified Elements), or
- If a longer time frame is needed for an Entity to be fully compliant with all standards applicable to an Element or group of Elements that are newly identified through application of the BES definition, the appropriate time frame may be determined on a case-by-case basis by mutual agreement between the Regional Entity and the Element owner/operator, and subject to review by the ERO.

7.2. When will compliance be mandatory with NERC Reliability Standards for existing Elements that are newly identified as BES Elements?

For existing Elements that have not been a part of the BES prior to July 1, 2014, but have now been newly identified as part of the BES, Entities will need to be in compliance with the NERC Reliability Standards by July 1, 2016.

7.3. When do compliance obligations begin for newly built Elements that are classified as BES Elements under the new BES definition?

After July 1, 2014, for those newly built Elements that qualify as BES Elements, Entities must be compliant for that Element as of its energization, as per current processes.

Existing Facilities that are now part of the BES and remain a part of the BES must remain compliant at all times.

7.4. What are the obligations of the owner of a Facility that is designated as a part of the BES?

Users, owners, and operators of the BES Facilities must register as transmission owners, generation owners, transmission operators, or generation operators as appropriate, according to the NERC Statement of Compliance Registry Criteria.

Entities owning or operating BES Elements are subject to compliance with the applicable NERC Reliability Standards. It should be noted, however, that several standards refer to Elements that are connected to or impact Reliable Operation of the BES and, therefore, standards may apply in such cases to non-BES Elements.

7.5 If I need to register based on the new BES definition, when should I register?

Entities that have existing Elements that are newly identified as part of the BES by the application of the new BES definition are encouraged to register as soon as practical after July 1, 2014. However, if there are any questions as to whether such Elements should be excluded from the BES through the Exception Request process, Entities should contact the appropriate Regional Entity regarding registration.

7.6. If an Entity does not own or operate BES assets, does that mean they have to follow NERC standards?

Yes, if they meet other criteria in the NERC *Statement of Compliance Registry Criteria* to be a Registered Entity. NERC Reliability Standards are applicable to users of the Bulk Electric System, not just owners and operators. As an example, Distribution Providers, Purchasing-Selling Entities, and Load-Serving Entities are users of the BES, even though they may not own or operate Facilities in the BES.

7.7. Can an Entity's registration requirements change as a result of applying the new BES definition?

NERC's objective in implementing the revised BES definition is to ensure that the proper Entities are registered and responsible for Reliability Standards that are necessary to ensure the reliability of the BPS. In Order No. 773 (at Paragraph 55), FERC stated, "[w]e do not expect there to be significant numbers of entities either needing to register or deregister due to the change in definition." NERC shares FERC's expectation that only a small number of Entities will require changes to their NERC registration as a result of the revised BES definition.

An Entity seeking to modify its current registration, including de-registration or deactivation, must inform its applicable Regional Entity of this change in status. In turn, the Regional Entity will notify NERC of such changes. All changes to registration are processed by the NERC registration and certification department, in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure.

7.8. If an Element is excluded from the BES through an exception request, what happens to compliance obligations, monitoring and enforcement?

From the point in time at which the exception request is made to such time as that request is approved, compliance obligations remain in force. Once an Element is excluded from the BES through an approved Exception Request, for all cases in which the excluded Element would have previously been subject to Reliability Standards and Requirements, compliance obligations for those standards will be considered to have ceased upon the affirmative determination of the exception request.

7.9. If an Element is excluded from the BES through self-determination, what happens to compliance obligations, monitoring and enforcement?

The Notification will be reviewed for validation by the Regional Entity, with oversight by NERC, to ensure that the BES Definition was properly applied and no mistakes occurred. The registered entity can facilitate this effort by reviewing these situations with the Regional Entity prior to formally submitting the Notification. This will provide the greatest confidence of appropriate application of the BES Definition to the specific circumstances and facilitate consistent application of the Definition. Once validation is concluded, the registered entity will be advised of the determination. An Element will not be excluded from the BES until the removal is validated.

Until the validation process described for Self-Determined Notifications of Exclusion is completed, the registered entity has the potential to be subject to applicable Reliability Standards. Any instances of non-compliance for potentially excluded Elements will be held in abeyance until such time as the Notification is validated by the Regional Entity, with NERC oversight as described above. If the Self-Determined Notification of Exclusion is accepted as valid, instances of potential non-compliance involving excluded Elements that occurred after the submission of the complete and proper Notification up to the date of its validation will be closed, barring any unique facts and circumstances. A Self-Determined Notification of Exclusion that is incomplete or based on improper application of the BES Definition will result in Elements associated with that Notification remaining subject to compliance monitoring and enforcement until such time all required information is submitted and the BES Definition is correctly applied.

If a Regional Entity believes that a Notification of a Self-Determined Exclusion is based on an incorrect application of the Definition and is unable to come to a common understanding of the Definition with the submitting entity, the Notification will be rejected and the Element at issue will remain part of the BES by application of the Definition. Registered Entities retain the option to pursue exclusion through the exception process.

7.10. In FERC Order No. 773-A (P 109), FERC stated, "in the absence of bad faith, if a registered entity applies the bulk electric system definition and determines that an element no longer qualifies as part of the bulk electric system, upon notifying the appropriate Regional Entity that the element is no longer part of the bulk electric system the element should not be treated as part of the bulk electric system unless NERC makes a contrary determination in the exception process." How is NERC implementing this language?

NERC is implementing its processes with the expectation that entities will submit Self-Determined Notifications in "good faith." Good faith Self-Determinations are those that are made consistent with the BES Definition and reference materials provided by NERC. Taken together, Order Nos. 773 and 773-A, as well as the NERC Rules of Procedure, point to the need for, and appropriateness of, NERC and the Regional Entity review of a Notification to determine if it comports with the Definition and validate the Notification to confirm appropriate application of the Definition.

7.11. For excluded facilities, do I still have any compliance obligations?

Possibly. The BES definition by itself does not establish whether or not an entity has a responsibility to comply with NERC standards. In order to understand compliance obligations, an entity must consider its registration obligations, the applicability of the standards, and the BES categorization of its elements and facilities. The Registration Criteria contained in Appendix 5B of NERC's Rules of Procedure describe what entities must register, and for what functions they must register. These functional registrations generally define what standards may apply to an entity (*e.g.,* BAL-002 Disturbance Control Performance; TPL-001 Transmission System Planning Performance Requirements), although some standards include additional criteria to further refine the applicability of a standard (*e.g.,* BAL-001 Real Power Balancing Control Performance and its limited applicability for Balancing Authorities; PRC-023 Transmission Relay Loadability and its limited applicability based on circuit criteria). Additionally, some standards apply to functions performed regardless of the existence of BES elements and facilities (*e.g.,* IRO-001 Reliability Coordination - Responsibilities and Authorities). Finally, some standards apply to specifically identified equipment that comprises the Bulk Power System, of which the Bulk Electric System is a subset (*e.g.,* PRC-010 Technical Assessment of the Design and Effectiveness of Undervoltage Load Shedding Program). In summary, all three areas – registration, standards applicability, and the BES definition – must be considered together in order to fully understand an entity's compliance obligations.

7.12. If I am registered for the Distribution Provider function and I do not own or operate any BES Elements, can I request deactivation of my compliance registration?

BES protection schemes, including Underfrequency Load Shedding (UFLS), Undervoltage Load Shedding (UVLS), or Special Protection Systems (SPS) and Remedial Action Schemes (RAS), support the reliability of the Bulk Electric System (BES), often serving as the "last-resort" tool for avoiding a total power system blackout. Consequently, NERC and the Regional Entities will not approve the deactivation of the DP function for Registered Entities on the NERC Compliance Registry that have these types of protection devices, solely on the basis that the entity does not own or operate a BES Element by application of the BES Definition. NERC and the Regional Entities will evaluate the relevant facts and circumstances in reaching a decision.

Registered Entities currently performing the DP function may determine to file a Self-Determined Notification of Exclusion of Elements based on the current BES Definition. There is no automatic change in the registration status of an entity for any functional registration categories if a particular Element is excluded from the BES Definition either through the Self-Determined Notification of Exclusion or the BES Exception process. Determinations of registration status are addressed through the registration program. NERC believes that the deactivation of the DP function registration of Registered Entities that have responsibilities relating to BES protection schemes including UFLS, UVLS, and SPS/RAS equipment would present a reliability risk due to the lack of compliance oversight. These types of equipment are essential to the reliable operation

of the BES, even in cases where the equipment is installed below the BES 100 kV bright line. In addition, NERC will closely evaluate requests which involve entities that have transmission Remedial Action Schemes or other types of schemes that have the same or similar BES system protection objectives.

Registered Entities should note that if an Element owned by an entity is excluded from the BES Definition, either through an Exclusion Exception Request or a validated Self-Determined Notification of Exclusion, this exclusion alone does not necessarily provide for deactivation of any functional registration from the NERC Compliance Registry. The Registration Criteria states that a "Distribution Provider is the responsible entity that owns, controls, or operates Facilities that are part of any of the following Protection Systems or programs designed, installed, and operated for the protection of the Bulk Power System." The list includes references to required UFLS programs, UVLS programs, SPS/RAS and transmission Protection Systems. The importance of these programs to system reliability is not diminished by the revised BES Definition.

Under the current registration rules, entities have an opportunity to establish that they are not material to the reliability. Such determinations depend on the specific facts and circumstances. In the future, NERC is moving forward with a new proposal for Distribution Provider registration criteria related to the Risk-Based Registration (RBR) initiative. The proposed criteria will accommodate those DPs who are registered only as a result of the owning of UFLS systems and will include a reduced set of reliability standards for which UFLS-Only DPs will be responsible. RBR also will build on current authority to allow an entity to make a case that it should not remain registered if it is not material to the reliability of the BES. To ensure consistency, a new materiality test is being developed that would be reviewed by a new NERC-led panel comprised of NERC and Regional Entity participants, that the entity is not material to the reliability of the BES and should not remain registered as a DP. The draft design program also includes a process for determining a sub-set of applicable Reliability Standards.

NERC notes that, to the extent that direct application of the BES Definition results in a determination that an Entity's Elements are not BES, an Inclusion Exception process can be initiated by a Responsible Entity to bring such Elements back into the BES. While this would not affect the DP registration status, it may affect other functional registration categories.

8. NERC Process

8.1. Will the BES definition be applied consistently across the Regional Entities?

The BES Drafting Team has prepared a *Bulk Electric System Definition Reference Document* to support consistent application of the BES definition. Those documents are posted at:

http://www.nerc.com/pa/RAPA/Pages/BES.aspx.

NERC and Regional Entity staffs are coordinating the implementation of the new BES definition and have developed several procedures to ensure consistency. A common checklist has been developed for Regional Entities to use when reviewing Self-Determined Notifications of BES changes. Challenges to the notifications are done via the Exception process. Guidelines for BES Exception Evaluation were also developed for use by NERC and the Regional Entities. Finally, NERC must approve all Exception Requests for inclusion or exclusion from the BES.

8.2. If my Element is not considered a part of the BES, might I still be required to provide information to NERC about it?

Yes. Even if an Element is not classified as part of the BES, information about it may be needed to analyze the effects of load, reactive support, and energy injection on the reliability of the overall electric system. One example of data that might be required is modeling data for powerflow and dynamic analysis. Similarly, information on underfrequency load shedding (UFLS) and undervoltage load shedding (UVLS) may be necessary to understand expected system performance. Additional data may be required by NERC or the Regions based on specific configurations or scenarios.

9. FERC

9.1. Does FERC have a role in designating Facilities as part of the BES?

In Order No. 773 (at Paragraph 66), FERC approved NERC's BES Exception Request process to determine the technical issue of whether Facilities are part of the BES; however, FERC determined that the jurisdictional question of whether Facilities are "used in local distribution" will be decided by FERC. Thus, FERC reserved authority to designate sub-100 kV Facilities, or other Facilities, as part of the BES.

FERC also established a process by which an Entity can seek a determination by FERC whether Facilities are "used in local distribution" as set forth in the Federal Power Act. The Commission will make such case-by-case jurisdictional determinations by applying the Seven Factor Test set forth in Order No. 888.

9.2. Should I concurrently file a BES Exception Request with NERC and a petition to exclude local Distribution Elements with FERC?

Order 773-A at Paragraphs 89 and 93 explain that "the two processes are separate, not concurrent and will be used for different determinations" and that FERC "does not direct entities to seek an exception from NERC before seeking a local distribution determination from the Commission."

When and whether to submit such a jurisdictional question to FERC are business and legal decisions for a registered entity, upon which NERC is not opining in this Frequently Asked Question list.

10. Definition Questions

10.1. Protection Systems were explicitly included in the Legacy Regional Definition and the new NERC BES Definition is silent on Protection Systems. Do I need to do anything in BESnet for these Protection Systems?

No. Because Protection Systems are neither included nor excluded per the NERC BES Definition, Entities are not required to provide a Notification of Self-Determination to their Regional Entity or submit Exception Requests for these Protection Systems through the BESNet application. To the extent that a Protection System is needed to comply with a Reliability Standard (i.e., PRC-005), compliance obligations continue, independent of the application of the NERC BES definition.

NERC
NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY CORPORATION

BES Notification Guideline

Guideline for Reviewing Self-Determined Notifications

February 2014

RELIABILITY | ACCOUNTABILITY






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Preface

The North American Electric Reliability Corporation's (NERC) mission is to ensure the reliability of the North American bulk power system. NERC is the electric reliability organization (ERO) certified by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to establish and enforce Reliability Standards for the bulk power system (BPS). NERC develops and enforces Reliability Standards; assesses adequacy annually via a 10-year forecast and summer and winter forecasts; monitors the bulk power system; and educates, trains, and certifies industry personnel. ERO activities in Canada related to the reliability of the BPS are recognized and overseen by the appropriate governmental authorities in that country.[1]

NERC assesses and reports on the reliability and adequacy of the North American BPS, which is divided into eight Regional Entity areas, as shown on the map and table below. The users, owners, and operators of the BPS within these areas account for virtually all the electricity supplied in the United States, Canada, and a portion of Baja California Norte, Mexico.

NERC Regional Entities	
FRCC	Florida Reliability Coordinating Council
MRO	Midwest Reliability Organization
NPCC	Northeast Power Coordinating Council
RFC	ReliabilityFirst
SERC	SERC Reliability Corporation
SPP-RE	Southwest Power Pool Regional Entity
TRE	Texas Reliability Entity
WECC	Western Electricity Coordinating Council

NERC Regional Entities Map



[1] As of June 18, 2007, FERC granted NERC the legal authority to enforce Reliability Standards with all U.S. users, owners, and operators of the Bulk-Power System and made compliance with those standards mandatory and enforceable. Equivalent relationships have been sought and for the most part realized in Canada and Mexico. Prior to adoption of §215 in the U.S., the provinces of Ontario (in 2002) and New Brunswick (in 2004) adopted all Reliability Standards that were approved by the NERC Board as mandatory and enforceable within their respective jurisdictions through market rules. Reliability legislation is in place or NERC has memoranda of understanding with provincial authorities in Ontario, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Québec, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, British Columbia and Alberta, and with the National Energy Board of Canada (NEB). NERC standards are mandatory and enforceable in Ontario and New Brunswick as a matter of provincial law. Manitoba has adopted legislation, and standards are mandatory there. In addition, NERC has been designated as the "electric reliability organization" under Alberta's Transportation Regulation, and certain Reliability Standards have been approved in that jurisdiction; others are pending. NERC standards are now mandatory in British Columbia and Nova Scotia. NERC and the Northeast Power Coordinating Council (NPCC) have been recognized as standards setting bodies by the Régie de l'énergie of Québec, and Québec has the framework in place for Reliability Standards to become mandatory. NEB has made Reliability Standards mandatory for international power lines. In Mexico, the Comisión Federal de Electricidad (CFE) has signed WECC's reliability management system agreement, which only applies to Baja California Norte.

Disclaimer

Regional Entities and NERC will use the BES Notification Review Guideline to assist in the review and concurrence with entities' notifications of self-determined Bulk Electric System (BES) inclusions and exclusions. This guidance document reflects the professional opinion of the Regional Entities and NERC, given in good faith for illustrative purposes only. This document is based on Order No. 773[2] and the December 13, 2013 *Petition of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation for Approval of Revisions to the Definition of 'Bulk Electric System' and Request for Expedited Action*.[3]

Applying this guideline document promotes consistent regional application of the BES definition and identification of the potential need for the regions to submit Exceptions Requests to include Elements excluded by self-determination.

[2] *Revisions to Electric Reliability Organization Definition of Bulk Electric System and Rules of Procedure*, Order No. 773, 141 FERC ¶ 61,236 (2012) (available at: http://www.nerc.com/FilingsOrders/us/FERCOrdersRules/Order_Revisions_BES_2012.12.pdf); *order on reh'g*, Order No. 773-A, 143 FERC ¶ 61,053 (2013); *order denying reh'g*, 144 FERC ¶ 61,174 (2013).

[3] See: http://www.nerc.com/FilingsOrders/us/NERC%20Filings%20to%20FERC%20DL/Petition%20for%20Approval%20of%20Revised%20Definition%20of%20BES_FINAL.pdf

Introduction

Background

On December 20, 2012, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("FERC" or the "Commission") issued Order No. 773 approving Phase 1 modifications to the currently-effective NERC definition for BES which will become effective on July 1, 2014.[4] In Order 773, Paragraph 317, the Commission also determined that "registered entities are obligated to inform the Regional Entity of any self-determination that an element is no longer part of the bulk electric system" and that NERC is required to maintain a list of those elements excluded from the BES (either through application of the definition or through the BES Exception procedure):

> "We [the Commission] agree with NERC that registered entities are obligated to inform the Regional Entity of any self-determination that an element is no longer part of the bulk electric system. . . Thus, a registered entity that concludes that an element is no longer part of the bulk electric system must notify the Regional Entity of such change. . . Regardless of past practice, we find that such notification is a necessary feature of the changes being implemented by NERC... Further, the revised definition allows entities the discretion to "declassify" certain facilities as part of the bulk electric system, and NERC, Regional Entities and the Commission need notification of such instances to assure that the entities are appropriately implementing the revised definition."

For self-determination notifications, the NERC BESnet application[5] provides the functionality for entities to notify the Regional Entities of their self-determined BES inclusions and exclusions:

- Collection, in a common manner, of input from registered entities of the self-determination of Element(s) by application of the 'bright-line' BES definition (from the universe of Elements representing the delta between the current definition and the revised BES definition—this encompasses "I's," "E's," and any "other" differentiation in classification (e.g., Distribution Elements) arising from the revised definition);
- Notification that the applicable Elements that have been entered by a registered entity;
- Ability of Regional Entities and NERC to view the entry; and,
- Ability to indicate concurrence with the application of the BES definition by the Regional Entities and NERC.

[4] On December 13, 2013, NERC filed Phase 2 of the BES Definition with FERC.

[5] See: Provide link for the BESnet application when available.

Each Regional Entity needs to verify BES designations in its region based on application of the 'bright-line' BES definition using the process outlined in the *BES Definition Reference Document.*[6]

If a Regional Entity believes an Element should be designated as BES but has been excluded by an entity's' self-determined notification, the Regional Entity should submit a BES Exception 'inclusion' request for those Elements they believe should be designated as BES. According to Order No. 773-A, Paragraph 110[7]:

> "The Commission agrees with Snohomish that, in the absence of bad faith, if a registered entity applies the bulk electric system definition and determines that an element no longer qualifies as part of the bulk electric system, upon notifying the appropriate Regional Entity that the element is no longer part of the bulk electric system the element should not be treated as part of the bulk electric system unless NERC makes a contrary determination in the exception process. **If the Regional Entity disagrees with the classification of the element and believes the element is necessary for reliable operation, the Regional Entity should initiate an exception request to include the element in the bulk electric system.** If NERC agrees with the Regional Entity and determines that the element should be included in the bulk electric system, the registered entity should not be subject to retroactive liability for the time period the element was not included in the bulk electric system." (Emphasis *added*).

Entity self-determined notifications submitted in good faith will be accepted by the Regional Entities and NERC, in accordance with the "*BES Definition Reference Document"* Additional follow up with the entity will be required where proper application of the definition is in question.

Coordination with Registered Entities

Each Regional Entity is encouraged to actively work with their respective registered entities to achieve common understanding of the application of the "bright-line" BES definition and corresponding identification of the BES Elements, in order to minimize the potential number and extent of submitted BES Exceptions Requests.

Each asset owner and each Functional Entity owning or operating Facilities and Elements that have been newly-identified for inclusion in the BES should be encouraged to perform a gap analysis for both:

- Registration (and Certification, if applicable); and
- Compliance with applicable Reliability Standards.

[6] See: Provide link when document is posted

[7] See: http://www.ferc.gov/whats-new/comm-meet/2012/122012/E-5.pdf

The gap analysis should identify:

- Any additional Registrations and/or Certifications that are required due to the newly included Facilities and Elements (e.g., reliability functions for which the entity is not currently registered on the Compliance Registry but should be registered based on the newly-included Facilities and Elements); and

- Additional compliance obligations for the registered entity; i.e., the applicable Requirements of Reliability Standards with which the entity must now become compliant due to the inclusion of the new Facilities and Elements in the BES.

In Order No. 773, the Commission approved:

- NERC's revisions to its Rules of Procedure, which create an exception process to add elements to, or remove elements from, the definition of BES on a case-by-case basis;

- NERC's form entitled "Detailed Information to Support an Exception Request" that entities will use to support requests for exception from the BES definition; and

- NERC's implementation plan for the revised BES definition.

The Commission also approved the form "Detailed Information to Support an Exception Request" which has been incorporated into the NERC BESnet application.

The Regional Entities will review self-determination to verify that the BES definition has been correctly applied. NERC also reserves the right to review each self-determination.

Application of the BES Definition

As described in the *Petition of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation for Approval of Revisions to the Definition of 'Bulk Electric System' and Request for Expedited Action,* the proposed BES definition is generally applied in three steps, as discussed below.

STEP 1: CORE DEFINITION: The core definition is used to establish the bright line of 100 kV, the overall demarcation point between BES and Non-BES Elements. The core BES definition identifies the Real Power and Reactive Power resources connected at 100 kV or higher, as included in the BES. To fully appreciate the scope of the core definition, an understanding of the term "Element" is needed. "Element" is defined in the NERC Glossary as: "Any electrical device with terminals that may be connected to other electrical devices such as a generator, transformer, circuit breaker, bus section, or transmission line. An Element may be comprised of one or more components."

STEP 2: INCLUSIONS: This step involves applying the specific Inclusions and provides additional clarification for the purposes of identifying specific Elements that are included in the BES. The Inclusions address Transmission Elements and Real Power and Reactive Power resources with specific criteria to provide for a consistent determination of whether an Element is classified as BES or non-BES. There are five Inclusions in the definition. The facilities described in Inclusions I1, I2, I4, and I5 are each operated (if transformers – Inclusion I1) or connected (if generating resources, dispersed power producing resources or Reactive Power resources – Inclusions I2, I4 and I5) at or above the 100 kV threshold. Inclusion I3 encompasses Blackstart Resources identified in a Transmission Operator's restoration plan that are necessary for the reliable operation of the interconnected transmission system and should be included in the BES regardless of their size (MVA) or the voltage at which they are connected.

STEP 3: EXCLUSIONS: This step evaluates specific situations for potential exclusion from the BES. The exclusion language is written to specifically identify Elements or groups of Elements for exclusion from the BES. Step three (3) should be applied in the following sequence:

Exclusion E2 (Behind-the-Meter Generation) provides for the specific exclusion of certain Real Power resources that reside behind the retail meter (on the customer's side) and supersedes the more general Inclusion I2 (Generating Resources). Behind-the-meter generation that meets these specific criteria does not affect the reliability of the BES, because the net capacity supplied to the BES is less than 75 MVA, and the specific criteria impose obligations to support reliability when the resources are unavailable.

Exclusion E4 (Reactive Power Devices) provides for the specific exclusion of Reactive Power devices installed for the sole benefit of a retail customer(s) and supersedes the more general Inclusion I5 (Static or Dynamic Reactive Power Devices). Reactive Power devices installed for the sole benefit of a retail customer are, by definition, not required for the operation of the interconnected transmission system.

Exclusion E3 (Local Networks) provides for the exclusion of local networks that meet the specific criteria identified in the exclusion language. Exclusion E3 does not allow for the

exclusion of Real Power and Reactive Power resources captured by Inclusions I2 through I5. In instances where a transformer (under Inclusion I1) is an Element of a local network (under Exclusion E3), the transformer would be excluded pursuant to Exclusion E3. Exclusion E3 may not be used to exclude transmission Elements (captured by the core definition and Inclusion I1) when Real Power resources are present that are captured by Inclusion I2, I3, or I4. This assures that interconnection facilities for BES generators are not excluded.

Exclusion E1 (Radial Systems) provides for the exclusion of 'transmission Elements' from radial systems that meet the specific criteria identified in the exclusion language. Exclusion E1 does not allow for the exclusion of Real Power and Reactive Power resources captured by Inclusions I2 through I5. In instances where a transformer (under Inclusion I1) is an Element of a radial system (under Exclusion E1), the transformer would be excluded pursuant to Exclusion E1. Exclusion E1 may not be used to exclude transmission Elements (captured by the core definition and Inclusion I1) when Real Power resources are present that are captured by Inclusion I2, I3, or I4. This assures that interconnection facilities for BES generators are not excluded.

Bulk Electric System (BES) Definition[8]

Bulk Electric System (BES): Unless modified by the lists shown below, all Transmission Elements operated at 100 kV or higher and Real Power and Reactive Power resources connected at 100 kV or higher. This does not include facilities used in the local distribution of electric energy.

Inclusions:

I1. Transformers with the primary terminal and at least one secondary terminal operated at 100 kV or higher unless excluded by application of Exclusion E1 or E3.

I2. Generating resource(s) including the generator terminals through the high-side of the step- up transformer(s) connected at a voltage of 100 kV or above with:

a) Gross individual nameplate rating greater than 20 MVA. Or,

b) Gross plant/facility aggregate nameplate rating greater than 75 MVA.

I3. Blackstart Resources identified in the Transmission Operator's restoration plan.

I4. Dispersed power producing resources that aggregate to a total capacity greater than 75 MVA (gross nameplate rating), and that are connected through a system designed primarily for delivering such capacity to a common point of connection at a voltage of 100 kV or above. Thus, the facilities designated as BES are:

a) The individual resources, and

b) The system designed primarily for delivering capacity from the point where those resources aggregate to greater than 75 MVA to a common point of connection at a voltage of 100 kV or above.

I5. Static or dynamic devices (excluding generators) dedicated to supplying or absorbing Reactive Power that are connected at 100 kV or higher, or through a dedicated transformer with a high-side voltage of 100 kV or higher, or through a transformer that is designated in Inclusion I1 unless excluded by application of Exclusion E4.

Exclusions:

[8] As filed in the *Petition of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation for Approval of Revisions to the Definition of "Bulk Electric System and Request for Expedited Action* (December 13, 2013), available at: http://www.nerc.com/FilingsOrders/us/NERC%20Filings%20to%20FERC%20DL/Petition%20for%20Approval%20of%20Revised%20Definition%20of%20BES_FINAL.pdf.

E1. E1 - Radial systems: A group of contiguous transmission Elements that emanates from a single point of connection of 100 kV or higher and:

a) Only serves Load. Or,

b) Only includes generation resources, not identified in Inclusions I2, I3, or I4, with an aggregate capacity less than or equal to 75 MVA (gross nameplate rating). Or,

c) Where the radial system serves Load and includes generation resources, not identified in Inclusions I2, I3 or I4, with an aggregate capacity of non-retail generation less than or equal to 75 MVA (gross nameplate rating).

Note 1 – A normally open switching device between radial systems, as depicted on prints or one-line diagrams for example, does not affect this exclusion.

Note 2 – The presence of a contiguous loop, operated at a voltage level of 50 kV or less, between configurations being considered as radial systems, does not affect this exclusion.

E2. A generating unit or multiple generating units on the customer's side of the retail meter that serve all or part of the retail Load with electric energy if: (i) the net capacity provided to the BES does not exceed 75 MVA, and (ii) standby, back-up, and maintenance power services are provided to the generating unit or multiple generating units or to the retail Load by a Balancing Authority, or provided pursuant to a binding obligation with a Generator Owner or Generator Operator, or under terms approved by the applicable regulatory authority.

E3. Local networks (LN): A group of contiguous transmission Elements operated at less than 300 kV that distribute power to Load rather than transfer bulk power across the interconnected system. LN's emanate from multiple points of connection at 100 kV or higher to improve the level of service to retail customers and not to accommodate bulk power transfer across the interconnected system. The LN is characterized by all of the following:

a) Limits on connected generation: The LN and its underlying Elements do not include generation resources identified in Inclusions I2, I3, or I4 and do not have an aggregate capacity of non-retail generation greater than 75 MVA (gross nameplate rating);

b) Real Power flows only into the LN and the LN does not transfer energy originating outside the LN for delivery through the LN; and,

c) Not part of a Flowgate or transfer path: The LN does not contain any part of a permanent Flowgate in the Eastern Interconnection, a major transfer path within

the Western Interconnection, or a comparable monitored Facility in the ERCOT or Quebec Interconnections, and is not a monitored Facility included in an Interconnection Reliability Operating Limit (IROL).

E4. Reactive Power devices installed for the sole benefit of a retail customer(s).

Note – Elements may be included or excluded on a case-by-case basis through the Rules of Procedure exception process.

Proposed Entity Self-Determined Notification Summary

Self-Determination ID:	
Reviewed By:	Name
Review Completion Date:	month/day/year
Region	
Date Notification Submitted by Entity:	month/day/year
Type of Notification:	e.g. - E1 – E4 or I1 – 5
Accepted or Rejected:	ACCEPTED / REJECTED
Date Registration Group Notified	month/day/year
If Inclusion, Date Element must be Compliant:	month/day/year
If Exclusion, Date Element Compliance Obligation ends:	month/day/year
Entity Name:	
Is the Entity Currently Registered on the NERC Compliance Registry (NCR)?	Y/N
If Registered, Identify Entity NCR:	NCRXXXXX
If Applicable, Identify Functions:	
Type of Element:	Generator/Reactive Device/Transformer etc.
Element Full Name:	Provide Full Name
Element Name Identifier:	As shown on the One-Diagram (provide if different from Full Name)

Regional Entity BES Notification Review Checklist

YES	NO	N/A	Requirements	Comments or Remarks
Self-Determination Notification				
☐ ☐	☐ ☐	☐ ☐	Is the self-determined notification from an eligible Submitting Entity per Section 5.0 of the NERC Rules of Procedure? Are they currently registered?	
☐	☐	☐	Does the self-determined notification contain the necessary information to determine that the BES definition is properly applied?	
☐	☐	☐	Is the self-determined notification exclusion on the basis of the element being a Distribution Element? If yes, provide a record of the status of the Entity's petition filed with the Commission.	
☐	☐	☐	Has the entity submitting the self-determined notification discussed their notification with those authorities that have, or will have, the Elements within the scope of their authority? If so, summarize the result of the conversation(s).	
☐	☐	☐	Does the self-determined notification request cross Regional Entity boundaries?	
☐	☐	☐	Are all elements on this self-determined notification completely located in the Region?	
☐	☐	☐	Was a split required for this self-determined notification? If yes, provide the details and associated IDs.	

BES Notification Review Checklist				
YES	NO	N/A	Requirements	Comments or Remarks
Application of BES Definition				
☐	☐	☐	Is the self-determined notification in accordance with the proper application of the BES Definition according to the Phase 2: BES Definition Reference Document?	
☐	☐	☐	I1 – Transformers	
☐	☐	☐	I2 – Generator Resources	
☐	☐	☐	I3 – Blackstart Resources	
☐	☐	☐	I4 – Dispersed power-producing resources	
☐	☐	☐	I5 – Static or dynamic devices	
☐	☐	☐	E1 – Radial systems	
☐	☐	☐	E2 – Generator serving retail Load	
☐	☐	☐	E3 – Local Network	
☐	☐	☐	E4 – Reactive Power Devices	

BES Notification Review Checklist				
YES	NO	N/A	Requirements	Comments or Remarks
Support Information				
☐	☐	☐	Was a regional data request necessary to validate the self-determined notification? If so, provide details, including a record of the request(s) and corresponding response(s).	
☐	☐	☐	Was a sufficiently detailed one-line diagram(s) provided with the self-determined notification? List and describe the diagram(s) provided.	
☐	☐	☐	Were normally open switches marked in the diagrams?	
☐	☐	☐	Was appropriate hourly integrated flow information provided to support E2 and E3 Exclusions?	

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BESnet Release Notes August 8, 2014 and August 13, 2014

Introduction

The list below contains a list of known defects for the August 8, 2014 and August 13 releases of BESnet.

Known Defects

Known Defects			
ID	**Area**	**Description**	**Work-Around**
252	**Create Entity-Submitting Entity Role**	When creating an ER under section 1 there is an option of **YES** or **NO** in regard to if the Submitting entity is the owner of the elements. Once the **NO** option is selected a search option is displayed to select the owner and choose the submitting entity's role. If no owner is selected during the search, or if Submitting Entity Role(s) is chosen before the Owner, the selection will revert back to YES.	Click on the NO option again. All information (e.g. Submitting Entity Role) will be retained and displayed.
351	**ER - details**	When creating a SDN the "primary name" that gets populated in the Section 2 of the Notification gets automatically grabbed from the "From Point Name" field of the Edit Element screen? It would be more appropriate and user friendly to utilize either the "Common Element Name" or the "Circuit ID". This change has not been consistently applied throughout the UI.	No work around needed; will be cleaned up in a future release.
395	**Reports**	The export report Stage column is not showing text in all cases; in some, it is displaying a numerical value.	No work around needed at this time; will be cleaned up in a future release.
401	**Reports**	In several reports, Primary voltage and secondary voltage is showing 'HVDCxxx' where 'xxx' is the actual voltage.	For numerical voltages, ignore or trim the HVDC from the front of the value.
414	**ER Creation**	When the user removes the Associated Entity, the NCR shows up in a pull-down box. This text should be static.	No impact; will be addressed in a future release.

420	**Substantive Review**	The display strips CRLFs from the comments (e.g., if I enter 'Comment 1 <crlf> comment 2, 'it retains that when in a text box, but when displayed as 'label' text, it displays as 'Comment1 comment 2' (all on one line).	No work around needed.
422	**ER**	When adding a SOR, when you click back from the entity selection screen, the system takes you to the dashboard-not to the ER.	Manually go back into the ER
423	**ER**	If the phone number is not filled in correctly, the ER will not save.	Enter phone number correctly in the field provided.
485	**Initial Review-Rejected**	Once an ER is created and it is rejected by the region, the Initial Review documents cannot be read on the Decision tab (i.e. the hyperlink is disabled) for the Submitting Entity or the Owning Entity. The hyperlink is available to the Lead Region.	Initial Review Documents are not available on the Docs tab when the ER is in a **Reject** status. Submit an **Appeal** (this sends the ER to **Reject-under appeal**) and the docs are then available under the Docs tab.

Bug Fixes / Enhancements since the Initial Release into Production

The list below contains the Bug Fixes and Enhancements since the first release of BESnet into Production.

Resolved Issues			
ID	**Area**	**Description**	**Additional Notes**
146	ER - Create	Added a question regarding Black Start service.	
208	**Challenge Response-UI**	When taking an action to approve/disapprove a challenge, the radial button popped up with 'OK' and 'Cancel' instead of the wording in the question. The pop up has been changed to reflect the following: *'Are you sure you approve/disapprove the challenge? 'Ok' and 'Cancel' button*	
267	**TRP - UI**	Changed label "There are no TRP's that can be assigned to this ER' to 'There are no TRP candidates available to be assigned to this exception Request'	

286	**Dashboard-next action**	When the next action = 'Challenge' is reflected; the date shown is the date for re-certification. The date has been corrected to reflect the 'Challenge' date.	
329	**Entity Management**	BESnet was not allowing Canadian zip codes to be reflected in the application. This issue has been corrected and Canadian zip codes are being reflected in the application.	
330	**Entity Management**	Unable to modify entity role (e.g. submitting, BA). This has been corrected.	
332	**User Management-Vetting**	When adding an entity to a user's profile, a success message was returned when the check box to add entity is not checked and the **Save** button is clicked (meaning no entity was selected to be added). A validation rule was added to catch this error.	
356	**ER-Create**	Incorrect text when removing BES Definition Basis. The statement has been updated to reflect the following: 'Remove BES Definition Basis'	
368	**Dashboard**	The status of an ER (approved or disapproved) is being concatenated to the 'Stage' but not to the 'Status'. Overall changes to clarify state, status, and the use of filters were applied.	
376	**Reports**	The 'back' button on reports was not working. This has been corrected.	
377	**SDN**	NEW FUNCTIONALITY: SDNs cannot be submitted (review completed) by the Region or NERC unless all the elements are in the same state (for regions, accepted or rejected; for NERC concurred or conflicted). In cases where they are not in the same state, a validation rule will tell the user they must split them to make each SDN only contain elements in the same state.	
378	**SDN**	NEW FUNCTIONALITY: At the element level there is now a "pass" button next to 'concur' or 'conflict' to indicate when NERC elects not to review an SDN. The status can now be 'concur, conflict or pass'.	

379	**SDN**	NEW FUNCTIONALITY: The SDN will drop into SD in NERC review as soon as the region completes their initial review.	
380	**SDN**	NEW FUNCTIONALITY: The SDN is considered 'Archived' if NERC Concurs (Reject-Concur) with the regional rejection of the SDN. The term "Archived" has been be replaced with "Terminated."	
381	**SDN**	NEW FUNCTIONALITY: If NERC Passes (Reject-Pass) on the SDN (by clicking a new 'Pass' button within the SDN screen for NERC users), the SDN is considered 'Archived.' The term "Archived" has been be replaced with "Terminated."	
382	**SDN**	NEW FUNCTIONALITY: If NERC Conflicts (Reject-Conflicted) with the regional rejection of the SDN, the SDN is considered 'Certified'.	
383	**SDN**	NEW FUNCTIONALITY: If NERC Concurs (Accept-Concur) with the regional acceptance of the SDN, the SDN is considered 'Certified'.	
384	**SDN**	NEW FUNCTIONALITY: If NERC Passes (Accept-Pass) on the SDN (by clicking a new 'Pass' button within the SDN screen for NERC users), the SDN is considered 'Certified'	
385	**SDN**	NEW FUNCTIONALITY: If NERC Conflicts (Accept-Conflicted) with the regional acceptance of the SDN, the SDN is considered 'Archived.' The term "Archived" has been be replaced with "Terminated."	
386	**SDN**	NEW FUNCTIONALITY: The system shall have the following Status: NEW RE Review Complete (accepted/rejected); NERC Review Complete + (accepted/rejected, based on concatenation of both RE and NERC review	Overall changes to clarify state, status, and the use of filters were applied.
387	**SDN**	NEW FUNCTIONALITY: The system shall have the following Stages: Regional Review, NERC review and <Blank>.	Overall changes to clarify state, status, and the use of filters were applied.
397	**SDN**	General clean- up of the UI needed to ensure consistency and accuracy- the SDN screen still shows 'Exception Request' labels. These incorrect references were removed.	

398	**SDN Regional Review**	The language under the Elements tag of a SDN was corrected to align with the buttons (the Region Status in the grid should be 'Accepted' not 'Approved'.	
400	**Dashboard**	The dashboard was changed to include abbreviated types to SDN and ER (SDN-I and SDN-E, ER-I and ER-E).	
402	**Reports**	The 'IsRF' flag in the export report has been changed to "IsRFC," and now accurately reflects the status..	
404	**Reports**	The internal and external IDs were added to the Export reports.	
405	**Reports**	The 'Elements' Report was not displaying the 'Current BESnet Definition Status'; this has now been fixed.	
406	**Reports**	The Excel Export report is only exporting 100 characters for text fields. We have expanded this to allow for more data to be shown.	
407	**Reports**	'Is Rejected' and 'Is Approved' values displaying incorrectly in export report. The report was fixed and data is reflecting as needed.	
408	**Splits**	NEW FUNCTIONALITY: The ability to split an SDN in 'NERC Review' was enabled.	
409	**ER, SDN**	The 'Elements' table in the Documents tab was removed. This table was removed as it caused problems for entities including lots of elements in a single submission.	
410	**Reports**	An Administrative version of the Element Export report was created for the NERC admin role.	
411	**SDN Printed Report**	The primary and secondary voltages reported on the summary were incorrect. This has been corrected to display the correct voltages.	Known defect 401 applies; voltage is displayed as HVDCxxx, where xxx is the correct voltage.
412	**ER/SDN**	The Counter used to create the last five digits of the ER identifier was based on record counts, and incorrectly assigned the same number to multiple requests. This resulted in an error display to the user. The counter has been modified to eliminate this problem.	Note that if an SDN or ER is returned to draft, when it is resubmitted, it will be assigned a NEW ID.

413	**Reports**	An Administrative version of the ER Export report was added for the NERC Admin role.	
429 **Z#619**	**Element Export (Production Issue)**	Data reflected in the Element Report was inaccurate. The report has been corrected to ensure the correct data is being displayed.	
432	**Reports**	The System Administrator was given access to view the Full data reports from the UI.	
433	**UI**	The address on the Help Link in BESnet was changed to reflect: http://www.nerc.com/pa/RAPA/Pages/BESnetHelp.aspx	
486 **Z# 640**	**SDN**	An attempt was made to create a notice of Self Determination for Potomac Electric Company which has a Washington DC address. Drop down menu for states did not contain DC as a selection.	The District of Columbia and Canada were added to the drop down menu for address information.
xxx	**Add Element**	Changes were made to the labels related to ratings. MVA Rating- For Element Types, field and optionality was modified as follows: GEN (Gross Nameplate Rating in MVA, Req'd) CKT (Normal Rating in MVA, Req'd DC Conv (Normal Rating in MVA, Req'd) Shunt (Normal Rating in MVAR, Req'd) Network (NA, Not Req'd)	
yyy	**Add Element**	ID- For Element Type Circuit, ID (Circuit ID) was changed to be a required field.	
SSF	**Terminated filter**	Incorrect assignment/filtering of a Challenged ER was corrected.	
SSF2	**Challenge filters**	The UI was adjusted to make 'Challenge' and filter information clear (i.e., show the decisions made during the challenge phase).	

NERC
NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY CORPORATION

BESNet User Manual

Exception Request Preparation for Registered Entities

June 29, 2014
Version 1-2

RELIABILITY | ACCOUNTABILITY






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Introduction

NOTE: This user manual ONLY addresses creation and submittal of Exception Requests. Other User Manuals currently available are:

- **BESNet User Administration**
- **Creation and submission of Notifications of Self-Determination**

This user manual provides a guided walk-through to illustrate the BES Notifications and Exceptions Tool (BESNet). The system provides a workflow-based process that emulates the BES Exceptions Procedure (as outlined in NERC's Rules of Procedure, Appendix 5C), to route, evaluate, and take actions on Exception Requests and Self-Determined Notifications.

Users have the ability to log into a secure portal and create both Exception Requests and Self-Determination Notifications. Depending upon the selection, the user is provided with an Exception or Self-Determination form. Each form captures the relevant details for the Submitting and Owning Entities, Inclusion and Exclusion rules, Element descriptions, and one or more elements.

Upon completion of the form, the Entity is able to submit the Exception Request or Notification. The system will automatically notify all appropriate parties of the submission. This includes Submitting and Owning Entities, "Scope of Responsibility" Entities, Regional Entities, and NERC. BESNet provides capabilities for Regional Entities to acknowledge Notification of Self-Determination elements and process Exception Requests, request and receive supplemental information, alert and notify participants of changes, issue recommendations, and monitor periodic re-certification of requests. In addition, NERC can create proposed and final decisions, as well as manage appeals to those decisions.

BESNet contains report functions for accessing information about Exception Requests and Notifications, which enables BESNet to produce a list of facilities and Elements for which: 1) Exception Requests to the BES Definition have been granted, and 2) Notifications of Self-Determination have been submitted. NERC will publicly post reports on its website that provide interested persons (including applicable governmental authorities) information regarding submitted Exception Requests that may be of interest to them.

BESNet Program Cautions

The following cautions should be followed when using the BESNet program:

A. DO NOT use the back button in your browser.

B. Be sure to scroll right and left within your browser (depending on your screen resolution) to ensure that all required information is entered in the browser.

Logging In

Navigate to the following URL: https://besnet.eroenterprise.com

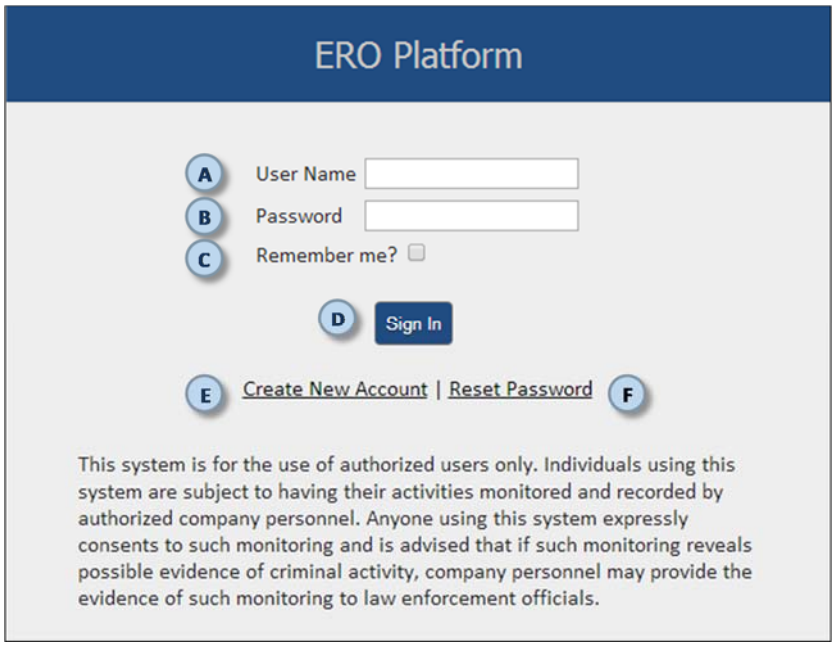


Figure 1: ERO Platform Log-In Screen

A. Enter the **User Name** (A).

B. Enter the **Password** (B) created during user registration.

C. If desired, click on the **Remember me?** checkbox (C), which gives permission for the system to remember the credentials entered.

D. Once finished with these fields, complete the login process by pressing the **Sign In** (D) button.

E. Click the **Create New Account** (E) link. See Section **Creating a New Account** for more details.

F. To reset your password, click the **Reset Password** (F) link. See Section **Resetting the User Password** for more details.

Selecting the User's Entity

If the user has been vetted as a representative for more than one Entity, the user will first be prompted to select the Entity he or she wishes to represent for the current session. Users who are only vetted for a single Entity will skip this step.

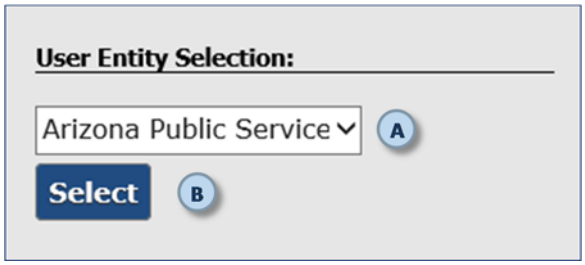


Figure 2: User Entity Selection Screen

To identify the Entity the user will represent during this session:

A. Select the **Entity Name** (A) from the Entity list. Only those Entities for which this user has been vetted will appear.

B. Click the **Select** (B) button.

Logging Out

To log out of the system, click the **Log Out** link (A) in the upper right of the **BESNet Dashboard** header.



Figure 3: BESNet Dashboard Header

BESNet Dashboard Overview

The **BESNet Dashboard** is the home screen for the BESNet application. The Dashboard is displayed when a user logs into the application and whenever the **Home** link is pressed on any BESNet application page.

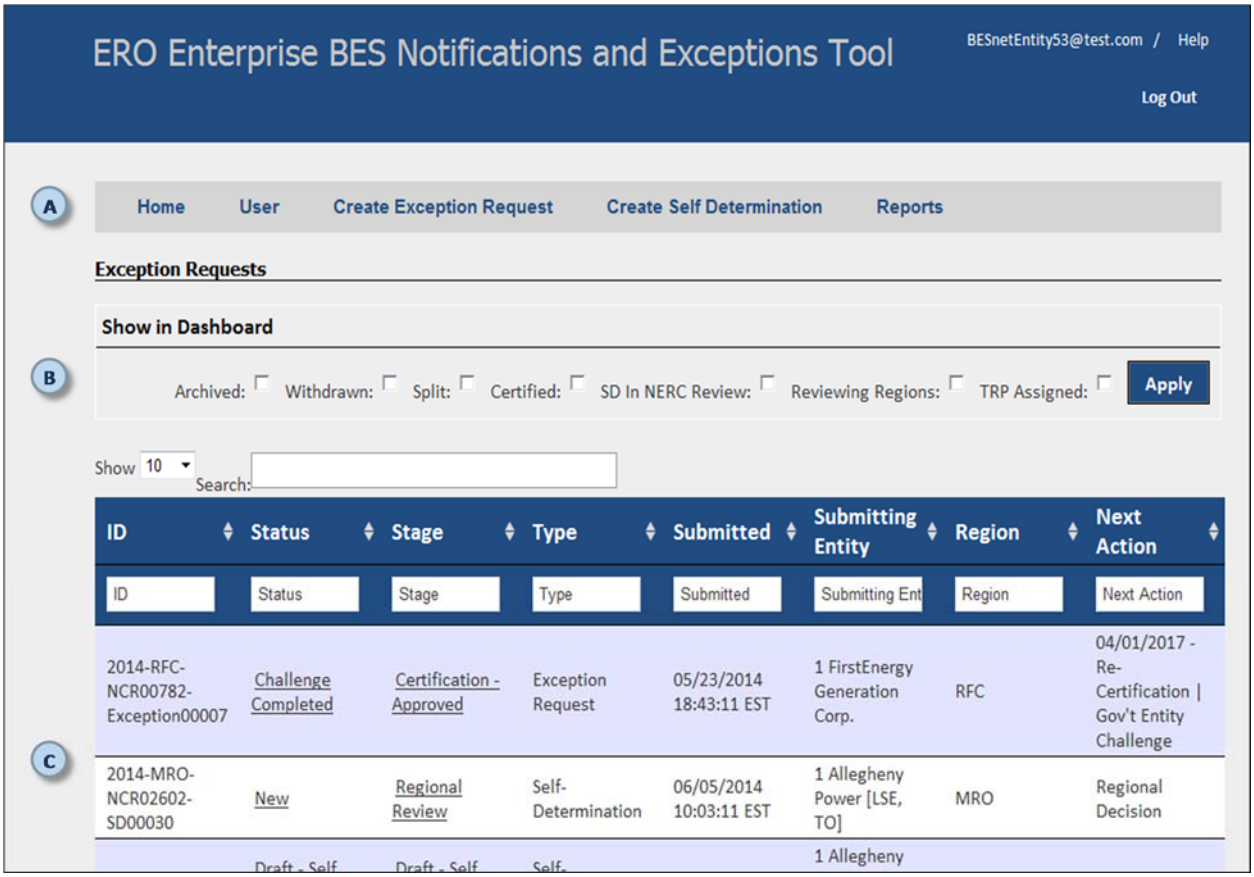


Figure 4: BESNet Dashboard

A. The Dashboard navigation bar (A) contains the following options:

   a. **Home:** Returns the user to the **BESNet Dashboard.**

   b. **User:** Provides options for user management and account management.

   c. **Create Exception Request:** Starts the process for creating a new Exception Request.

   d. **Create Self-Determination:** Starts the process for creating a new Notification of Self-Determination.

   e. **Reports:** Contains options for reporting.

NOTE: Some options may not appear, based on a user's role in the system.

B. The **Show in Dashboard** Filter (B). By default, Exception Requests that are archived or withdrawn, or that have been split and are therefore no longer active, do not appear in the Exception Requests listing. This filter allows the user to include any or all of the Exception Requests in the listing by checking the box next to the Exception Request state that should be included. These operate as follows:

   a. **Archived:** When checked, the BESNet Dashboard will include Exception Requests that have been archived, cancelled, or terminated.

   b. **Withdrawn:** When checked, the BESNet Dashboard will include Exception Requests that have been withdrawn; that is, those submitted to Initial Review, but then rescinded by the Submitting Entity.

c. **Split:** When checked, the Dashboard will include Exception Requests that have been split into one or more newer Exception Requests and exist as a historical record.

*NOTE: For more information about Split Exception Requests, see sections on **Splitting an Exception Request** or **Recertifying an Exception Request**.*

d. **Self-Determination in NERC Review*:*** When checked, the Dashboard will include any Notifications of Self-Determination that are awaiting NERC review.

C. The **Dashboard List** (C) contains a list of all **Exception Requests** and **Notifications of Self-Determination**. Here, the user can:

a. Change the number of records that appear in the list, by changing the **Show in Entries** value.

b. Change the display order of the entries in the list, by clicking on the header of each column.

c. Filter the contents of the list, by entering text into the boxes underneath each column header.

d. Open a record, by clicking on the **Status** link.

e. Navigate through the pages in the list, by clicking the navigation links to the bottom right of the list.

Creating an Exception Request

Exception Requests can be made for either **Inclusion** or **Exclusion** of Elements from the BES. The procedure for both is the same, so only an **Exception Request for Exclusion** is included in these instructions.

NOTE: For users who are authorized for several Entities, be sure that you are logged into BESNet as the correct Entity.

To start the Exception Request process:

1. Click the **Create Exception Request** (A) menu item on the **BESNet Dashboard Menu**.
2. Select whether the Exception Request is **For Inclusion** or **For Exclusion** (B). This will bring up the **Create Exception Request Screen**.

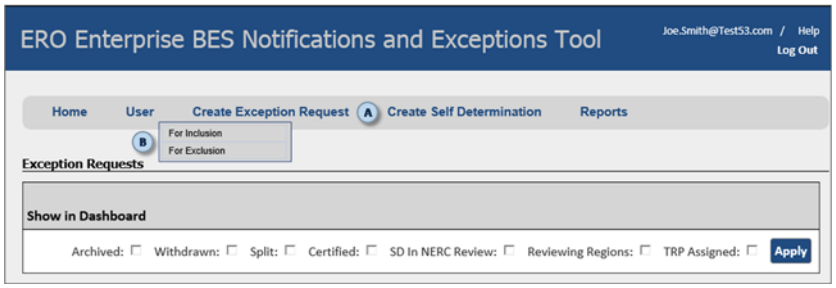


Figure 5: BESNet Dashboard Menu Detail

The **Create Exception Request Screen** is broken into three sections for these instructions.

Completing Section 1: General Information

Section 1 contains a **General Information (A)** section about the Submitting Entity, pre-populated from the user information. Basic information about the Submitting Entity (i.e., the Entity with which the user is operating) can be edited here, including the Address, City, Country, State, and Postal Code.

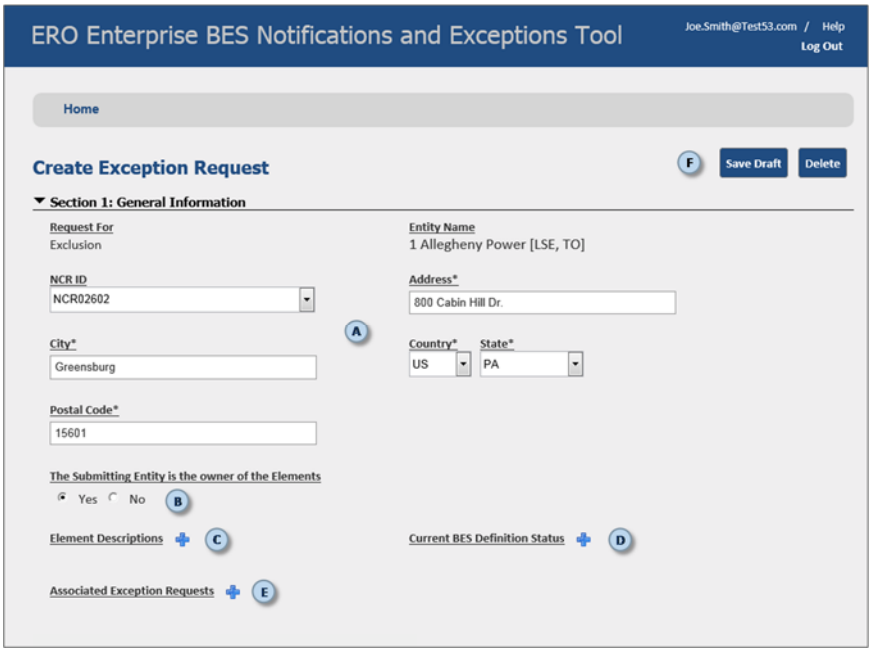


Figure 6: Create Exception Request Screen Section 1

NOTE: If any of this information is modified, the BESNet address record will be updated for this Entity, not just for this Exception Request.

Section 1 has the following additional areas of interest:

A. Noting whether the **Submitting Entity is the Owner of the Elements** (B) in the Exception Request.

B. The **Element Descriptions** (C), the **Current BES Definition Status** (D), and **Associated Exception Request** (E).

C. **Save Draft** and **Delete** buttons (F), which can be used at any time.

NOTE: The BESNet application automatically saves a draft of the Exception Request if the browser is closed or the session is interrupted.

Specifying the Submitting Entity

If the Submitting Entity is the owner of the element, select **Yes (B).**

If the Submitting Entity is NOT the owner of the Element(s) in the Exception Request, the user must select **No** (Figure 6, B) below the label for **The Submitting Entity is the owner of the Elements.** Doing so will modify Section 1 of the **Create Exception Request Screen**.



Figure 7: Create Exception Request Screen with Non-Owner Submitting Entity

Indicate the role of the Submitting Entity by clicking on the **Blue + Sign (A)** that appears next to **Submitting Entity Role(s)** on the **Create Exception Request Screen**. This will take the user to the **Add Submitting Entity Relationship to Owning Entity Screen**.

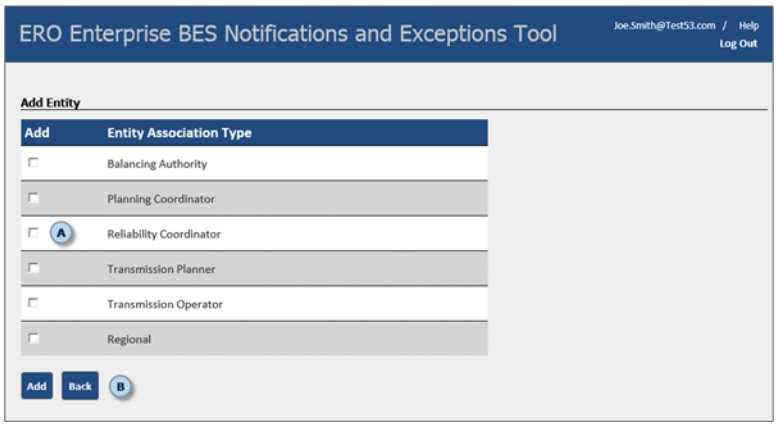


Figure 8: Add Submitting Entity Relationship to Owning Entity Screen

Select the appropriate relationship between the Submitting Entity and the Owner of the Elements(s) in the Exception Request (A), and click on the **Add** button (B). This will take the user back to the **Create Exception Request Screen**.

NOTE: If you cannot find a specific Entity Association Type you expected to see in the list, contact your Region.

Specifying the Owning Entity

Specify the **Owning Entity** of the Element(s) in the Exception Request by clicking on the **Search** button (Figure 7, B) on the **Create Exception Request Screen**. This will take the user to the **Owning Entities Screen**.

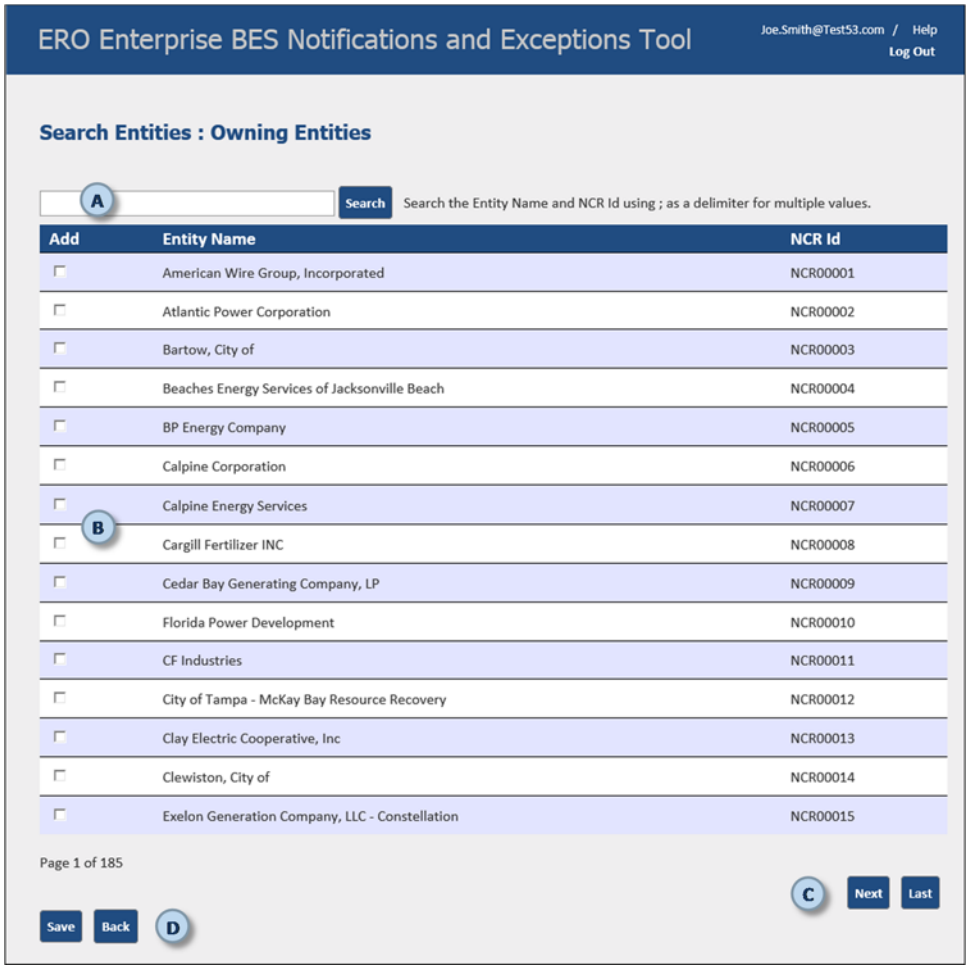


Figure 9: Owning Entities Screen

A. The user should type the beginning of the Entity's name in the **Search** window (A), and click on the **Search** button. This will perform an on-the-fly search of the Entity database and only display Entities that have the search string in their names.

B. The user then should select the checkbox (B) for the appropriate **Owning Entity** for the Element(s) in this Exception Request.

   NOTE: If you cannot find a specific Entity you expected to see in the list, contact your Region.

C. The **Next** and **Last** buttons (C) can be used to page through the list of Owning Entities.

D. The **Add** button (D) will add the selected **Reliability Coordinator(s)** to the Exception Request, which will return the user to the **Create Exception Request Screen**.

The **Create Exception Request Screen** will now show the **Owning Entity** of the Element(s) in the Exception Request, its **NCR Number** (A), and the Submitting Entity's **Relationship to the Owner** (B).

Selecting Element Description

NOTE: An Exception Request can contain more than one Element, but all Elements in the Exception Request should be of the same type and should be being similar in their Current Definition Status.

The user must select the **Element Description**. This is accomplished by clicking on the blue **Plus Sign** at the **Element Descriptions** (Figure 6, C). This will bring the user to the **Add Element Description Screen**.

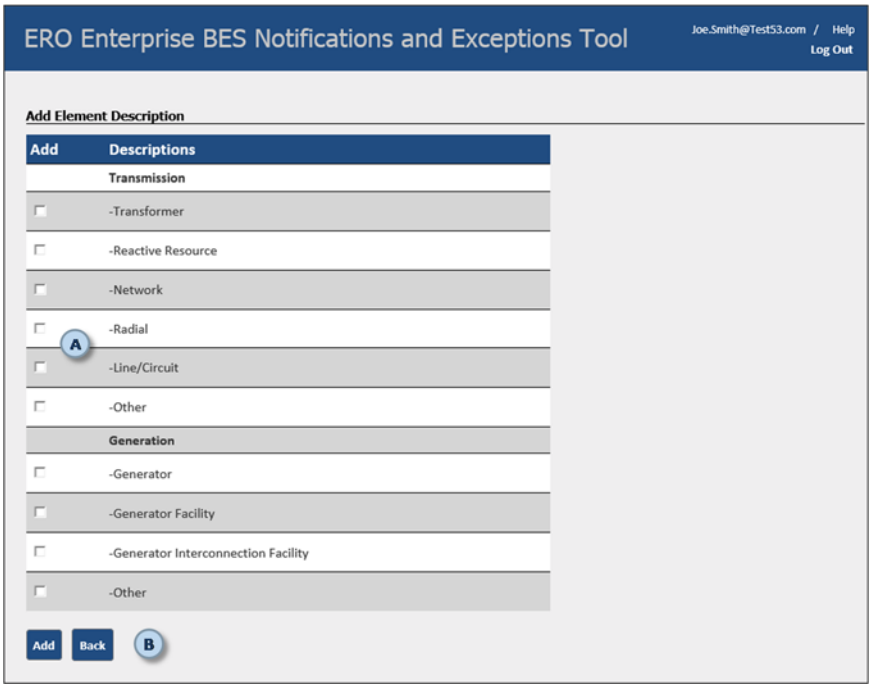


Figure 7: Add Element Description Screen

The user should select the appropriate **Element Description** for which the Exception Request is being submitted (A), and click on **Add** (B) to complete the action. This will return the user to the **Create Exception Request Screen**.

Selecting Basis for Self-Determination

The user must select the **Current BES Definition Status** for the Element being included or excluded. This is accomplished by clicking on the blue **Plus Sign** at the **Current BES Definition Status** (Figure 6, D). This will bring the user to the **Add BES Definition Screen**.

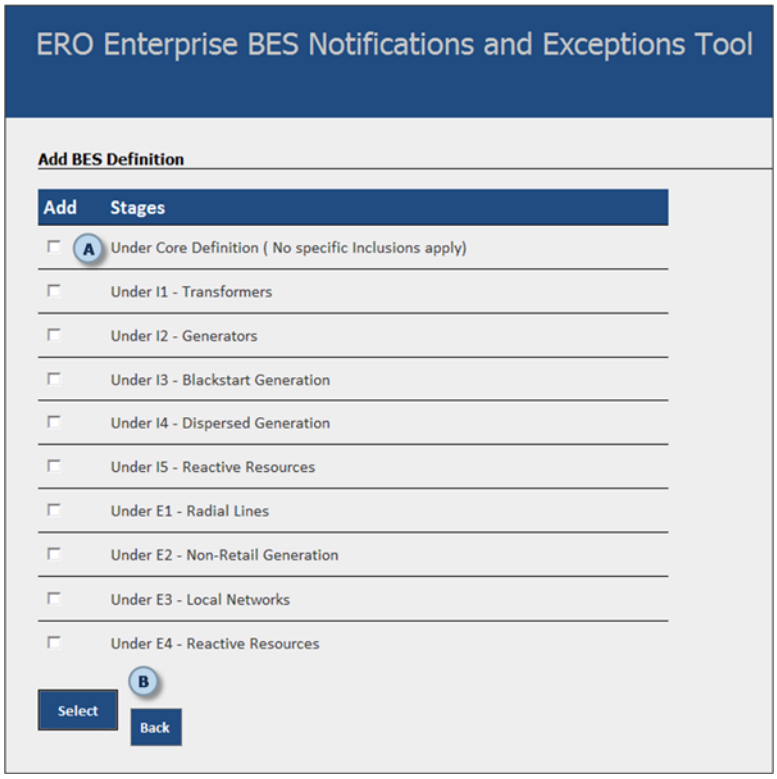


Figure 8: Add BES Definition Screen

The user should select the appropriate **Current BES Definition Status** for the Element for which the Exception Request is being submitted (A), and click on **Add** (B) to complete the action. This will return the user to the **Create Exception Request Screen**.

Adding Associated Exception Requests

The user has the option of adding Associated Exception Request references to the Exception Request in order to provide interested parties a reference to similar Requests that might provide additional justification to an Exception Request's validity.

To do so, the user should click on the blue **Plus Sign** at the **Associated Exception Request** (Figure 6, E). This will bring the user to the **Add Exception Request References Screen**.

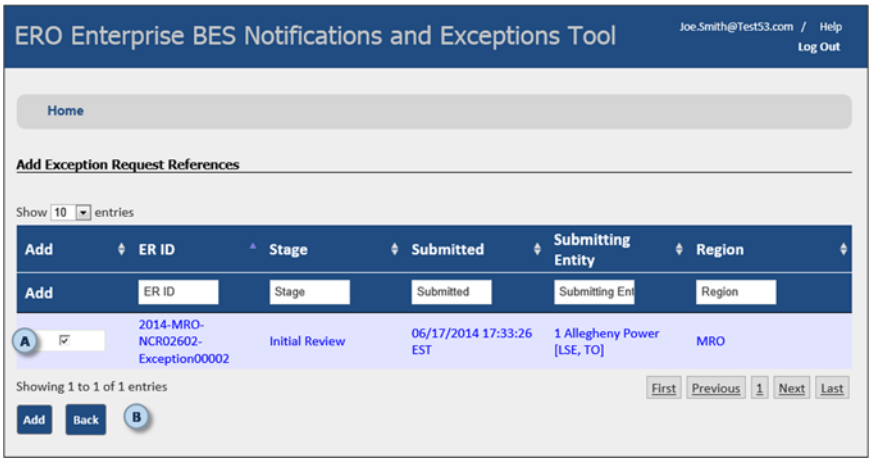


Figure 9: Add Exception Request References Screen

To add a reference to another Exception Request, the user should click on the checkbox (A) next to the desired Exception Request, and click on the **Add** button (B) on the **Add Exception Request References Screen**. This will add the reference to the current Exception Request and return the user to the **Create Exception Request Screen**.

Removing an Element Description or Basis for Self-Determination

Once the **Element Description**, **Current BES Definition Status**, and **Associated Exception Requests** are selected or entered, the **Create Exception Request Screen** will show **Red Xs** (A) near their areas on the screen.

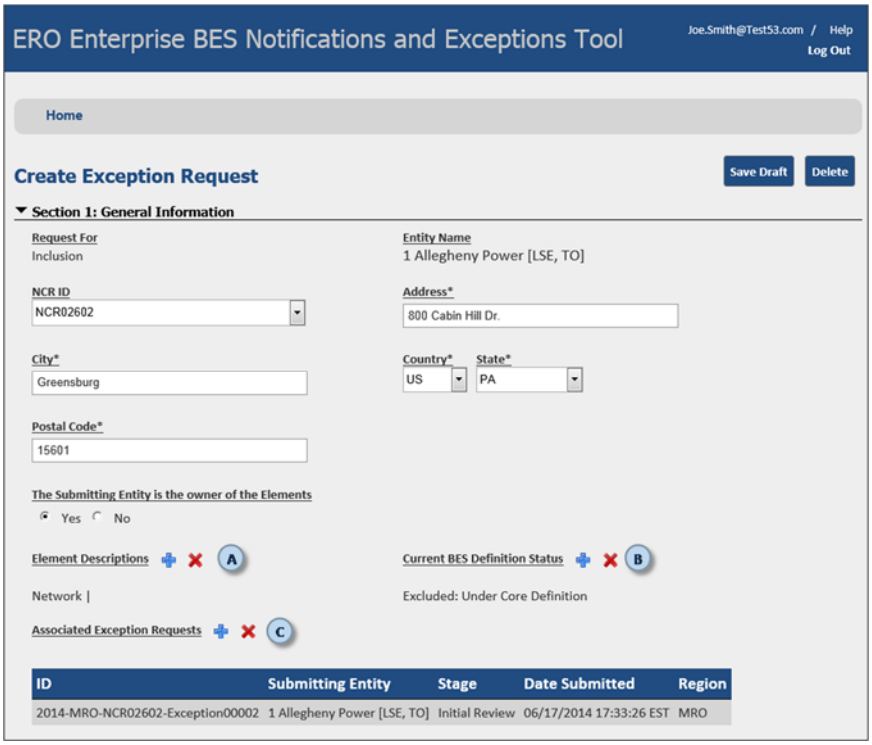


Figure 10: Create Exception Request Screen

If any of those items should be removed or corrected, click on the **Red X**. This will bring the user to the appropriate removal screen (**Remove Element Description Screen** used here as an Example).

The user should check the box of the **Description** (A) to be removed, then click on the **Remove** button (B) to complete the action. This will return the user to the **Create Exception Request Screen**.

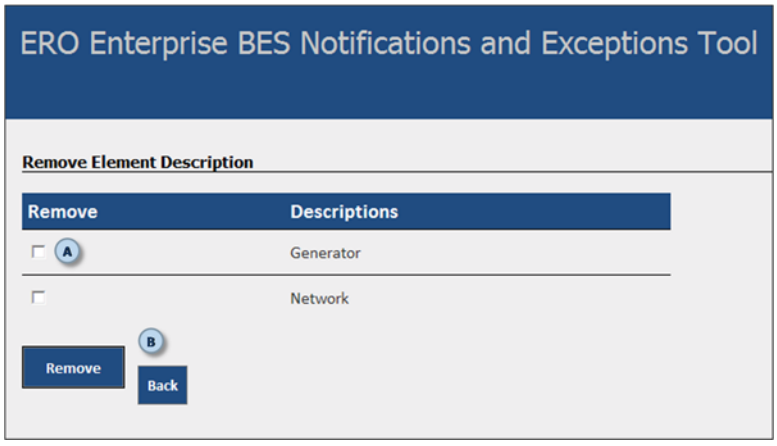


Figure 11: Remove Element Description Screen

Completing Section 2: Detailed Information

The **Detailed Information Section 2** contains information for the **Submitting Entity Contact Information** (A) and the Entity's authorized representative that is certifying the Exception Request.

The user must enter:

A. The **Submitting Entity Contact Information** (A).

B. The NCR of Entities with Scopes of Responsibility for which the Element(s) of this Exception Request applies (B). Required Scope of Responsibility groups are marked with an asterisk.

C. The **Name and Title** of the **Authorized Representatives** (C) who will be certifying this Exception Request submittal.

D. A brief statement of basis, consistent with Section 3.1 of Appendix 5C of the NERC Rules of Procedure, on which the Submitting Entity contends the Exception Request should be approved (***REQUIRED***).

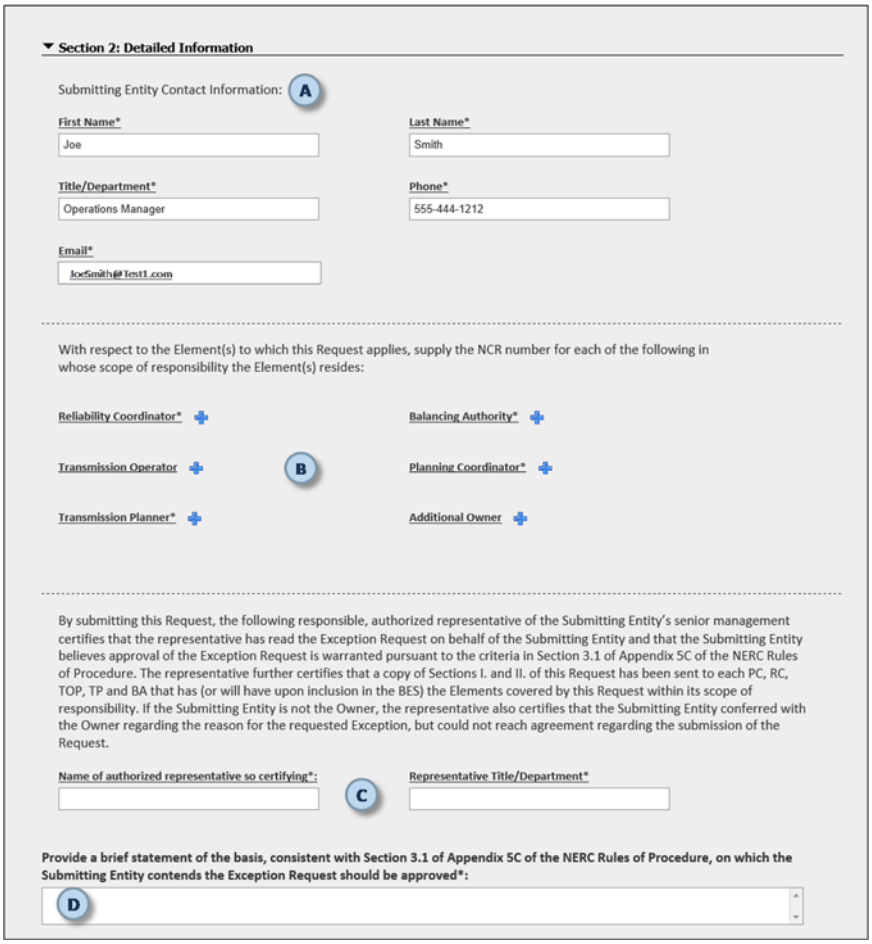


Figure 12: Create Exception Request Screen Section 2

Specifying Scope of Responsibility Entities

The user must enter the NCR numbers of Entities with **Scopes of Responsibility** for the Element(s) to which this Exception Request applies (B). Scope of Responsibility groups that are required for the Exception Request are marked with an asterisk.

NOTE: All Scope of Responsibility assignments—except Additional Owner—are required for submission (designated by asterisks).

NOTE: Only The Lead Region can change Scope of Responsibility Entity assignments after the Exception Request has been submitted.

To select the Scope of Responsibility Entities, the user should click on each of the classifications or its related **Blue + Signs** (Figure 15, B). This will initiate an on-the-fly **Search Entities Screen** for the specific type of Scope of Responsibility Entities.

The Search Entities for Reliability Coordinators function is used here as an example, but all **Scope of Responsibility Entities** selections operate the same way.

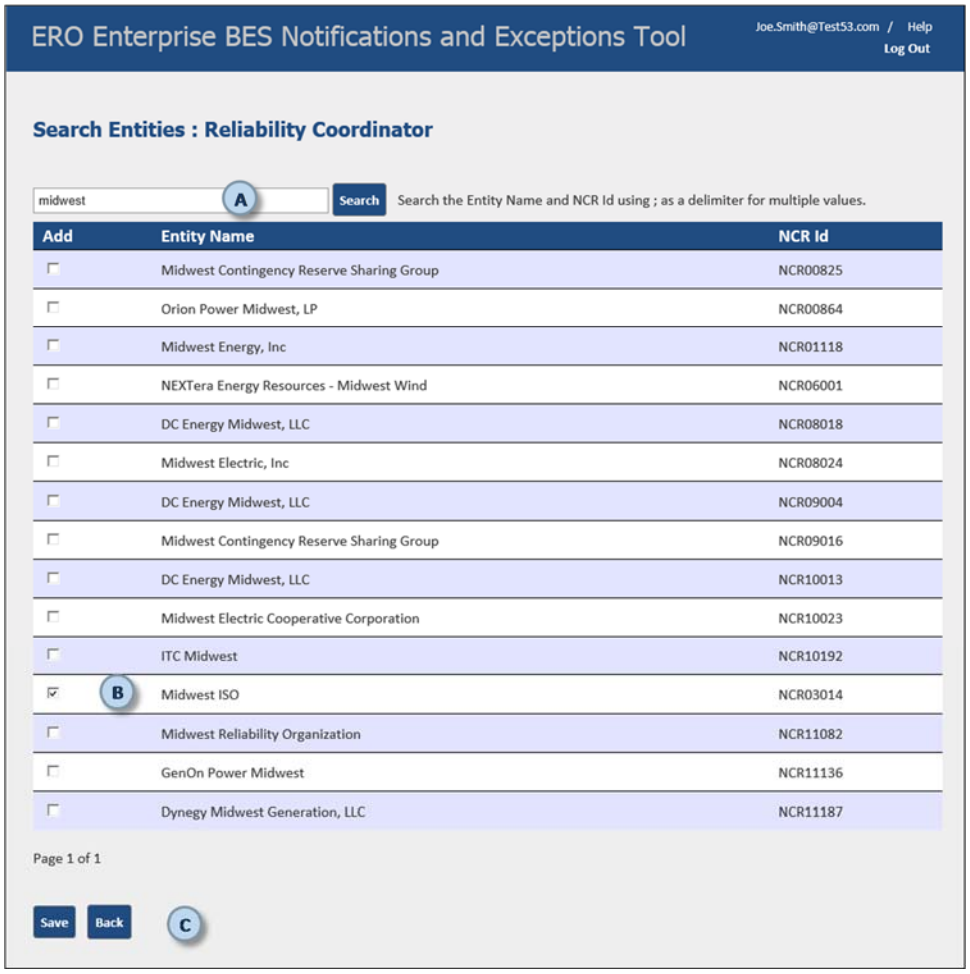


Figure 13: Search Entities Screen – Reliability Coordinators

A. The user should type the beginning of the Entity's name in the **Search** window (A) and click **Search**. This will search the Entity database and only display Entities with the search string in their names.

B. The user then should select the checkbox (B) for the appropriate **Reliability Coordinator(s)** Associated with this Exception Request.

   NOTE: If you cannot find a specific Entity you expected to see in the list, contact your Region.

C. The **Save** button (C) will then add the selected **Reliability Coordinator(s)** to the Exception Request and return the user to the **Create Exception Request Screen**.

Adding an Element to an Exception Request

Once the general information is input in Sections 1 and 2 for the Exception Request, the user must add the associated Elements. To do this, the user should click on the **Add** button (A) on the **Create Exception Request Screen,** which will take the user to the **Add Element Screen.**

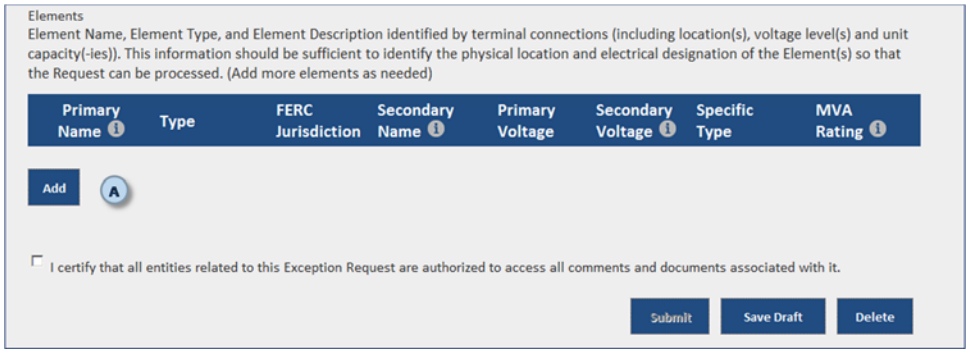


Figure 14: Create Exception Request Screen Detail – Add Element

Several functions are performed on the **Add Element Screen** (Figure 18):

A. The **Element Type** (A) has a pull-down menu (B) allowing selection of the **Element Type**.

B. The user should select the **Element Type** from the pull-down menu (B), which will display data entry screens specific to that **Element Type**. Additional information on the types is in the **Element Type** section of this document.

C. The Region(s) where the Element resides is selected in the **Select the Region** area (C). Multiple regions can be selected.

D. Attach necessary documentation[1] by clicking on the **Add** button (D). Additional guidance on adding documents is included in the **Adding Documents** section of this guide.

NOTE: At least one supporting document is required for each Element in an Exception Request.

E. Click on the **Add Element** button (E) after entering data. This will complete the addition of the Element to the Exception Request. That action will return the user to the **Create Exception Request Screen**, where all Elements that are part of the Exception Request are displayed.

F. Informational points are denoted by an "i" (F) throughout the **Add Element Screens**. Hovering over them will reveal additional information.

[1] Refer to the *BES Notification Review Guidelines* for additional information on necessary documentation.

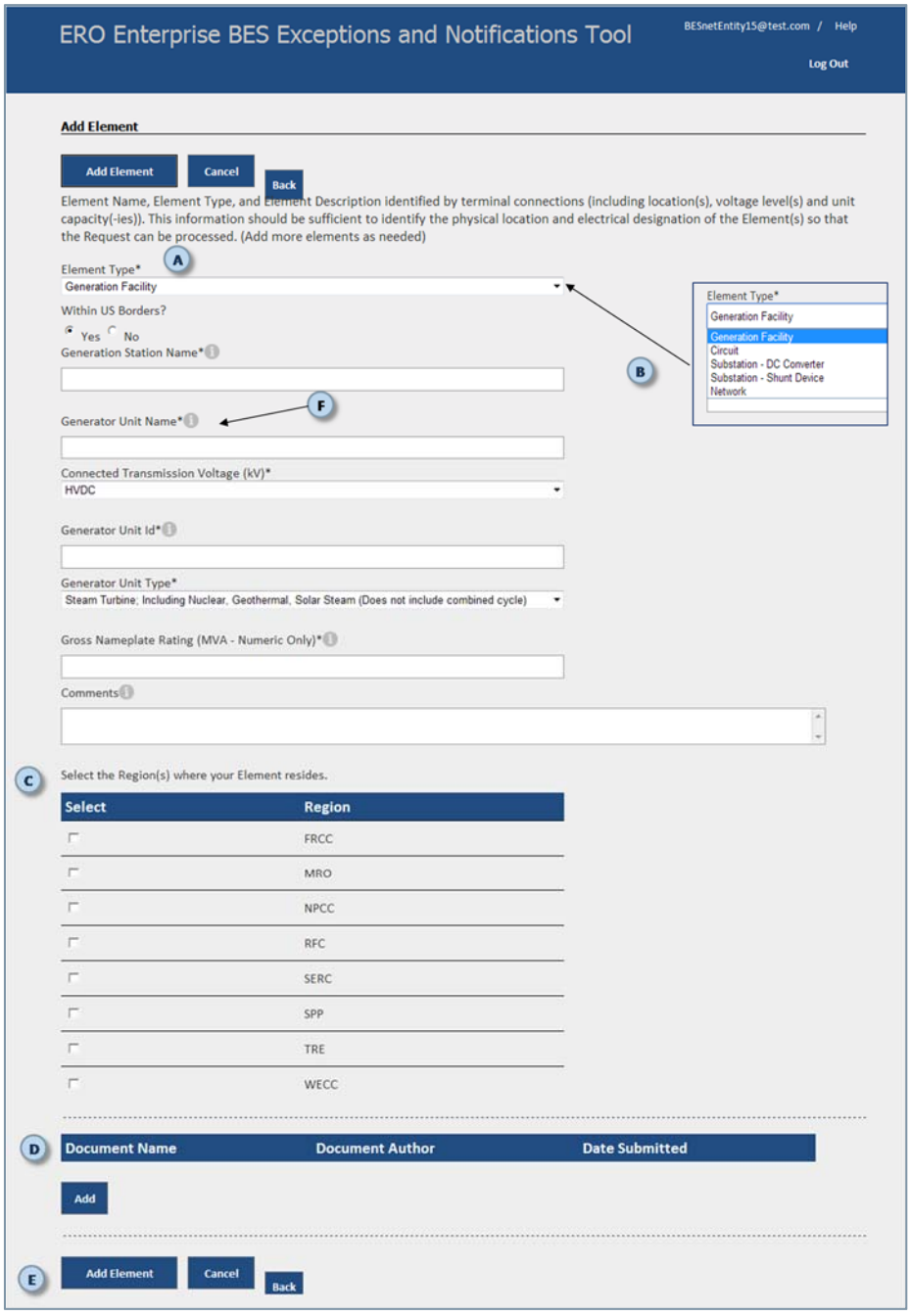


Figure 15: Add Element Screen

Element Types

When adding an Element to an Exception Request, the fields to be completed vary by Element. Screenshots of each Element's properties are provided below for reference.

Table 1 shows the types of Elements listed in the **Element Type** pull-down (A) on the **Add Element Screen**.

Table 1: Element Types

	Within FERC Jurisdiction	Name(s)	Voltage (kV)	ID	Specific Type	MVA Rating	Comments
Generation Facility	Yes or No, Required	Generation Station Name, Required; Unit Name, Required	Connected AC Transmission Voltage, Required, from a list of values	Unit ID, Required	Required, from a list of Generator Unit Types	Gross Nameplate Rating, Required	Optional
Circuit	Yes or No, Required	From Point Name, Required; To Point Name, Required; Common Element Name, Required	From Point kV, Required, from a list of values; To Point kV, Required, from a list of values	Circuit ID, Optional	Required, from a list of Circuit Types	Normal Rating, Optional	Optional
Substation, DC Converter	Yes or No, Required	Converter Name, Required	Connected AC Transmission Voltage, Required, from a list of values	N/A	N/A	Normal Rating, Optional	Optional
Substation, Shunt Device	Yes or No, Required	Network Name, Required; Device Name, Required	Station kV, Required, from a list of values	N/A	Device Type	Normal Rating (MVA or MVAR), Optional	Optional
Network	Yes or No, Required	Network Name Required	Connected AC Transmission Voltage, Required, from a list of values	N/A	N/A	N/A	Optional

NOTE: Multiple Elements may be included in a single Exception Request. However, they should all be of a similar nature (circuits, transformers, etc.).

Add a Generation Facility

If the user clicks on **Generation Facility** in the **Element Type** section of the **Add Element Screen**, the following **Generation Facility Screen** appears.

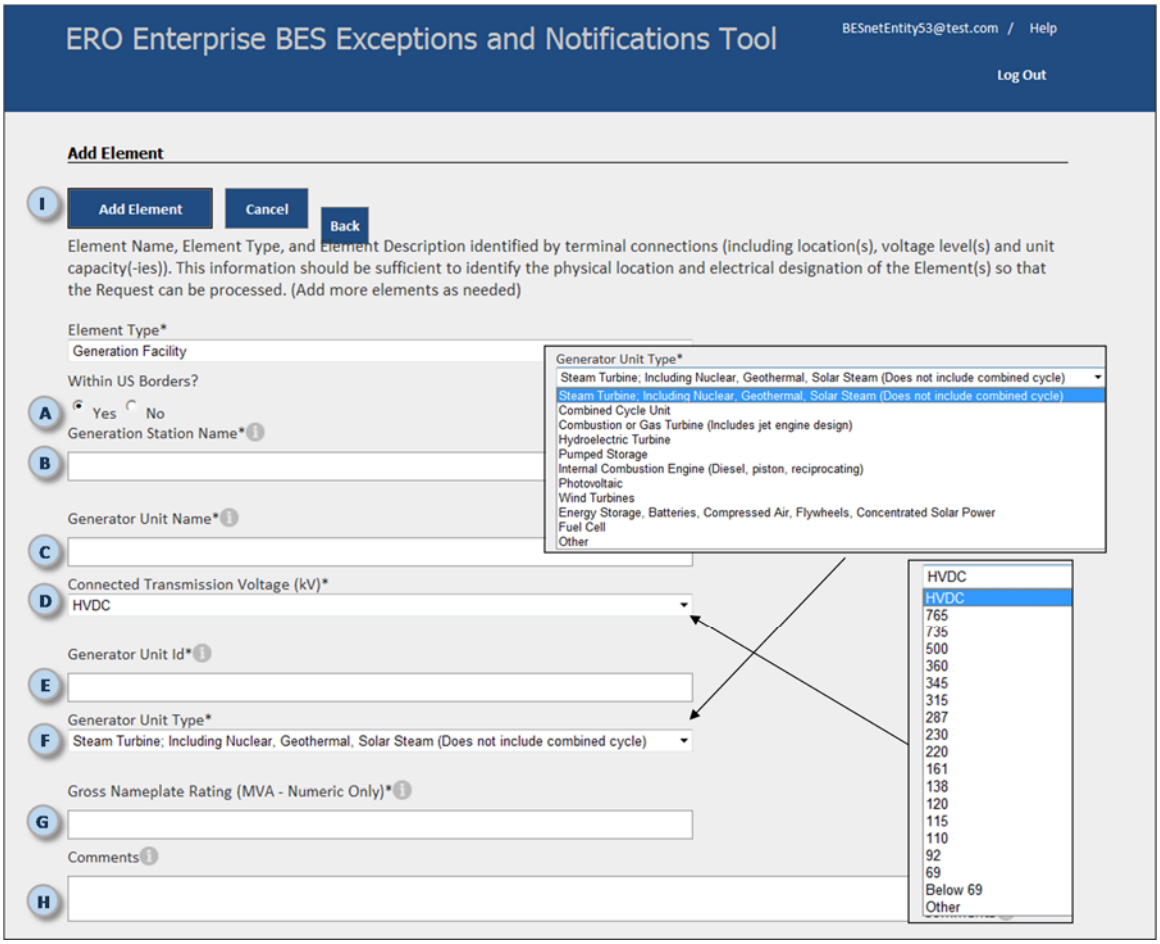


Figure 16: Add Generation Facility Screen

A. Select whether the **Generation Facility** is within U.S. Borders (A).

B. Provide the **Generation Station Name** (B).

C. Provide the **Generator Unit Name** (C).

D. Select the **Connected Transmission Voltage** (D) from the pull-down list.

E. Provide the **Generator Unit ID** (E).

F. Select the **Generator Unit Type** from the pull-down list.

G. Provide the **Gross Nameplate Rating** in MVA (G). One decimal point is allowed.

H. Provide **Comments** (H) if desired.

I. Click on the **Add Element** button (I) to save the information. This will bring the user back to the **Create Exception Request Screen**.

Add a Circuit

If the user clicks on **Circuit** in the **Element Type** section of the **Add Element Screen**, the following **Circuit Screen** appears.

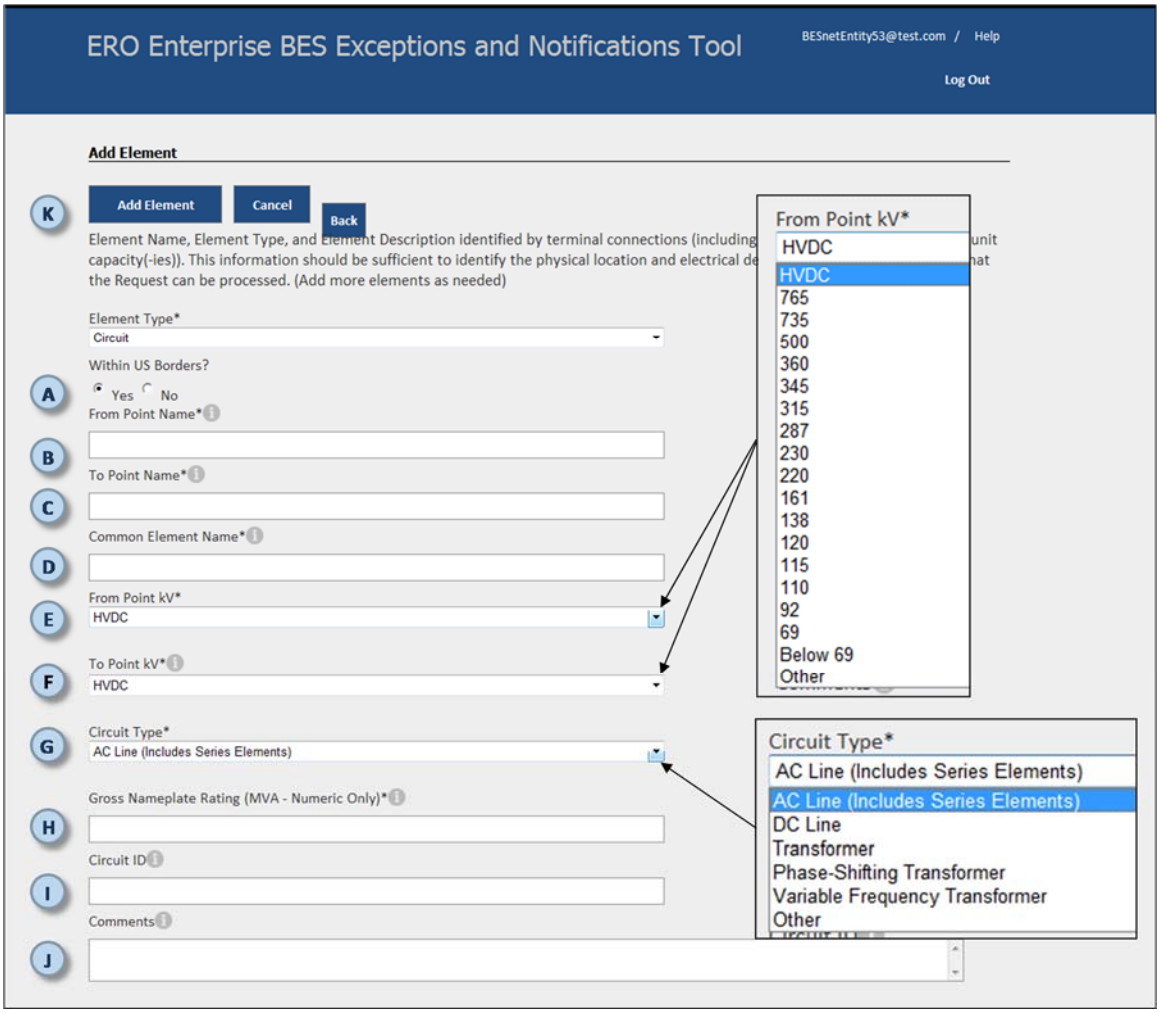


Figure 17: Add Circuit Screen

A. Select whether the **Circuit** is within U.S. Borders (A).

B. Provide the **From Point Name** (B).

C. Provide the **To Point Name** (C).

D. Provide the **Common Element Name** (D) for the **Circuit.**

E. Select the **From Point kV** (E) from the pull-down list.

F. Select the **To Point kV** (F) from the pull-down list.

G. Select the **Circuit Type** (G) from the pull-down list.

H. Provide the **Gross Nameplate Rating** in MVA of the **Circuit** (H). One decimal point is allowed.

I. Provide the **Circuit ID** (I).

J. Provide **Comments** (J) if desired.

K. Click on the **Add Element** button (I) to save the information. This will bring the user to the **Create Exception Request Screen**.

Add a DC Converter

If the user clicks on **Substation – DC Converter** in the **Element Type** section of the **Add Element Screen**, the following **Circuit Screen** appears.

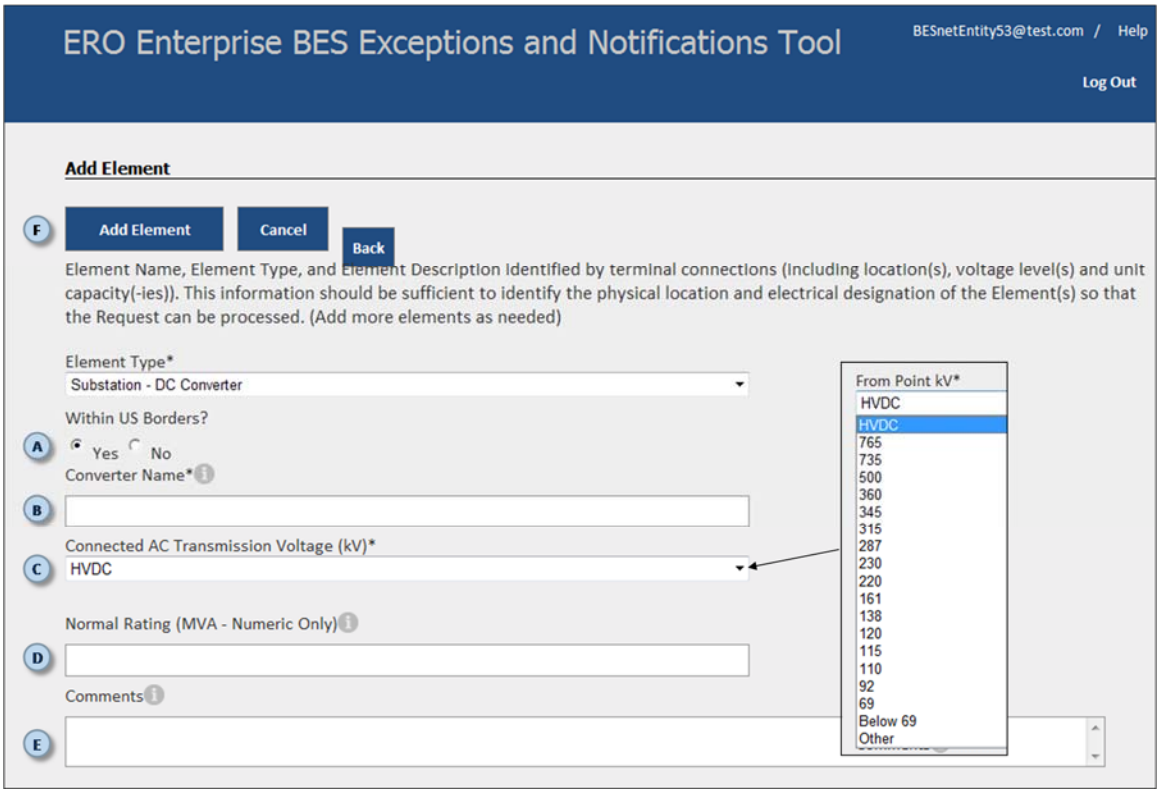


Figure 18: Add DC Converter Screen

A. Select whether the **DC Converter** is within U.S. Borders (A).

B. Provide the **Converter Name** (B).

C. Select **HVDC** as the **Connected AC Transmission Voltage** (C) from the pull-down list.

D. Provide the **Normal Rating** in MVA for the **DC Converter** (D). One decimal point is allowed.

E. Provide **Comments** (E) if desired.

F. Click on the **Add Element** button (F) to save the information. This will bring the user to the **Create Exception Request Screen**.

Add a Substation Shunt Device

If the user clicks on **Substation – Shunt Device** in the **Element Type** section of the **Add Element Screen**, the following **Shunt Device Screen** appears.

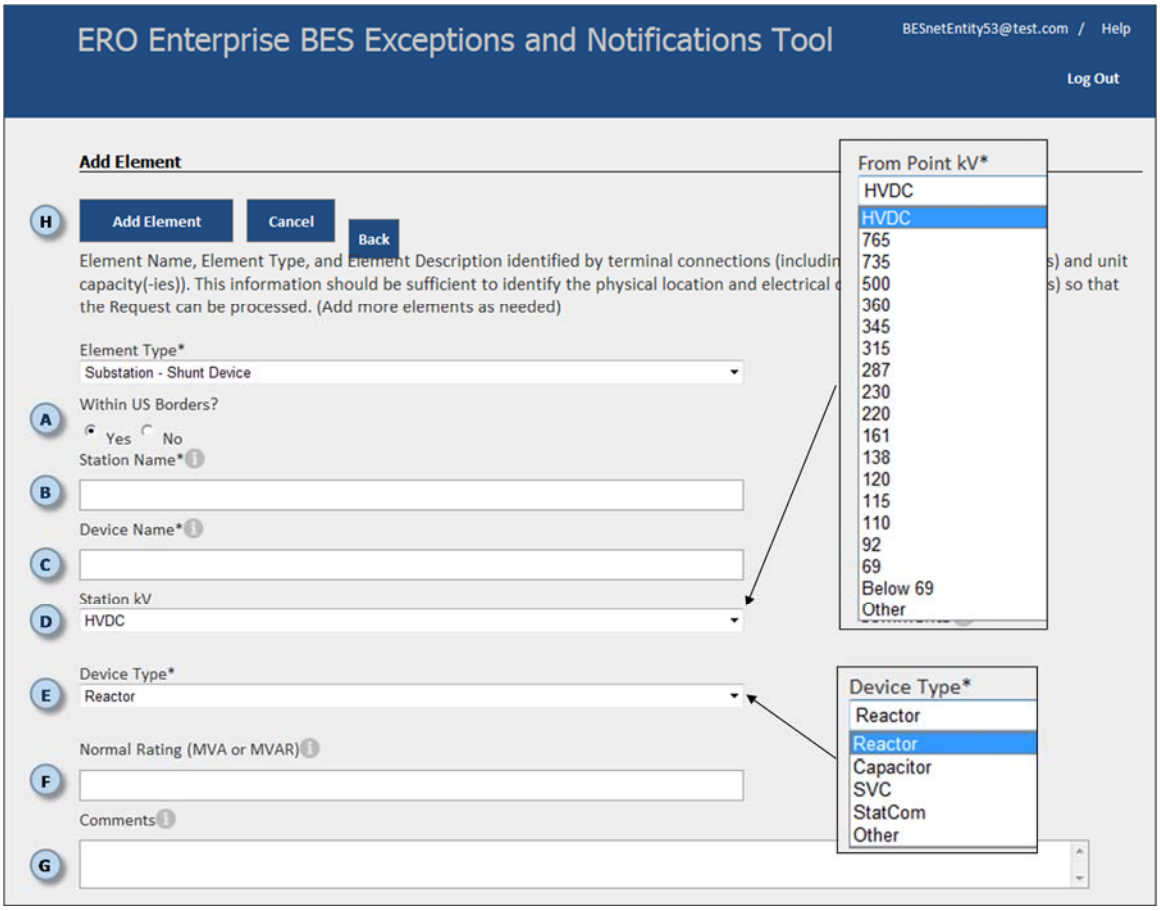


Figure 19: Add Shunt Device Screen

A. Select whether the **Shunt Device** is within U.S. Borders (A).

B. Provide the **Station Name** (B) where the device is located.

C. Provide the **Device Name** (C).

D. Select the **Station kV** (D) from the pull-down list.

E. Select the **Device Type** (E) from the pull-down list.

F. Provide the **Normal Rating** in MVA for the **Device** (F). One decimal point is allowed.

G. Provide **Comments** (G) if desired.

H. Click on the **Add Element** button (H) to save the information. This will bring the user to the **Create Exception Request Screen**.

Add a Network

If the user clicks on **Network** in the **Element Type** section of the **Add Element Screen**, the following **Network Screen** appears.

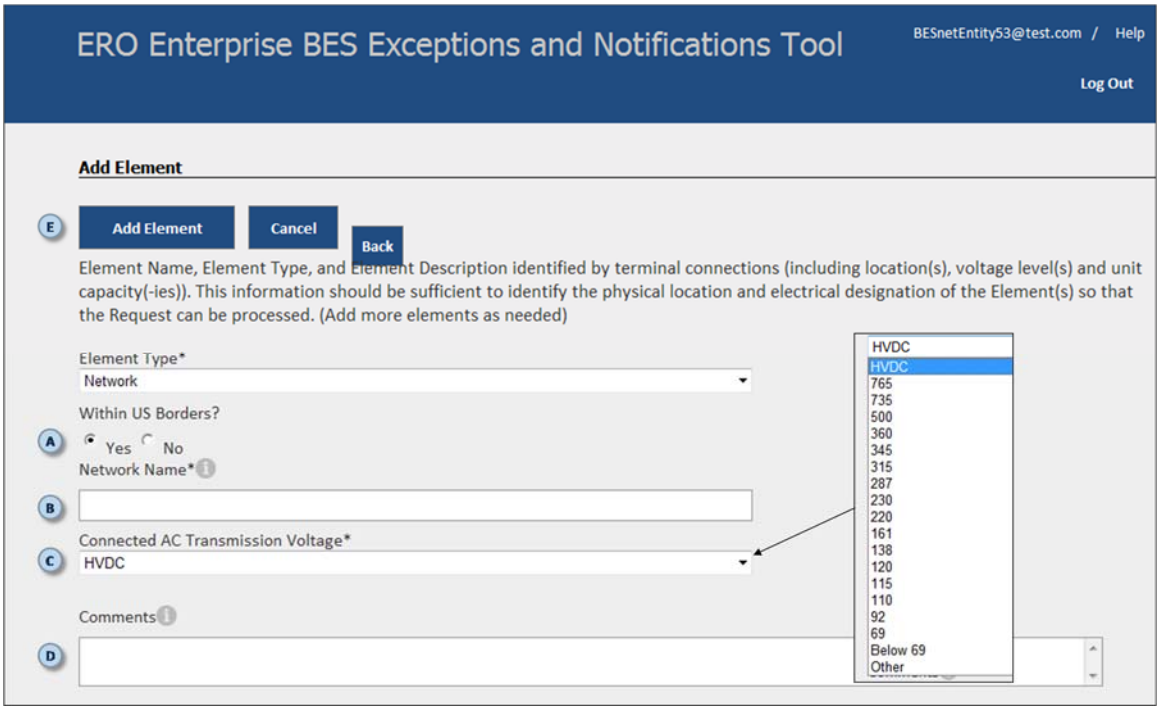


Figure 20: Add Network Screen

A. Select whether the **Network** is within the U.S. Borders (A).

B. Provide the **Network Name** (B).

C. Select the **Connected AC Transmission Voltage** (C) from the pull-down list.

D. Provide **Comments** (D) if desired.

E. Click on the **Add Element** button (E) to save the information. This will bring the user to the **Create Exception Request Screen**.

Selecting a Region for the Element

The user must select the Region(s) in which the Element is located. Multiple Regions can be selected for Circuits. To accomplish this, the user should check the checkbox(es) (A) for the appropriate Region(s) for the Exception Request.

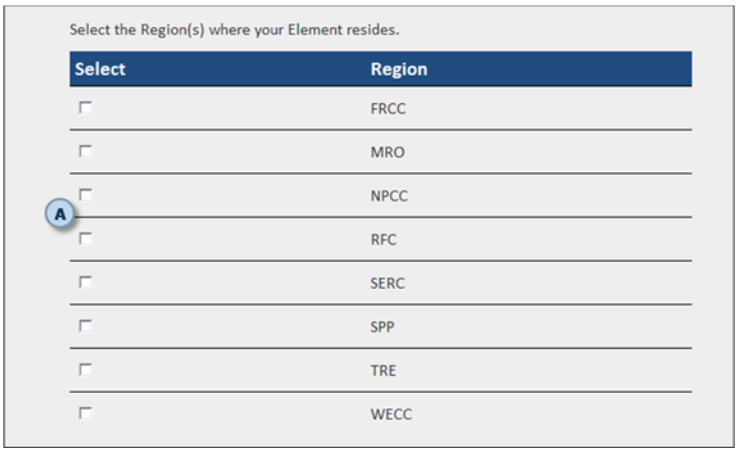


Figure 21: Select Region(s) Section of Add Element Screens

Add Supporting Documentation for an Element

Supporting documentation can be added to an Exception Request in two ways: at the Exception Request level and at the Element level. At least one supporting document[2] must be supplied for each Element in the Exception Request. To add a document, click the **Add** button in the Document section of the **Add Element Screen** (A). This will take you to the **Add Element Document Screen.**



Figure 22: Document Section of Add Element Screen

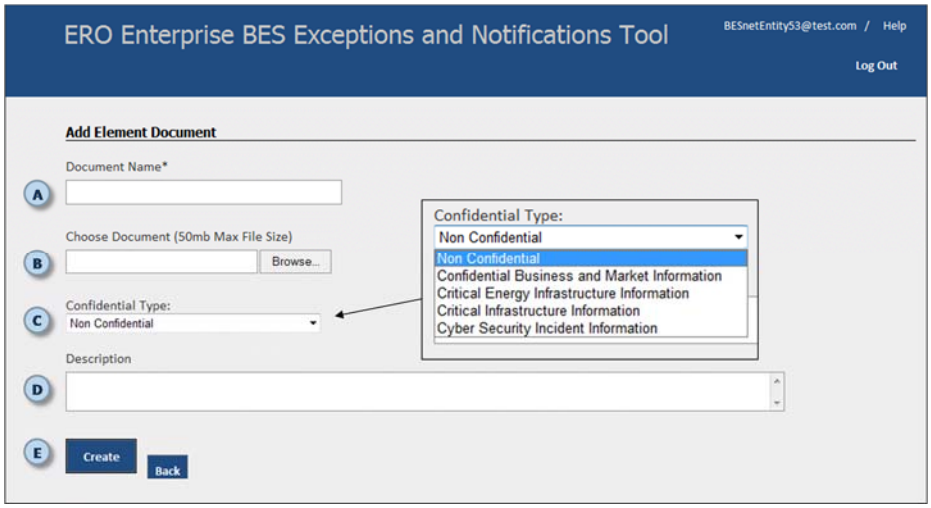


Figure 23: Add Element Document Screen

[2] Refer to the *BES Notification Review Guidelines* for additional information on necessary documentation.

A. Provide a **Document Name** (A).

B. Select a document using the **Choose Document** browsing area (B). NOTE: There is a 50 MB file size limit.

C. Select a **Confidential Type** (C) from the pull-down list.

D. Provide a **Description** (D) for the document.

E. When the **Add Element Document** form is complete, click on **Create** to attach the document to the Element. This will take the user back to the **Add Element Screen.**



Figure 24: Add Element Screen Showing Attached Document

When the supporting documentation has been attached to the Exception Request, the **Add Element Screen** will show that the **Document** (A) is attached to the Element. If additional files need to be attached as supporting documentation, the user should click on the **Add** button (B), and the **Add Document Screen** will appear again.

Removing Documentation from an Element

If the user wishes to remove a supporting document from an Element, the user should select the Element associated with the document to be removed from the **Element Section** at the bottom of the **Create Exception Request Screen** (A).

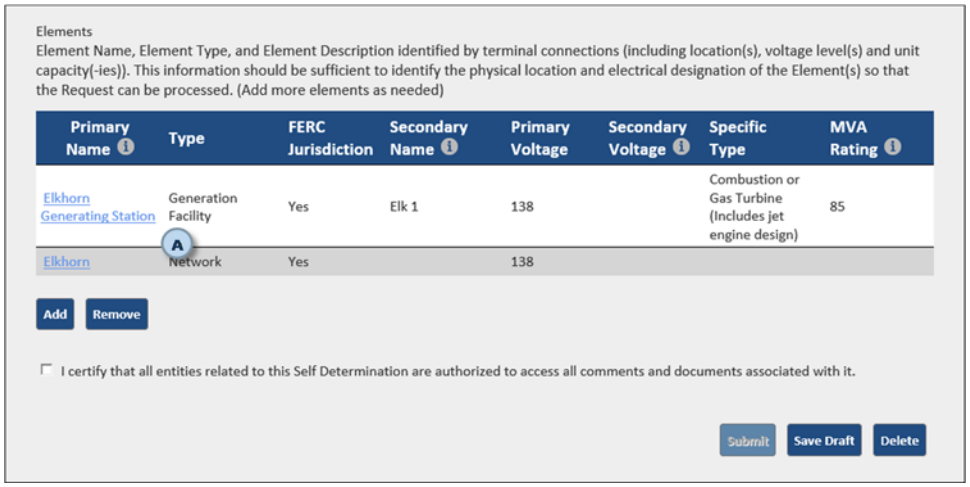


Figure 25: Create Exception Request Screen – Elements Section

This will bring the user to the **Edit Element Screen**. The user should then select the document to be removed from the bottom of the **Edit Element Screen** (Figure 29, A).

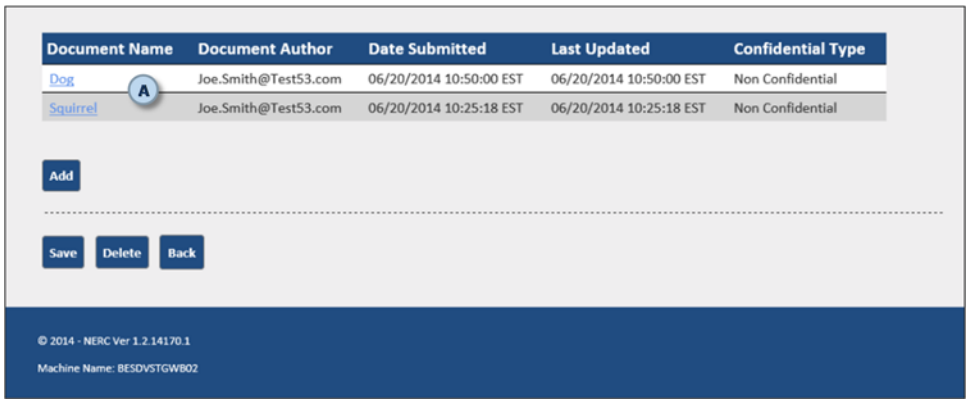


Figure 26: Edit Element Screen

This will bring the user to the **Edit Document Screen**. The user should then click on the **Delete** link (A).

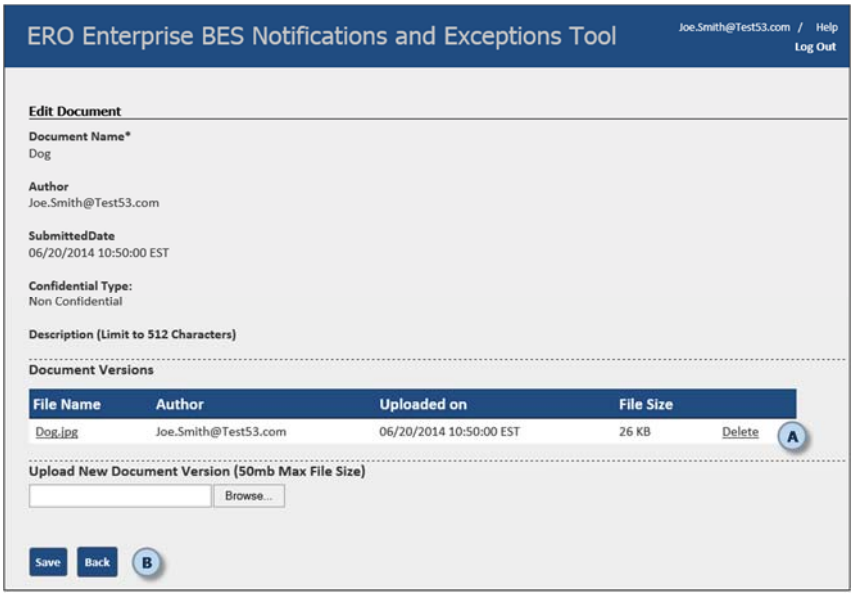


Figure 27: Edit Document Screen

That action will delete that document and return the user to the **Create Exception Request Screen.**

Editing an Element in an Exception Request

If the user wishes to edit or remove an Element from the Exception Request, the user should select the **Element to be edited** (A) in the **Elements** section of the **Create Exception Request Screen.**

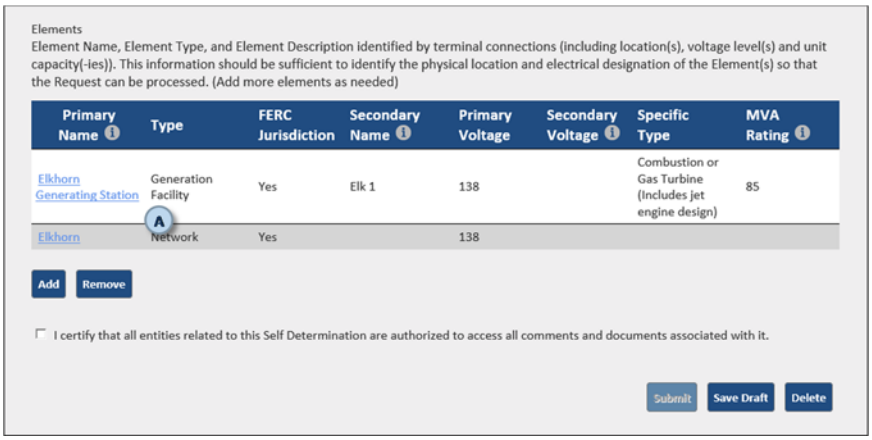


Figure 28: Create Exception Request Screen – Elements Section

This will take the user to the **Edit Element Screen**.

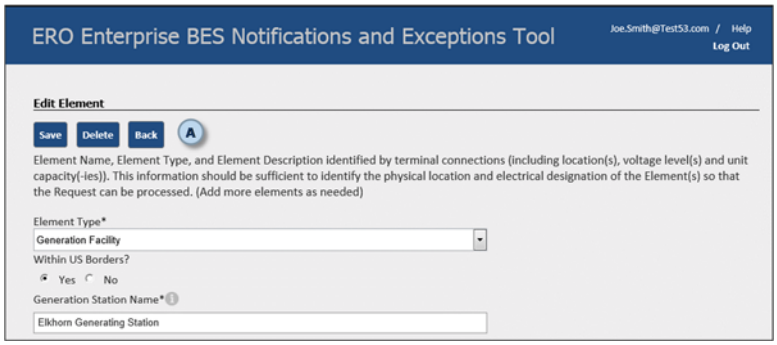


Figure 29: Top of Edit Element Screen

The user should make the desired edits to the Element. When the edits are completed, the user should click on the **Save** button (A) at the top or bottom of the **Edit Element Screen**.

Removing an Element from an Exception Request

If the user wishes to edit or remove an Element from the Notification of Self-Determination, the user should click on the **Remove** button (A) in the **Element** section of the **Create Exception Request Screen.**

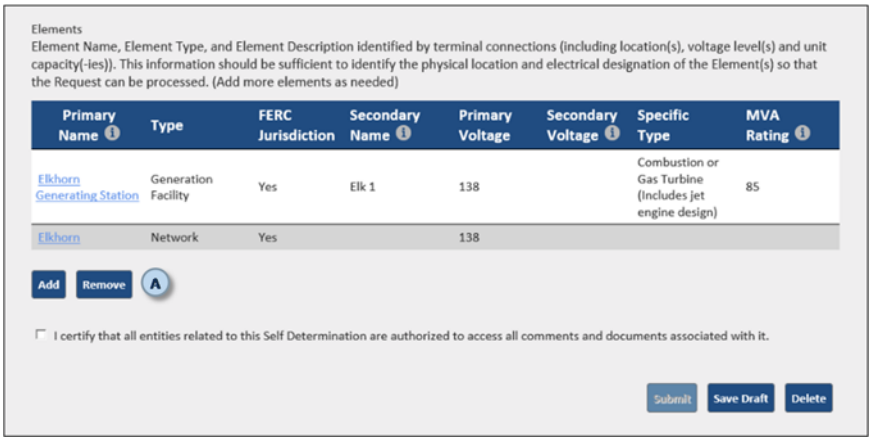


Figure 30: Create Exception Request Screen – Elements Section

This will bring the user to the **Remove Element Screen.**

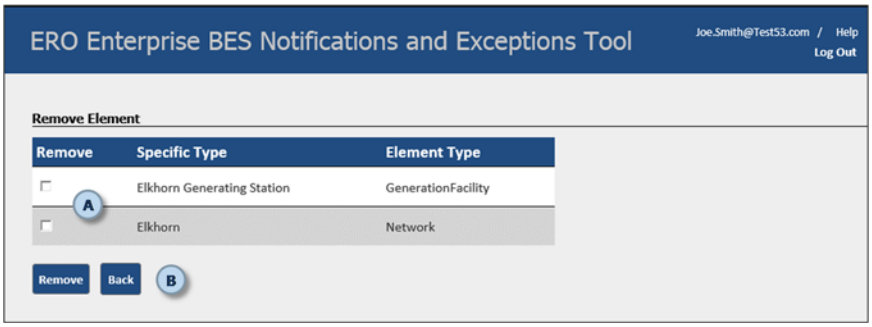


Figure 31: Remove Element Screen

The user should then select the Element to be removed by selecting the appropriate checkbox (A) and clicking the **Remove** button (B). This will take the user back to the **Create Notification of Self-Determination Screen.**

Note: This action will delete that Element from the Notification, as well as all documentation and comments associated with that Element.

Completing Section 3: Detailed Engineering Information – Documents

Attaching Exception Request Documents

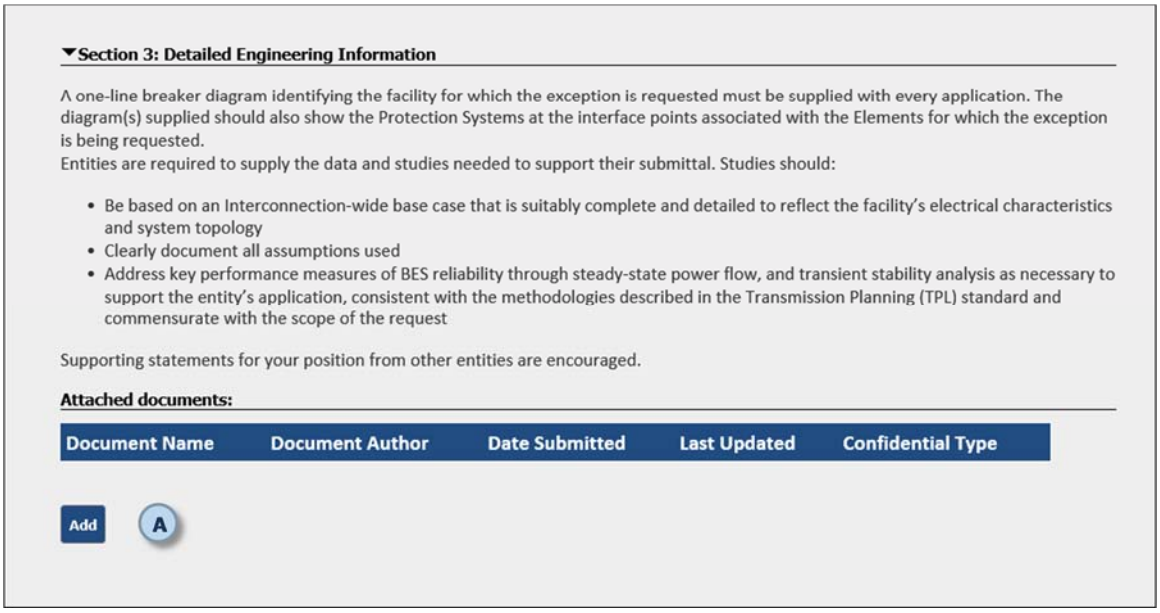


Figure 32: Create Exception Request Section 3: Attached Documents

Section 3 contains **Detailed Engineering Information** about the Exception Request. The first part of Section 3 allows the user to attach supporting documents concerning the overall Exception Request. Those documents are in addition to the ones associated with the individual Elements of the Exception Request. Add a document by clicking the **Add** button (A). This will take the user to the **Add Document Screen**.

There, the user can:

A. Provide a **Document Name** (A) for the document being attached.

B. Select a document using the **Choose Document** browsing area (B).
NOTE: There is a 50 MB file size limit.

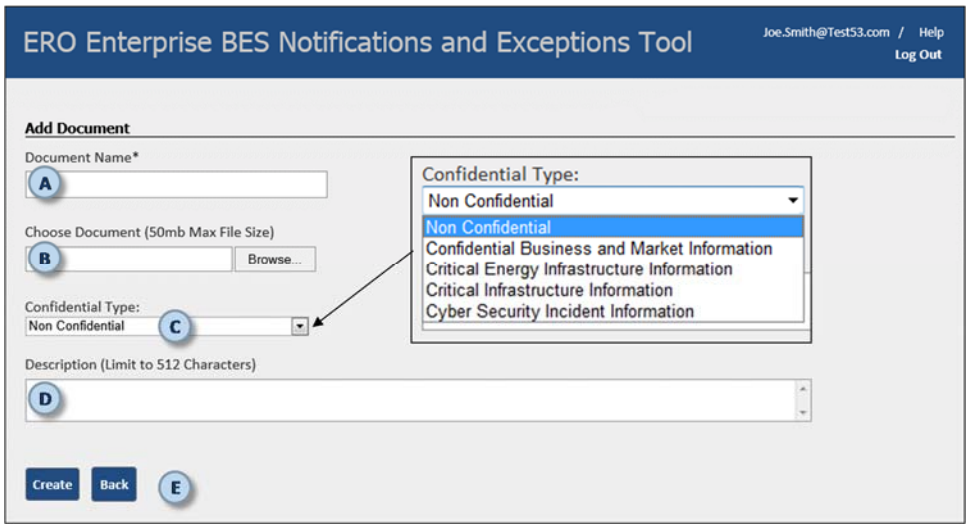


Figure 33: Add Document Screen

C. Select a **Confidential Type** (C) from the pull-down list.

D. Provide a **Description** (D) for the document.

E. When the **Add Element Document** form is complete, click on the **Create** button to attach the document to the Exception Request. This will take the user back to the **Attach Documents Section** of the **Create Exception Request Screen.**

Removing Exception Request Documents

If the user wishes to remove a document from an Exception Request, the user should click on the **Document** link (A) in the **Attach Documents Section** of the **Create Exception Request Screen.**

Note: Documents can only be removed from an Exception Request while the request is still in draft form, prior to submitting to the Region for processing.

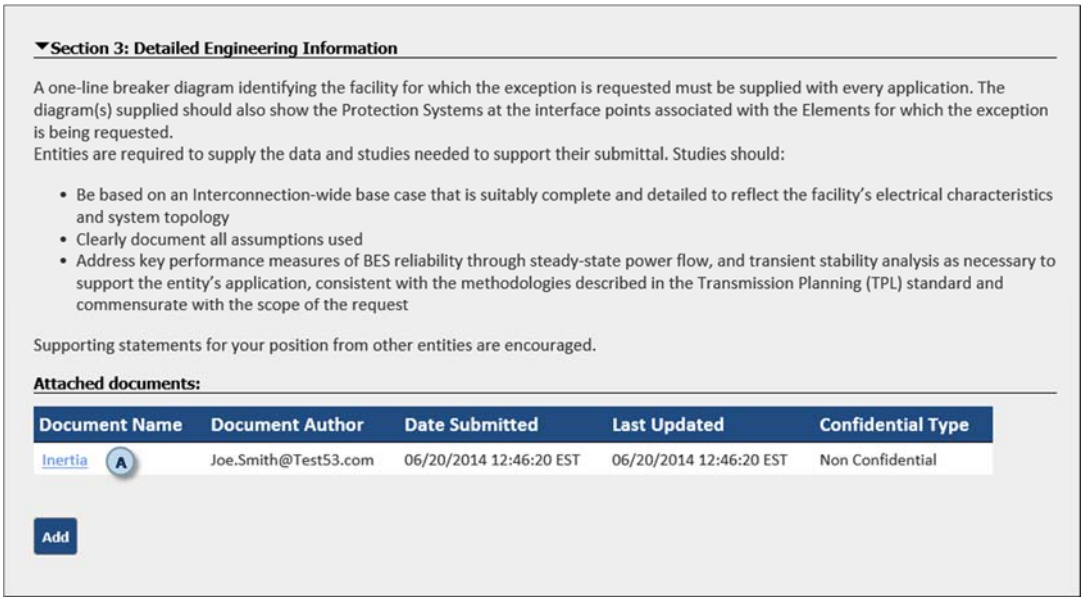


Figure 34: Attached Documents Section of the Create Exception Request Screen

This will bring the user to the **Edit Document Screen**. The user should then click on the **Delete** link (A) at the right side of the document to be deleted.

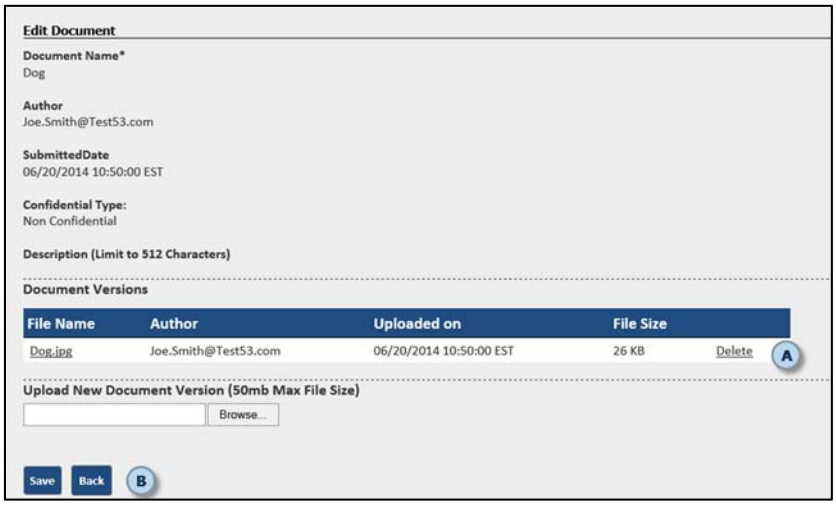
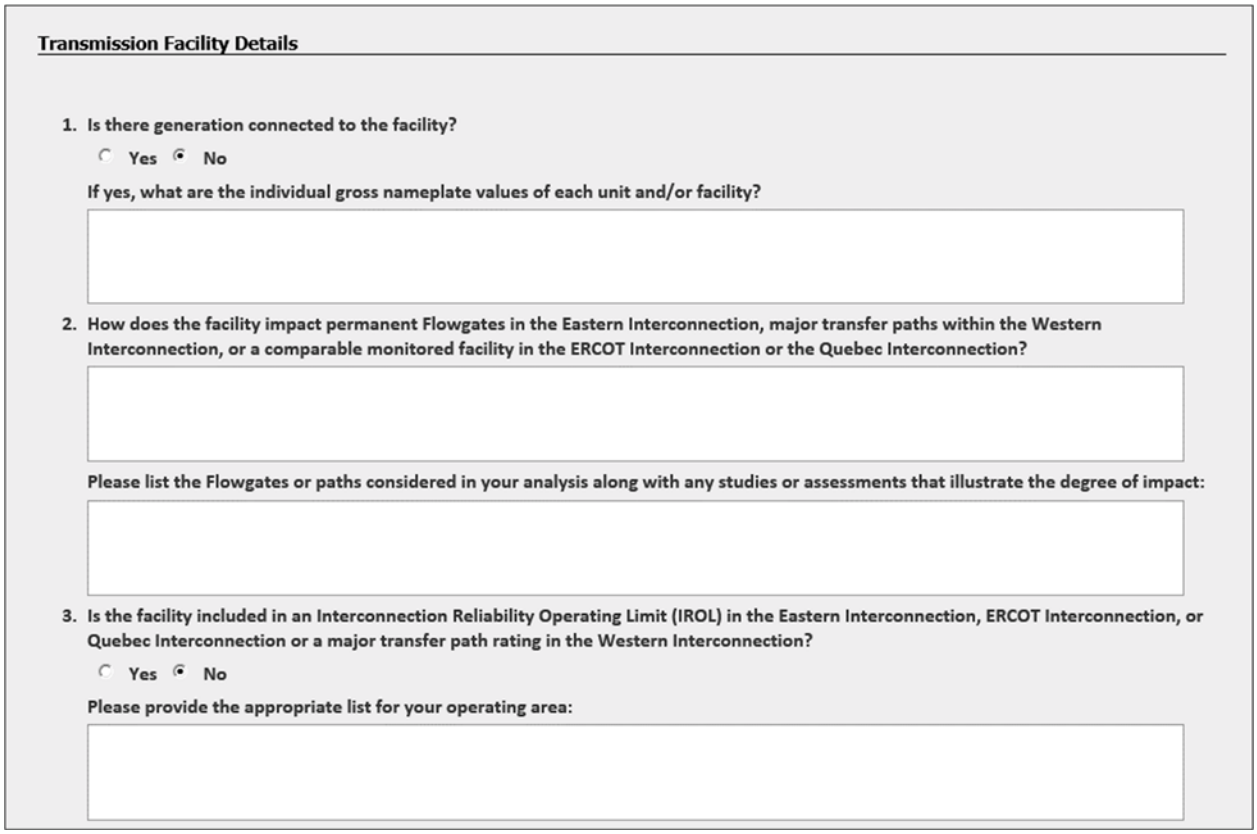


Figure 35: Edit Document Screen

That action will delete that document and return the user to the **Attach Documents Section** of the **Create Exception Request Screen.**

Transmission Facility Details

If the Exception Request contains a **Transmission Facility Element(s)** (if **Transmission** was selected in the **Add Element Description** area of Section 1 of the Exception Request), the user will be required to complete the following information:



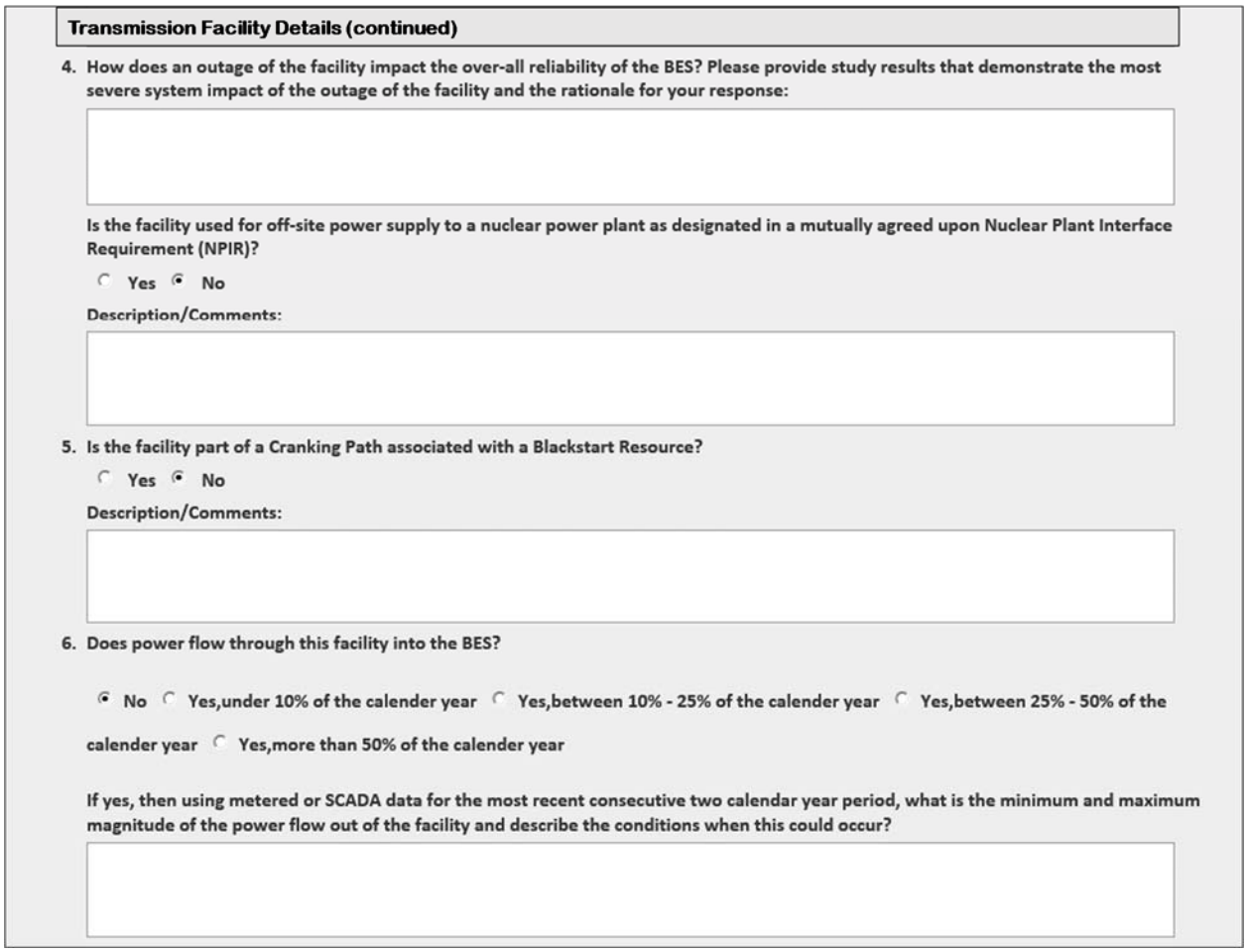


Figure 36: Transmission Facility Details

*NOTE: If the answer to any question is **no**, comments are not required.*

Generation Facility Details

If the Exception Request contains a **Generation Facility Element(s)** (if **Generation** was selected in the **Add Element Description** area of section 1 of the Exception Request), the user will be required to complete the following information:

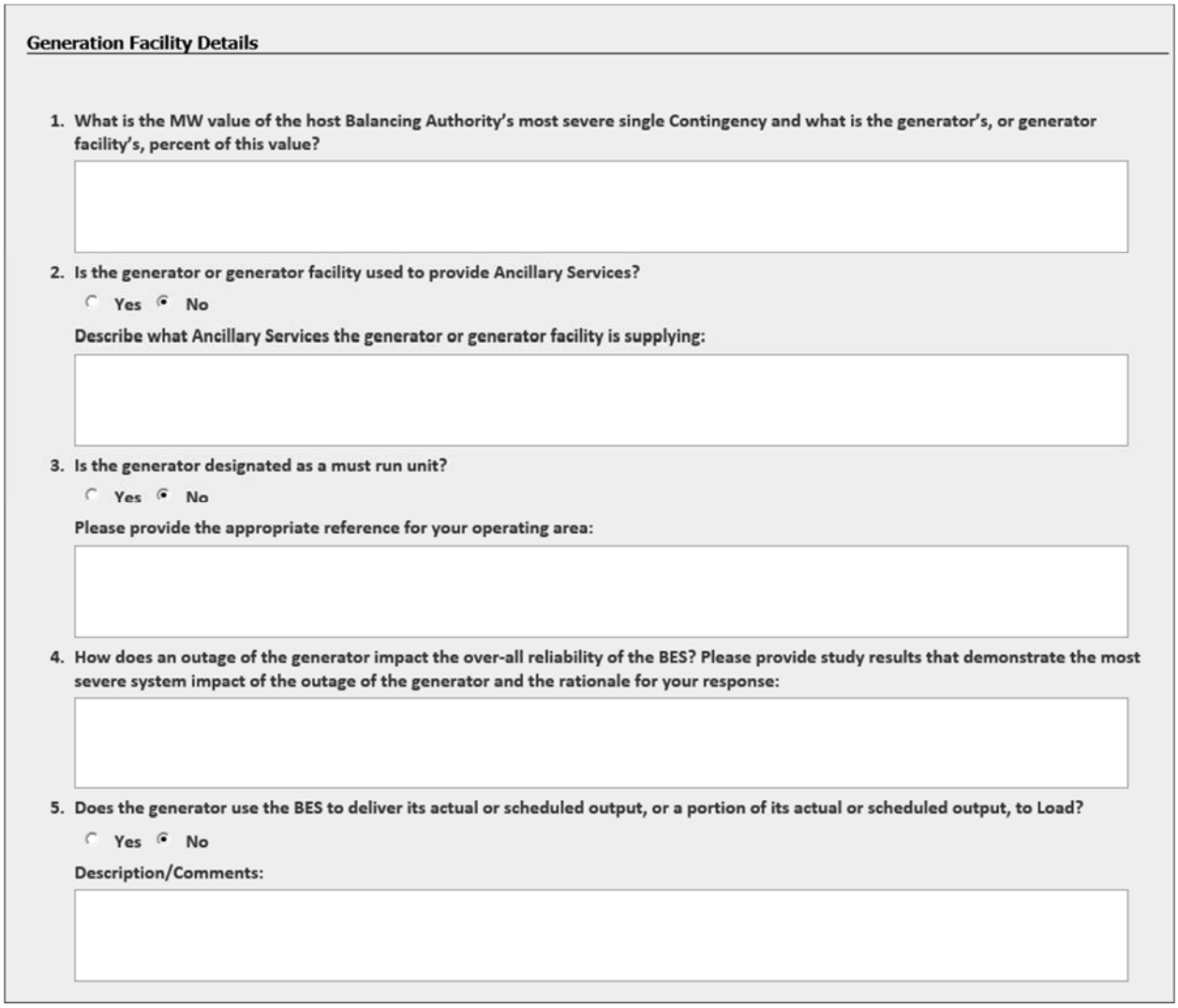


Figure 37: Generation Facility Details

*NOTE: If the answer to any question is **no**, comments are not required.*

Certifying and Submitting an Exception Request

Before submitting the Exception Request, the request must be **certified by an authorized representative of the Entity**. To accomplish this, the **Name of the authorized representative so certifying** (A) and **Representative's Title/Department** (B) must be entered in **Section 2** of the **Create Exception Request Screen**.

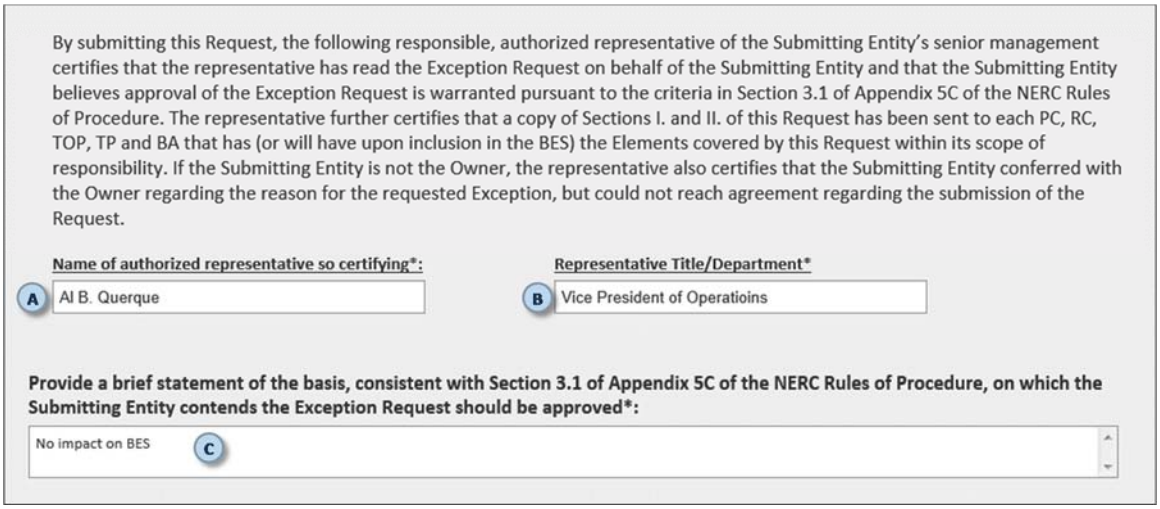


Figure 38: Section 2 of the Create Exception Request Screen

The user must also enter a **brief statement of the basis**, consistent with Section 3.1 of Appendix 5C of the NERC Rules of Procedure (C), on which the Submitting Entity contends the Exception Request should be approved (***REQUIRED***).

The user must then select the **Certification** checkbox (A) at the bottom of the **Create Exception Screen** before submitting the Exception Request.

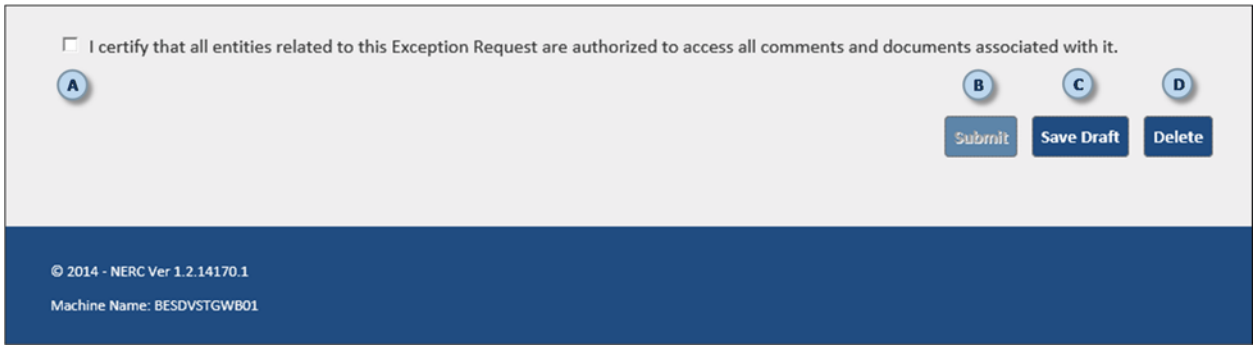


Figure 39: Bottom of the Create Exception Request Screen

To submit the Exception Request, the user should click on the **Submit** button (B). At any time, the user may **Save a Draft** (C) or **Delete the Request** (D) by clicking on the buttons at the lower right of the **Create Exception Request Screen.**

Once the Exception Request has been submitted, the user will be returned to the **BESNet Dashboard.**

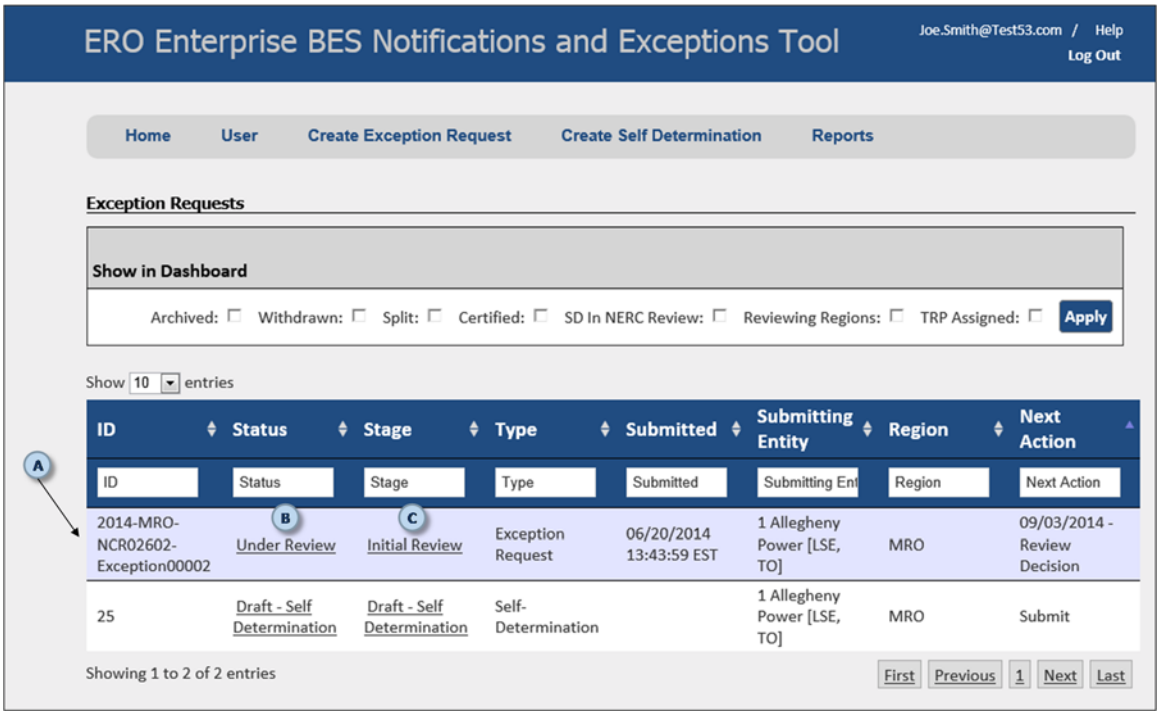


Figure 40: BESNet Dashboard

The **ID** for the Exception Request will be complete with year, Region, NCR, and the Exception number. The Status and Stage of the Exception Request will show “Under Review” (B) and “Initial Review” (C), respectively.

Appendix A – Version History

The following is the history of changes to this document.

Version	Date	Change(s) Made	Change Tracking
1-0	May 9, 2014	Initial Release – User Account Management Section only	
1-1	June 19, 2014	Incremental Release – Addition of Submittal of Self-Determined Notifications	
1-2	June 29, 2014	Incremental Release – Addition of Submittal of Exception Requests, separation of document into sections for downloading	

NERC
NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY CORPORATION

BESNet Training Manual

Pre-Implementation Account Management and Self-Determined Notifications for Registered Entities

June 18, 2014
Version 1-1

RELIABILITY | ACCOUNTABILITY






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Introduction

NOTE: This pre-implementation manual ONLY addresses Account Management for Registered Entities and Submittal of Self-Determined Notifications. As we near the July 1, 2014, implementation date, additional sections will be made available regarding other parts of the process and application.

Entity Administrator accounts should be the first accounts set up within the BESnet Application. Once the Primary Compliance Contact has established his or her Entity Administrator account, they can then work with the other individuals within their companies to set up additional User and Administrator accounts.

This user manual provides a guided walkthrough to illustrate the BES Notifications and Exceptions Tool (BESNet). The system provides a workflow-based process that emulates the BES Exceptions Procedure, as outlined in NERC RoP Appendix 5, to route, evaluate and take actions on Exception Requests and Self-Determined Notifications.

Users have the ability to login to a secure portal and create both Exception Requests and Self-Determination Notifications. Depending upon the selection, the user is provided with the appropriate Exception or Self-Determination form to which they are able to provide details regarding the Request / Notification. Each form captures the relevant details for the Submitting and Owning Entities, Inclusion and Exclusion rules, Element Descriptions and one or more elements.

Upon completion of the form, the Entity is able to submit the Request / Notification. The system will automatically notify all appropriate parties of the submission. This includes Submitting and Owning Entities, Scope of Responsibility Entities, Regional Entities and NERC. BESNet provides facilities for Regional Entities to acknowledge Notificaton elements and process Exception Requests, request and receive supplemental information, alert and notify participants, issue recommendations, and monitor periodic re-certification of requests. In addition, NERC can create proposed and final decisions, as well as manage appeals to those decisions.

Queries have been created for accessing information about Exception Requests and Notifications enabling the BESNet to produce a list of facilities and Elements for which: 1) exceptions to the definition have been granted and 2) self-determination Notifications have been submitted. NERC will publicly post reports on its website that will provide interested persons, including applicable governmental authorities, information regarding submitted Exception Requests that may be of interest to them.

BESNet Program Cautions

The following cautions should be followed when using the BESNet program.

A. DO NOT use the back button in your browser.

B. Be sure to scroll right and left within your browser (depending on your screen resolution) to ensure that all required information can be entered in the browser.

Version History

The following is the history of changes to this document.

Version	Date	Change(s) Made	Change Tracking
1-0	May 9, 2014	Initial Release – User Account Management Section only	
1-1	June 19, 2014	Incremental Release – Addition of Submittal of Self-Determined Notifications	

User Account Management

Introduction

The BESNet application operates within the framework of the ERO Enterprise Platform, which includes several applications, such as the NERC Standards Balloting System.

Note – If you already have an ERO Platform Account (for the new Standards Balloting System), please proceed to Setting up New Account in the BESNet Application section of this User Guide.

When creating accounts, it is essential to make sure your Entity Administrator account is set up before any other accounts. Your Entity Administrator should be the person who is registered with NERC as your Primary Compliance Contact (PCC). Requesting accounts before the Entity Administrator account is set up will result in having to re-register those accounts later.

Creating a New Account

If you do not have an existing ERO Platform user ID, you will need to create a new account for the BESNet application. The new user must supply user profile information and identify the organization the user represents.

Once an account is created, an administrator will vet the user as a person for role-based, individual access to the system. Once vetted, a user will be notified through email that they can login to the system.

Creating Account Step 1: User Name and Password

Navigate to the following URL:

https://BESNET.EROENTERPRISE.COM

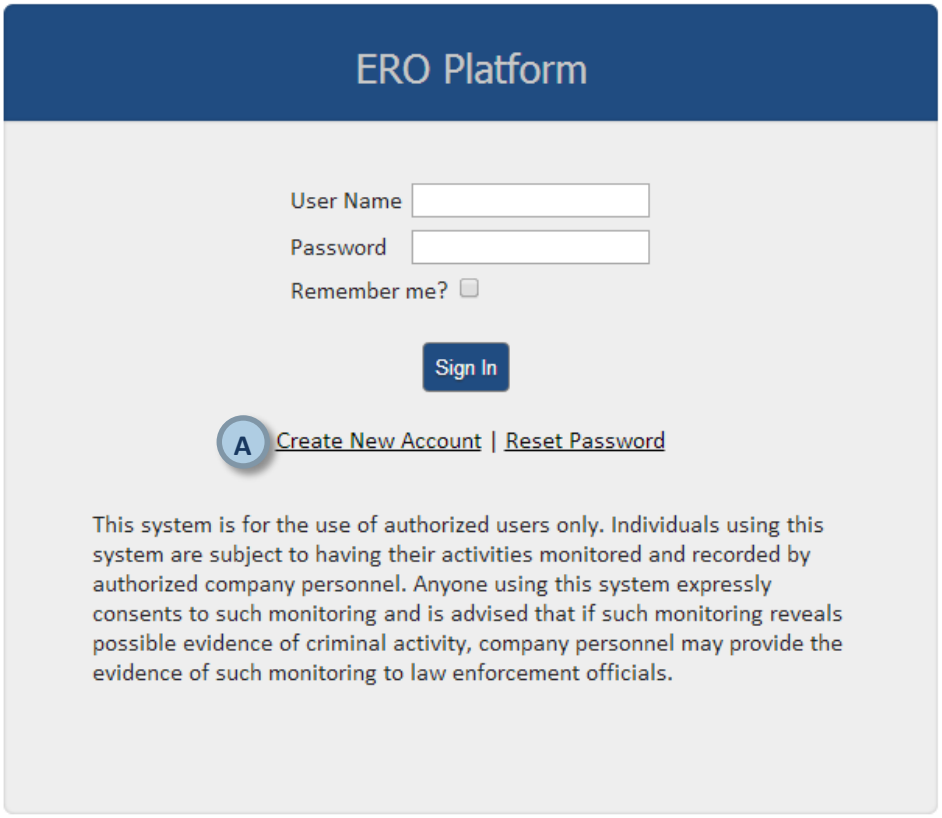


Figure 1: ERO Platform Login Screen

A. Click on **Create New Account** (A). The following screen will appear.

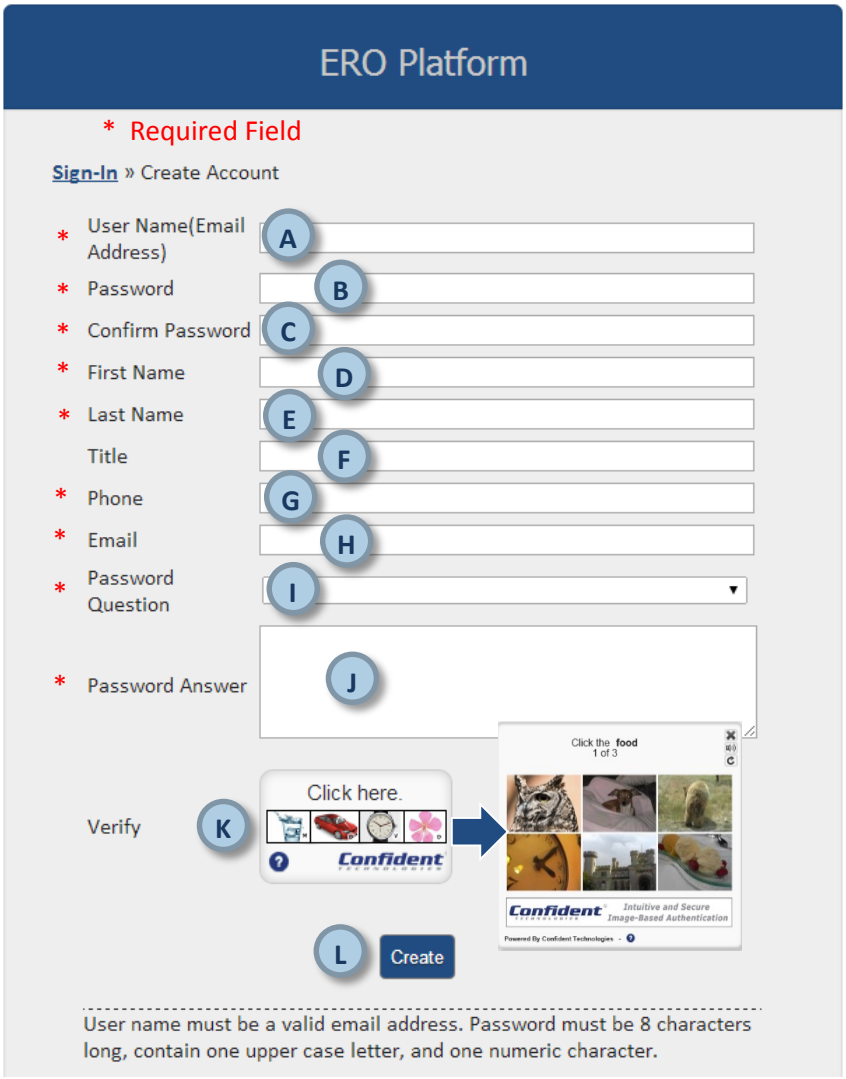


Figure 2: Create Account Screen

To create a new account,

A. Enter a **User Name** (MUST be a business email address - this can be the same email in step H).
B. Enter a **Password**. As the on-screen instructions indicate, this password:
    a. Must be at least eight (8) characters in length.
    b. Must contain at least one uppercase letter.
    c. Must contain at least one numeric character.
C. Re-enter the **Password**.
D. Enter the user's **First Name**.
E. Enter the user's **Last Name**.
F. Enter the user's **Title**.
G. Enter a valid business **Phone Number** where the user may be reached.
H. Enter an **Email Address**. This ***MUST*** be a valid email address, as it will be used to send ***ALL*** notifications of actions and status updates within the system. Both **User Name** and **Email Address** may be the same.

NOTE: Changing this field does not change a user's username.

I. For security purposes, select a **Password Question** from the list of questions.

J. Enter the **Password Answer** to the security question (I).

K. Select the **Verify** icon (K). Several images display. Select the correct image of each description as instructed until all three pictures have been verified.

L. Click the **Create** button (L).

Creating Account Step 2: Verify Account

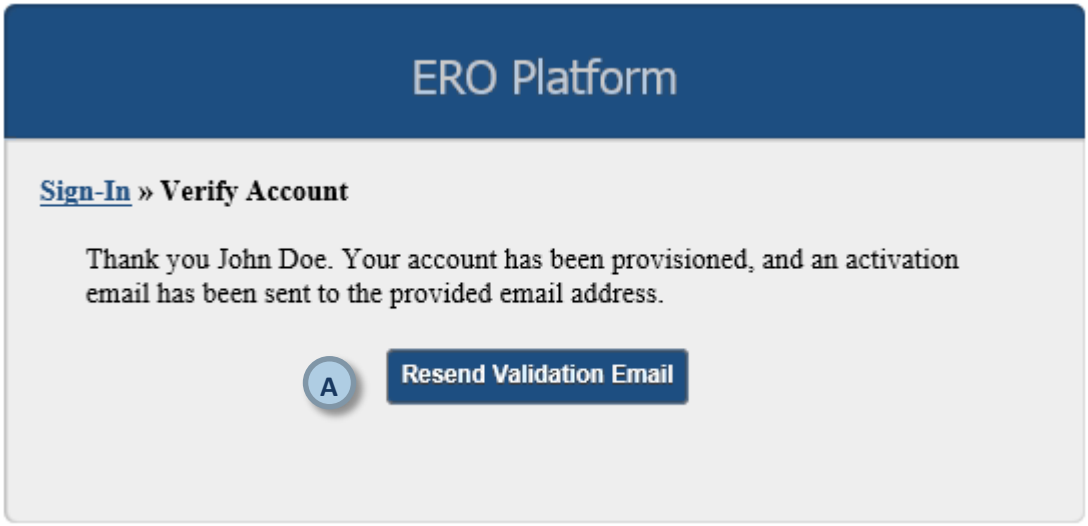


Figure 3: Verify Account Screen

Upon successful verification of the account information provided on the **Create Account** form, a verification email will be sent to the email account used to create your user account.

A. If you have not received the activation email, SELECT the **Resend Validation Email** (A) to have the activation email resent to the email address provided.

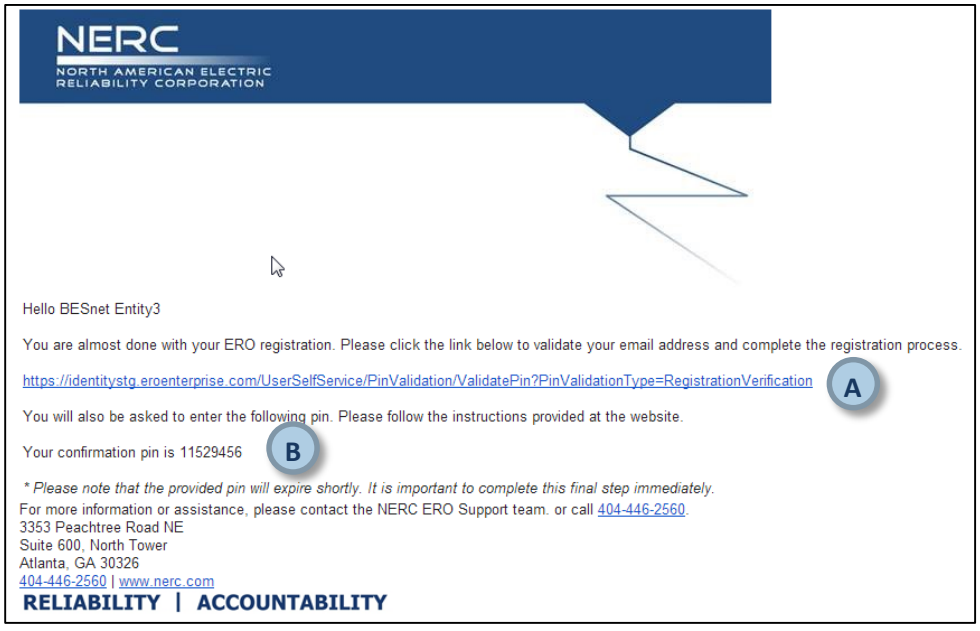


Figure 4: Sample Activation E-Mail

A. Click on the **link** (A) provided in the verification email above. The following screen will appear:

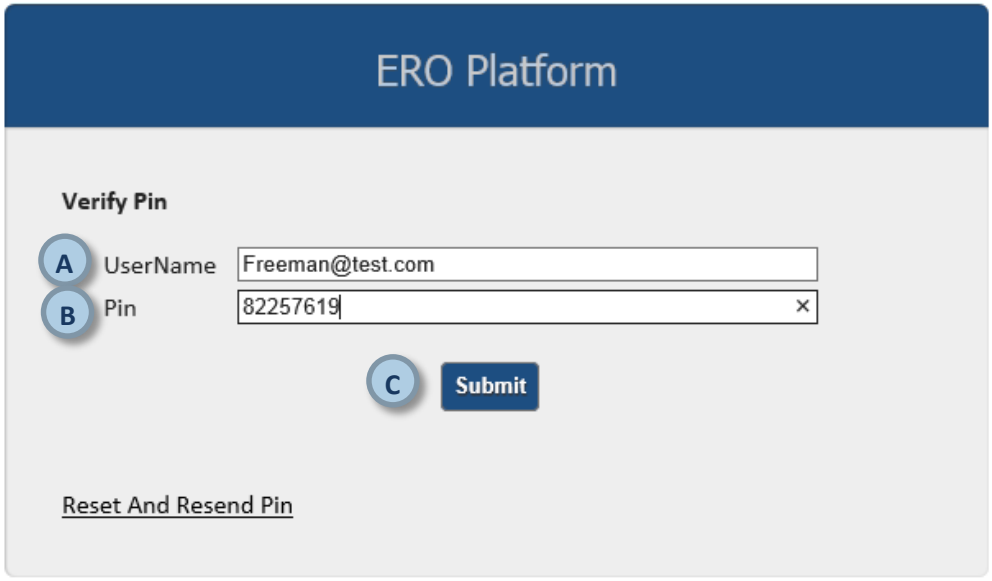


Figure 5: PIN Verification Screen

A. Enter your **User Name** (A).

B. Enter the **PIN** (B) contained in the verification email.

C. Click **Submit** (C).

PIN Expiration Procedure

If the PIN has expired, the following screen will appear:

NOTE: PINs expire 60 minutes after issuance.

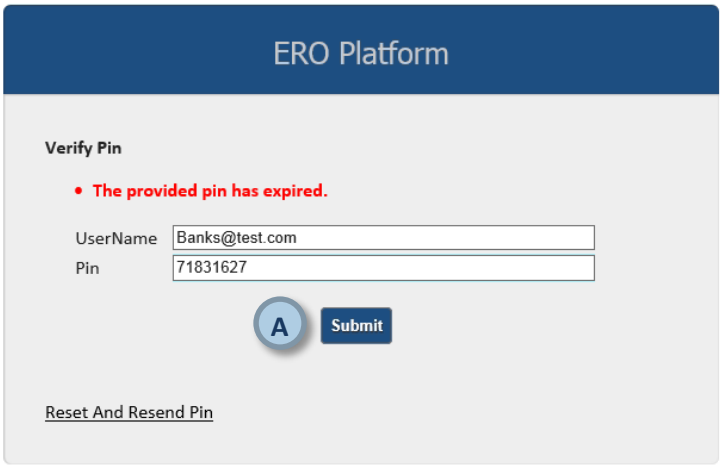


Figure 6: PIN Expiration Screen

A. Click on **Reset and Reset PIN** (A). A new verification email will be sent with a new PIN.

Once you have successfully created a user ID and it has been verified, the **ERO Platform Screen** will appear.

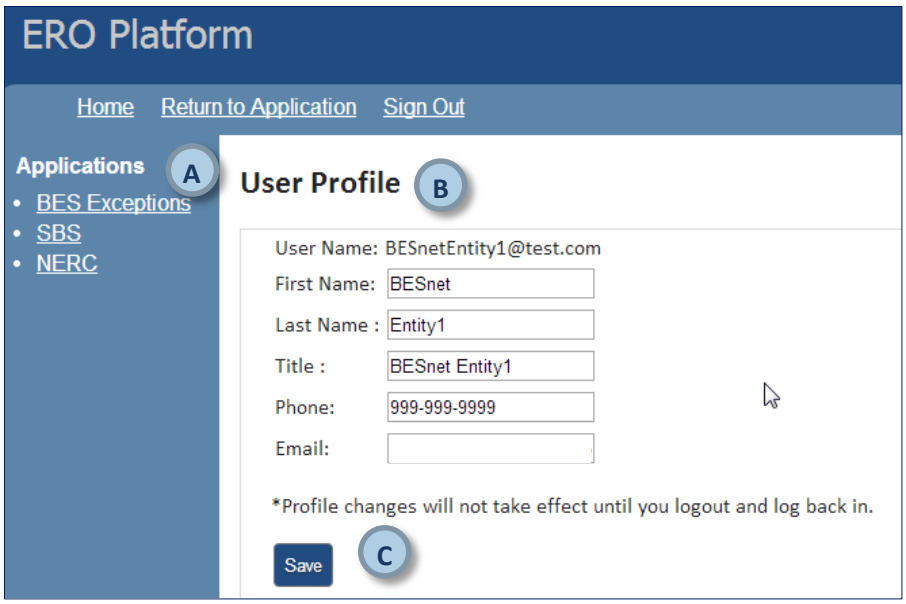


Figure 7: ERO Platform Screen

A. To enter the BESNet application, click on **BES Exceptions** (A).

B. At this screen, you also have the opportunity to modify your User Profile (B).If you have updated your profile, click **Save** (C) to save the changes.

   Note: You will have to logout of the application and log back in for the profile changes to take effect.

Logging Into the BESNet Application

For users who already have an account with BESNet, navigate to the following URL:

https://BESNET.EROENTERPRISE.COM

A. Enter the **User Name** (A).

B. Enter the **Password** (B) entered during the user registration process defined in Section **Creating a New Account.**

C. If desired, check the **Remember me?** (C) Checkbox, which gives permission for the system to remember the credentials entered.

D. Once completed with these fields, complete the login process by pressing the **Sign In** (D) button.

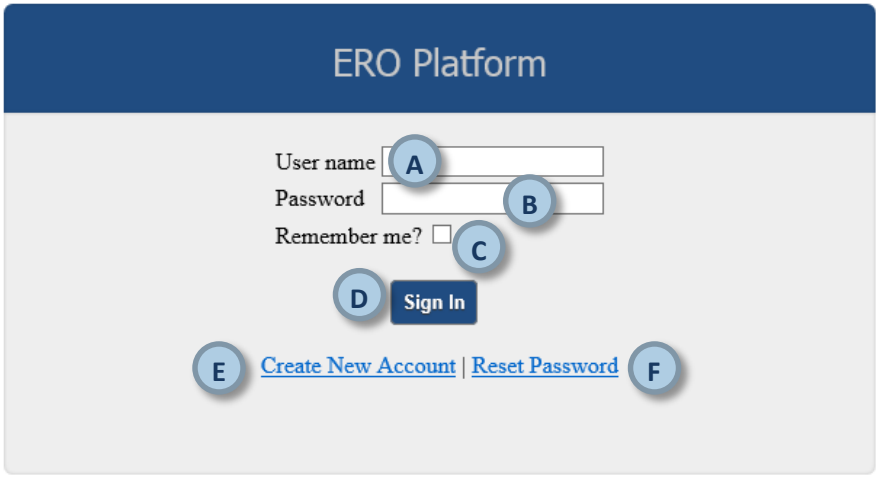


Figure 8: ERO Platform Log-In Screen

For users who do not have an account:

E. Click the **Create New Account** (E) link. See Section **Creating a New Account** for more details.

To reset your password.

F. Click the **Reset Password** (F) link. See Section **Resetting the User Password** for more details.

Selecting the User's Entity to Use

If the user has been vetted as a representative for more than one Entity, the user will first be prompted to select the Entity they wish to represent for the current session. Users who are only vetted for a single Entity will skip this step.

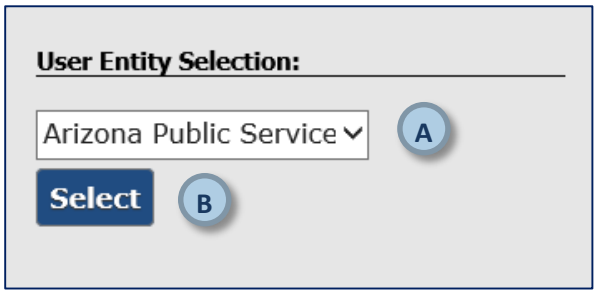


Figure 9: User Entity Selection Screen

To identify the Entity the user will represent during this session:

A. Select the **Entity Name** (A) from the Entity list. Only those for which this user has been vetted will appear.

B. Click the **Select** (B) button.

Setting up Your BESNet Application Account

Once your BESNet User ID has been established, you will need to finish setting up the functions of the new account.

Navigate to the BESNet application: https://BESNET.EROENTERPRISE.COM. You will be shown your user profile.

Select the BES Exceptions tab on the left (A) of the **ERO Enterprise Platform Entry Page**.

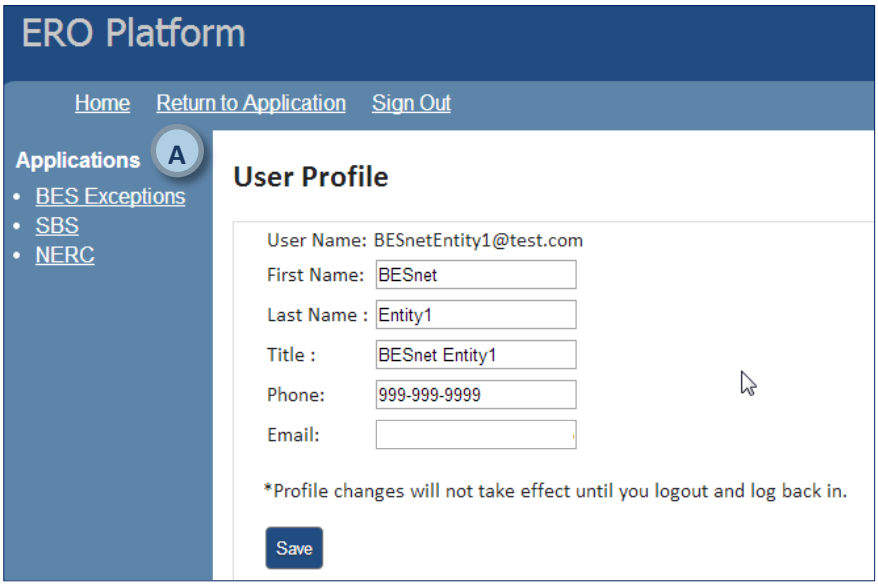


Figure 10: ERO Enterprise Platform Entry Page

Account Setup Step 1: Select Account Type

You must select an **Account Type**. Registered Entities may only select the Registered Entity account type.

A. Select Registered Entity as your **Account Type** (A).

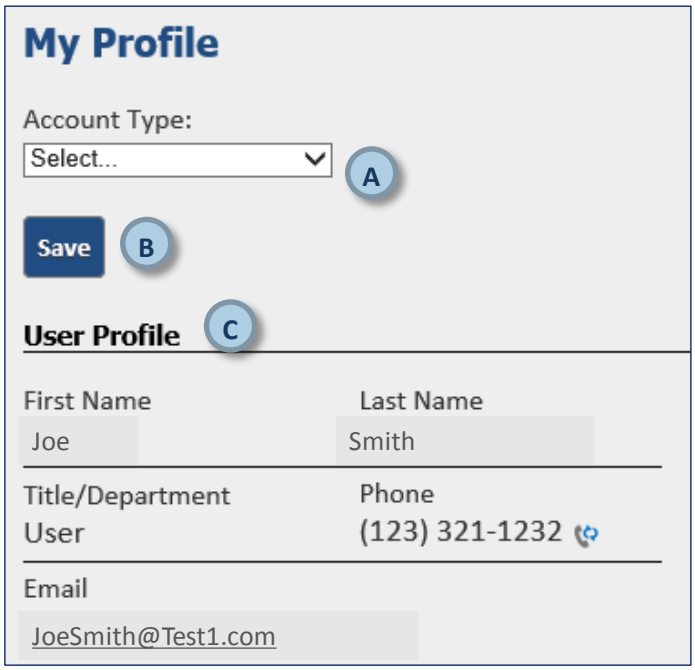


Figure 11: Account Type Selection Screen

Account Type	Description
Registered Entity	Accounts for members of the entities registered with NERC and/or the national Regions. Includes members of submitting, owning, and scope of responsibility entities.

NOTE: Each user account may only be created for a single account type. Account type selection is only available one time following new account creation. ***The account type cannot be changed once it has been selected.***

B. Click the **Save** button (B). This will take you to the **My Profile** screen.

NOTE: The user's profile information entered during the first step of account creation appears in the ***User Profile*** *area (C).*

Account Setup Step 2: Association of Account with Entities

The next step in the registration process is to associate the user's account with one or more Entities on the **My Profile Screen**.

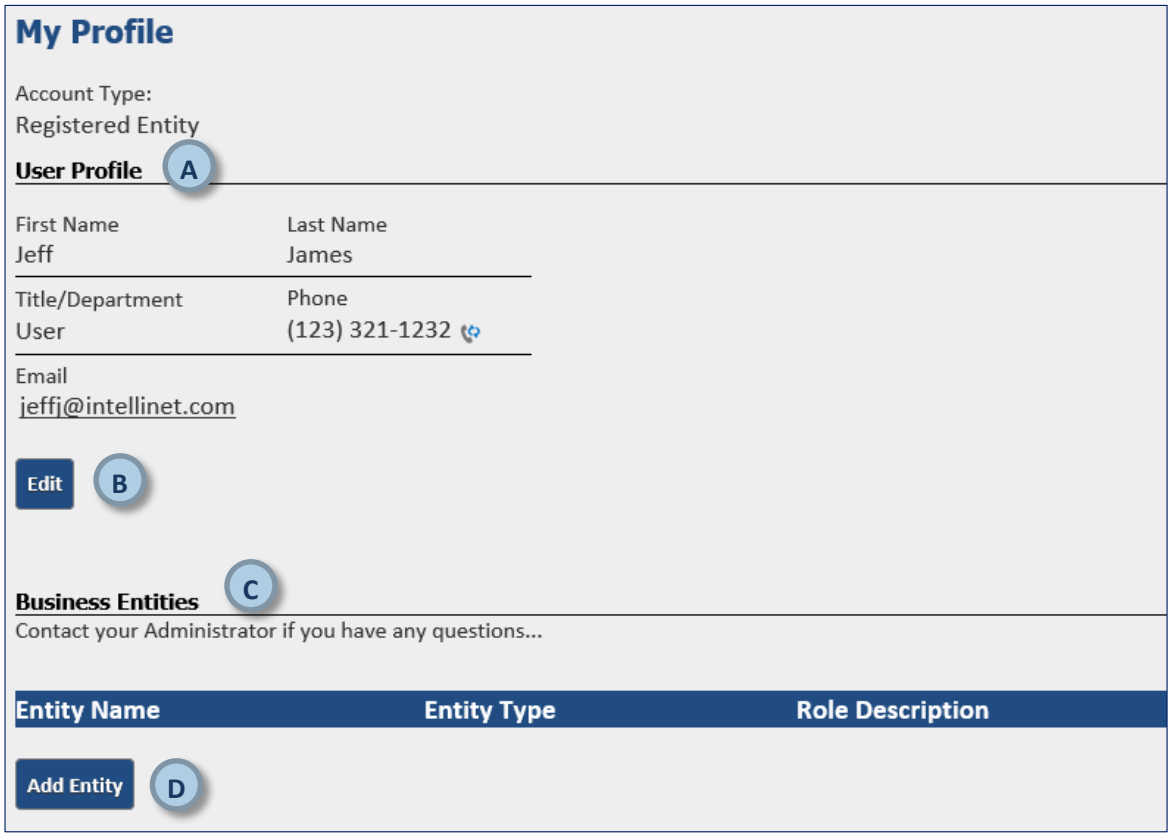


Figure 12: My Profile Screen

The next step in the registration process is to associate the account with one or more Entities.

A. View the User Profile information in the **User Profile** section (A).
B. If desired, edit the **User Profile** information by clicking the **Edit** button (B). See the **Editing Your User Profile** section for further details.
C. View the listing of the **Business Entities** (C) with which the account is currently associated in the **Business Entities** list. When initially registering, this list will be empty.
D. To associate the account with an Entity, click the **Add Entity** button (D). This displays the **Entity Listing Screen** allowing you to select the Entities to be applicable to this user.

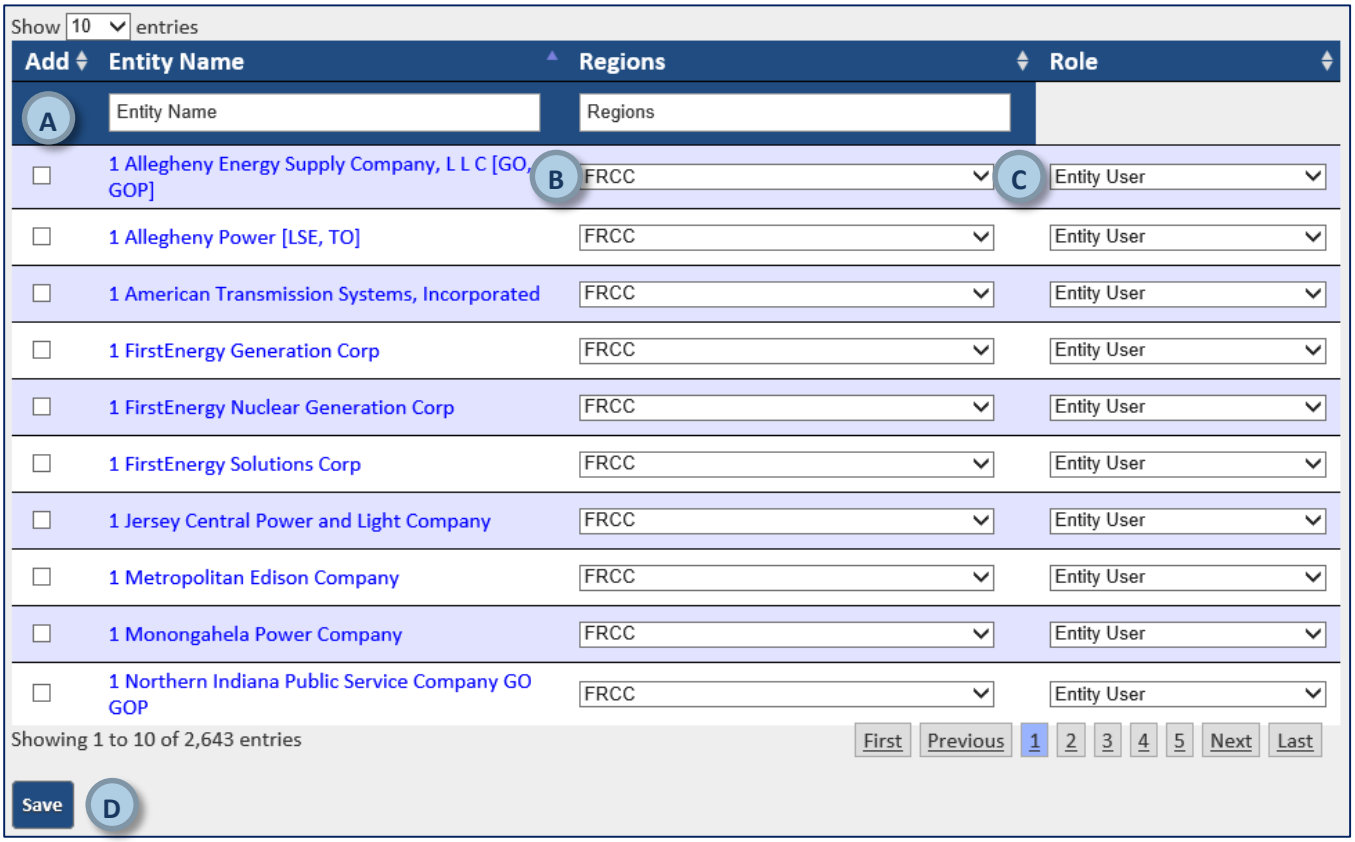


Figure 13: Entity Selection Screen

A. From this list, select the Entity to associate with the account by clicking the checkbox to the left of the Entity record, in the **Add** column (A).

   a. The Entity listing can be filtered by typing in the **Entity Name** filter textbox in the header (directly beneath the **Entity Name** label).

B. Select the **Region** (B) that will be responsible for vetting the user account if an administrator for this Registered Entity does not yet exist in the system. (If there is an Entity Administrator role already associated to the Registered Entity, a vetting request will be sent to that Entity Administrator).

   NOTE: Choosing the Regional Entity in this screen does not associate a Registered Entity to a Region within the system; this is only used for vetting requests for account access.

   NOTE: If you do not see your Entity listed in the list, contact your Regional Entity.

C. Select the **Role** (C) the account will perform for that Entity. Roles are:

   a. Entity User: A general user of the system.

   b. Entity Administrator: A user who has the ability to vet user accounts for that Registered Entity, as well as perform all functions of the Entity User role.

   NOTE: The system does not allow a user to change his or her role for an Entity. Instead, the Entity Administrator must remove the user's association with the Entity, after which the user must submit a new request to be associated to the Entity with the new role.

D. **Repeat steps A through C for each Entity to be associated with the account**. When complete, click the **Save** button (D). This will bring up the **Vetting Request Confirmation Screen**. This confirms your request

to be vetted by the Entity Administrator(s) associated for each selected Entity (See the **Vetting Users** section for further detail) and the following screen will be displayed.

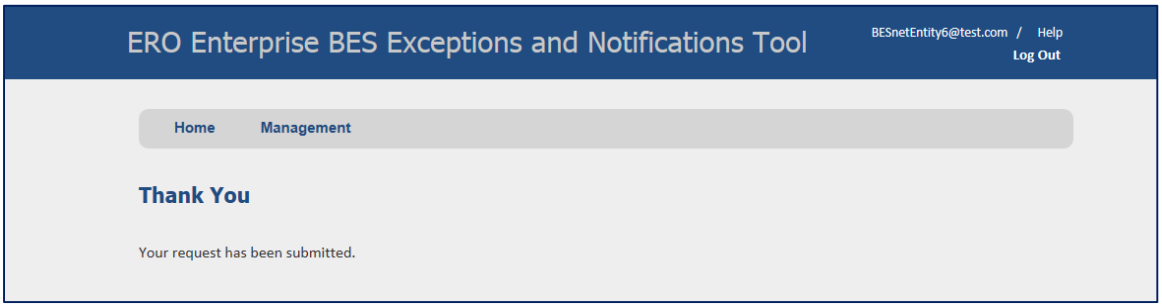


Figure 14: Vetting Request Confirmation Screen

The Entity User will be notified by e-mail when each association request has been vetted (approved or rejected).

If a request for association with an Entity has been rejected, there will be an e-mail notification that you have been rejected.

If the user has not received a vetting response within five business days, contact your Regional Entity or your Entity Administrator.

Once the account user has received notification that the request has been vetted and approved, the user will see the Entities associated with his account in the **My Profile Screen (A)**.

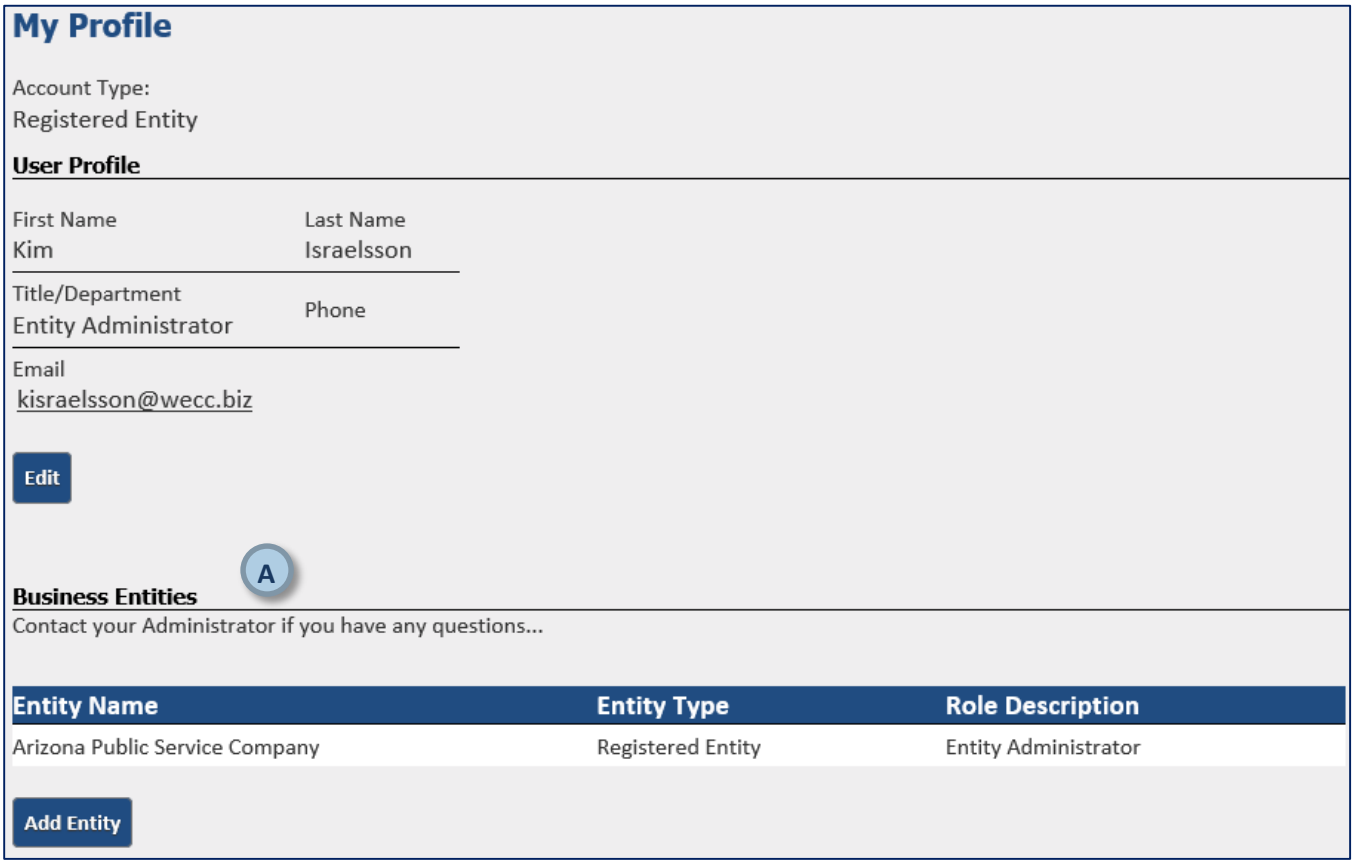


Figure 15: My Profile Screen with Entity Association

The user can then access the information for that Entity in the BESNet application.

Editing Your User Profile

To update your User Profile, enter the desired update(s) in the appropriate field on the **User Profile Screen** and press **Save** (A).

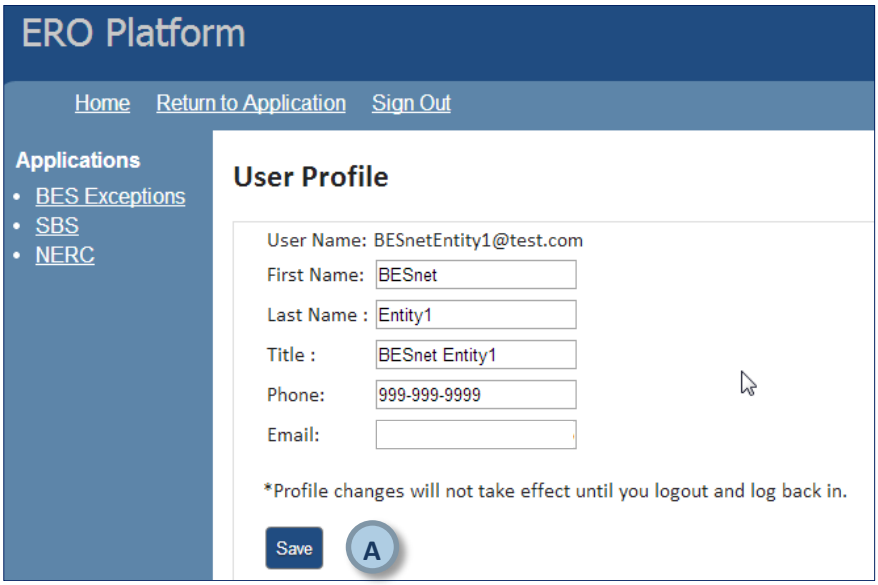


Figure 16: User Profile Screen

If your profile changes have been successful, the **Profile Update Confirmation Screen** will be displayed.

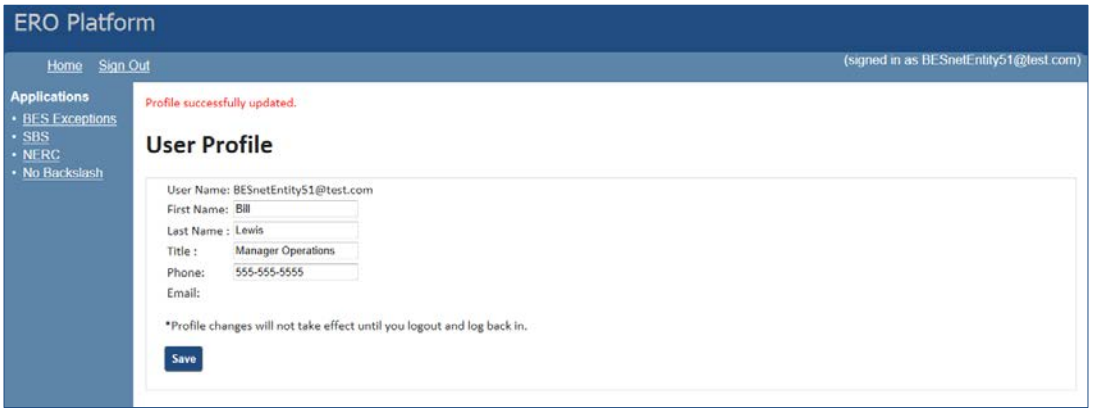


Figure 17: Profile Update Confirmation Screen

Log out and back into the BESNet application.

NOTE: Profile changes will NOT take effect until you log out and log back into the BESNet application.

Password Management

Changing User Password

A. If a User wishes to change his password, he should hover over the **User** tab in the header of the **BESNet Dashboard** and then click on the **My Profile** tab in the dropdown. This will bring you to the **My Profile Screen**.

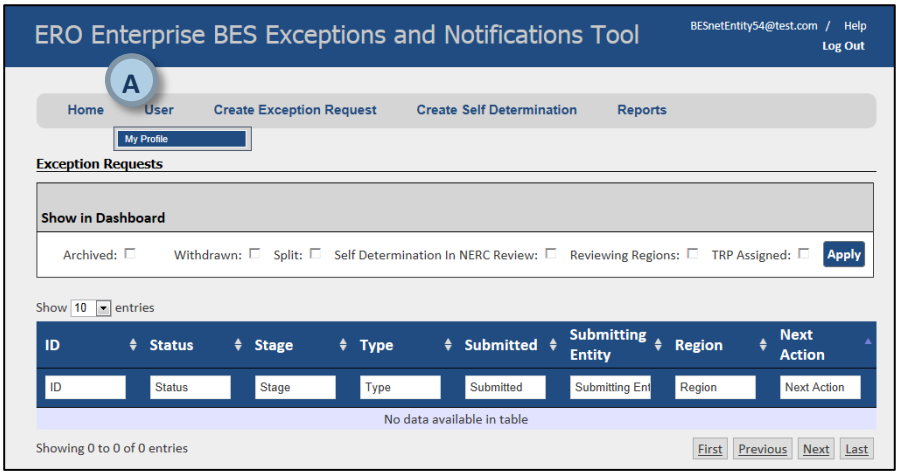


Figure 18: BESNet Home Page

B. Click on the **Edit** button (A) on the **My Profile Screen**. This will bring you to the **User Profile Screen**.



Figure 19: My Profile Screen

C. Click on the **Reset Password** link (A) under **Password** on the **User Profile Screen**.

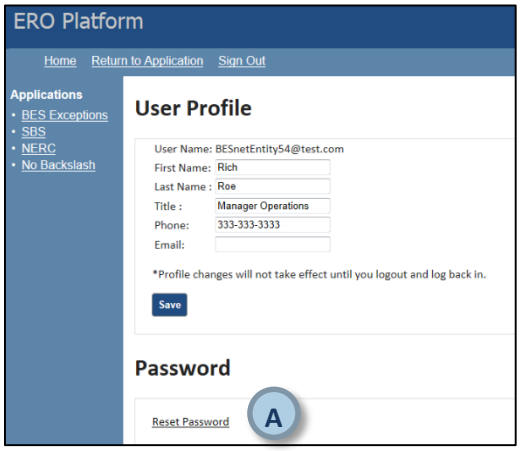


Figure 20: User Profile Screen

D. Continue from **Step B** of the **Forgot/Resetting the User Password** instructions below.

Forgot/Resetting the User Password

If a user has forgotten his password, the password must be reset.

A. To reset a user's password, the user should select **Reset Password** (A) from the **ERO Platform Log-In Screen**. The system then displays the **Password Reset Screen**.

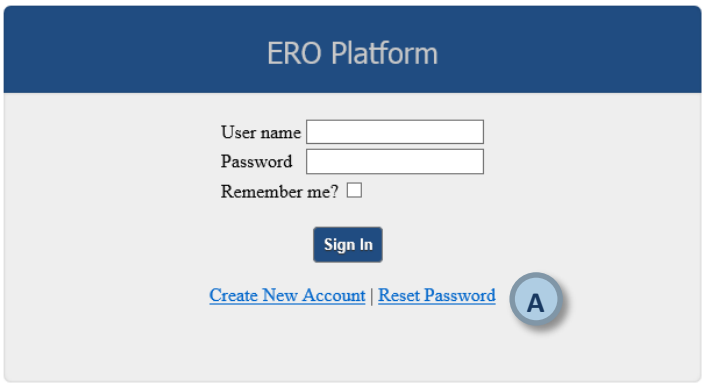


Figure 21: ERO Platform Log-In Screen

B. From the **Password Reset Screen**, the user can
- Enter the **User Name** (A).
- Enter the **Email Address** (B) associated to the Account
- Select the **Verify** icon (C). Several images display. Select the correct image of each description as instructed until all three pictures have been verified.
- Click the **Submit** (D) button.

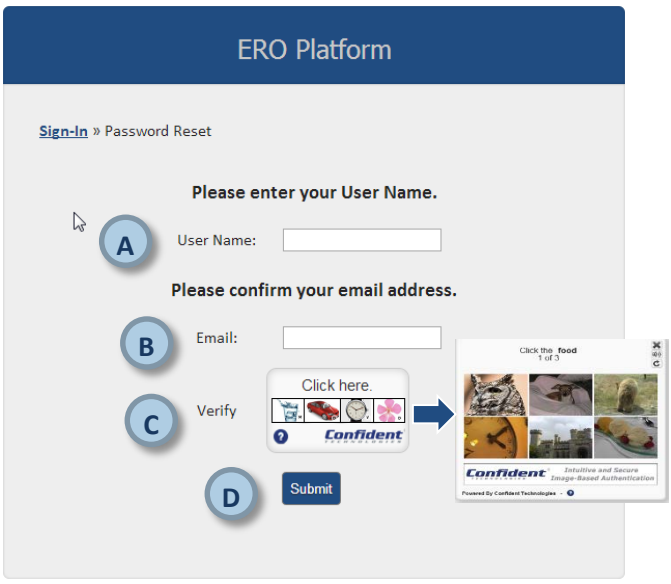


Figure 22: Password Reset Screen

C. The BESNet application will send a **Password Reset Request E-mail** to the user and display the **Password Reset Validation Screen**. If necessary, the user can request that the **Password Reset Request E-mail** be resent pressing the **Resend Validation Email** (A).

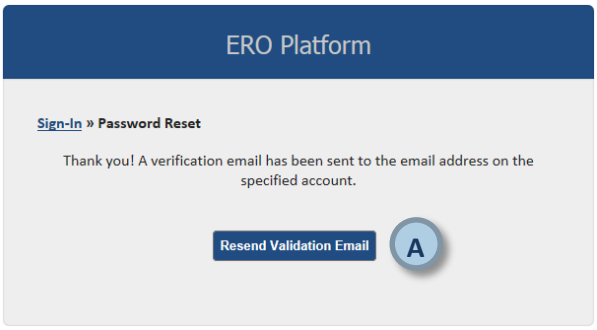


Figure 23: Password Reset Validation Screen

D. The user should then copy the **Confirmation Pin** (A) and click on the **URL** (B) for to change the password

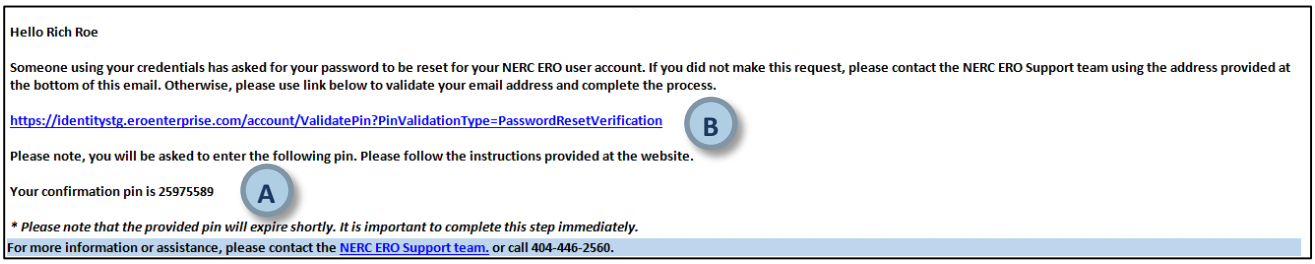


Figure 24: Password Reset Request E-mail

E. The user should then enter his **User Name** (A) and paste the **PIN** (B) on the **Verify Pin Screen** and press **Submit** (C).

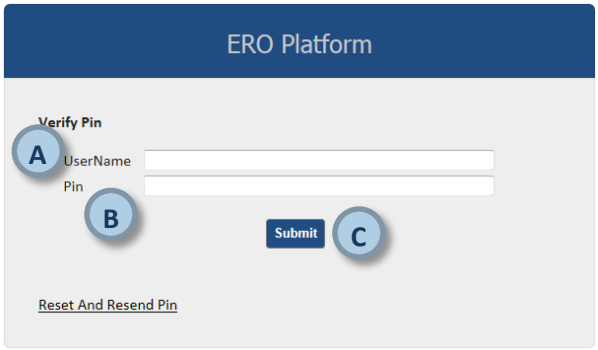


Figure 25: Verify Pin Screen

F. Once the PIN has been entered, the user must enter the **Password Answer** (A) selected during the registration process and click the **Submit Question** (B) button on the **Password Recovery Screen.**

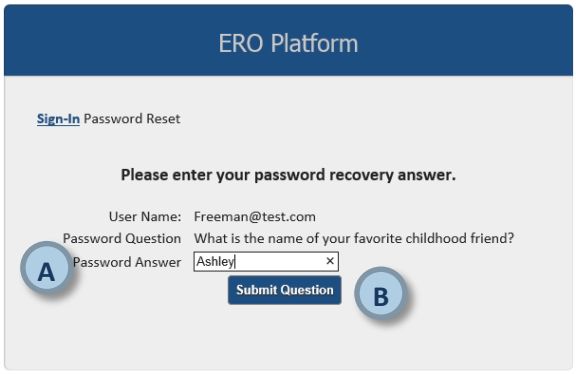


Figure 26: Password Recovery Screen

G. The user should then enter the desired **New Password** (A), Confirm Password (B), and click the **Save Password** (C) button on the **Enter Net Password Screen**.



Figure 27: Enter New Password Screen

H. The BESNet application will send a **Password Change Confirmation E-mail** to the user and display the **User Profile Screen**.

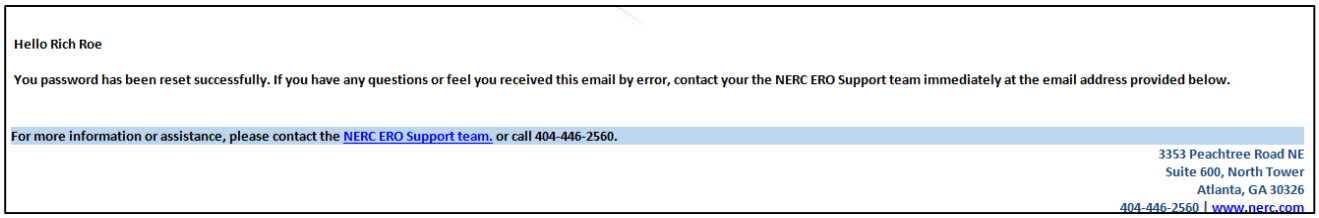


Figure 28: Password Change Confirmation E-mail

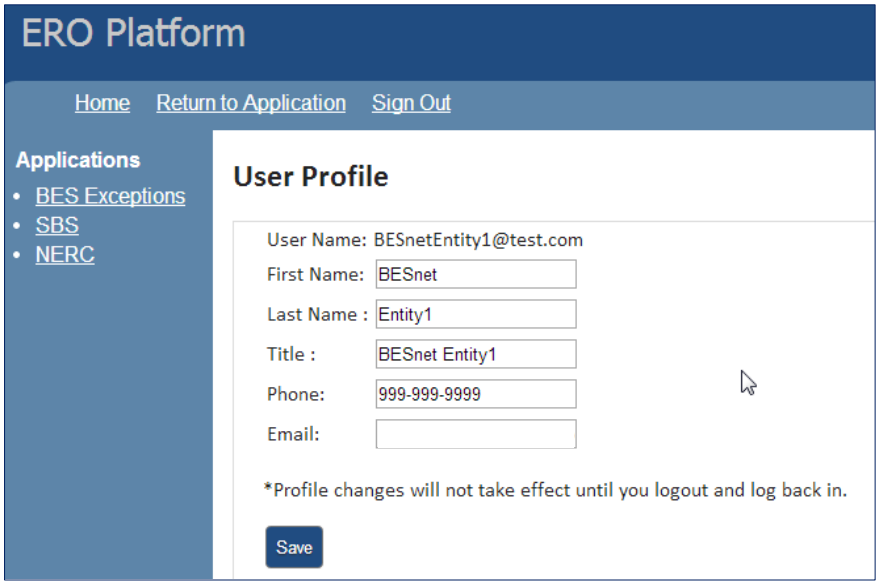


Figure 29: User Profile Screen

Managing Your User Account Properties

A user of the BESNet application can manage their account properties whenever they are logged on to the system. This allows them to edit their user profile or associate themselves with a new Entity. User can access their user account properties in one of two ways:

A. Clicking on the **User Name** in the upper right corner of the BESNet application screen.



Figure 30: BES Application Screen Header

A. Selecting **User > My Profile** from the dashboard menu.



Figure 31: Dashboard Menu Detail

These will display the **User Profile Management** screen.

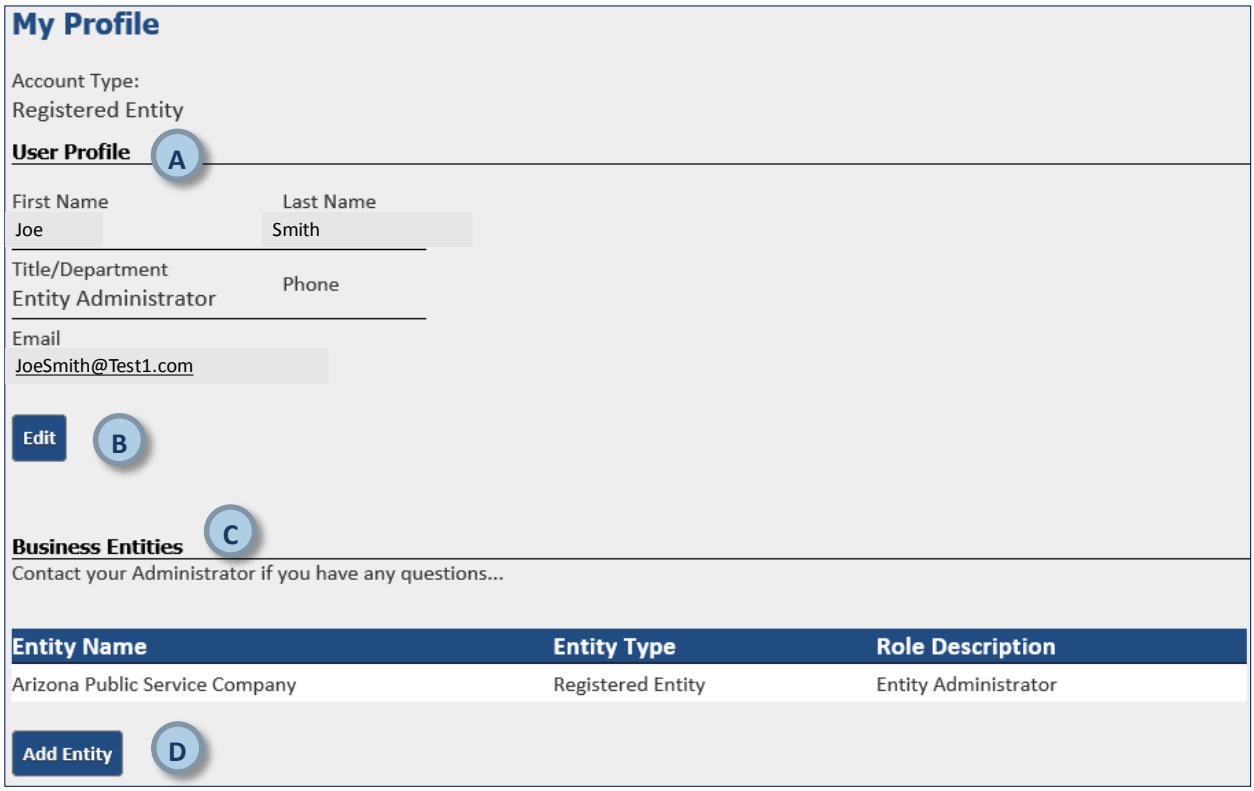


Figure 32: User Profile Management Screen

From here the user can:

A. View the **User Profile** (A) information.

B. Edit the **User Profile** information by clicking the **Edit** button (B).

C. View the listing of **Business Entities** (C) for which the user has access or has requested access.

D. Add an additional Business Entity request, by clicking the **Add Entity** (D) button.

Logging Out

To log out of the system, click the **Log Out** link (A) at the upper right of the BESNET system screen.

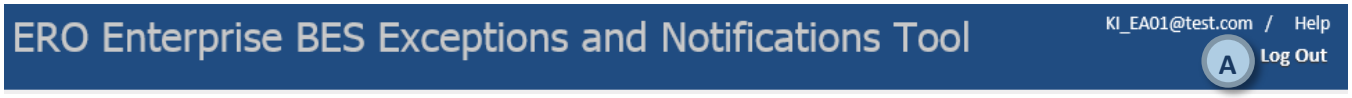


Figure 33: BESNet System Screen Header

Administrator User Account Management

Administrative User Management

The Administrator of a Registered Entity has the ability to vet new user account requests and manage users' roles within the Entity.

The Administrator will be notified by email of new user account requests.

To perform this function, on the **BESNet Dashboard** the Administrator should click **User** > **User Administration** pull-down menu (A).



Figure 34: BESNet Dashboard Header

Vetting New Users

On the **User Management Screen**, the Administrator will see a **Vet Requests** list, containing a listing of all users who have requested accounts associated with the Registered Entity for which the user has Administrative privileges.

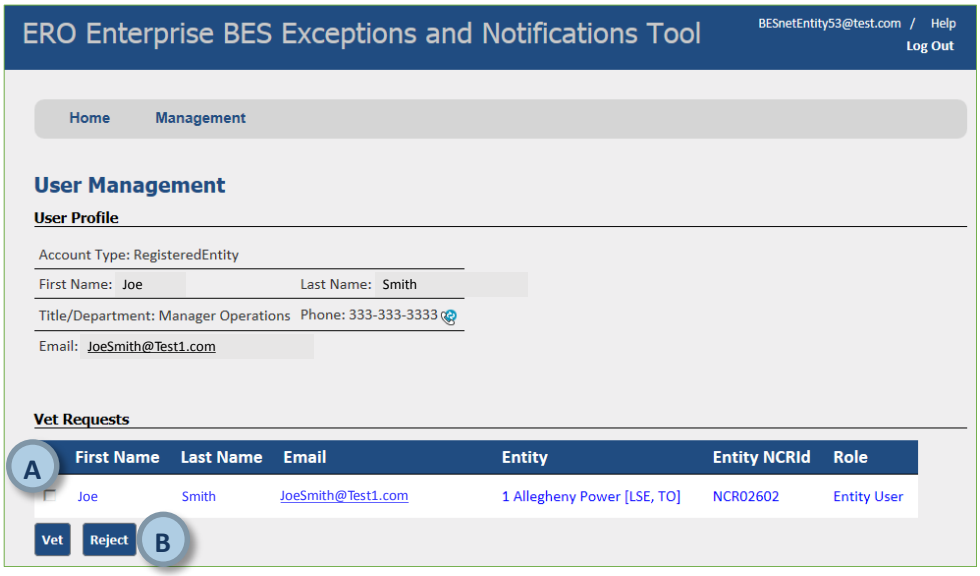


Figure 35: User Management Screen

A. Check the checkbox (A) next to each record to select it as one to approve or reject.

B. To approve the selected request(s), click the **Vet** button (A).

C. To reject the selected request(s), click the **Reject** button (B).

The decision to approve or reject the request will be e-mailed to the user.

User Role Management

The Administrator is responsible for management of the roles of all of the users within his purview.

A. To perform this function, on the **BESNet Dashboard** the Administrator should click **User** > **User Administration** pull-down menu (A). This will bring you to the User Management Screen

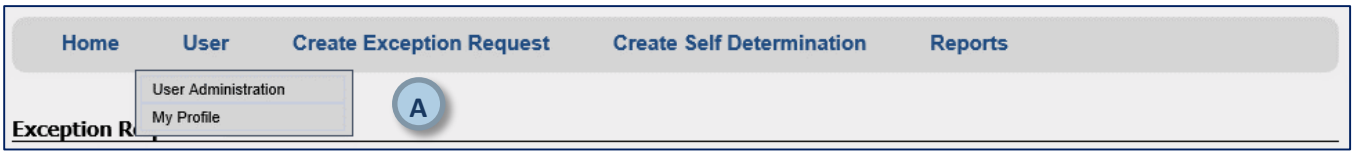


Figure 36: BESNet Dashboard Header

The **User Management** on the lower part of the **User Management Screen** displays a list of all users for which the user has Administrator privileges.

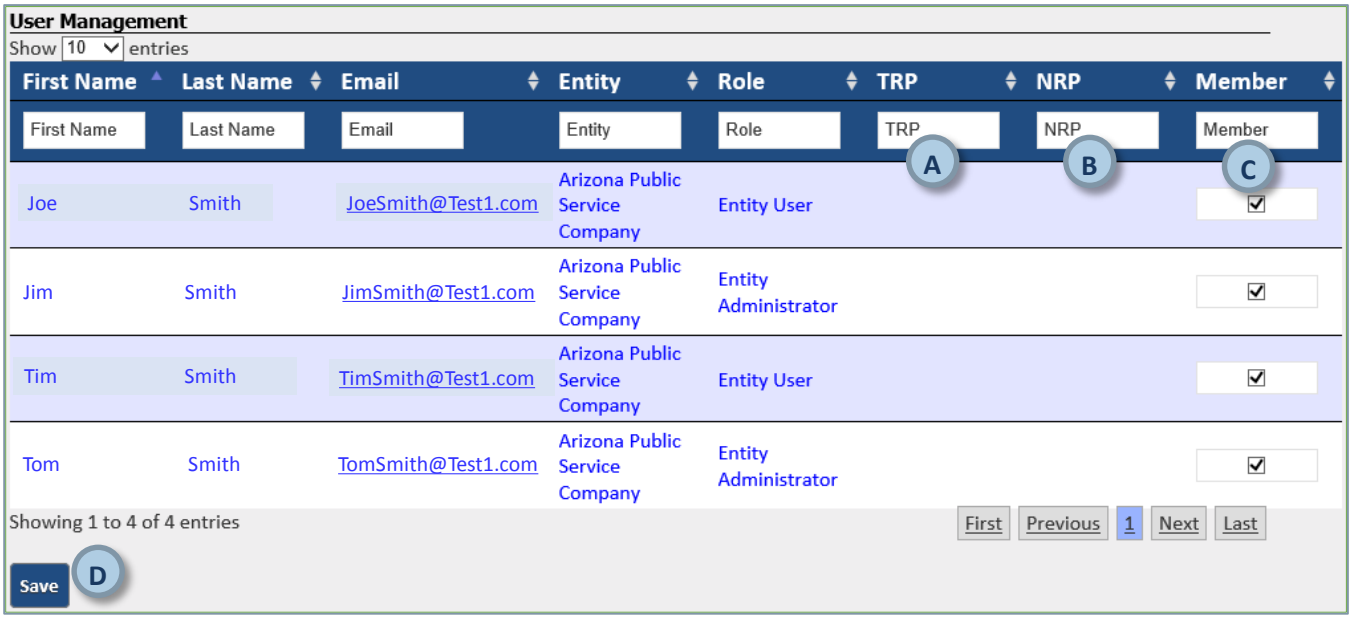


Figure 37: User Management Screen

A. The **Technical Review Panel** (TRP) membership can only be set by a **Regional Administrator**, and therefore cannot be set here.

B. The **NERC Review Panel** (NRP) membership can only be set by a **NERC Administrator**, and therefore cannot be set here.

C. To disassociate a user account from the Entity, uncheck the **Member** checkbox (C) for that account/Entity relationship. By default, all vetted members appear checked in the **Member** checkbox (C).

D. Once all the role changes have been made, click the **Save** button (D).

BESNet Dashboard Overview

The **BESNet Dashboard** is the home screen for the BESNet application. The Dashboard is displayed when a user first logs in and at any point when the **Home** link is pressed.

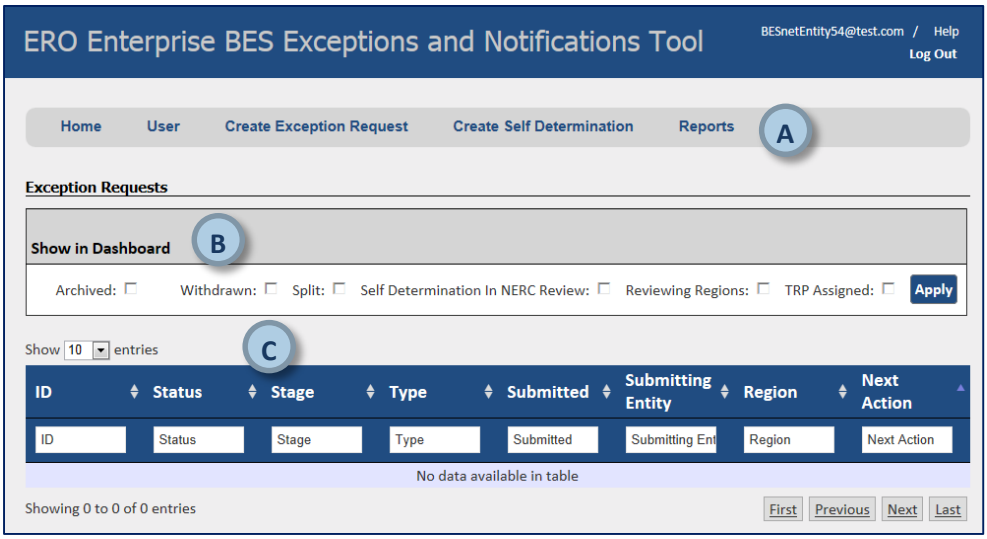


Figure 38: BESNet Dashboard

A. The **Dashboard navigation bar** (A) contains the following options:

   a. **Home:** Returns the user to the Dashboard

   b. **User:** Provides options for user management and account management.

   c. **Create Exception Request:** Starts the process for creating a new Exception Request.

   d. **Create Self-Determination:** Starts the process for creating a new Notification of Self-Determination.

   e. **Reports:** Contains options for reporting.

   NOTE: Some options may not appear, based on a user's role in the system.

B. The **Show in Dashboard** Filter (B). By default, Exception Requests that are archived or withdrawn, or that have been split and are therefore no longer active, do not appear in the Exception Requests listing. This filter allows the user to include any or all of these Exception Requests in the listing by checking the box next to the Exception Request state that should be included. These operate as follows:

   a. **Archived:** When checked, the dashboard will include Exception Requests that have been archived, cancelled, or terminated.

   b. **Withdrawn:** When checked, the dashboard will include Exception Requests that have been withdrawn; that is, those submitted to Initial Review, but then rescinded by the Submitting Entity.

   c. **Split:** When checked, the dashboard will include Exception Requests that have been split into one or more newer Exception Requests, and exist as a historical record.

      *NOTE: For more information about Split Exception Requests, see sections on **Splitting an Exception Request** or **Recertifying an Exception Request**.*

   d. **Self-Determination in NERC Review***: When checked, the dashboard will include any Notifications of Self-Determination that are awaiting NERC's review.*

C. The **Dashboard List** (C) contains a list of all **Exception Requests** and **Notifications of Self-Determination**. Here, the user can:

   a. Change the number of records that appear in the list, by changing the **Show in Entries** value.

   b. Change the display order of the entries in the list, by clicking on the header of each column.

   c. Filter the contents of the list, by entering text into the text boxes underneath each column header.

   d. Open a record, by clicking on the **Status** link.

   e. Navigate through the pages in the list, by clicking the navigation links to the bottom right of the listing.

Notifications of Self-Determination

Creating a Notification of Self-Determination

The BESNet application is the vehicle for officially notifying a Regional Entity of a self-determination of a change of status for an Element when applying the BES Definition.[1]

To start, click the **Create Self-Determination** pull-down (A) on the **Dashboard Menu**, and choose whether the Notification of Self-Determination is **For Inclusion** or **For Exclusion**. This will bring the user to the **Create Notification of Self-Determination Screen**.

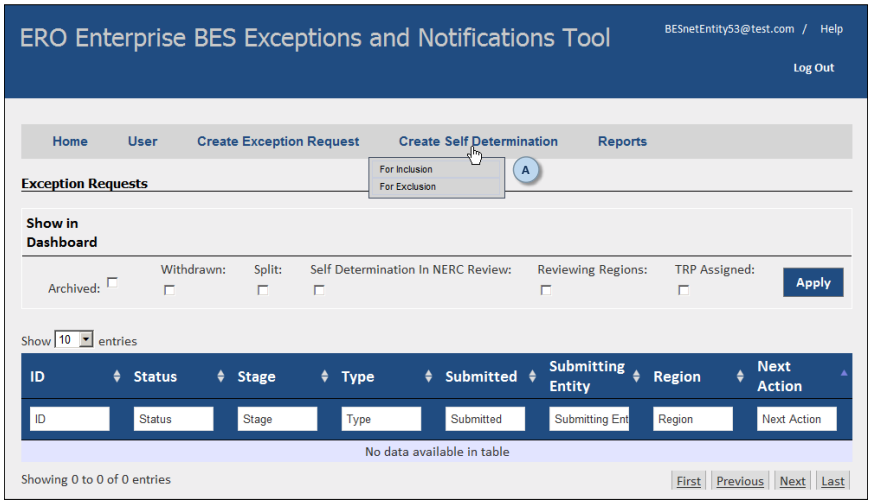


Figure 39: BESNet Dashboard

The **Create Notification of Self-Determination Screen** is broken into three sections for these instructions.

Create Notification of Self-Determination Screen Section 1: General Information

Section 1 contains **General Information (A)** about the Submitting Entity, pre-populated from the user information.

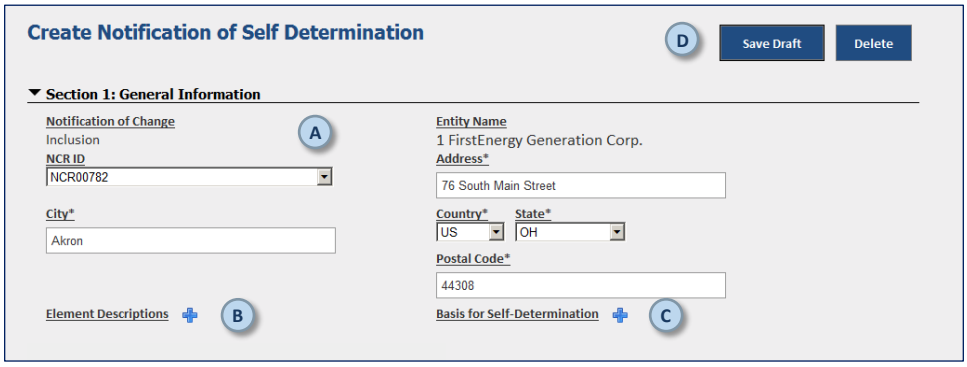


Figure 40: Create Notification of Self-Determination Screen Section 1

Basic information about the Submitting Entity (i.e., the Entity with which the user is operating) can be edited here, including the Address, City, Country, State, and Postal Code.

Section 1 also has two sub-sections about the Notification for:

A. The **Element Description** (B) and the **Basis for Self Determination** (C)

[1] Refer to the *BES Definition Reference Document* and the *BES Notification Review Guidelines* at: http://www.nerc.com/pa/RAPA/Pages/BES.aspx

B. **Save Draft** and **Delete** buttons (D) that can be used at any time.

NOTE: The BESNet application automatically saves a draft of the Notification if the browser is closed or the session is interrupted.

Selecting Element Description

NOTE: A Notification can contain more than one Element, but all Elements in the Notification should be of the same type and should be Included or Excluded for the same reasons.

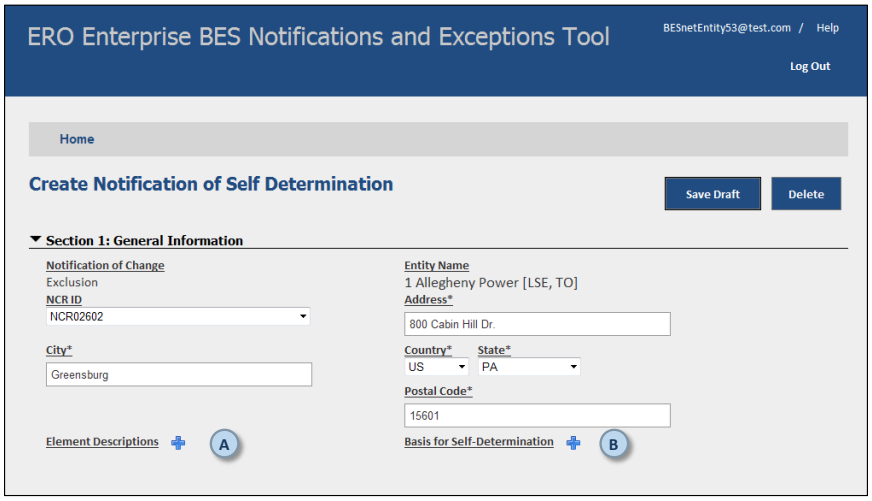


Figure 41: Element Description and Basis for Self-Determination

The user must select the **Element Description**. To do so, click on the blue **Plus Sign** at the **Element Descriptions** (A). This will bring the user to the **Add Element Description Screen**.

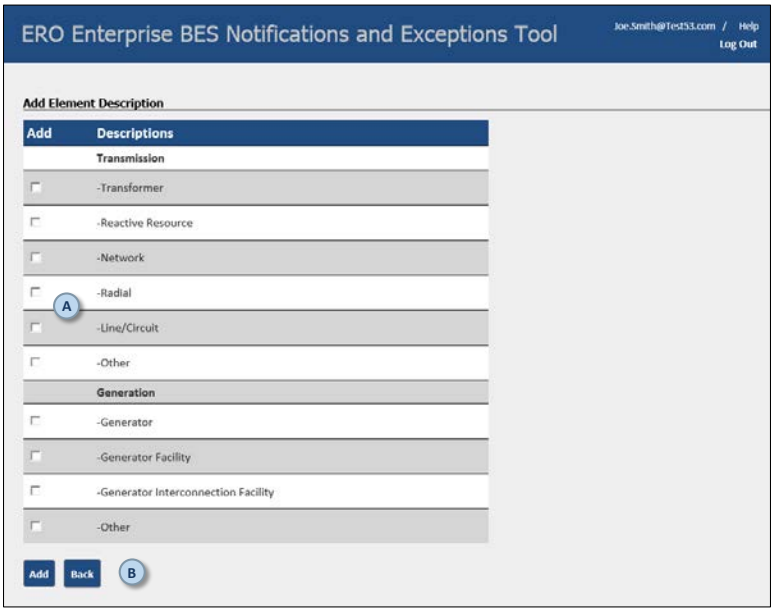


Figure 42: Add Element Description Screen

The user should select the appropriate **Element Description** for which the Notification of Self-Determination is being submitted (A), and click on **Add** (B) to complete the action. This will return the user to the **Create Notification of Self-Determination Screen**.

Selecting Basis for Self-Determination

NOTE: A Notification can contain more than one Element, but all Elements in the Notification should be of the same type and should be Included or Excluded for the same reasons.

The user must select the BES Definition reason for the Element's inclusion or exclusion. To do so, click on the blue **Plus Sign** at the **Basis for Self-Determination** (B). This will bring the user to the **Add BES Definition Screen**.

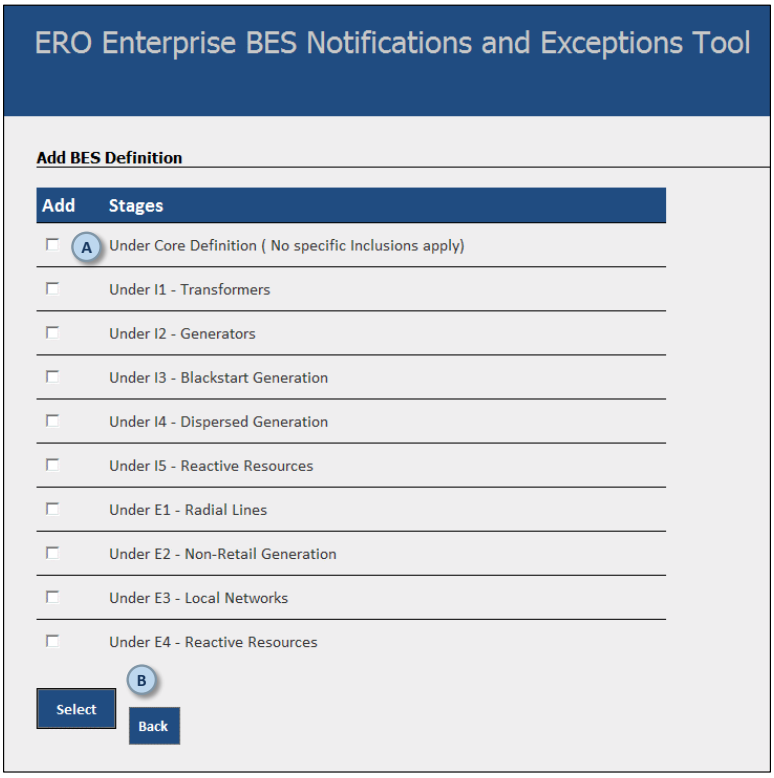


Figure 43: Add BES Definition Screen

The user should select the appropriate BES Definition reason that the Element is being included or excluded and for which the Notification of Self-Determination is being submitted (A), and click on **Add** (B) to complete the action. This will return the user to the **Create Notification of Self-Determination Screen**.

Removing an Element Description or Basis for Self-Determination

Once the Basis for Self-Determination is selected, the **Create Notification of Self-Determination Screen** will show **Red X's** (A) near the **Element Description** and **Basis for Self-Determination** areas on the screen.

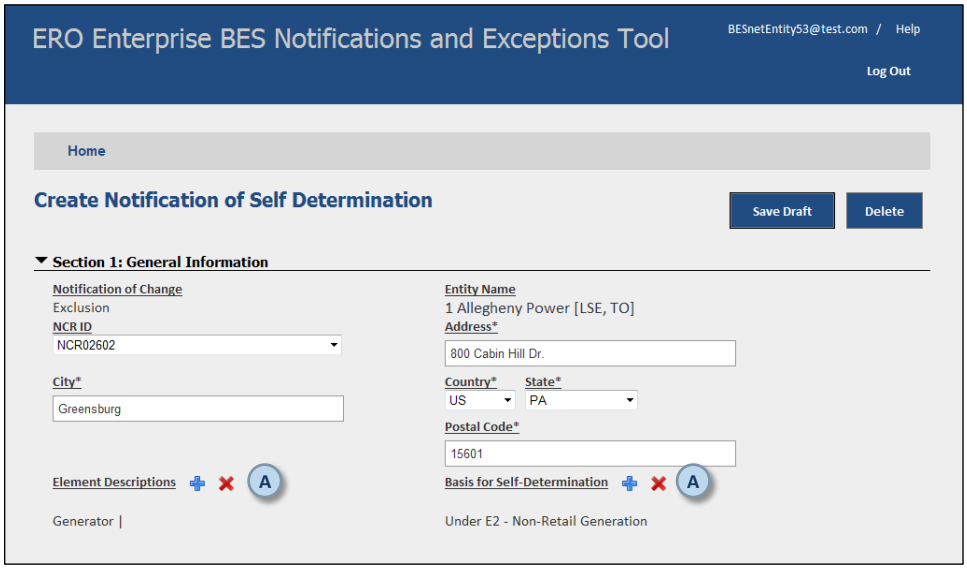


Figure 44: Create Notification of Self-Determination Screen

If either the Element Description or Basis for Self-Determination is incorrect or should be removed, click on the **Red X**. This will bring the user to the appropriate removal screen (Figure 45, **Remove Element Description Screen,** used as an example).

The user should check the box of the **Description** (A) to be removed and then click on the Remove button (B) to complete the action. This will return the user to the **Create Notification of Self-Determination Screen**.

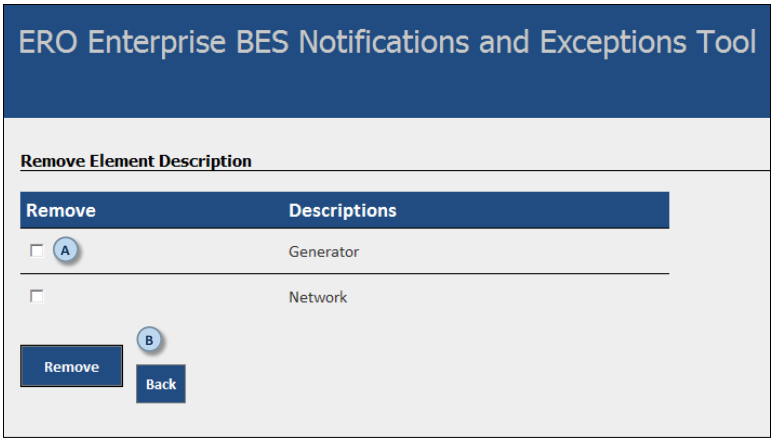


Figure 45: Remove Element Description Screen

Create Notification of Self-Determination Screen Section 2: Detailed Information

The **Detailed Information Section 2** contains information for the **Submitting Entity Contact Information** (A), and the Entity's authorized representative that is certifying the Notification of Self-Determination.

The user must enter:

A. The **Submitting Entity Contact Information** (A)

B. The **Authorized Representative's Name and Title** (B).

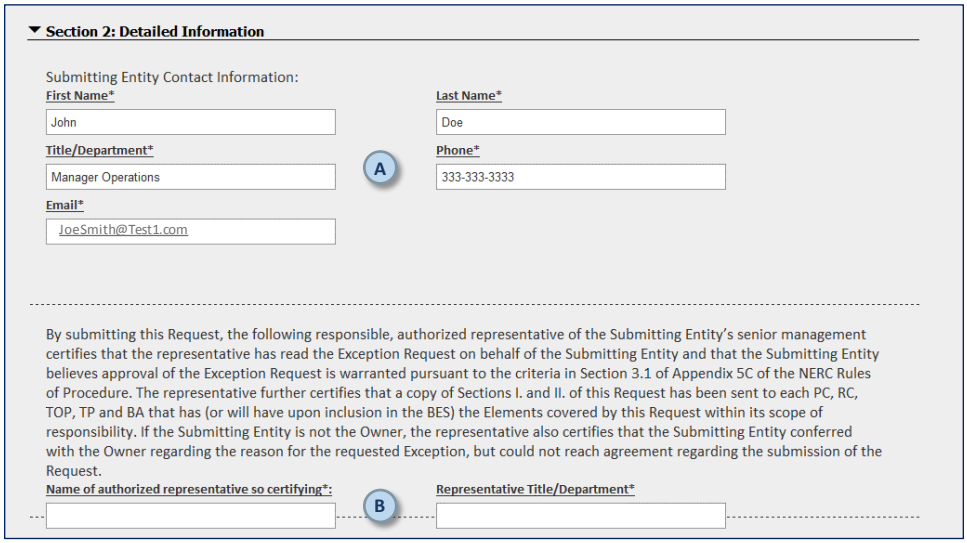


Figure 46: Create Notification of Self-Determination Screen Section 2

Adding an Element to a Notification of Self-Determination

Once the general information is entered in Sections 1 and 2 for the Notification on the **Create Notification of Self-Determination Screen**, the user should click on the **Add** button, which will take you to the **Add Element Screen.**

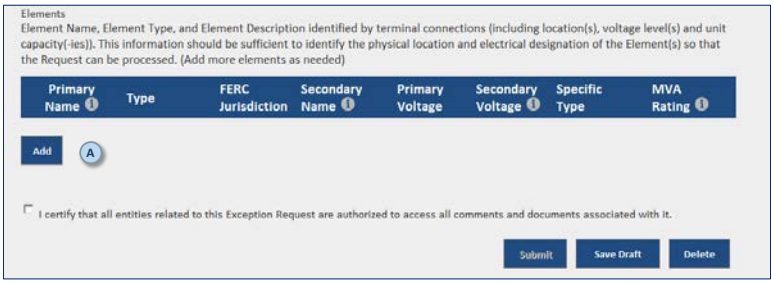


Figure 47: Create Notification of Self-Determination Screen – Add Element Screen

Several functions are performed through the Add Element Screen:

A. The **Element Type** (A) has a pull-down menu (B) allowing selection of the type of Element.

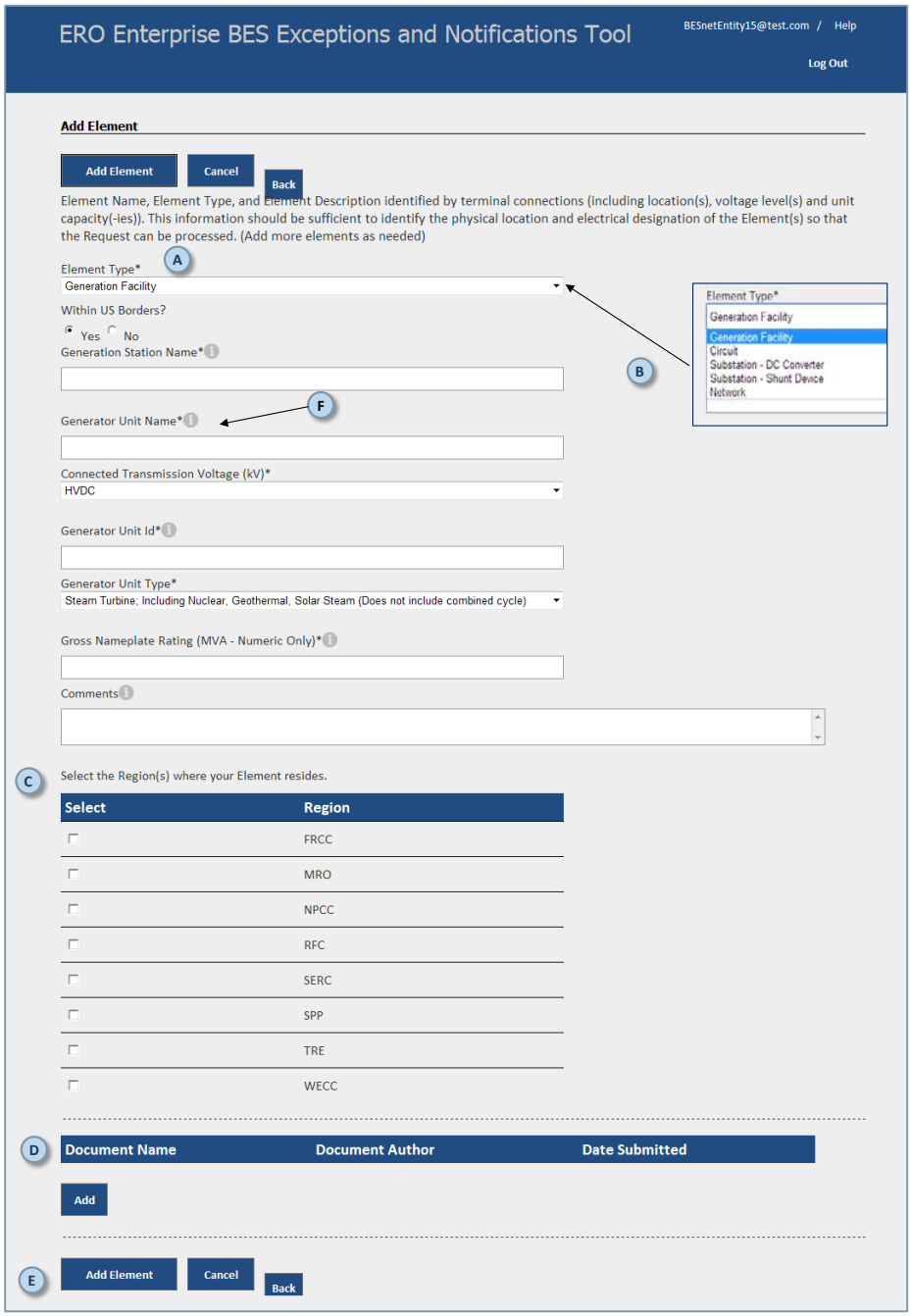


Figure 48: Add Element Screen

B. The user should select the **Element Type** from the pull-down menu (B), which will display data entry screens specific to that **Element Type**. Additional information on the types is in the **Element Type** section of this document.

C. The Region(s) where the Element resides is selected in the **Select the Region** area (C)—multiple Regions can be selected.

D. Attach necessary documentation[2] by clicking on the **Add** button (D). Additional guidance on adding documents is included in the Adding Documents section of this guide.

NOTE: At least one (1) supporting document is required for each Element in a Notification of Self-Determination.

E. Click on the **Add Element** button (E) when finished entering data for the Element to complete its addition to the Notification. That action will return the user to the **Create Notification of Self-Determination Screen**, where all Elements that are part of the Notification are displayed.

F. Informational points are denoted by an "i" (F) throughout the **Add Element Screens**. Hovering over them will reveal additional information about the item.

Element Types

When adding an Element to a Notification of Self-Determination, the fields to be completed vary by Element. Screenshots of each Element's properties are provided below for reference.

Table 1 shows the types of Elements listed in the **Element Type** pull-down menu (A) on the **Add Element Screen**.

Table 1: Element Types

	Within FERC Jurisdiction	Name(s)	Voltage (kV)	ID	Specific Type	MVA Rating	Comments
Generation Facility	Yes or No, Required	Generation Station Name, Required; Unit Name, Required	Connected AC Transmission Voltage, Required, from a list of values	Unit ID, Required	Required, from a list of Generator Unit Types	Gross Nameplate Rating, Required	Optional
Circuit	Yes or No, Required	From Point Name, Required; To Point Name, Required; Common Element Name, Required	From Point kV, Required, from a list of values; To Point kV, Required, from a list of values	Circuit ID, Optional	Required, from a list of Circuit Types	Normal Rating, Optional	Optional
Substation, DC Converter	Yes or No, Required	Converter Name, Required	Connected AC Transmission Voltage, Required, from a list of values	N/A	N/A	Normal Rating, Optional	Optional
Substation, Shunt Device	Yes or No, Required	Network Name, Required; Device Name, Required	Station kV, Required, from a list of values	N/A	Device Type	Normal Rating (MVA or MVAR), Optional	Optional
Network	Yes or No, Required	Network Name, Required	Connected AC Transmission Voltage, Required, from a list of values	N/A	N/A	N/A	Optional

[2] Refer to the *BES Notification Review Guidelines* for additional information on necessary documentation.

Add a Generation Facility

If the user clicks on the **Generation Facility** in the **Element Type** section of the **Add Element Screen**, the following **Generation Facility** Screen appears:

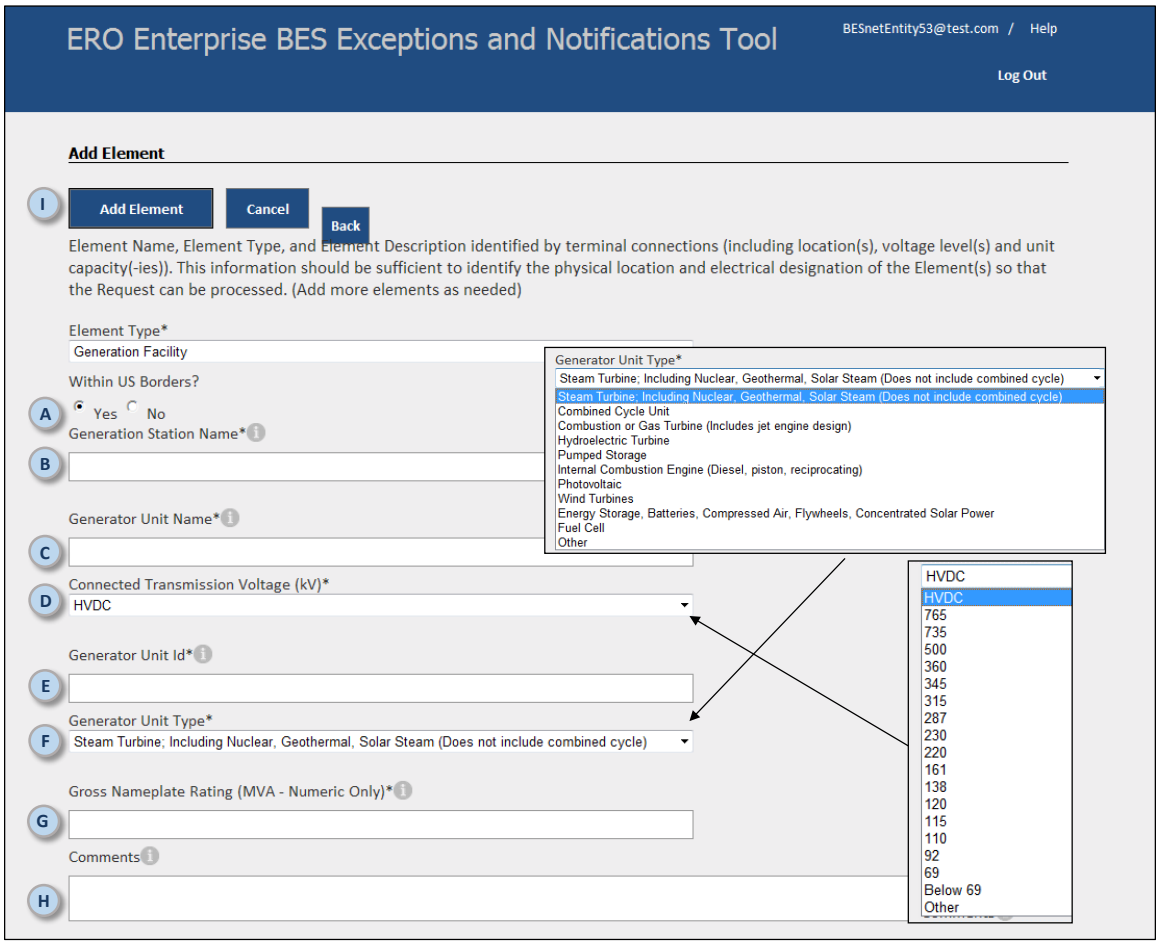


Figure 49: Add Generation Facility Screen

A. Select whether the **Generation Facility** is within the U.S. Borders (A).

B. Provide the **Generation Station Name** (B).

C. Provide the **Generator Unit Name** (C).

D. Select the **Connected Transmission Voltage** (D) from the pull-down list.

E. Provide the **Generator Unit ID** (E).

F. Select the **Generator Unit Type** from the pull-down list.

G. Provide the **Gross Nameplate Rating** in MVA (G). One decimal point is allowed.

H. Provide **Comments** (H) if desired.

I. Click on the **Add Element** button (I) to save the information. This will bring the user to the **Create Notification of Self-Determination Screen**.

Add a Circuit

If the user clicks on the **Generation Facility** in the **Element Type** section of the **Add Element Screen**, the following **Circuit Screen** appears:

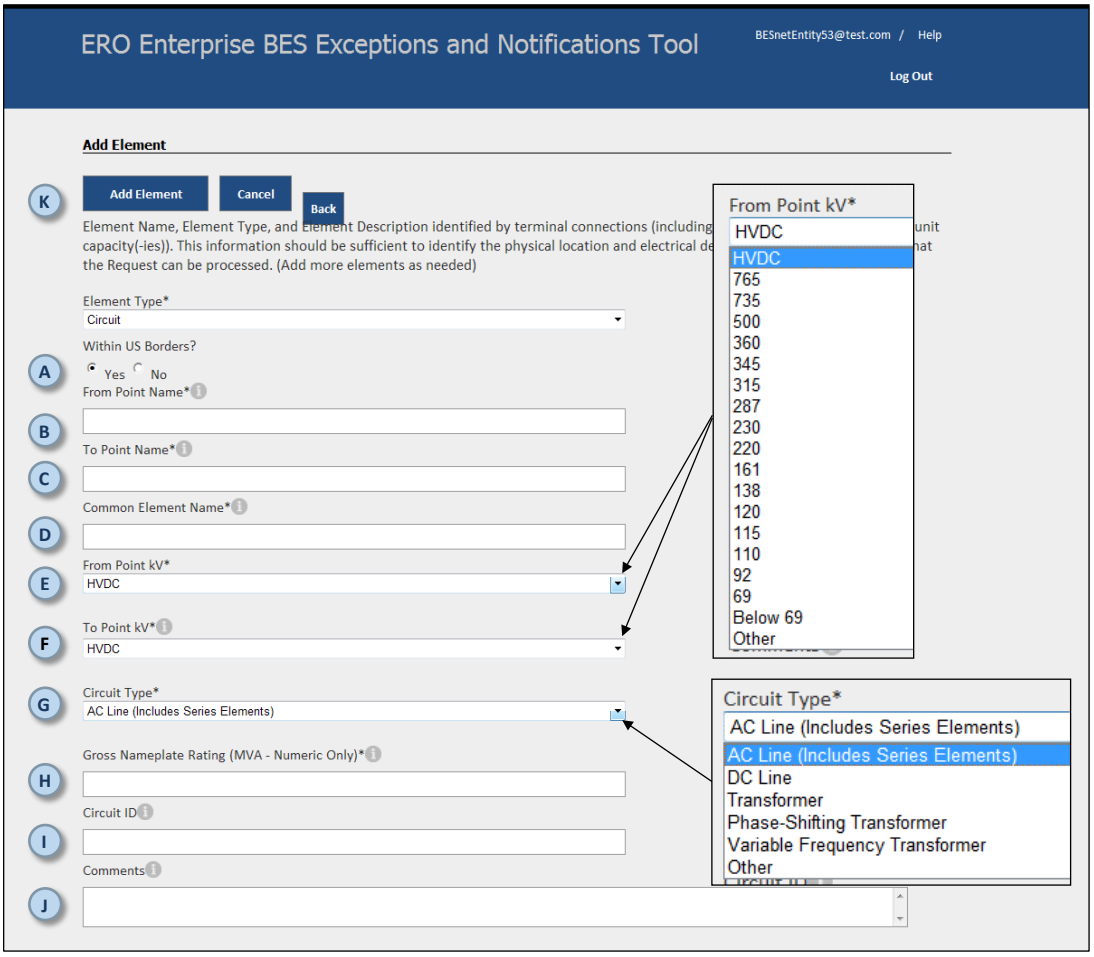


Figure 50: Add Circuit Screen

A. Select whether the **Circuit** is within the U.S. Borders (A).

B. Provide the **From Point Name** (B).

C. Provide the **To Point Name** (C).

D. Provide the **Common Element Name** (D) for the **Circuit**.

E. Select the **From Point kV** (E) from the pull-down list.

F. Select the **To Point kV** (F) from the pull-down list.

G. Select the **Circuit Type** (G) from the pull-down list.

H. Provide the **Gross Nameplate Rating** in MVA of the **Circuit** (H). One decimal point is allowed.

I. Provide the **Circuit ID** (I).

J. Provide **Comments** (J) if desired.

K. Click on the **Add Element** button (I) to save the information. This will bring the user to the **Create Notification of Self-Determination Screen**.

Add a DC Converter

If the user clicks on **Substation – DC Converter** in the **Element Type** section of the **Add Element Screen**, the following **Circuit Screen** appears:

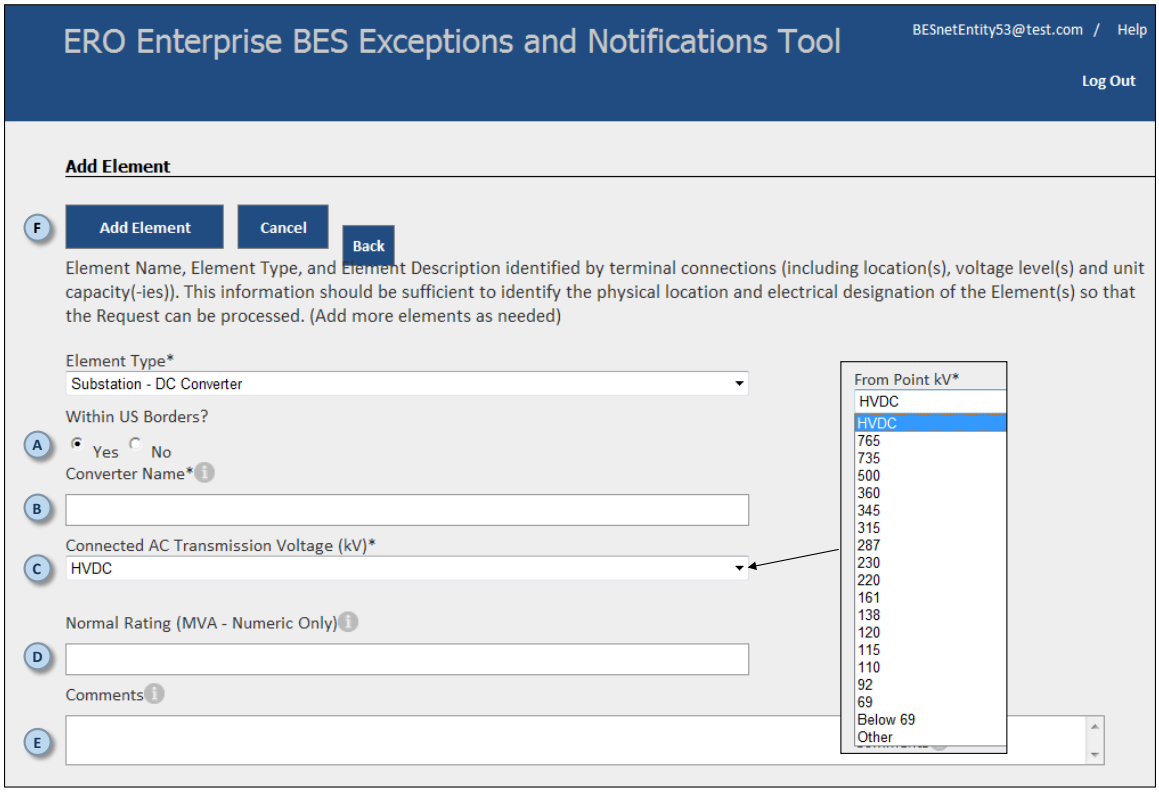


Figure 51: Add DC Converter Screen

A. Select whether the **DC Converter** is within the U.S. Borders (A).

B. Provide the **Converter Name** (B).

C. Select **HVDC** as the **Connected AC Transmission Voltage** (C) from the pull-down list.

D. Provide the **Normal Rating** in MVA for the **DC Converter** (D). One decimal point is allowed.

E. Provide **Comments** (E) if desired.

F. Click on the **Add Element** button (F) to save the information. This will bring the user to the **Create Notification of Self-Determination Screen**.

Add a Substation Shunt Device

If the user clicks on the **Substation – Shunt Device** in the **Element Type** section of the **Add Element Screen**, the following **Shunt Device Screen** appears:

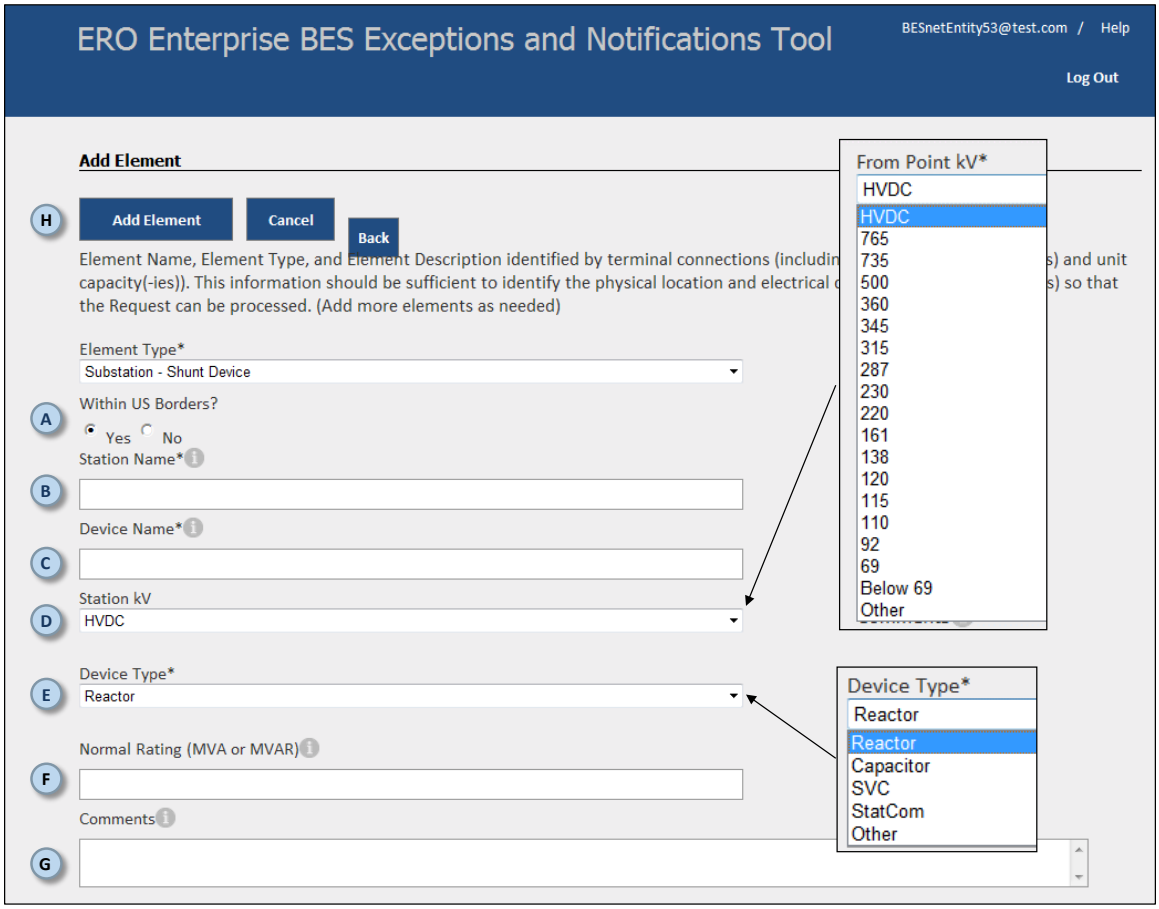


Figure 52: Add Shunt Device Screen

A. Select whether the **Shunt Device** is within the U.S. Borders (A).

B. Provide the **Station Name** (B) where the device is located.

C. Provide the **Device Name** (C).

D. Select the **Station kV** (D) from the pull-down list.

E. Select the **Device Type** (E) from the pull-down list.

F. Provide the **Normal Rating** in MVA for the **Device** (F). One decimal point is allowed.

G. Provide **Comments** (G) if desired.

H. Click on the **Add Element** button (H) to save the information. This will bring the user to the **Create Notification of Self-Determination Screen**.

Add a Network

If the user clicks on the **Network** in the **Element Type** section of the **Add Element Screen**, the following **Network Screen** appears:

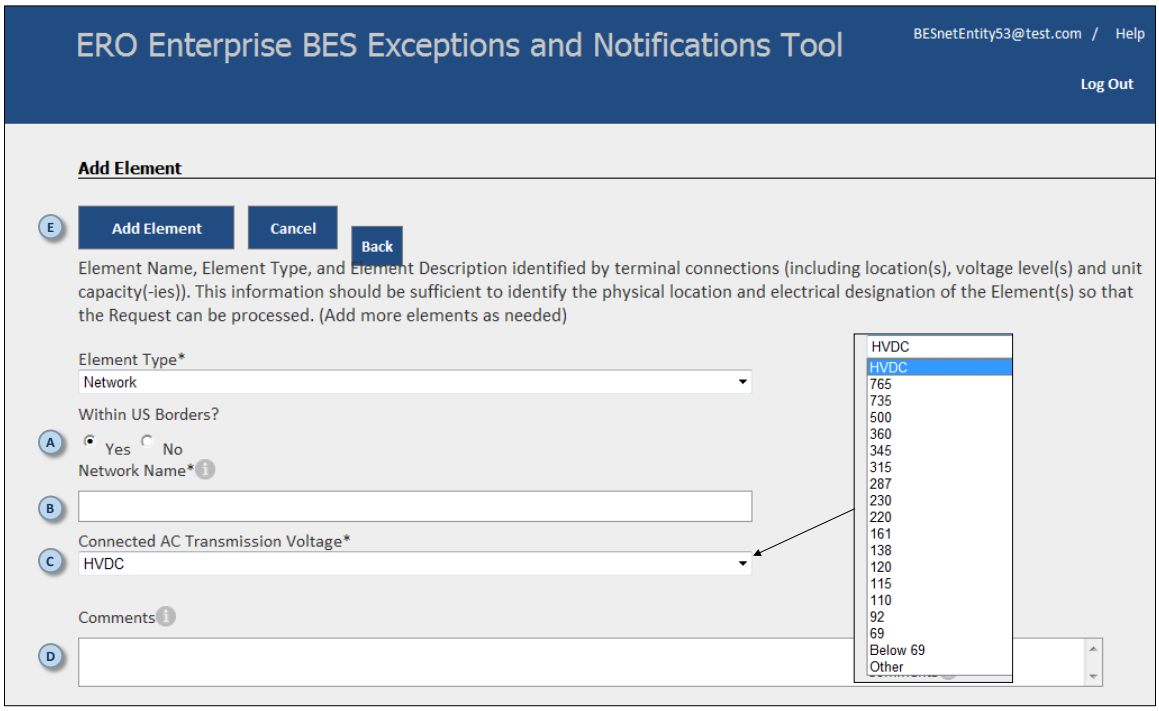


Figure 53: Add Network Screen

A. Select whether the **Network** is within the U.S. Borders (A).

B. Provide the **Network Name** (B).

C. Select the **Connected AC Transmission Voltage** (C) from the pull-down list.

D. Provide **Comments** (D) if desired.

E. Click on the **Add Element** button (E) to save the information. This will bring the user to the **Create Notification of Self Determination Screen**.

Selecting a Region for the Element

The user must select the Region(s) in which the Element of the Self-Determined Notification is located. Multiple Regions can be selected for Circuits.



Figure 54: Select Region(s) Section of Add Element Screen

Add Supporting Documentation for the Element

At least one supporting document[3] must be supplied for each Element in the Notification. To add a document, click the **Add** button in the Document section of the **Add Element Screen** (A). This will take you to the **Add Element Document Screen.**



Figure 55: Document Section of Add Element Screen

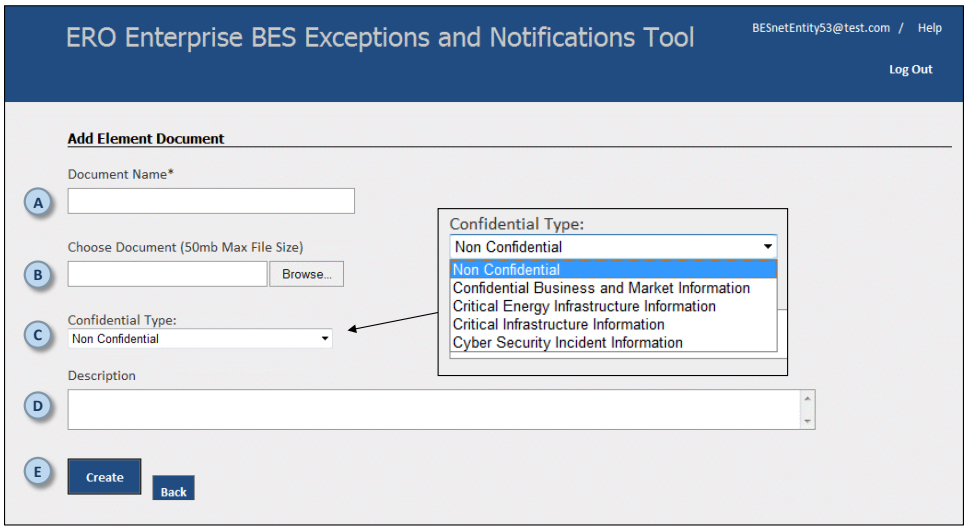


Figure 56: Add Element Document Screen

A. Provide a **Document Name** (A) for the document being attached.

B. Select a document using the **Choose Document** browsing area (B). NOTE: There is a 50 MB file size limit.

C. Select a **Confidential Type** (C) from the pull-down list.

D. Provide a **Description** (D) for the document.

E. When the **Add Element Document** form is completed, click on the **Create** button to attach the document to the Element. This will take the user back to the **Add Element Screen**



Figure 57: Add Element Screen Showing Attached Document

[3] Refer to the *BES Notification Review Guidelines* for additional information on necessary documentation.

When the supporting documentation has been attached to the Notification, the **Add Element Screen** will show that the **Document** (A) is attached to the Element. If additional files need to be attached as supporting documentation, the user should click on the **Add button** (B) and the **Add Document Screen** will appear again.

Certifying the Notification of Self-Determination

Before submitting the Notification of Self-Determination, the Notification must be certified by an authorized representative of the Entity. To do this, the representative's name and title must be entered on the **Create Notification of Self-Determination Screen** at (A).

The user must then select the **Certification** checkbox (B) before submitting the Notification.

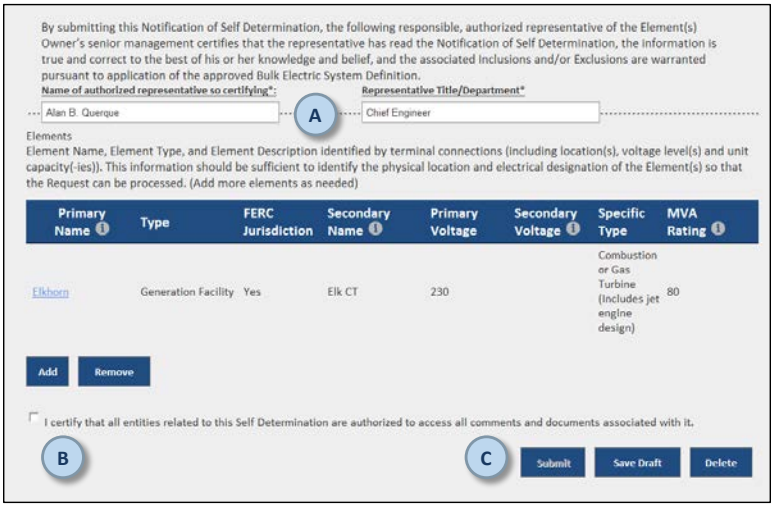


Figure 58: Create Notification of Self Determination Screen

Submitting the Notification of Self-Determination

To Submit the Notification of Self-Determination, the user should click on the **Submit button** (C) on the **Create Notification of Self-Determination Screen.** The user also has the option to **Save Draft** to allow the user to return to complete the draft Notification at a later time, as well as **Delete** to allow the user to completely delete the draft Notification.

The user will be returned to the **BESNet Dashboard** (Figure 59), showing that the submitted Notification is in Regional Review (A below). The **ID** for the Notification will also be complete with year, Region, NCR, and the SD number—SD indicating that the item is a Self-Determined Notification.

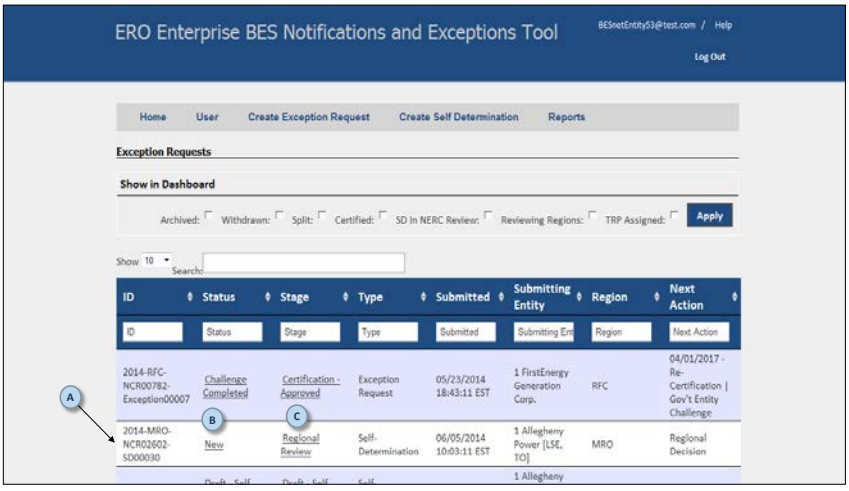


Figure 59: BESNet Dashboard with Self-Determined Notification in Regional Review

NERC
NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY CORPORATION

BES Definition Implementation Guidance

August 25, 2014

RELIABILITY | ACCOUNTABILITY






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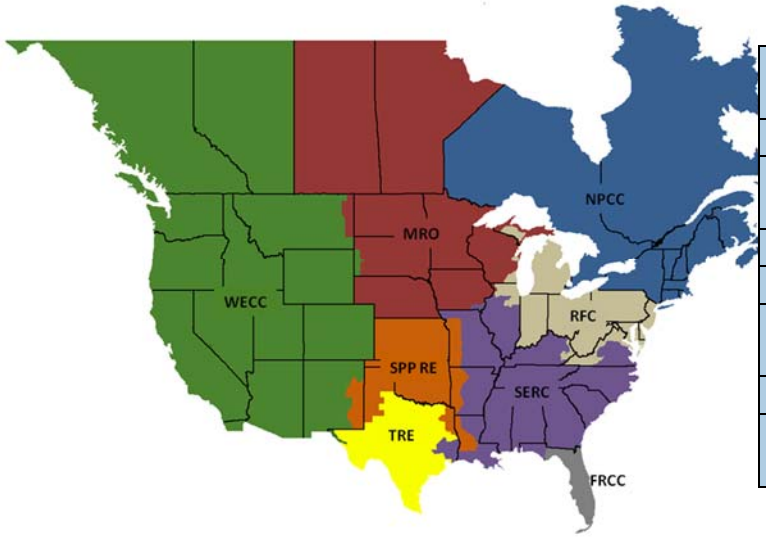
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Preface

The North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) is a not-for-profit international regulatory authority whose mission is to ensure the reliability of the bulk power system (BPS) in North America. NERC develops and enforces Reliability Standards; annually assesses seasonal and long-term reliability; monitors the BPS through system awareness; and educates, trains, and certifies industry personnel. NERC's area of responsibility spans the continental United States, Canada, and the northern portion of Baja California, Mexico. NERC is the electric reliability organization (ERO) for North America, subject to oversight by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and governmental authorities in Canada. NERC's jurisdiction includes users, owners, and operators of the BPS, which serves more than 334 million people.

The North American BPS is divided into several assessment areas within the eight Regional Entity (RE) boundaries, as shown in the map and corresponding table below.



FRCC	Florida Reliability Coordinating Council
MRO	Midwest Reliability Organization
NPCC	Northeast Power Coordinating Council
RF	ReliabilityFirst
SERC	SERC Reliability Corporation
SPP-RE	Southwest Power Pool Regional Entity
TRE	Texas Reliability Entity
WECC	Western Electricity Coordinating Council

Introduction

The following BES implementation guidance is offered to Regional Entities and Responsible Entities[1].

On December 20, 2012, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued Order No. 773[2] approving Phase 1 modifications to the currently effective NERC definition for Bulk Electric System (BES), which will become effective on July 1, 2014.[3] On December 13, 2013, NERC filed BES Phase 2 modifications for approval, with a requested effective date of July 1, 2014, to correspond with the Phase 1 effective date.[4] On March 20, FERC approved the Phase 2 modifications with a July 1, 2014 effective date.[5]

This document addresses implementation issues and communicates expectations for users, owners, and operators of the BPS,[6] registered entities, and Regional Entities during the transition period for the FERC-approved BES Definition. Specifically, this document covers the following:

- Application of the BES Definition
- Self-Determined Notifications and the BES Exceptions Request Process
- Registration Changes
- Reliability Standards Applicability
- Local Distribution Determinations

The revised BES Definition was developed through the NERC Standards Development Process for inclusion in the NERC Glossary.[7] The BES Definition removes language allowing for regional discretion and establishes a bright-line threshold that includes all Facilities operated at or above 100 kV. The revised BES Definition also identifies specific categories of facilities and configurations as Inclusions or Exclusions to the BES. Changes in classification of BES Elements due to the revised BES Definition (e.g., newly identified Inclusions or Exclusions) will be processed by NERC and the Regional Entities through the BES Notification and Exceptions Tool (BESnet application), to be made available by NERC by July 1, 2014.[8]

Additional information regarding application of the BES Definition can be found in the BES reference documents and training materials available at the NERC BES Definition web page:

http://www.nerc.com/pa/RAPA/Pages/BES.aspx.

[1] The term Responsible Entities refers to entities that are subject to registration as, or are registered as, users, owners or operators of the Bulk Power System (BPS).

[2] *Revisions to Electric Reliability Organization Definition of BES and Rules of Procedure*, Order No. 773, 141 FERC ¶ 61,236 (2012); *order on reh'g*, Order No. 773-A, 143 FERC ¶ 61,053 (2013); *order denying reh'g*, 144 FERC ¶ 61,174 (2013).

[3] On June 6, 2013, FERC approved an extension of the Phase 1 BES effective date from July 1, 2013 to July 1, 2014.

[4] In Order No. 773, as clarified in Order 773-A, the Commission directed NERC to: (1) modify the Exclusions for radial systems (Exclusion E1) and local networks (Exclusion E3) so that they do not apply to tie-lines, *i.e.* generator interconnection facilities, for BES generators; and (2) modify the local network exclusion to remove the 100 kV minimum operating voltage to allow systems that include one or more looped configurations connected below 100 kV to be eligible for the local network exclusion. NERC addressed the Commission's directives in Phase 2 of the BES Definition. NERC requested expedited action for the Commission to approve the proposed Phase 2 BES Definition by no later than March 31, 2014. If approved by that time, the proposed Phase 2 BES Definition will go into effect on July 1, 2014, the effective date of the Phase 1 BES Definition. The proposed Phase 2 BES Definition will supersede, in its entirety, the Phase 1 version.

[5] *Order Approving Revised Definition*, 146 FERC ¶ 61,199 (2014).

[6] Users, owners and operators of the BPS are users, owners and operators of the BES.

[7] http://www.nerc.com/files/glossary_of_terms.pdf.

[8] The application will provide a common mechanism for each asset owner to provide notice to its Regional Entity of newly identified Exclusions and Inclusions after applying the BES Definition to its asset list.

Chapter 1 – Application of the BES Definition

Under the revised BES Definition, there are four methods for categorizing BES Elements:

1. Application of the BES Definition, allowing for Inclusions and Exclusions of Elements
2. Approval of removal or addition of Elements through the BES Exceptions Process
3. Determination by the Commission of whether an Element is "Local Distribution"
4. Determination by the Commission that an Element is included in the BES after an opportunity for notice and comment

The application of the BES Definition by an entity should generally be done in three steps:

STEP 1 (CORE DEFINITION): The core BES Definition is used to establish the bright line of 100 kV, the overall demarcation point between BES and Non-BES Elements.[9] The core BES Definition identifies the Real Power and Reactive Power resources connected at 100 kV or higher, as included in the BES.

STEP 2 (INCLUSIONS): This step involves applying the specific Inclusions to determine specific Elements that are included in the BES, such as certain Transmission Elements and Real Power and Reactive Power resources.

STEP 3 (EXCLUSIONS): This step evaluates specific situations for potential exclusion from the BES and should be applied in the sequence below:

> Exclusion E2 (Behind-the-Meter Generation) provides for the specific exclusion of certain Real Power resources that reside behind the retail meter (on the customer's side) and supersedes the more general Inclusion I2 (Generating Resources).
>
> Exclusion E4 (Reactive Power Devices) provides for the specific exclusion of Reactive Power devices installed for the sole benefit of a retail customer(s) and supersedes the more general Inclusion I5 (Static or Dynamic Reactive Power Devices).
>
> Exclusion E3 (Local Networks) provides for the exclusion of local networks that meet the specific criteria identified in the exclusion language. Exclusion E3 does not allow for the exclusion of Real Power and Reactive Power resources captured by Inclusions I2 through I5.
>
> Exclusion E1 (Radial Systems) provides for the exclusion of "Transmission Elements" from radial systems that meet the specific criteria identified in the exclusion language. Exclusion E1 does not allow for the exclusion of Real Power and Reactive Power resources captured by Inclusions I2 through I5.

As discussed below, an entity must submit any Self-Determined Notifications or requests for Exception to its Regional Entity and NERC through the BESNet application. Self-Determined Notifications are only required for: (i) Elements that were part of the BES under the original BES Definition and are not part of the BES under the new BES Definition; or (ii) Elements that were not part of the BES under the original BES Definition, but are now part of the BES under the new BES Definition.

[9] An "Element" is defined in the NERC Glossary as "[a]ny electrical device with terminals that may be connected to other electrical devices such as a generator, transformer, circuit breaker, bus section, or transmission line. An element may be comprised of one or more components."

FERC also approved a four-step BES transition plan for the revised BES Definition.[10] This BES transition plan provides a roadmap for entities to follow in moving from the current BES Definition to the revised BES Definition.

- Step 1: Identify a Comprehensive List of BES Facilities and Elements.
- Step 2: Perform a Gap Analysis.[11]
- Step 3: Develop Implementation Plans (for newly included Elements) to become compliant with Reliability Standards.
- Step 4: Complete Implementation Plans and Certify Completion.

A registered entity should follow the existing NERC Rules of Procedure set forth in Section 500 and Appendices 5A and 5B to submit requests for changes in Registration and Certification. To the extent an entity seeks de-activation or de-registration for a given functional designation due to application of the BES Definition, NERC will determine the appropriate time frame for making such a determination.[12]

[10] BES petition at pp 38-43 available at:
http://www.nerc.com/FilingsOrders/us/NERC%20Filings%20to%20FERC%20DL/Petition_Rev_Def_BES_20120125.pdf.

[11] The Gap Analysis should identify:

(i) any Registration and/or Certification changes that are required due to the newly-identified Elements (e.g., reliability functions for which the entity is not currently registered on the Compliance Registry but should be registered based on the newly-included Elements), and

(ii) changes in compliance obligations for the entity, (i.e., the applicable Requirements of Reliability Standards with which the entity must now become compliant due to the inclusion or exclusion of the new Elements in the BES.)

[12] Order No. 773 at P 55.

Chapter 2 – Self-Determined Notifications and the BES Exceptions Request Process

Self-Determined Notifications

FERC has recognized that applying the new BES Definition may result in the identification of Elements that currently are treated as part of the BES but will no longer be considered part of the BES.[13] FERC further noted that registered entities are obligated to inform their Regional Entities and NERC of any Self-Determination that an Element is no longer part of the BES. For Notifications of Self-Determined Exclusions or Inclusions, the NERC BESNet application provides the functionality for entities to notify the Regional Entities of Self-Determined BES Inclusions and Exclusions.

With respect to a Self-Determined Notification of exclusion, the Regional Entities will validate, with NERC oversight, the submittal to determine complete and proper application of the BES Definition. The Regional Entities may request additional information, as needed, under existing authority, in order to establish a complete and proper Notification. In order to provide consistent application of the BES Definition and associated processes, NERC in its oversight role will review Self-Determined Notifications through sampling or other approaches, and will provide necessary guidance or direction to achieve consistent results. Compliance monitoring and enforcement obligations for Elements that are excluded through a correct application of the BES Definition will be considered to have ended as of the date that a complete Notification was submitted, barring any unique facts and circumstances. Incomplete Notifications of exclusion or incorrect applications of the BES Definition will continue to subject those Elements to compliance monitoring and enforcement until all required information is submitted and the BES Definition is correctly applied.

An entity makes a good faith[14] Notification of a Self-Determined Exclusion of a particular Element by properly applying the BES Definition and relevant Inclusions or Exclusions, then notifying its appropriate Regional Entity. **Good faith Self-Determinations are those that are made consistent with the BES Definition and reference materials provided by NERC.** With NERC oversight, the Regional Entity will validate the Notification to ensure that the BES Definition was properly applied and that no mistakes occurred.[15] Once validation is concluded, the registered entity will be advised of the determination. If additional information is required, the registered entity may be requested to supply it prior to the Regional Entity reaching a conclusion. An Element will not be excluded from the BES until the removal is validated. [16]

[13] *See* Order No. 773 at P 317; *see also* Order No. 773-A at P 110.

[14] Order No. 773-A at P 110 ("… [I]n the absence of bad faith, if a registered entity applies the [BES] Definition and determines that an element no longer qualifies as part of the [BES], upon notifying the appropriate Regional Entity that the element is no longer part of the [BES] the element should not be treated as part of the [BES] unless NERC makes a contrary determination in the exception process**.** If the Regional Entity disagrees with the classification of the element and believes the element is necessary for reliable operation, the Regional Entity should initiate an exception request to include the element in the [BES]. If NERC agrees with the Regional Entity and determines that the element should be included in the [BES], the registered entity should not be subject to retroactive liability for the time period the element was not included in the [BES].").

[15] The validation process is consistent with current practice with respect to Notifications to NERC Rules of Procedure Section 501.1.3.5, as well as Order Nos. 773 and 773-A. In Order No. 773, FERC stated that the Notification was a necessary feature, because NERC and the Regional Entities would need this information for their compliance programs, for audit purposes and to understand the contours of the BES within a particular region. Order No. 773 at P 317 (FERC further noted that, because entities had discretion to declassify certain facilities as part of the BES, NERC, the Regional Entities and FERC needed "notification of such instances to assure that the entities are appropriately implementing the revised definition."). *Id.*

[16] In Order No. 773-A, FERC responded to a circumstance in which a Regional Entity disagrees with the registered entity's determination that an element is not part of the BES and the registered entity acts in good faith, by outlining the appropriate process to use. Order No. 773-A at PP 108-109. FERC agreed that, in the absence of bad faith, and the Regional Entity believes the element is necessary for reliable operation, it should initiate an exception request to include the element in the BES. Order No. 773-A at P 110.

Taken together, Order Nos. 773 and 773-A, as well as the NERC Rules of Procedure, point to the need for NERC and the Regional Entity to review a Notification to determine if it comports with the Definition and validate the Notification to confirm appropriate application of the Definition. The registered entity can facilitate this effort by reviewing these situations with the Regional Entity prior to formally submitting the Notification. This will provide the greatest confidence of appropriate application of the BES Definition and facilitate consistent application of the Definition.

Until the validation process described for Self-Determined Notifications of exclusion is completed, the registered entity has the potential to be subject to applicable Reliability Standards. Any instances of non-compliance for potentially excluded Elements will be held in abeyance until such time as the Notification is validated by the Regional Entity, with NERC oversight as described above. If the Self-Determined Notification of exclusion is accepted as valid, instances of potential non-compliance involving excluded Elements that occurred after the submission of the complete and proper Notification up to the date of its validation will be closed, barring any unique facts and circumstances. A Self-Determined Notification of exclusion that is incomplete or based on improper application of the BES Definition will result in Elements associated with that Notification remaining subject to compliance monitoring and enforcement until such time all required information is submitted and the BES Definition is correctly applied.

If a Regional Entity believes that a Notification of a Self-Determined Exclusion is based on an incorrect application of the Definition and is unable to come to a common understanding of the Definition with the submitting entity, the Notification will be rejected and the Element at issue will remain part of the BES by application of the Definition.[17]

If a Regional Entity and NERC determine that an Element that is excluded as a result of properly applying the BES Definition should be included in the BES for other reasons, the Regional Entity would initiate an Inclusion exception request through the BESNet application and inform the registered entity. Once the process has been completed, the Element then would be included in the BES and the registered entity notified accordingly. The registered entity will not be subject to retroactive liability for the time period the Element was not included in the BES.

As discussed previously, the July 1 implementation date for the new BES Definition is rapidly approaching. As part of the transition across the ERO, NERC recognizes that entities may desire to submit Self-Determined Notifications of exclusion as soon as possible after the effective date. In order to accommodate all entities and manage the flow of processing such materials, NERC is providing an extended initial submittal period as described below.

NERC and the Regional Entities are committed to processing and efficiently managing these submissions in a timely manner for all entities. Accordingly, NERC requests that entities pace their submittals within period beginning July 1 and ending September 1 to ensure a smooth transition. Entities that submit a Notification during the period of July 1, 2014, through September 1, 2014, will be deemed to have submitted such Notification on July 1 for purposes of determining compliance obligations.

In other words, during this initial submittal period of activity, a Notification of Self-Determined exclusion will be treated the same as one received on July 1 when it comes to effective dates for compliance with NERC Reliability Standards. An extended initial submittal period will enable a levelized pace that can be more effectively managed for entities, NERC, and the Regional Entities.

[17] Order No. 773-A at PP 317 ("…[T]he revised definition allows entities the discretion to "declassify" certain facilities as part of the [BES], and NERC, Regional Entities and the Commission need notification of such instances to assure that the entities are appropriately implementing the revised definition.").

BES Exception Request Process

Appendix 5C of the NERC Rules of Procedure sets forth the process to be followed with respect to exception requests for Inclusion and Exclusion of Elements from the BES.[18]

If an Element that is already deemed part of the BES and subject to relevant Reliability Standards is included by application of the revised BES Definition, but an entity believes it has good reason for it not to be included, an entity may submit an Exclusion exception request for the Element through the BESnet application. The Element will remain subject to the relevant Reliability Standards during the pendency of the exception process. All existing BES Elements consistent with the BES Definition continue to remain subject to Reliability Standards—with no gap in coverage or compliance obligations—when the new BES Definition goes into effect on July 1, 2014.

As noted in Order No. 773-A (at P 26), entities with newly included Elements may file exception requests (after a gap analysis is performed). Regional Entities and NERC will make determinations for the exception requests submitted during the 24-month implementation period applicable to newly included Elements. Accordingly, newly included BES Elements will only become subject to relevant Reliability Standards 24 months after the effective date of the revised BES Definition (i.e., July 1, 2016).

If, after validation by the Regional Entity and NERC of a Self-Determined Notification of Exclusion, an Element is excluded from the BES by application of the revised BES Definition, a third-party entity with a reliability oversight obligation may submit an Inclusion exception request to include the Element in the BES as part of the exception process. The Element will not be subject to Reliability Standards during the pendency of the Inclusion exception process.

As noted in the BES transition plan (Steps 3 and 4 above) an entity with newly included Elements may need to develop a Registration implementation plan (which may include the need for Certification or a revision to an existing Certification), a compliance implementation plan, or both. If the Regional Entity and registered entity are unable to agree on the implementation plan, the Regional Entity will notify NERC, and NERC will specify a reasonable implementation schedule.

Finally, to the extent an Element is needed to comply with a Reliability Standard that is based on facility characteristics (e.g., FAC-003 200 kV threshold for individual transmission lines), the Element would not be excluded under the exception process. However, such entities could be considered for a sub-list of Reliability Standards, as appropriate.

Appeal Process

Section 500 and Appendices 5A and 5B of the NERC Rules of Procedure provides for appeals of entity registration and certification decisions.

BESnet Application Access

Requests for Exceptions to the BES will only be accepted through the BESnet Application. Entities that anticipate submitting a BES exception request should contact their applicable Regional Entity contact below, review the relevant training and resource materials, and establish a user account for the BESnet Application.

[18] http://www.nerc.com/AboutNERC/Pages/Rules-of-Procedure.aspx.

Region	Method of Contact
FRCC	Send email to bes@frcc.com
MRO	Send email to besnet@Midwestreliability.org
NPCC	Send email to bes@npcc.org
RF	Online at https://www.rfirst.org/Pages/ContactUs.aspx
SERC	Send email to serccomply@serc1.org
SPP	Send email to sppreregistration@spp.org
TRE	Send email to bes@texasre.org
WECC	Send email to support@wecc.biz

Reference materials for Regional Entities either are being or have been developed—and will be provided to Responsible Entities for informational purposes—regarding: (1) BES Guideline for Reviewing Self-Determined Notifications; (2) BES Exception Request Evaluation Guideline; (3) BESNet Application User Guide; and (4) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). In addition, a BES Definition Reference Document developed through the NERC standards drafting process has been made available to Responsible Entities to demonstrate proper application of the BES Definition.

Chapter 3 – Registration Changes

NERC's objective in implementing the revised BES Definition is to ensure that the proper entities are registered and responsible for Reliability Standards that are necessary to ensure the reliability of the BPS. In Order No. 773 (at P 55), FERC stated, "[w]e do not expect there to be significant numbers of entities either needing to register or deregister due to the change in definition." NERC shares FERC's expectation that only a small number of entities will require changes to their NERC registration as a result of the revised BES Definition.

An entity seeking to modify its current registration, including de-registration or deactivation, must inform its applicable Regional Entity of this change in status. In turn, the Regional Entity will notify NERC of such changes. All changes to registration are processed by the NERC Registration and Certification department, in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure.

Guidance on DP-Specific Registration Deactivation Requests

For entities registered for the Distribution Provider (DP) function, and that currently own or operate BES protection schemes, including Underfrequency Load Shedding (UFLS), Undervoltage Load Shedding (UVLS), or Special Protection Systems (SPS) and Remedial Action Schemes (RAS), these devices support the reliability of the Bulk Electric System (BES), often serving as the "last-resort" tool for avoiding a total power system blackout. Consequently, NERC and the Regional Entities will not approve the deactivation of the DP function for Registered Entities on the NERC Compliance Registry that have these types of protection devices, solely on the basis that the entity does not own or operate a BES Element by application of the BES Definition. NERC and the Regional Entities will evaluate the relevant facts and circumstances in reaching a decision.

Registered Entities currently performing the DP function may determine to file a Self-Determined Notification of Exclusion of Elements based on the current BES Definition. There is no automatic change in the registration status of an entity for any functional registration categories if a particular Element is excluded from the BES Definition either through the Self-Determined Notification of Exclusion or the BES Exception process. Determinations of registration status are addressed through the registration program. NERC believes that the deactivation of the DP function registration of Registered Entities that have responsibilities relating to BES protection schemes including UFLS, UVLS, and SPS/RAS equipment would present a reliability risk due to the lack of compliance oversight. These types of equipment are essential to the reliable operation of the BES, even in cases where the equipment is installed below the BES 100 kV bright line. In addition, NERC will closely evaluate requests which involve entities that have transmission Remedial Action Schemes or other types of schemes that have the same or similar BES system protection objectives.

Registered Entities should note that if an Element owned by an entity is excluded from the BES Definition, either through an Exclusion Exception Request or a validated Self-Determined Notification of Exclusion, this exclusion alone does not necessarily provide for deactivation of any functional registration from the NERC Compliance Registry. The Registration Criteria states that a "Distribution Provider is the responsible entity that owns, controls, or operates Facilities that are part of any of the following Protection Systems or programs designed, installed, and operated for the protection of the Bulk Power System." The list includes references to required UFLS programs, UVLS programs, SPS/RAS and transmission Protection Systems. The importance of these programs to system reliability is not diminished by the revised BES Definition.

Under the current registration rules, entities have an opportunity to establish that they are not material to the reliability. Such determinations depend on the specific facts and circumstances. In the future, NERC is moving forward with a new proposal for Distribution Provider registration criteria related to the Risk-Based Registration (RBR) initiative. The proposed criteria will accommodate those DPs who are registered only as a result of the owning of UFLS systems and will include a reduced set of reliability standards for which UFLS-Only DPs will be

responsible. RBR also will build on current authority to allow an entity to make a case that it should not remain registered if it is not material to the reliability of the BES. To ensure consistency, a new materiality test is being developed that would be reviewed by a new NERC-led panel comprised of NERC and Regional Entity participants, that the entity is not material to the reliability of the BES and should not remain registered as a DP. The draft design program also includes a process for determining a sub-set of applicable Reliability Standards.

NERC notes that, to the extent that direct application of the BES Definition results in a determination that an Entity's Elements are not BES, an Inclusion Exception process can be initiated by a Responsible Entity to bring such Elements back into the BES. While this would not affect the DP registration status, it may affect other functional registration categories.

Chapter 4 – Reliability Standards Applicability

On a case-by-case basis, NERC may determine if an entity is eligible for a sub-list of applicable Reliability Standard requirements rather than automatically subjecting the entity to the full scope of standards applicable to a particular function. This occurs through the NERC Organization Registration process, in concert with the respective Regional Entity.[19] To initiate a request for a sub-list of applicable Reliability Standards, an entity must inform its Regional Entity contact. As part of its Risk-Based Registration Initiative that was launched in 2014, NERC will lead a review panel with participation by Regional Entities to evaluate, among other things, subsets of applicable Reliability Standard requirements for certain functional entities.

NERC has previously worked with industry to modify applicability designations for Reliability Standards that affect large groups of entities. For example, to address a reliability gap for generator interconnection facilities, FERC recently approved the NERC GO-TO Project.[20] Specifically, in Order No. 785, FERC approved modifications to the applicability sections for Reliability Standards FAC-001-1, FAC-003-3, PRC-004-2.1a, and PRC-005-1.1b.[21] FERC also noted that a small number of "complex" facilities may be subject to additional Reliability Standards than those approved in the GO-TO Project.[22] NERC will continue to address these "complex" facilities on a case-by-case basis.

Dispersed Generation

Project 2014-01 Standard Drafting Team is focusing on identifying Reliability Standard requirements applicable to dispersed power-producing resources. The list developed from the Standards Authorization Request (SAR) may provide a subset of applicable Reliability Standards. Once the Standard Drafting Team concludes its work, NERC will determine next steps, as part of the Risk-Based Registration Initiative.

[19] NERC has identified a corporate goal for 2014 to examine the registration and certification framework.

[20] *Generator Requirements at the Transmission Interface*, Order No. 785, 144 FERC ¶ 61,221 (2013).

[21] FERC approved NERC's request for an effective date of one year following the first quarter after regulatory approvals for FAC-001-1, and for FAC-003-3 Requirement R3. For the remaining requirements of FAC-003-3, FERC approved an effective date of two years following the first calendar quarter after regulatory approvals. FERC also approved that PRC-004-2.1a and PRC-005-1.1b become effective upon receiving required regulatory approvals. (*See* Order No. 785 at P 9).

[22] Order No. 785 at P 53 ("Consistent with prior decisions in *New Harquahala Generating Co., LLC*, and *Cedar Creek Wind Energy, LLC*, for the anticipated small number of generator owners and operators owning facilities deemed to be "complex" and therefore potentially subject to additional Reliability Standards, NERC should evaluate, in consultation with the Regional Entity, which Reliability Standards should apply to the particular entity based on the specific facts and circumstances.").

Chapter 5 – FERC Local Distribution Determinations

In Order No. 773 (at P 66) FERC approved NERC's BES exception request process to determine the technical issue of whether facilities are part of the BES; however, FERC determined that it (FERC) will decide the jurisdictional question of whether facilities are "used in local distribution." Thus, FERC reserved authority to designate sub-100 kV facilities, or other facilities, as part of the BES.

FERC also established a process by which an entity can seek a determination by FERC as to whether facilities are "used in local distribution" as set forth in the Federal Power Act. FERC will make such case-by-case jurisdictional determinations by starting with the Seven-Factor Test set forth in Order No. 888.

When and whether to submit such a jurisdictional question to FERC are business and legal decisions for a registered entity, upon which NERC is not opining in this guidance document.

NERC
NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY CORPORATION

Gerald W. Cauley
President and Chief Executive Officer

June 18, 2014

Initial BES Definition Notification Process Management

The July 1 implementation date for the new definition of the Bulk Electric Systems (BES) is rapidly approaching. As part of this transition across the electric reliability organization, we recognize entities may desire to submit self-determined notifications of exclusion as soon as possible after the effective date. In order to accommodate all entities and manage the flow of processing such materials, we are providing an extended initial submittal period.

NERC and the Regional Entities are committed to processing and efficiently managing these submissions in a timely manner for all entities. Accordingly, we are suggesting that entities pace their submittals within a period beginning July 1 and ending September 1 to ensure a smooth transition. Entities that submit a notification of exclusion during the period from July 1, 2014 through September 1, 2014 will be deemed to have submitted such notification on July 1 for purposes of determining compliance obligations.

During this initial submittal period of activity, a notification of self-determined exclusion will be treated the same as one received on July 1 when it comes to effective dates for compliance with NERC Reliability Standards. The extended initial submittal period will enable registered entities to manage their submittals with a levelized pace that can be more effectively managed for entities, NERC, and the Regional Entities.

If you have any questions, please contact your Regional Entity (see contact list below). For entities with facilities in multiple regions, contact any one of your Regional Entities for guidance.

Sincerely,



Gerry Cauley
President and Chief Executive Officer

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Regional BES Contact Information

FRCC
Send email to bes@frcc.com

MRO
Send email to besnet@Midwestreliability.org

NPCC
Send email to bes@npcc.org

RF
Online at https://www.rfirst.org/Pages/ContactUs.aspx

SERC
Send email to serccomply@serc1.org

SPP
Send email to sppregistration@spp.org

TRE
Send email to bes@texasre.org

WECC
Send email to support@wecc.biz

NERC
NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY CORPORATION

APPENDIX 5C

PROCEDURE FOR REQUESTING AND RECEIVING AN EXCEPTION FROM THE APPLICATION OF THE NERC DEFINITION OF BULK ELECTRIC SYSTEM

Effective: July 1, 2014

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1. Purpose

The NERC definition of the Bulk Electric System uses specific terms and thresholds that, in most cases, should appropriately identify Elements and groups of Elements that are appropriately classified as part of the Bulk Electric System. Conversely, the BES Definition should, in most cases, exclude Elements that are not part of the Bulk Electric System. In certain cases, however, the BES Definition may classify certain Elements as part of the Bulk Electric System that are not necessary for the Reliable Operation of the interconnected bulk-power transmission system or the BES Definition may classify certain Elements as non-Bulk Electric System that are necessary for the Reliable Operation of the interconnected bulk-power transmission system.

This Appendix to the Rules of Procedure of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation provides the procedure by which an entity may request and receive an Exception which will have the effect of either including within the BES an Element or Elements that would otherwise be excluded by application of the BES Definition or excluding from the BES an Element or Elements that would otherwise be included by application of the BES Definition. This Appendix is intended to implement authorization granted by FERC to allow such Exceptions from the BES Definition.[1]

An entity must request and obtain an Exclusion Exception pursuant to an Exception Request under this Exception Procedure before any Element that is included in the BES by application of the BES Definition shall be excluded from the BES. Likewise, an entity must request and obtain an Inclusion Exception pursuant to an Exception Request under this Exception Procedure before any Element that is excluded from the BES by application of the BES Definition shall be included in the BES.

During the pendency of an Exception Request, the status of an Element(s) that is the subject of an Exception Request shall remain as it is determined based on application of the BES Definition. This status will continue until all appeals to all Applicable Governmental Authorities are completed. An entity that is planning a connection of a new Element for which it believes an Exception would be appropriate may request an Exception prior to commercial operation of the Element.

The Owner of the Element to which the Exception Request applies or, with respect to an Element owned by another Registered Entity, any Regional Entity, Planning Authority ("PA"), Reliability Coordinator ("RC"), Transmission Operator ("TOP"), Transmission Planner ("TP") or Balancing Authority ("BA") that has (or will have upon inclusion of the Elements in the BES) the Elements covered by an Exception Request within its Scope of Responsibility may submit an Exception Request for the Element as provided in this Exception Procedure.

[1] *Revision to Electric Reliability Organization Definition of Bulk Electric System,* 133 FERC ¶ 61,150 ("Order No. 743") (2010), *Order on Reh'g, Revision to Electric Reliability Organization Definition of Bulk Electric System,* 134 FERC ¶61,210 ("Order No. 743-A") (2011).

1.2. Authority

This Appendix is a NERC Rule of Procedure and an Electric Reliability Organization Rule. This Appendix has been approved by (i) the NERC Board of Trustees and (ii) FERC. Any future revisions to this Appendix must be adopted in accordance with Article XI, section 2 of the NERC *Bylaws* and Section 1400 of the NERC *Rules of Procedure*, including approval by the NERC Board of Trustees and by FERC, in order to become effective. This Exception Procedure or an equivalent procedure is to be implemented in Canada and Mexico consistent with their respective laws and agreements.

1.3 Canadian and Mexican Entities and Cross-Border Regional Entities

A Registered Entity that is a Canadian Entity or a Mexican Entity seeking an Exception will be expected to work with the Regional Entity, NERC, and Applicable Governmental Authorities in Canada or Mexico, as appropriate, consistent with their respective laws and agreements, and without being obligated to authorize the disclosure of information prohibited by applicable federal, state or provincial law from disclosure to FERC or other governmental authorities in the U.S., in order to implement this Exception Procedure or an equivalent procedure. A Canadian Entity or a Mexican Entity shall not be required to subject itself to United States federal or state laws not otherwise applicable to the entity in order to utilize this Exception Procedure or an equivalent procedure.

2.0. DEFINITIONS

For purposes of this Appendix, capitalized terms shall have the definitions set forth in Appendix 2 to the Rules of Procedure. For ease of reference, the definitions of the following terms that are used in this Appendix are also set forth below.

2.1 Acceptance of the Exception Request (or Acceptance): The determination that an eligible Exception Request (i.e., an Exception Request permitted by section 4.1) contains all the Required Information so that it can undergo substantive review.

2.2 Approval of the Exception Request (or Approval): The determination by NERC that an Exception Request meets the criteria to receive the requested Exception.

2.3 BES: Bulk Electric System.

2.4 BES Definition: The NERC definition of the Bulk Electric System as set forth in the NERC *Glossary of Terms Used in Reliability Standards.*

2.5 Canadian Entity: A Registered Entity that is organized under Canadian federal or provincial law.

2.6 Classified National Security Information: Required Information that has been determined to be protected from unauthorized disclosure pursuant to Executive Order No. 12958,

as amended, and/or the regulations of the NRC at 10 C.F.R. §95.35; or pursuant to any comparable provision of Canadian or Mexican federal or provincial law.

2.7 Disapproval of the Exception Request (or Disapproval): The determination by NERC that an Exception Request does not meet the criteria to receive the requested Exception.

2.8 Eligible Reviewer: A person who has the required security clearances or other qualifications, or who otherwise meets the applicable criteria, to have access to Confidential Information, Classified National Security Information, NRC Safeguards Information or Protected FOIA Information, as applicable to the particular information to be reviewed.

2.9 Exception: Either an Inclusion Exception or an Exclusion Exception.

2.10 Exception Procedure: The procedure set forth in this Appendix.

2.11 Exception Request: A request made by a Submitting Entity in accordance with this Appendix for an Exception.

2.12 Exception Request Form: The form adopted by each Regional Entity, in accordance with a template provided by NERC, for use by Submitting Entities in submitting Exception Requests; provided, that the Exception Request Form must include Section III.B as adopted by NERC.

2.13 Exclusion Exception: A determination that an Element that falls within the BES Definition should be excluded from the BES.

2.14 FERC: The United States Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

2.15 FOIA: The U.S. Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. §552.

2.16 Inclusion Exception: A determination that an Element that falls outside the BES Definition should be included in the BES.

2.17 Lead Entity: The entity that submits Exception Request information that is common to a group of Submitting Entities that are submitting Exception Requests jointly.

2.18 Mexican Entity: A Registered Entity that is organized under Mexican law.

2.19 NRC: The United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

2.20 NRC Safeguards Information: Required Information that is subject to restrictions on disclosure pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §2167 and the regulations of the NRC at 10 C.F.R. §73.21-73.23; or pursuant to comparable provisions of Canadian or Mexican federal or provincial law.

2.21 Owner: The owner(s) of an Element or Elements that is or may be determined to be part of the BES as a result of either the application of the BES Definition or an Exception, or another entity, such as an operator, authorized to act on behalf of the owner of the Element or Elements in the context of an Exception Request.

2.22 Protected FOIA Information: Required Information, held by a governmental entity, that is subject to an exemption from disclosure under FOIA [5 U.S.C. §552(e)], under any similar state or local statutory provision, or under any comparable provision of Canadian or Mexican federal or provincial law, which would be lost were the Required Information to be placed into the public domain.

2.23 Recommendation: The report to NERC containing the evaluation prepared in accordance with section 5.2 concerning whether or to what extent an Exception Request should be approved.

2.24 Rejection of the Exception Request (or Rejection): The determination that an Exception Request is not an eligible Exception Request (i.e., an Exception Request permitted by section 4.1) or does not contain all the Required Information in accordance with section 4.5 in order to be reviewed for substance.

2.25 Required Information: Information required to be provided in an Exception Request, as specified in section 4.0.

2.26 Scope of Responsibility: The registered functions of a PA, RC, TOP, TP or BA and the geographical or electric region in which the PA, RC, TOP, TP or BA operates to perform its registered functions, or with respect to a Regional Entity, its Regional Entity Region.

2.27 Section I Required Information: Required Information that is to be provided in Section I of a Submitting Entity's Exception Request.

2.28 Section II Required Information: Required Information that is to be provided in Section II of a Submitting Entity's Exception Request.

2.29 Section III Required Information: Required Information that is to be provided in Section III of a Submitting Entity's Exception Request.

2.30 Submitting Entity: The entity that submits an Exception Request in accordance with section 4.0.

2.31 Technical Review Panel: A panel established pursuant to section 5.3 of this Appendix.

3.0. BASIS FOR APPROVAL OF AN EXCEPTION

3.1. Grounds for an Exception

(a) Exclusion Exception

An entity may request and obtain Approval from NERC for an Exclusion Exception on the grounds that the Element(s) for which the Exception Request is filed is included within the BES based on application of the BES Definition but is not necessary for the Reliable Operation of the interconnected bulk-power transmission system as evidenced by Required Information provided pursuant to **Detailed Information to Support an Exception Request (**Section III.B of the Exception Request Form).

(b) Inclusion Exception

An entity may request and obtain Approval from NERC for an Inclusion Exception on the grounds that the Element(s) for which the Exception Request is filed is not included within the BES based on application of the BES Definition but is necessary for the Reliable Operation of the interconnected bulk-power transmission system as evidenced by Required Information provided pursuant to **Detailed Information to Support an Exception Request (**Section III.B of the Exception Request Form).

3.2. Burden

The burden to provide a sufficient basis for Approval of an Exception Request in accordance with the provisions of this Exception Procedure is on the Submitting Entity. It is the responsibility of the Regional Entity, subject to oversight by NERC as provided in this Exception Procedure, to evaluate the request and make a Recommendation to NERC regarding its Approval. All evidence provided as part of an Exception Request or response will be considered in determining whether an Exception Request shall be approved or disapproved.

4.0. FORM, CONTENTS, AND SUBMISSION OF AN EXCEPTION REQUEST

4.1. Eligible Submitting Entities

The Owner of an Element may submit an Exception Request for either an Inclusion Exception or an Exclusion Exception regarding that Element. A Regional Entity, PA, RC, TOP, TP, or BA that has (or will have upon inclusion in the BES) the Elements covered by an Exception Request within its Scope of Responsibility may submit an Exception Request for the inclusion in the BES of an Element or Elements owned by a Registered Entity, provided that before doing so, (i) the Submitting Entity conferred with the Owner about the reasons for an Exception, and (ii) could not reach agreement regarding the submission of such an Exception Request. (If the Owner agrees with submitting an Exception Request, the Owner should be the Submitting Entity.) Only a Regional Entity may submit an Exception Request for the inclusion in the BES of an Element or Elements owned by an Owner that is not a Registered Entity. Only an

Owner or a Regional Entity may submit an Exception Request for the exclusion from the BES of an Element.

When a Regional Entity requests an Exception, the Regional Entity shall be the Submitting Entity and shall prepare and submit copies of its Exception Request (or portions thereof) to all applicable entities in accordance to this section 4.0.

With respect to an Element that crosses a boundary between Regional Entities, (1) the Submitting Entity will submit the Exception Request to both (or all) Regional Entities, which will cooperate to process the Exception Request pursuant to section 5.1 below, or (2) the Regional Entities must jointly submit an Exception Request to NERC (neither Regional Entity shall be allowed to submit such Exception Request unilaterally).

4.2. Separate Submissions for Each Exception Request

A separate Exception Request shall be submitted for each Element or set of connected Elements for which the Submitting Entity seeks an Exception. The scope of an Exception Request shall cover the terminal connections of the Element or set of Elements as identified in the Exception Request. Where the Submitting Entity seeks Exceptions from the BES Definition for multiple, similar Elements (either at the same location or at different locations within the geographic boundaries of a Regional Entity) on the same basis, the Exception Requests for all such Elements may be included in one Exception Request with all such Elements or sets of connected Elements separately identified. A single Exception Request may not be submitted for separate Elements within the geographic boundaries of more than one Regional Entity.

Multiple Submitting Entities may jointly file Exception Requests for similar Elements for which they are requesting Exceptions on the same basis. In such a situation, the Submitting Entities will submit a package comprised of a complete Exception Request Form for a Lead Entity, and an Exception Request Form for each other Submitting Entity that (1) provides the Submitting Entity's differing individual information to the extent such is required (e.g., contact information, identification, and location of Element(s), etc.), and (2) otherwise references the pertinent portions of the complete Exception Request Form filed by the Lead Entity (e.g., status under application of the BES Definition, basis for an Exception under section 3.1, etc.). For any Exception Request filed by multiple Submitting Entities as provided in this section, the Lead Entity shall be considered the "Submitting Entity" for purposes of the Regional Entity's and NERC's notices and actions in accordance with the remainder of this Exception Procedure. However, any Owner nonetheless may take any action otherwise appropriate for a Submitting Entity (e.g., respond to a Recommendation, submit an appeal, etc.).

4.3. Withdrawal of an Exception Request

A Submitting Entity may withdraw an Exception Request at any time prior to NERC Approval or Disapproval of the Exception Request.

4.4. Form and Format of Exception Request

An Exception Request shall consist of three sections, all of which must be submitted to the applicable Regional Entity. If the Submitting Entity is not the Owner [i.e., is a Regional Entity, PA, RC, TOP, TP, or BA that has (or will have upon inclusion of the Element in the BES) the Elements covered by an Exception Request within its Scope of Responsibility], it shall at the same time provide a copy of the Exception Request to the Owner (or if the Owner is unknown, to the operator of the Element(s)) to which the Exception Request applies.

4.5. Required Information to be Included in the Exception Request

4.5.1. Section I of an Exception Request shall contain the Required Information specified in this section 4.5.1. At the same time the Submitting Entity submits the Exception Request Form to the Regional Entity, the Submitting Entity shall submit a copy of Section I to each PA, RC, TOP, TP, and BA that has (or will have upon inclusion in the BES) the Elements covered by an Exception Request within its Scope of Responsibility. Failure to provide all Section I Required Information may result in Rejection of the Exception Request as incomplete.

1. Name and address of Submitting Entity.

2. Submitting Entity NERC Compliance Registry ID (if yet assigned).

3. Name of the Owner, if different than the Submitting Entity,

4. Owner's NERC Compliance Registry ID (if yet assigned).

5. Exception Request submittal date.

6. Whether the Exception Request is an original Exception Request or an amended Exception Request; and if it is an amended Exception Request, the identification number(s) of the original Exception Request and any previous amendments.

7. Whether the Exception Request is being submitted in conjunction with Exception Requests by other Submitting Entities. If so, the names of the other Submitting Entities.

8. Whether the Submitting Entity is filing a similar Exception Request(s) with one or more other Regional Entities, and if yes, the name(s) of the other Regional Entity(ies).

9. The type(s) of Element(s) for which the Exception is being requested.

10. Status, based on application of the BES Definition, of the Element(s) for which the Exception is being requested.

4.5.2. Section II of an Exception Request shall contain the Required Information specified in this section 4.5.2. At the same time the Submitting Entity submits the Exception Request Form to the Regional Entity, the Submitting Entity shall submit a copy of Section II to each PA, RC, TOP, TP, and BA that has (or will have upon inclusion of the Element(s) in the BES) the Elements covered by an Exception Request within its Scope of Responsibility. Failure to provide all Section II Required Information may result in Rejection of the Exception Request as incomplete.

Section II Required Information will not be publicly posted or disclosed to third parties except for persons involved in reviewing the Exception Request.

1. Identification and location(s) of Element(s) for which the Exception is being requested.

2. Name, title, phone number, facsimile number, and E-mail address of the Submitting Entity's technical contact person for the Exception Request.

3. Certification by the Submitting Entity (if other than Owner) that it conferred with the Owner regarding the reason for the requested Exception, but could not reach agreement regarding the submission of an Exception Request.

4. To the extent known by the Submitting Entity, name, mailing address, phone number, facsimile number, and E-mail address of the Owner's technical contact person for the Exception Request, if the Owner is different from the Submitting Entity.

5. Identification of PA, RC, TOP, TP, and BA that has (or will have upon inclusion in the BES) the Elements covered by the Exception Request within its Scope of Responsibility, and certification by the Submitting Entity that it has sent copies of Sections I and II to each such entity.

6. A statement of the basis on which the Submitting Entity contends the Exception Request should be approved, and if the Submitting Entity is not the Owner, a statement of the basis of the Submitting Entity's reason for submitting the Exception Request.

7. A statement, signed and dated by an authorized representative of the Submitting Entity's senior management stating that the representative has read the Exception Request on behalf of the Submitting Entity and that the Submitting Entity believes Approval of the Exception Request is warranted.

4.5.3 Section III of an Exception Request shall contain the **Detailed Information to Support an Exception Request** as specified on the Exception Request Form. Failure to include all Section III Required Information may result in Rejection of the Exception Request. The Submitting Entity may designate all or part of the Section III Required Information as Confidential Information.

1. If the Exception Request is supported, in whole or in part, by Classified National Security Information, NRC Safeguards Information, and/or Protected FOIA Information, Section III shall include a statement identifying which of these categories each such item of information falls into and explaining why each such item of information is Classified National Security Information, NRC Safeguards Information, and/or Protected FOIA Information.

2. If the Submitting Entity is prohibited by law from disclosing any Classified National Security Information, NRC Safeguards Information and/or Protected FOIA Information to any person who is not an Eligible Reviewer (such as, for example, the restriction on access to Classified National Security Information specified in section 4.1 of Executive Order No. 12958, as amended), Section III shall identify the Classified National Security Information, NRC Safeguards Information and/or Protected FOIA Information that is subject to such restrictions on disclosure and shall identify the criteria which a person must meet in order to be an Eligible Reviewer of the Classified National Security Information, NRC Safeguards Information and/or Protected FOIA Information.

4.5.4 The Owner of the Element(s) to which the Exception Request applies, if different than the Submitting Entity, may file a response to supplement, correct or disagree with all or any part of an Exception Request. Any PA, RC, TOP, TP, and BA that has (or will have upon inclusion of the Element(s) in the BES) the Elements covered by an Exception Request within its Scope of Responsibility may also provide input to the Regional Entity regarding the Exception Request. If in order to evaluate an Exception Request, the Owner, PA, RC, TOP, TP or BA wishes to obtain any Required Information in Section III of the Exception Request, the Owner, PA, RC, TOP, TP or BA may submit to the Regional Entity that received the Exception Request a request stating its reason for wanting to review such information, and the Regional Entity may provide such information to the Owner, PA, RC, TOP, TP or BA if the Regional Entity believes such review may assist the Regional Entity's review; if any of such Section III Required Information has been designated Confidential Information, prior to being provided the Confidential Information, the Owner, PA, RC, TOP, TP or BA shall execute a confidentiality agreement in a form established by the Regional Entity. Any response provided pursuant to this section 4.5.4 must be submitted to the Regional Entity with copies to the Submitting Entity and the Owner, if different from the Submitting Entity, within forty-five (45) days after the date the Exception Request Form was submitted to the Regional Entity.

4.6 Access to Confidential Information, Classified National Security Information, NRC Safeguards Information, and Protected FOIA Information Included in Required Information

4.6.1. Upon reasonable advance notice from a Regional Entity, and subject to section 4.6.2, a Submitting Entity or Owner must provide the Regional Entity (a) with access to Confidential Information, Classified National Security Information, NRC Safeguards Information, and Protected FOIA Information included in the Exception Request, and (b) with

access for purposes of making a physical review and inspection of the Element or Elements for which an Exception Request has been submitted.

4.6.2. If the Submitting Entity or Owner is prohibited by law from disclosing any Confidential Information, Classified National Security Information, NRC Safeguards Information, or Protected FOIA Information to any person who is not an Eligible Reviewer (such as, for example, the restriction on access to Classified National Security Information specified in section 4.1 of Executive Order No. 12958, as amended), then such Confidential Information, Classified National Security Information, NRC Safeguards Information, or Protected FOIA Information shall only be reviewed by a representative or representatives of the Regional Entity which may include contractors, who are Eligible Reviewers.

4.6.3. The Regional Entity, as applicable, will work cooperatively with the Submitting Entity and/or Owner to provide necessary levels of protection for information identified in Section 1500 of the NERC Rules of Procedure and to access Protected FOIA Information in a way that does not waive or extinguish the exemption of the Protected FOIA Information from disclosure. If the Regional Entity shares any Confidential Information with a third party it shall do so subject to restrictions in applicable law under appropriate confidentiality agreements.

5.0 REVIEW, ACCEPTANCE OR REJECTION, AND RECOMMENDATION REGARDING EXCEPTION REQUESTS

The Regional Entity's evaluation of the Exception Request will consist of two stages:

(a) During the first stage, the Regional Entity shall conduct an initial screening to determine whether to accept or reject the Exception Request; and

(b) During the second stage, the Regional Entity shall conduct a substantive review to determine its Recommendation to NERC as to whether or not the Exception Request should be approved.

If the Regional Entity determines at any time that for a specified period of time, the Regional Entity will be unable to complete initial screenings of Exception Requests within the time provided by section 5.1.3(a) and/or substantive reviews of Exception Requests within the time provided in section 5.2.2, the Regional Entity, based on consultation with NERC, shall establish an alternative time period objective and work plan for completing initial screenings and substantive reviews of Exception Requests during the specified period of time. The alternative time period and work plan shall be publicized by posting on the Regional Entity's website.

When a Regional Entity is the Submitting Entity of an Exception Request, it nonetheless shall process such Request in accordance with this section 5.0, with the following exceptions:

i. There will be no initial screening, Acceptance, or Rejection, and therefore sections 5.1.3 through 5.1.6 will not apply;

ii. No later than sixty (60) days after the submission of the Exception Request to the Owner and other applicable entities, the Regional Entity shall commence its substantive review of the Exception Request (and of any responses received from the Owner and other applicable entities) in accordance with section 5.2 and shall complete such substantive review within six (6) months; and

iii. Before the Regional Entity issues a Recommendation to NERC to approve or disapprove the Exception Request in whole or in part, the Technical Review Panel shall review the proposed determination and issue an opinion with copies provided to the Owner and to NERC, in accordance with section 5.3.

5.1. Initial Screening of Exception Request for Acceptance or Rejection

5.1.1. Upon receipt of an Exception Request, the Regional Entity will assign a unique identifier to the Exception Request, and will review the Exception Request to determine that the Exception Request is from an eligible (in accordance with section 4.1) Submitting Entity for an Exception from the application of the BES Definition and that all Required Information has been provided. If the Exception Request indicates that the Submitting Entity has submitted a similar Exception Request to one or more other Regional Entities, the Regional Entities shall coordinate their actions undertaken pursuant to this section 5.0. If the Exception Request is for an Element that crosses boundaries between or among Regional Entities, the Regional Entities shall cooperatively determine a lead Regional Entity to assess the request in a single process yielding a single Recommendation to NERC.

5.1.2. The unique identifier assigned to the Exception Request will be in the form of XXXX-YYYY-NERCID-ExceptionZZZZZ, where "XXXX" is the year in which the Exception Request is received by the Regional Entity (*e.g.*, "2012"); "YYYY" is the acronym for the Regional Entity within whose geographic boundaries the relevant Element or Elements are located[2]; NERCID is the Submitting Entity's NERC Compliance Registry ID (or an abbreviation of its name if an ID is not yet assigned); and "ZZZZZ" is the sequential number of the Exception Requests received by the Regional Entity in that year. If the Exception Request is amended or resubmitted, "-AZ" will be added to the end of the identifier, where "Z" is the number of the amendment to the Exception Request. If the Exception Request is for an Element that crosses boundaries between or among Regional Entities, the YYYY identifier shall be that of the lead Regional Entity assessing the request.

5.1.3. The Regional Entity will complete its initial screening of the Exception Request Form and any Owner's response submitted pursuant to section 4.5.4 no later than either sixty (60) days after receiving the Exception Request or, if the Submitting Entity is not the Owner, thirty (30) days after receiving any Owner's response, whichever is later, unless (i) the

[2] The acronyms to be used are: FRCC (Florida Reliability Coordinating Council); MRO (Midwest Reliability Organization); NPCC (Northeast Power Coordinating Council); RFC (Reliability*First* Corporation); SERC (SERC Reliability Corporation); SPP (Southwest Power Pool Regional Entity); TRE (Texas Reliability Entity); and WECC (Western Electricity Coordinating Council), and NERC in cases where the Exception Request is submitted to NERC.

Regional Entity has established an alternative time period objective and work plan for completing initial screenings pursuant to this section 5.0 that provides for a different time period(s) for completing initial screenings, or (ii) the Regional Entity issues a notice to the Submitting Entity, and to the Owner if different, prior to the deadline date for completing the initial screening, stating that the Regional Entity will not be able to complete the initial screening by the deadline date and stating a revised deadline date.

5.1.4. If, based on its initial screening, the Regional Entity determines the Exception Request is from an eligible (in accordance with section 4.1) Submitting Entity for an Exception from the BES Definition, and that all Required Information has been provided, the Regional Entity shall accept the Exception Request as complete and send a notice of such Acceptance to the Submitting Entity, with a copy to the Owner, if different than the Submitting Entity, and to NERC.

5.1.5. (a) If the Regional Entity determines, based on its review of the Exception Request, that the Exception Request (i) is not from an eligible (in accordance with section 4.1) Submitting Entity for an Exception from application of the BES Definition, and/or (ii) does not contain all Required Information, the Regional Entity shall reject the Exception Request as incomplete and send a notice of such Rejection to the Submitting Entity, with a copy to the Owner, if different than the Submitting Entity, and to NERC. To the extent feasible, if an Exception Request Form is missing Required Information, the Regional Entity shall not reject the Exception Request until (1) it has contacted the Submitting Entity to request that the Exception Request Form be supplemented with the missing Required Information, and (2) the Submitting Entity has failed to submit such Required Information within thirty (30) days or such additional period of time as the Regional Entity may allow at its discretion based on the circumstances. Under appropriate confidentiality/security agreements, the Regional Entity shall facilitate the access to data and information from other entities required by the Submitting Entity to accurately supply the **Detailed Information to Support an Exception Request** (e.g., interconnection base case power flow studies) and/or by the Owner to accurately respond. When a Submitting Entity submits supplemental Required Information in response to a request under this section 5.1.5(a), the time for the Regional Entity to perform its initial screening will be extended for fifteen (15) days after receipt of the supplemental Required Information.

(b) If the Regional Entity rejects the Exception Request in accordance with section 5.1.5 (a), the Regional Entity's notice shall explain the reason for the Rejection. The Submitting Entity may, within thirty (30) days after receipt of the Rejection, appeal to NERC in accordance with section 7.0 of this Exception Procedure to reverse the Rejection and to direct the Regional Entity to proceed with a substantive review of the Exception Request.

5.1.6. The Regional Entity may either accept the Exception Request in its entirety, reject the Exception Request in its entirety, or if the Exception Request is for more than one Element, may accept it with respect to a subset of the Elements and reject it with respect to the remainder based on the similarity of the evidence presented for the Exception Request.

5.2 Substantive Review of Exception Request for Approval or Disapproval

5.2.1 After Acceptance of an Exception Request, the Regional Entity shall conduct a substantive review of all evidence provided as part of an Exception Request or response to evaluate whether or to what extent the Exception Request should be approved. As part of its substantive review, depending on the circumstances of the Exception Request, the Regional Entity may request access to and review the Required Information, including any Confidential Information, Classified National Security Information, NRC Safeguards Information, and Protected FOIA Information that is necessary to support the Exception Request; may conduct one or more physical inspections of the relevant Element(s) and its (their) context and surrounding Elements and Facilities; may request additional information from the Submitting Entity, Owner, or applicable PAs, RCs, BAs, TOPs and TPs; and may engage in further discussions concerning possible revisions to the Exception Request.

5.2.2. At the outset of its substantive review of the Exception Request, the Regional Entity shall develop a milestone schedule pursuant to which it plans to conduct the substantive review, and shall send a copy of the milestone schedule to the Submitting Entity and the Owner, if different, for information. The Regional Entity shall complete the substantive review of the Exception Request within six months after Acceptance of the Exception Request or within an alternative time period under section 5.0, at the conclusion of which the Regional Entity shall issue a notice (in accordance with section 5.2.3) stating its Recommendation that the Exception Request be approved or disapproved. The Regional Entity may extend the period of substantive review for individual Exception Requests; the revised date by which the Regional Entity will issue its Recommendation concerning the Exception Request shall be stated in a notice issued by the Regional Entity.

5.2.3. Upon completion of its substantive review of the Exception Request, the Regional Entity shall issue a Recommendation to NERC, with a copy to the Submitting Entity and to the Owner if different than the Submitting Entity, including the Regional Entity's evaluation of whether and to what extent the Exception Request qualifies to be approved in its entirety or be disapproved in its entirety, or if the Exception Request is for more than one Element, to be approved with respect to a subset of the Elements and disapproved with respect to the remainder of the Elements. The Recommendation shall set forth the basis on which the Regional Entity arrived at its Recommendation. With the Recommendation, the Regional Entity will also send NERC copies of the Exception Request Form and all other information considered by the Regional Entity in arriving at its Recommendation.

5.2.4 The Regional Entity shall not recommend Disapproval of the Exception Request in whole or in part without first submitting the Exception Request for review to a Technical Review Panel and receiving its opinion, in accordance with section 5.3.

5.2.5 NERC shall develop, and post on its web site, a reporting program and schedule pursuant to which Regional Entities will be required to submit to NERC periodic reports on the numbers, status and timing of their initial screenings and substantive reviews of Exception Requests.

5.3 Technical Review Panel

Each Regional Entity shall establish provisions for a Technical Review Panel consisting of not less than three (3) individuals appointed by the Regional Entity senior executive (CEO, President, General Manager, etc.). Panel members shall comply with Subsection 7 of Section 403 of the NERC Rules of Procedure, shall not have participated in the review of the Exception Request, and shall have the required technical background to evaluate Exception Requests. When the Regional Entity intends pursuant to section 5.2.2 to issue a Recommendation of Disapproval, in whole or in part, the Technical Review Panel must first review the Regional Entity's proposed determinations and provide an opinion, a copy of which shall be provided to the Submitting Entity (and Owner if different) in the event the Regional Entity decides to disapprove the Exception Request. The Regional Entity will not be bound by the opinion of the Technical Review Panel, but such evaluation shall become part of the record associated with the Exception Request and shall be provided to NERC.

6.0 SUPPLEMENTATION OF AN EXCEPTION REQUEST PRIOR TO A RECOMMENDATION

A Submitting Entity or Owner at any time prior to the Regional Entity issuing its Recommendation may supplement a pending Exception Request that is under review by a Regional Entity, either at the request of the Regional Entity or at the Submitting Entity's or Owner's own initiative, for the purpose of providing additional or revised Required Information. The Submitting Entity or Owner shall submit a written explanation of what Required Information is being added or revised and the purpose of the supplementation. Supplementing a pending Exception Request may, in the Regional Entity's discretion, reset the time period for the Regional Entity's initial screening or substantive review, as applicable, of the Exception Request.

7.0 APPEAL OF REJECTION OF AN EXCEPTION REQUEST

The Submitting Entity may submit to the NERC Director of Compliance Operations, with a copy to the Regional Entity and Owner if different, information that demonstrates that the insufficiencies in an Exception Request Form identified in the notice of Rejection by the Regional Entity pursuant to section 5.1.5 are incorrect or otherwise do not warrant Rejection of the Exception Request, and that the Exception Request should be accepted and proceed to substantive review. A Submitting Entity's submission to NERC under this section 7.0 shall be in writing, shall provide the Exception Request which received the Rejection (using the identifier assigned to the Exception Request pursuant to section 5.1.2), and shall set forth a description of the errors that the Submitting Entity believes are in the notice of Rejection. The Submitting Entity's submission must demonstrate that it is eligible (in accordance with section 4.1) to submit the Exception Request and that all Required Information for the Exception Request has been provided. NERC will review the Submitting Entity's submission and the reports submitted by the Regional Entity or Regional Entities pursuant to section 5.1.5 with respect to the Exception Request, and if NERC determines that the Submitting Entity is eligible (in accordance with section 4.1) to submit the Exception Request, that all Required Information has been provided, and that the Exception Request should proceed to substantive review, NERC shall,

within forty-five (45) days after receiving the submission, issue a decision directing the Regional Entity to proceed to a substantive review of the Exception Request in accordance with section 5.2. NERC will send a written notice to the Submitting Entity, the Owner if different, and the Regional Entity stating that NERC either directs the Regional Entity to proceed to a substantive review or that NERC does not direct such a review.

8.0 APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL OF AN EXCEPTION REQUEST

Following the date of the Regional Entity's Recommendation to NERC, a Submitting Entity or Owner, will have thirty (30) days to submit a comment in support of or opposition to the Recommendation. The NERC President shall appoint a team of no less than (3) three persons with the required technical background to evaluate Exception Requests to review the Recommendation and accompanying materials provided by the Regional Entity pursuant to section 5.2.3, the Technical Review Panel opinion (if any), and any comment submitted by the Submitting Entity or Owner. The members of the review team shall have no financial, contractual, employment or other interest in the Submitting Entity or Owner that would present a conflict of interest and shall be free of any conflicts of interest in accordance with NERC policies. This review shall be completed within ninety (90) days after NERC receives the Recommendation. NERC may choose to ask the Regional Entity, Submitting Entity and Owner, if different than the Submitting Entity, to appear at a NERC office for interviews or discussion regarding any questions. In lieu of appearing in person at a NERC office, appearances may be, upon the mutual agreement of NERC, the Regional Entity, the Submitting Entity and/or Owner, conducted by a conference call, teleconferencing, or webinar. By the end of the ninety-day review period, the team shall issue a proposed decision either to approve or to disapprove the Exception Request. If the Exception Request concerns more than one Element, the review team's proposed decision may approve the Exception Request in its entirety, disapprove the Exception Request in its entirety, or approve some portion of the Exception Request and disapprove the remaining portion. The proposed decision shall be in writing, shall be based on the team's independent consideration of the full record, and state the basis for the decision. If the proposed decision of the team was not unanimous, the dissenting team member may, if he or she wishes to do so, issue a minority report stating the dissenting member's reasons for disagreement with the proposed decision. Within thirty (30) days after the date of the review team's proposed decision, the NERC President shall issue a final written decision on the Exception Request on behalf of NERC. The final decision may adopt the proposed decision or modify the proposed decision, and may reach a different conclusion than the proposed decision as to whether the Exception Request is approved or disapproved. The final decision issued by the NERC President shall be the decision of NERC with respect to Approval or Disapproval of the Exception Request.

NERC shall provide to the Submitting Entity and to the Owner, if different, copies of any documents considered by the NERC review team in reaching its proposed decision, and any additional documents considered by the NERC President in reaching the final decision, that were not originally provided by, or have not previously been provided to, the Submitting Entity or Owner.

Documentation used to substantiate the decision related to an Exception Request shall be retained by NERC for a minimum of seven (7) years or as long as the Exception is in effect, whichever is longer, unless a different retention period is otherwise identified

9.0 CHALLENGES TO APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL OF EXCEPTION REQUESTS

A Submitting Entity or Owner aggrieved by NERC's Approval or Disapproval of an Exception Request or termination of an Exception may, within thirty (30) days following the date of NERC's decision, challenge such determination pursuant to Section 1703 of the NERC Rules of Procedure. If neither a Submitting Entity nor Owner challenges, within such period, NERC's determination with respect to any Element to which the Exception Request or the Exception applies, such determination shall become effective with respect to such Element on the thirty-first day following the date of the NERC decision.

10.0 IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD FOR EXCEPTIONS

10.1 Inclusion Exceptions

In the case of an Element not included in the BES by application of the BES Definition but for which an Inclusion Exception is approved, the Owner shall submit a proposed implementation plan to the Regional Entity detailing the schedule for complying with any Reliability Standards applicable to the newly included Element. The Regional Entity and Owner shall confer to agree upon such schedule. If the Regional Entity and Owner are unable to agree on the implementation plan, the Regional Entity shall notify the NERC Director of Compliance Operations of the disagreement, and shall provide statements of the Regional Entity's and the Owner's positions, and NERC shall specify a reasonable implementation schedule.

10.2 Denials of Exception Requests for Exclusion

(a) In the case of a newly-constructed or installed Element which is included in the BES by application of the BES Definition but for which an Exception Request for an Exclusion Exception was submitted at least twelve (12) months before commercial operation of the Element, but which Exception Request either is still pending or has been rejected or disapproved at the time of commercial operation, the Owner shall submit a proposed implementation plan to the Regional Entity detailing the schedule for complying with any Reliability Standards applicable to the newly constructed or installed Element. The Regional Entity and Owner shall confer to agree upon such schedule. If the Regional Entity and Owner are unable to agree on the implementation plan, the Regional Entity shall notify the NERC Director of Compliance Operations of the disagreement, and shall provide statements of the Regional Entity's and the Owner's positions, and NERC shall specify a reasonable implementation schedule.

(b) In the case of an Element which is included in the BES based on application of the current BES Definition but was not included in the BES under the BES Definition in effect immediately prior to the current BES Definition, and for which an Exception Request for an Exclusion Exception was submitted no more than twelve (12) months after the current BES

Definition became effective, but which Exception Request either is still pending or has been rejected or disapproved at the end of any applicable BES Definition implementation plan time period, the Owner shall submit a proposed implementation plan to the Regional Entity detailing the schedule for complying with any Reliability Standards applicable to the newly included Element. The Regional Entity and Owner shall confer to agree upon such schedule. If the Regional Entity and Owner are unable to agree on the implementation plan, the Regional Entity shall notify the NERC Director of Compliance Operations of the disagreement, and shall provide statements of the Regional Entity's and the Owner's positions, and NERC shall specify a reasonable implementation schedule.

11.0 TERMINATION OF AN APPROVED EXCEPTION

11.1 An Exception Request typically will be approved without a specified date of termination but will be subject to review to verify continuing justification for the Exception.

11.2 Submitting Entity(ies) shall notify the appropriate Regional Entity, with a copy to NERC, within ninety (90) days after learning of any change of condition which would affect the basis stated by NERC in its decision pursuant to section 8.0 approving the Exception Request. NERC shall review such notification and determine whether to direct the Regional Entity to perform a substantive review (pursuant to section 5.2) to verify continuing justification for the Exception and to issue a Recommendation to NERC.

11.3 Submitting Entity(ies) shall certify[3] periodically to the appropriate Regional Entity that the basis for an Element being included or excluded in the BES through the Exception remains valid and in connection with each certification, shall provide the Regional Entity with any changes to Section I Required Information or Section II Required Information. The certification shall be due on the first day of the first quarter thirty-six (36) months after the date on which the Exception Request was approved and every thirty-six (36) months thereafter, as long as the Exception remains in effect. If such certification is not provided, the Exception is subject to termination ninety (90) days after the date the certification was due, and the Regional Entity shall send the Submitting Entity and NERC written notice of such termination.

11.4 If the Regional Entity obtains information through means other than those described in sections 11.2 and 11.3 that indicates an Exception may no longer be warranted, the Regional Entity shall provide such information to NERC. NERC shall review the information and determine whether to direct the Regional Entity to perform a substantive review (pursuant to section 5.2) to verify continuing justification for the Exception and to issue a Recommendation to NERC.

11.5 If the Regional Entity's Recommendation following a substantive review pursuant to section 11.2 or 11.4 is that the Exception shall be terminated, NERC shall (i) issue a written notice to the Submitting Entity and Owner, if different, that the Exception is under review for possible termination, (ii) allow the Submitting Entity and/or Owner, as applicable, thirty (30)

[3] The certification shall consider the effect on the basis for the Exception of changes such as Load growth and topological changes, as well as the effect on system limits and impacts as a result of the contingencies listed in Table 1 of each applicable NERC TPL Reliability Standard.

days from the date of the notice to submit comments or information to NERC to show that the Exception continues to be justified and should remain in effect, and (iii) cause the Recommendation to be reviewed in accordance with section 8.0 of this Appendix. If the conclusion of the review is that the Exception should be terminated, NERC shall send a written notice to the Submitting Entity and Owner, if different, stating that the Exception is terminated and the reasons for the termination. When an Element will be included in the BES as a result of the termination of an Exclusion Exception under this section, an implementation plan detailing the schedule for complying with any Reliability Standards applicable to the newly included Element will be developed in accordance with section 10.1 as if it were an Inclusion Exception.

11.6 Upon request by the Regional Entity, the Submitting Entity(ies) and/or Owner if different shall provide within thirty (30) days the most recent versions of any Section III Required Information so requested.

Canadian Provincial Summaries of Standard-Making and Enforcement Functions with U.S. Comparators

Last Updated: October 9, 2014

The Federal, Provincial, and Territorial Monitoring and Enforcement Sub-group (MESG) developed the following Canadian provincial summaries and will review them annually and update them as needed. If you have comments on the summaries, please submit them to NERC Director of Canadian Affairs Laura Hussey.

The provincial summary for Manitoba will be posted as soon as it is finalized.

Alberta - US Comparator:
Standard-Making and Enforcement Functions

Fast Facts about Alberta's Electricity System

Total annual consumption: 77,451 GWh
(2013)
Customers: approx. 1,632,000
Installed capacity: 14,500 MW (2013)
Record summer peak: 10,063 MW
Record winter peak: 11,139 MW (2013)
Total length of transmission system: 26,000 km
Interconnections: British Columbia, Saskatchewan (DC), Montana

Current Reliability Standards

Below is a link to current reliability standards in Alberta:
http://www.aeso.ca/rulesprocedures/17006.html

Key Organizations in Alberta's Electricity Sector

Alberta Energy

Alberta Energy is responsible for setting the policy and legislative framework for Alberta's electricity system. Alberta Energy develops solutions and advises on all aspects of energy policy for Alberta, including electricity, natural gas and oil.

Alberta Utilities Commission

The Alberta Utilities Commission ("AUC or Commission") is an independent, quasi-judicial agency of the Province of Alberta. The AUC regulates the utilities sector, and is responsible to ensure that the delivery of Alberta's utility service takes place in a manner that is fair, responsible and in the public interest. The AUC has authority to approve as effective in Alberta, reliability standards filed before it by the AESO, or to reject reliability standards based upon the recommendation of the AESO. The AUC must follow the AESO's recommendation related to Alberta reliability standards unless an interested person satisfies the AUC that the recommendation is either "technically deficient" or "not in the public interest". The AUC is the adjudicative body for compliance enforcement in respect of both ISO rules and Alberta reliability standards.

Alberta Electric System Operator

The Independent System Operator (ISO) in the Province of Alberta is the Alberta Electric System Operator ("AESO") – a statutory corporation pursuant to the *Electric Utilities Act, 2003* ("the Act"). Its statutory mandate requires it to direct the reliable operation of the Alberta interconnected electric system (AIES), plan the transmission system, and operate the wholesale electricity market. The AESO also evaluates Alberta's current and short-term electricity needs, and the adequacy and reliability of the integrated power system to meet those needs. As set out in the Alberta Transmission Regulation, the reliability standards applicable in Alberta are the standards adopted by the AESO following public consultation with those

market participants that it considers likely to be directly affected by the Alberta reliability standards, and AUC approval. The AESO is also mandated by the Act and the Transmission Regulation to 'establish practices and procedures' and 'monitor' the compliance of market participants with ISO rules, with AUC rules, and with Alberta reliability standards.

Market Surveillance Administrator

The Market Surveillance Administrator ("MSA") is a statutory corporation established under the *Electric Utilities Act, 2003* of the Province of Alberta and continued under the *Alberta Utilities Commission Act, 2007*. The mandate of the MSA is to carry out surveillance in respect of the Alberta electricity markets and the Alberta retail gas market to ensure they operate in a fair, efficient, and openly competitive manner. The scope of the MSA's legislative mandate includes the enforcement of ISO rules and reliability standards effective in Alberta. Under rules established by the AUC, the MSA may issue specified penalties for contravention of ISO rules or reliability standards or may request a hearing or other proceeding before the AUC to seek an administrative penalty or other relief. The MSA's mandate of enforcement for both ISO rules and Alberta reliability standards extends to Alberta market participants and the AESO.

Table Definitions

Provincial Organization: the Alberta organization accountable and responsible for performing the function according to provincial legislation for matters concerning Alberta entities.

US Organization: the US organization engaged to perform the function according to an executed Memorandum of Understanding for matters concerning Alberta entities.

US Comparator: the US organization that is responsible for performing the functions according to US law.

Functions		Provincial Organization	Relevant US Organization	US Comparator
Standards Making	Standards Approval	AUC (1)	Not Applicable	FERC
	Standards Development	AESO (1)	NERC (1)	NERC, WECC
	Entity Registration	AESO (2)	Not Applicable	NERC and WECC in their respective roles
Compliance Monitoring	Compliance Monitoring and Violation Detection	AESO/MSA (3)(5)(6)	WECC (3)	NERC and WECC in their respective roles, FERC
Enforcement Processes	Execution of Investigations	AESO/MSA (7)	Not Applicable	NERC and WECC in their respective roles, FERC
	Violation Determination and Sanction Imposition	MSA (8)(9)(10)	Not Applicable	NERC, WECC, FERC
Violation Prevention and Outreach	Violation Prevention, Outreach, including education	AESO/MSA (4)	NERC and WECC	NERC, WECC, FERC
Appeals	First Right of Appeal	AUC (11)	Not Applicable	NERC
	Second Right of Appeal	Review and Variance application to the AUC (12)	Not Applicable	FERC
	Third Right of Appeal	Court of Appeal of Alberta (13)	Not Applicable	US Court of Appeals
Oversight	Approval of Alberta's Rules of Procedure	Not applicable	Not Applicable	FERC
	Approval of Alberta's Compliance Monitoring Plan	AESO (5)/MSA (6)	Not Applicable	NERC and WECC
	Performance Oversight of CMP	AESO (5)/MSA (6)	Not Applicable	NERC BOT CC
	Violation Prevention and Outreach	AESO/MSA	NERC and WECC	NERC and WECC in their respective roles, FERC

Notes:

1. **Standards Approval:** Pursuant to section 20 of the Alberta Transmission Regulation, NERC is recognized as the Electricity Reliability Organization (ERO) in Alberta. NERC reliability standards are assessed by AESO subject matter experts together with the Alberta Reliability Committee (ARC). The ARC advises the AESO on the adoption of NERC standards as Alberta standards. The AESO must consult with market participants who are likely to be directly affected and must file proposed standards with the AUC with its recommendation to approve or reject a standard. In accordance with the Transmission Regulation, the AUC must follow the recommendation of the AESO unless an interested party satisfies the AUC that the recommendation of the AESO is either technically deficient or not in the public interest.

2. **Entity Registration:** Market participants have a duty to comply with Alberta reliability standards that are applicable to them under the Act. The AESO maintains a registry that is used to administer the compliance monitoring program, including scoping and scheduling of monitoring activities. Not being registered does not remove the market participant from complying with the Alberta Reliability Standards. The AESO bases registration on the Alberta Reliability Standards Functional Model and Criteria for Registration which maps Alberta market participant roles to the AESO functional model roles.

3. **Compliance Accountability:** The Alberta Transmission Regulation mandates that the AESO monitor the compliance by market participants with Alberta reliability standards. Further to the MSA's mandate under the Alberta Utilities Commission Act, the MSA oversees compliance of the AESO in respect of Alberta reliability standards applicable to the AESO. The MSA has entered into a services agreement with WECC such that WECC conducts compliance monitoring of the AESO under the auspices of the MSA.

4. **Prevention and Outreach:** The AESO conducts periodic stakeholder meetings for the purpose of updating entities on standards development activities and changes to the compliance monitoring program. In addition, the MSA provides guidance on compliance trends and expectations via its compliance reporting activities.

5. **Monitoring:** Pursuant to the Alberta Transmission Regulation and ISO rules, the AESO has established the Alberta Reliability Standards Compliance Monitoring Program (CMP) and associated processes and procedures for monitoring Alberta market participants. The AESO oversees performance of the CMP.

6. **Monitoring:** The MSA is the compliance monitor with respect to the AESO. In this regard, the MSA has entered into a service agreement with WECC to conduct compliance monitoring of the AESO under the auspices of the MSA including self-certification and compliance audits. Under the service agreement, WECC assists the MSA in the development of an Implementation Plan annually.

The Implementation Plan is applicable solely to the AESO and is subject to MSA approval and oversight.

7. **Investigations:** The AESO and WECC (as applicable) are required to refer suspected contraventions of Alberta reliability standards to the MSA for disposition. The MSA may also investigate and make its own independent conclusions for violation determinations and sanctions for all Alberta entities, including the AESO.

8. **Violation Determination and Sanction Imposition:** MSA makes violation and sanction determinations for all Alberta entities and the AESO. In accordance with AUC rules, the MSA may issue a notice of specified penalty for contravention of an Alberta reliability standard. Alternatively, the MSA may seek an administrative penalty before the AUC or other relief. The maximum administrative penalty amount is $1,000,000 per day on which the contravention occurs or continues.

9. **Violation Determination and Sanction Imposition:** NERC and WECC have no authority to impose sanctions on Alberta entities or the AESO.

10. **Public Disclosure:** In the event that the MSA issues a notice of specified penalty for contravention of a reliability standard, the name of the responsible entity is made public on the MSA website in accordance with AUC rules. A copy of the notice of specified penalty issued to the entity is typically the form of disclosure. In the event of an administrative proceeding before the AUC, the outcome of the proceeding is made public in an AUC decision.

11. **Appeals to MSA Determinations:** If a registered entity or the AESO fails to pay or disputes a specified penalty issued by the MSA, the MSA is required to notify the AUC and request a hearing. The AUC may confirm or rescind the notice of specified penalty or may impose an administrative penalty.

12. **Review of AUC Decisions:** A registered entity or the AESO may seek application to review and vary a decision of the Commission.

13. **Legal Review of AUC Decisions:** A registered entity or the AESO may seek leave to appeal a decision of the AUC with the Court of Appeal of Alberta.

British Columbia – United States Comparator: Standard-Making and Enforcement Functions

Fast Facts about British Columbia's Electricity System

Total annual consumption: approx. 63 Terawatt-hours TWh
Customers: over 2 million
Installed capacity: approx. 13,000 MW
Record summer peak: provincial peak not available
Record winter peak: 10,113 MW Nov. 2006[1]
Total length of transmission system: approx. 20,600 km[2]
Interconnections: British Columbia is part of the Western Interconnection which includes BC, Alberta, all or part of 14 western States and the northern portion of Baja California, Mexico. BC has direct interconnections to Alberta and Washington.

Reliability Standards Currently in Effect

Below is a link to a list of Mandatory Reliability Standards adopted in BC, accessed from both the BCUC and WECC websites:
http://www.wecc.biz/Standards/BCApproved%20Standards/Forms/AllItems.aspx

Key Organizations in British Columbia's Electricity Sector

Ministry of Energy and Mines

The Ministry of Energy and Mines is responsible for British Columbia's electricity sector. The Ministry develops and oversees British Columbia's (BC) policies with regard to electrical power generation and transmission, including replacing and upgrading infrastructure. See the *2007 BC Energy Plan: A Vision for Clean Energy Leadership.* The Ministry also develops and implements policies to ensure reliable electricity supply through mandatory reliability standards and participation with the Western Electricity Coordinating Council. The Ministry administers statutes relating to the energy sector and has policy responsibilities under the *Utilities Commission Act*. The Ministry also oversees the British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority (BC Hydro) through the *British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority Act.*

British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC)

The British Columbia Utilities Commission (Commission) is an independent, quasi-judicial, regulatory agency that operates under and administers the *Utilities Commission Act*. The Commission's primary responsibility is the regulation of energy utilities under its jurisdiction to ensure that the rates charged for energy are fair, just and reasonable, and that utilities provide safe, adequate and secure service to their customers. The Commission's mandate in the MRS Program is described in legislation and the *Mandatory Reliability Standards Regulation* (MRS Regulation), *BC Reg. 32/2009, MO39*. Specifically, the Commission adopts or rejects reliability standards in BC and is responsible for the administration of the MRS Program

[1] BC Hydro data only, BC Hydro 2007 annual report
[2] Compiled from BC Hydro and FortisBC annual reports and Rio Tinto Alcan information

in BC. In addition, the Commission also has the authority to impose administrative penalties for contraventions of MRS in accordance with the *Utilities Commission Act* and the *Administrative Penalties Regulation, BC Reg. 316/2012, OIC 731/2012.*

Western Electricity Coordinating Council

The Commission engaged the Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC) as the Commission's Administrator for the MRS Program in BC. Through the Administration Agreement the Commission grants WECC authority to act as the Commission's Administrator in the assessment of registration criteria and administration of approved reliability standards in BC. WECC's authority is limited to actions and obligations specified in the Commission's Rules of Procedure for reliability standards in BC, as well as the Registration Manual and Compliance Monitoring Program, or as otherwise ordered by the Commission.

British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority

The British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority (BC Hydro) is a provincially owned crown corporation and the largest electric utility in BC. BC Hydro delivers electricity to its customers through a network of over 75,000 kilometres of transmission and distribution lines and its system connects with other transmission systems in Alberta and Washington State. BC Hydro's responsibilities in the MRS Program are outlined in the Utilities Commission Act and MRS Regulation. Specifically, BC Hydro evaluates MRS for suitability for BC according to certain criteria stated in accordance with the Act and the MRS Regulation. In consultation with stakeholders, BC Hydro assesses reliability standards approved by FERC and reports to the Commission on their suitability for adoption in BC.

Table Definitions:

Provincial Organization: the British Columbia (BC) organization accountable and responsible for performing the function according to provincial legislation for matters concerning entities in BC.

US Organization: the US organization assisting the Commission in administrative matters related to the function described, in accordance with the approved Administrative Agreement (Order G-123-09, Oct. 15, 2009)

US Comparator: the US organization responsible for performing the functions in the United States.

Functions[3]		Provincial Organization	Relevant US Organization Assisting BCUC in Day-to-Day Administration	US Comparator
Standards Making[4]	Standards Approval	BCUC (1)	Not Applicable	FERC
	Standards Development	Not applicable	NERC and WECC	NERC and WECC
	Entity Registration	BCUC (2)	WECC (2)	NERC and WECC in their respective roles
Compliance Monitoring	Compliance Monitoring and Violation Detection	BCUC (3)	WECC (3)	NERC or WECC in their respective roles, FERC
Enforcement Processes	Execution of Investigations (4)	BCUC (5)	WECC (5)	WECC or NERC in their respective roles, FERC
	Violation Determination and Imposes Administrative Penalties	BCUC (6)	WECC recommends NOAVs to BCUC	WECC , NERC, or FERC
Violation Prevention and Outreach	Violation Prevention, Outreach, including Education (7)	BCUC to a limited extent	WECC	WECC, or NERC in their respective roles, FERC
Appeals	First Right of Appeal	BCUC	Not applicable	NERC Board of Trustees Compliance Committee (BOT CC)
	Second Right of Appeal	Supreme Court or Court of Appeal (8)	Not applicable	FERC
	Third Right of Appeal	Not applicable	Not applicable	US Court of Appeals
Oversight	Approval of BC's Rules of Procedure	BCUC	Not applicable	FERC
	Approval of BC's Compliance Monitoring Program and Implementation Plan	BCUC	Not applicable	FERC for approval of the CMEP and NERC for approval of a Regional Entity's Implementation Plan
	Performance Oversight of CMP	BCUC	Not applicable	WECC, or NERC BOT CC in their respective roles

[3] This table is intended to illustrate *who has authority over these various processes* vs. *who has authority for their execution.*
[4] Reliability standards Include FERC approved NERC reliability standards and FERC approved regional reliability standards.

Notes:

1. **Standards Approval:** Pursuant to section 125.2(2) of the *Utilities Commission Act* (Act) the British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC in table above) has exclusive jurisdiction to determine whether a "reliability standard" as defined in the Act, is in the public interest and should be adopted in BC. To provide the necessary information required for determinations and in accordance with the Act, British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority (BC Hydro) submits a Mandatory Reliability Standard (MRS) Assessment Report to the Commission assessing the new and revised reliability standards adopted in the US by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) within the annual assessment period (December 1 to November 30). The Assessment Report is developed in consultation with Registered Entities in the BC MRS Program. Further, in consultation with stakeholders regarding the estimated time required for the entities to implement and come into compliance with the reliability standards, BC Hydro suggests BC effective dates for each of the reliability standards assessed. After a public comment process, the Commission adopts reliability standards in the Assessment Report to maintain or achieve consistency with other regions, unless the Commission determines otherwise after a hearing.

2. **Entity Registration:** Entities subject to adopted Mandatory Reliability Standards are required to register with the Commission. The Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC) in its role as the Commission's Administrator for the BC Mandatory Reliability Standards Program (BC MRS Program) reviews registration materials provided by all applicable Entities and makes recommendations to the Commission.

3. **Compliance Monitoring:** The Rules of Procedure for reliability standards in British Columbia include the Compliance Monitoring Program and describe the procedures for monitoring and enforcement of adopted reliability standards. The processes include among other things Audits, Self-Certifications, Spot-Checks, Self-Reports, and Periodic Information (Data) Submittals. An annual Implementation Plan, recommended by WECC and approved by the Commission, identifies the Actively Monitored Standards List and schedules for the procedures listed above for the up-coming year. WECC assists the Commission with the compliance monitoring activities for BC entities in accordance to the annual Implementation Plan approved by the Commission.

4. **Execution of Investigations:** The Commission may execute investigations and may direct WECC to execute investigations..

5. **Investigations:** As the Commission's Administrator, WECC may conduct investigations at the direction of the Commission.

6. **Violation Determination and Sanction Imposition:** The Commission makes violation determinations for all BC entities and pursuant to Bill 30 – 2012, the Energy and Mines Statues Amendment Act – 2012, has the authority to impose administrative penalties and set financial limits for confirmed violation of a reliability standard. Penalty maximums are outlined in the Administrative Penalties Regulation. The process for imposing penalties for confirmed violation of reliability standards is under development at this time.

7. **Violation Prevention and Outreach:** The Commission communicates openly with entities and endeavours to foster a culture of compliance with the BC MRS Program. The Commission has offered educational workshops to entities from time to time and relies on WECC for entity outreach on technical matters. In addition to alerts and other publications issued by NERC and/or WECC to help inform entities and prevent violations, the Commission may issue similar notices for this purpose. WECC considers prevention of recurrence when reviewing mitigation plans before recommending them for acceptance by the Commission.

8. **Appeals to Commission Determinations:** There are two (2) avenues of recourse for enforcement decisions made by the Commission: first through the Commission's Application/Request for Reconsideration and, subsequently, through an appeal to the BC Supreme Court or BC Court of Appeal.

9. **Public Disclosure:** Possible and Alleged Violations are confidential unless the Commission determines they are Confirmed Violations and the Commission considers that disclosure would not relate to a cyber-security incident or otherwise jeopardize the security of the Bulk Power System.

New Brunswick - US Comparator: Standard-Making and Enforcement Functions

Fast Facts about New Brunswick's Electricity System

Total annual consumption: 12.885 Terawatt-hours TWh (2012-2013)
Customers: approx. 394,000
Installed capacity: 4,069 MW
Record peak (winter): 3,333 MW (2004)
Total length of transmission system: 6,849 km (4,226 miles)
Interconnections: Quebec, Nova Scotia, Maine, PEI

Reliability Standards Currently in Effect

Below is a link to the reliability standards currently in effect in New Brunswick:
http://www.nbeub.ca/index.php/en/electricity/reliability-compliance/new-brunswick-approved-reliability-standards

Key Organizations in New Brunswick's Electricity Sector

Department of Energy and Mines

The New Brunswick Department of Energy and Mines is responsible for setting the policy and legislative framework for New Brunswick's electricity system. The Department administers the Electricity Act and Reliability Standards Regulation which establishes the authority and requirements for the adoption and enforcement of electric reliability standards in New Brunswick.

New Brunswick Energy and Utilities Board

The New Brunswick Energy and Utilities Board (NBEUB) is an independent, quasi-judicial board that regulates New Brunswick's electricity sector. The NBEUB has the responsibility under the Electricity Act to adopt and enforce reliability standards in New Brunswick. The NBEUB implements the Reliability Standards Regulation which addresses the adoption of standards, determination of the bulk power system, compliance registrations and compliance monitoring and enforcement processes.

New Brunswick Power Corporation

The New Brunswick Power Corporation (NBPC) is a Crown corporation and the province's vertically integrated electric utility. In addition to its responsibility to comply with reliability standards applicable to its functions, NBPC is also responsible under the Electricity Act to make filings to the EUB to update reliability standards, maintain a list of bulk power system elements and to make recommendations on compliance registrations.

Table Definitions:

Provincial Organization: the New Brunswick organization accountable and responsible for performing the function according to provincial legislation.

US Organization: the US organization responsible for performing the function according to an executed agreement for the provision of services.

US Comparator: the US organization responsible for performing the functions in the US according to US law.

Functions[1]		Provincial Organization	Relevant US Organization	US Comparator
Standards Making[2]	Standards Approval	NBEUB (1)	Not Applicable	FERC
	Standards Development	Not Applicable	NERC	NERC NPCC
	Entity Registration	NBEUB (2,3)	NPCC Recommendations to NBEUB (4)	NERC NPCC
Compliance Monitoring	Compliance Monitoring and Violation Detection	NBEUB	NPCC (5)	FERC NERC NPCC
Enforcement Processes	Execution of Investigations	NBEUB	NPCC (6)	FERC NERC NPCC
	Violation Determination and Sanction Imposition	NBEUB	NPCC recommendations to NBEUB (7)	FERC NERC
Violation Prevention and Outreach	Violation Prevention, Outreach, including education	N/A	NERC/ NPCC	FERC NERC NPCC
Appeals	First Right of Appeal	NBEUB Review or Hearing	Not Applicable	NPCC Hearing Body
	Second Right of Appeal	NBEUB Appeal (8)	Not Applicable	NERC Board of Trustees Compliance Committee (BOT CC)
	Third Right of Appeal	A person aggrieved by an order of the NBEUB can make an application for judicial review to The Court of Appeal of New Brunswick.	Not Applicable	FERC
Oversight	Approval of New Brunswick's "rules of procedure"	Lieutenant Governor in Council (9)	Not Applicable	FERC
	Approval of New Brunswick's Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Implementation Plan	NBEUB	NPCC Recommendations to EUB (10)	NERC NPCC
	Performance Oversight of CMEP	NBEUB	Not Applicable	NERC BOT CC

[1] This table is intended to illustrate *who has authority over these various processes* vs. *who has authority for their execution.*
[2] Reliability standards include FERC approved NERC reliability standards and FERC approved regional reliability standards.

Notes:

1. **Standards Approval:**
   Authority- Pursuant to Section 119 of the *Electricity Act* and the *Reliability Standards Regulation*, the NBEUB may approve NERC reliability standards that have been approved by FERC and filed by NBPC, with or without NB amendments.

   NERC Standards Filing- NBPC files standards with the NBEUB for approval within 60 days of the FERC approval effective date.

   Standard Review- NBPC reviews NERC standards and files with an accompanying NB Appendix to describe the specific application of the standard in NB.

   Public Process- the NBEUB notifies NERC, NPCC and NB Registered Entities when NBPC files an application for approval and the filed materials are publically available on the NBEUB website for a 60 day comment period.

   Approval/Remand – NBEUB approves the application as filed unless there are substantive revisions to the FERC approved version, or if there are substantive comments received during the review period , in which case the NBEUB may hold a hearing and may determine to approve, not approve or remand the proposed reliability standard back to NBPC.

2. **Bulk Power System:** The NB BPS is determined according to the FERC approved definition of the bulk electric system, as it appears in the "NERC Glossary of Terms Used in Reliability Standards". NBPC is required to file updates to the BPS and may submit requests for BPS exceptions to the NBEUB for approval.

3. **Entity Registration:** The NBEUB maintains a NB Compliance Registry identifying those owners, users and operators of the BPS who must comply with approved reliability standards. The NB registry is based on the NERC functional model and registry criteria. NBPC is required to make recommendations to the NBEUB to maintain the compliance registry.

4. **NPCC Recommendations for Entity Registrations:** NPCC provides recommendations to the NBEUB for entity registrations under the provisions of a service agreement the NBEUB has executed with NPCC.

5. **Compliance Monitoring:** The NBEUB implements a compliance monitoring system for reliability standards that is based on the requirements of the NERC compliance program. The NB program is documented as the New Brunswick Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program (NB CMEP) – Schedule A to the Reliability Standards Regulation. As a recognized compliance body under the

regulations, NPCC assists the NBEUB with compliance monitoring activities according to a service agreement the NBEUB has executed with NPCC.

6. **Investigations:** The NBEUB is responsible for compliance investigations in New Brunswick. NPCC assists the NBEUB with compliance investigations in NB according to a service agreement the NBEUB has executed with NPCC. The NBEUB may also request NERC to assist with compliance investigations.

7. **Violation Determination and Sanction Imposition:** The NBEUB is responsible for the determination of violations, enforcement action and imposition of fines and penalties. Under a service agreement the NBEUB has executed with NPCC, NPCC makes recommendations on enforcement matters to the NBEUB including recommendations on dismissals, find fix track actions, mitigation plans, settlement agreements and penalties and sanctions. The NBEUB may request that NPCC include a NERC review and comments on NPCC enforcement recommendations to the NBEUB.

8. **Appeals to NBEUB:** A person may appeal to the NBEUB a decision from a review or compliance hearing relating to contested violations, mitigation plans and penalties and sanctions.

9. **NB "rules of procedure":** NB does not adopt a separate rules of procedure document, compliance program requirements (including the NB CMEP), are incorporated into provincial regulations that require LGIC approval to modify.

10. **NB Annual Implementation Plan:** The NB AIP is based on the NERC and NPCC implementation plans and may include NB specific requirements. Under a service agreement the NBEUB has executed with NPCC, NPCC makes recommendations to the NBEUB for a NB AIP.

Nova Scotia-US Comparator:
Standard-Making and Enforcement Functions

Fast Facts about Nova Scotia's Electricity System

Total annual consumption: 10.5 Terawatt-hours TWh (2013)
Customers: approx. 0.5 million
Total Installed capacity: 2,756 MW (as of January 2014)
Record summer peak: 1373 MW (2013-08-28)
Record winter peak: 2122 MW (2014-01-02)
Total length of transmission system: 5,900 km (3,700 miles)
Interconnections: New Brunswick

Key Organizations in Nova Scotia's Electricity Sector

Department of Economic and Rural Development and Tourism

The Minister for this Department is responsible for the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board (UARB) Act which is the legislation that establishes the governance, structure and mandate of the UARB.

Department of Energy

The Nova Scotia Department of Energy ("Department") is responsible for setting the policy and legislative framework for Nova Scotia's electricity system. The Department develops solutions and advises on all aspects of energy policy for Nova Scotia, including electricity, natural gas and oil.

Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board

The Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board ("NSUARB" or "Board") is an independent, quasi- judicial body which has both regulatory and adjudicative jurisdiction flowing from the Utility and Review Board Act. It reports to the Legislature through the Minister of Economic and Rural Development and Tourism. Pursuant to the Public Utilities Act, the Board exercises general supervision over all electric utilities operating as public utilities within the Province. This jurisdiction includes setting rates, tolls and charges; regulations for provision of service; approval of capital expenditures in excess of $250,000 and any other matter the Board feels is necessary to properly exercise its mandate. The Board has the authority to stay or revoke the operation of a reliability standard in Nova Scotia and refer it back to NERC or the NPCC for further consideration.

Nova Scotia Power

Nova Scotia Power Incorporated (NSPI) is a vertically integrated, privately owned utility serving 95% of customers in Nova Scotia. NSPI owns the majority of transmission and distribution assets in the province as well as a significant portion of the generation. NSPI is a Regulated- Utility under the Public Utilities and subject to supervision by the NSUARB. NSPI is responsible for planning for and maintaining a reliable electricity service to all loads in the province. NSPI is responsible for reviewing and implementing NERC standards under the supervision of the NSUARB.

Nova Scotia Power System Operator

The system operator is financially part of Nova Scotia Power, but operationally and functionally separated from other parts of NSPI and must adhere to a UARB approved Standard of Conduct to ensure its independence from NSPI's other business units.. The system operator bears responsibility for, and

manages the wholesale electricity market and oversees the reliable daily operation of the provincial electricity grid.

Table Definitions

Provincial Organization: Nova Scotia's organization accountable and responsible for performing the function according to provincial legislation.

US Organization: the US organization responsible for performing the function according to an executed agreement for the provision of services.

US Comparator: the US organization responsible for performing the functions in the US according to US law.

Functions[1]		**Provincial Organization**	**Relevant US Organization**	**US Comparator**
Standards Making[2]	Standards Development	Not Applicable	NERC	NERC
	Standards Approval	NSUARB, NSPI (1)	Not Applicable	FERC
	Entity Registration	NSPI-SO (2,3)	NPCC Recommendations to NSPI-SO (4)	NERC
Compliance Monitoring	Compliance Monitoring and Violation Detection	NSUARB	NERC and NPCC (5)	NERC / NPCC and FERC
Enforcement Processes	Execution of Investigations	NSUARB	NERC and NPCC (6)	NERC/ NPCC and FERC
	Violation Determination and Sanction Imposition	NSUARB	Recommendations to NSUARB only (7)	NERC, FERC
Violation Prevention and Outreach	Violation Prevention, Outreach, including education	N/A (10)	NERC/ NPCC	NERC / NPCC and FERC
Appeals	First Right of Appeal	NSUARB Review or Hearing	Not Applicable	NPCC Hearing Body
	Second Right of Appeal	NSUARB Appeal (8)	Not Applicable	NERC BOT CC
	Third Right of Appeal	An order of the NSUARB can be appealed to The Nova Scotia Court of Appeal.	Not Applicable	FERC
Oversight	Approval of Nova Scotia's Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Implementation Plan	NSUARB	NERC (9)	NERC/NPCC
	Performance Oversight of CMEP	NSUARB	Not Applicable	NERC BOT CC

[1] This table is intended to illustrate *who has authority over these various processes* vs. *who has authority for their execution.*
[2] Reliability standards include FERC approved NERC reliability standards and FERC approved regional reliability standards.

Notes:

1. **Standards Approval:** NERC submits standards to NSUARB and NSPI for approval, each organization may approve, modify, remand or dismiss the standard as not applicable, though final approval authority rests with the NSUARB. The NSUARB has a quarterly review process allowing the submission, by NERC, of standards already approved by FERC.

2. **Bulk Electric System:** The FERC approved definition of the bulk electric system, as modified on May 6th, 2014, has not yet been adopted in Nova Scotia.

3. **Entity Registration:** NPCC as the regional Entity maintains the list of all market participants of the BES who must comply with approved reliability standards. The registry is based on the NERC functional model and registry criteria.

4. **NPCC Recommendations for Entity Registrations:** NPCC provides recommendations and may also identify organizations that may be candidates for registration and assign them to the Compliance Registry.

5. **Compliance Monitoring:** As per MOU with NERC, compliance is mandatory in Nova Scotia. The NSUARB will monitor compliance and accept compliance information and recommendations from NERC.

6. **Investigations:** The NSUARB is responsible for compliance investigations in Nova Scotia. NERC may assist the NSUARB with compliance investigations by providing: Compliance reports and spot checks, Readiness evaluations, disturbance reports, etc.

7. **Violation Determination and Sanction Imposition:** NERC, NPCC and NSUARB may all suggest compliance violation; proceedings shall be conducted under the Board's direction and control. NERC may recommend a particular penalty for any violation, but the NSUARB will be responsible for determining if a violation occurred and what penalties should be imposed.

8. **Appeals to NSUARB:** Any person may appeal to the NSUARB a decision from a review or compliance hearing. Further appeals may proceed to a court of law.

9. **Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Plan:** Approval for the compliance and monitoring plan is by MOU between NERC and NSUARB on 22nd of Dec, 2006 and later through MOU between NERC, NPCC and NSPI on 20th April 2010. NSPI is subject to NERC's CMEP as implemented by NPCC.

10. **Violation Prevention:** Compliance is mandatory in Nova Scotia.

Ontario-US Comparator:
Standard-Making and Enforcement Functions

Fast Facts about Ontario's Electricity System

Total annual consumption: 140.7 Terawatt-hours TWh (2013)
Customers: approx. 4.9 million
Installed capacity: 34,946 MW (as of December 2013)
Record summer peak: 27,005 MW (August 1, 2006)
Record winter peak: 24,979 MW (December 20, 2004)
Total length of transmission system: 30,000 km (18,600 miles)
Interconnections: Quebec, Manitoba, New York, Michigan, Minnesota

Reliability Standards Currently in Effect in Ontario

http://www.ieso.ca/Pages/Participate/Reliability-Requirements/Reliability-Standards-Compliance.aspx

From the above linked IESO web page, download excel file named, "Milestones in Reliability Standard Development and Lifecycle".

Key Organizations in Ontario's Electricity Sector

Ministry of Energy

The Ontario Ministry of Energy ("Ministry") is responsible for setting the policy and legislative framework for Ontario's electricity system. The Ministry develops solutions and advises on all aspects of energy policy for Ontario, including electricity, natural gas and oil. It also has legislative responsibility for the Ontario Energy Board ("OEB") and Independent Electricity System Operator ("IESO").

Ontario Energy Board

The Ontario Energy Board ("OEB") is an independent, quasi-judicial tribunal that regulates the province's electricity and natural gas sectors in the public interest. Its mandate is prescribed in legislation – primarily the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* and the *Electricity Act, 1998* (the "Act") – and associated regulations. Part of the OEB's mandate is to protect the interests of consumers with respect to prices and the reliability and quality of electricity service. The OEB is the Governmental Authority for Ontario as defined by NERC. The OEB also has the legislative authority to stay or revoke the operation of a reliability standard in Ontario and refer it back to NERC or the NPCC for further consideration.

Independent Electricity System Operator and the Market Assessment and Compliance Division

The Independent Electricity System Operator ("IESO") is a not-for-profit corporate entity established under the Act that manages the wholesale electricity market and oversees the reliable operation of the provincial electricity grid. The IESO evaluates Ontario's current and short-term electricity needs as well as the adequacy and reliability of the integrated power system. The IESO is also responsible for

establishing and enforcing reliability standards and participating in developing standards made by standards authorities[1]. The IESO is subject to the OEB's oversight authority.
The Act also authorizes the IESO to make and enforce rules ("Market Rules") that govern the operation of Ontario's electricity system. The IESO's compliance and enforcement activities have been delegated to an independent business unit called the Market Assessment and Compliance Division ("MACD") through a letter of delegation from the IESO's President and CEO to MACD's Director. As such, MACD makes all determinations and exercises all authorities accorded the IESO in the Market Rules concerning monitoring, investigation and the enforcement of rules and standards concerning the wholesale electricity system and market. MACD establishes and executes processes, procedures and programs for monitoring, investigating and imposing sanctions (including financial penalties) against Ontario market participants and the IESO.

Table Definitions

This table is intended to illustrate who has authority over these various processes vs. who has the authority for their execution.

Provincial Organization: the Ontario organization accountable and responsible for performing the function according to provincial legislation, or through delegation, for matters concerning Ontario entities.

Relevant US Organization: the US organization responsible for performing the function according to an executed Memorandum of Understanding for matters concerning Ontario entities.

US Comparator: the US organization responsible for performing the functions according to US law.

[1] "Standards authority," as defined by the Act, means the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) and "any other agency or body designated by regulation that approves standards or criteria applicable both in and outside Ontario relating to the reliability of transmission systems." Ontario Regulation 214/08 has designated the Northeast Power Coordinating Council (NPCC) a standards authority in Ontario.

Functions		Provincial Organization	Relevant US Organization	US Comparator
Standards Making[2]	Standards Development	Not Applicable (14)	NERC	NERC, NPCC
	Standards Approval	OEB (1)	Not Applicable	FERC
	Entity Registration	IESO (2)	Not Applicable	NERC, NPCC
Compliance Monitoring	Compliance Monitoring and Violation Detection	MACD (6)	NPCC (7)	NERC, NPCC, FERC
Enforcement Processes	Execution of Investigations	MACD (8)	NERC and NPCC (8)	NERC, NPCC, FERC
	Violation Determination and Sanction Imposition	MACD (9, 11)	NERC and NPCC (10)	NERC, NPCC, FERC
Appeals	First Hearing	Dispute Resolution Panel (13)	NPCC (12)	NPCC Hearing Body
	Right of Appeal	OEB (13)	NERC (12)	NERC Board of Trustees Compliance Committee
	Further Right of Appeal	An order of the OEB can be appealed to Divisional Court on a matter of law or jurisdiction (OEB Act s. 33)	Not applicable (12)	FERC

[2] Reliability standards include FERC-approved NERC reliability standards and FERC-approved regional reliability standards.

Oversight	Approval of Ontario's Rules of Procedure	IESO Board and right of appeal to OEB	Not applicable	FERC
	Approval of Ontario's Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Implementation Plan (CMEP)	MACD	Not applicable	NERC and NPCC
	Performance Oversight of CMEP	MACD (4)	NERC and NPCC (4)	NERC Board of Trustees Compliance Committee
	Violation Prevention and Outreach (including education)	MACD (5)	NERC and NPCC (5)	NERC, NPCC, FERC

Notes:

1. **Standards Approval:** Generally, unless a NERC reliability standard is otherwise stayed or remanded (by the OEB) back to NERC, the standard will become effective in Ontario when it is declared in force in the United States, unless the standard has been made in response to a regulatory directive that has not been approved by the NERC ballot body.

2. **Entity Registration:** Ontario market participants are subject to compliance with reliability-related market rules which include reliability standards. The IESO has applied a risk-based approach to the applicability criteria it uses to determine which Ontario market participant facilities are subject to reliability standards. These criteria are similar to NERC's Compliance registry criteria and make Purchase Selling Entity standard requirements not applicable in Ontario.

3. **Compliance Accountability:** The IESO is the sole Ontario entity accountable to NERC or NPCC for compliance with NERC reliability standards. This accountability includes violations by Ontario entities of any of these requirements. By extension of licence conditions, the OEB could also find licenced entities non-compliant and invoke penalties including revocation of licence and financial penalties for contravening enforceable provisions. The Board is not accountable to NERC or NPCC.

4. **Peer Review:** MACD, NERC and NPCC can initiate a peer review of each other's compliance program with a mutually-agreed-upon scope of review.

5. **Prevention and Outreach:** Each of NERC, NPCC and MACD can issue alerts and other publications to help Ontario market participants and the IESO prevent violations. In the past, MACD has done so through Interpretation Bulletins and Enforcement Statements. The Reliability Compliance Section (RCS) of the IESO conducts outreach to Ontario entities regarding the requirements of Ontario's Reliability Compliance Program and standards development engagement.

6. **MACD Monitoring:** MACD establishes procedures for monitoring Ontario market participants through the Ontario Reliability Compliance Program (ORCP) and MACD's audit and spot check program. The ORCP is equivalent to the NERC-NPCC CMEP implementation plan for self-certifications and reporting requirements. The RCS conducts these activities on behalf of MACD. MACD conducts additional monitoring of all Ontario market participants through direct access to SCADA systems and other operational information available to the IESO and through referrals from IESO personnel. MACD conducts additional monitoring of the IESO through direct access to SCADA systems and other operational information.

7. **NERC and NPCC Monitoring:** NPCC conducts audits, spot checks and self-certification of the IESO in accordance with the NERC-NPCC Monitoring Program.

8. **Investigations:** In collaboration and coordination with MACD investigations, NPCC and NERC have the right to draw their own conclusions with respect to compliance investigations of Ontario entities. MACD also investigates and makes its own independent conclusions for violation determinations and sanctions for all Ontario entities, including the IESO.

9. **MACD Violation Determination and Sanction Imposition:** MACD makes violation and sanction determinations for all Ontario entities and the IESO. Sanctions include, among other things, orders to: 1) do "such things as may be necessary" to comply with the Market Rules; 2) cease the act, activity or practice constituting the violation; 3) impose record-keeping or reporting requirements on a market participant; 4) issue a non-compliance letter and 5) impose financial penalties. The maximum financial penalty amount is $1,000,000 per occurrence for each breach at issue.

10. **NERC and NPCC Violation Determination and Sanction Imposition:** After determining that a violation has occurred in Ontario, NERC and NPCC may only impose sanctions on the IESO. These sanctions could be in respect of either a violation by an Ontario market participant or by the IESO itself. The possible sanctions imposed may include additional reporting, development of a mitigation plan, additional auditing, and in the case of material threats to reliability, remedial action directives.

11. **Public Disclosure:** When MACD makes a determination of a reliability standard violation or reliability-related market rule violation, the name of the responsible entity is made public on the IESO website. The level of detail disclosed for any violation varies according to what MACD deems necessary. NERC or NPCC do not disclose violations by Canadian entities. MACD sanctions are posted at: http://www.ieso.ca/Pages/Participate/Market-Oversight/Sanctions.aspx

12. **Appeals of NERC and NPCC Determinations:** The IESO is the sole Ontario entity accountable to NERC or NPCC for compliance by market participants and the IESO with NERC standards. If the IESO faces a violation determination or sanction by NERC or NPCC, it has a right to a compliance hearing with NPCC and a subsequent appeal to NERC. The IESO can also appeal any final NERC or NPCC order to the OEB.

13. **Appeals of MACD Determinations:** An enforcement decision made by MACD can be contested through the IESO's Dispute Resolution Panel (DRP) process, which is composed of negotiation, mediation and arbitration stages. The award of a DRP arbitrator can then be appealed to the OEB if it includes a financial penalty above $10,000 or otherwise denies authorization for, or terminates, suspends or restricts, the relevant market participant's right to participate in the Ontario market.

14. The IESO has the authority under s. 32(1) (c) of the *Electricity Act, 1998 to* establish standards and criteria relating to the reliability of electricity service or the IESO-controlled grid, if necessary.

Québec - US Comparator:
Standard-Making and Enforcement Functions

Fast Facts about Québec's Electricity System

Total annual consumption: 168 Terawatt-hours TWh (2012)
Customers: approx. 4,1 million
Installed capacity: 35 829 MW (as of May 2013)
Record summer peak: 22 092 MW (July 2010)
Record winter peak: 39 031MW (January 22, 2014)
Total length of transmission system: 33 640 km (20 900 miles)
Interconnections: Ontario, New Brunswick, Newfoundland & Labrador, New York, New England (Vermont, Massachusetts)

Reliability Standards Currently in Effect

A list of Québec's reliability standards and their status is available at this link:
http://www.regie-energie.qc.ca/en/audiences/NormesFiabiliteTransportElectricite/NormesFiabilite.html

Key Organizations in Québec's Electricity Sector

Ministère des Ressources naturelles

The ministère de l'Énergie et des Ressources naturelles (the "Ministry") is responsible for, among other things, setting the policy and legislative framework for Québec's electricity system. The Ministry develops solutions and advises on all aspects of energy policy for Québec, including electricity, natural gas and oil.

Régie de l'énergie

The Régie de l'énergie (the "Régie") is an independent, economic regulation agency that regulates the province's electricity and natural gas sectors in the public interest. Pursuant to its governing legislation, the *Act respecting the Régie de l'énergie* (the "Act"), it has the authority to establish, monitor and enforce a mandatory regime of reliability standards for electricity transmission in Québec. The mandatory reliability regime is not yet in place, and the framework for the regime is still in development. Once the mandatory regime is in place, the Régie will be responsible for ensuring that electric power transmission in Québec is carried out according to the reliability standards it adopts. The Régie may request the Reliability Coordinator (the "RC") for Québec to modify a standard filed or submit a new one, on the conditions it sets. The Régie adopts reliability standards and sets the dates of their coming into force.

The Régie will make all determinations and exercises all authorities concerning monitoring, investigation and enforcement of reliability standards, including the imposition of sanctions and financial penalties, but will obtain recommendations from NPCC and sometimes NERC, both of whom it has recognized, through an agreement, as experts in the development and monitoring of electric power transmission reliability standards. A second agreement, signed in September 2014, details the mandate granted by the Régie to NPCC and NERC with respect to monitoring and assessing the compliance of registered entities in Québec with the reliability standards adopted by the Régie.

Direction Contrôle des mouvements d'énergie (System Control unit) of Hydro-Québec TransÉnergie ("HQCMÉ")

HQCMÉ was designated by the Régie, pursuant to the Act, as the RC for Québec. Under that function, it oversees the reliable operation of the provincial electricity grid. It files with the Régie reliability standards, either NERC or NPCC standards, as well as any variant or other standard it deems necessary. It also files a register identifying the entities that are subject to the reliability standards adopted by the Régie.

Functions[1]		Provincial Organization	Relevant US Organization	US Comparator
Standards Making[2]	Standards Development	HQCMÉ (RC) (rarely)	NERC	NERC
	Standards Adoption	The Régie (1)	Not Applicable	FERC
Entity Registration		The Régie / RC(2)	Not Applicable	NERC
Compliance Monitoring	Compliance Monitoring and Violation Detection	The Régie (3, 4)	NPCC (5)	NERC, NPCC, FERC
	Execution of Investigations	The Régie (6)	NPCC or NERC (6)	NERC, NPCC, FERC
Enforcement Processes	Violation Determination and Sanction Imposition	The Régie (7, 8, 9)	Not Applicable	NERC, FERC
Appeals	Revision of a decision	The Régie (10)	Not applicable	NPCC Hearing Body
	Further Right of Appeal	Québec Superior Court (11)	Not applicable	NERC Board of Trustees Compliance Committee (BOT CC)
	Further Right of Appeal	Court of Appeal of Québec (12)	Not applicable	FERC
Oversight	Approval of Québec's Rules of Procedure	The Régie (13)	Not applicable	FERC
	Approval of Québec Reliability Standards Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program (QCMEP) and of the Implementation Plan	The Régie (14)	Not applicable	NERC, NPCC
	Performance Oversight of QCMEP	The Régie (15)	NERC and NPCC (15)	NERC BOT CC
	Violation Prevention and Outreach (including education)	The Régie (16)	NERC and NPCC (16)	NERC, NPCC, FERC

[1] This table is intended to illustrate who has authority over these various processes vs. who has authority for their execution.

[2] Reliability standards include FERC approved NERC reliability standards and FERC approved regional reliability standards and locally developed reliability standards proposed by the RC.

Table Definitions:

Provincial Organization: the Québec organization accountable and responsible for performing the function according to provincial legislation or through designation for matters concerning Québec registered entities.

Relevant US Organization: the US organization that is responsible for performing the function according to an agreement for matters concerning Québec registered entities.

US Comparator: the US organization that is responsible for performing the functions according to US law.

Notes:

1. **Standards Adoption:**
   Authority – Pursuant to section 85.7 of the Act, the Régie adopts the reliability standards and sets the dates of their coming into force.
   NERC Standards Filing – For information purposes, NERC files Board approved standards in Québec. Generally, when a NERC reliability standard is approved by FERC, the standard will be filed by the RC (HQCMÉ) with the Régie for adoption. The RC can as well file any variant of these standards or other standards it considers necessary.
   Standards Review – The Régie holds public hearing on the standards before their adoption. NERC/NPCC can make observations/recommendations to the Régie pursuant to their signed agreement.
   Public Process – The RC posts the standards on their website for public comments from the registered entities before filing them to the Régie for their adoption.
   Adoption/Remand – The Régie may request that the RC modifies a filed reliability standard or submit a new one, on the conditions it sets. Thus a reliability standard that has been filed with the Régie by the RC will not be remanded to NERC.

2. **Entity Registration:** Section 85.3 of the Act lists the entity characteristics to which the reliability standards applies. Pursuant to the Act (Section 85.13) the RC must file with the Régie, for approval, a register identifying the entities that are subject to the reliability standards adopted by the Régie.

3. **Compliance Accountability:** All Québec registered entities are accountable to the Régie for compliance with the reliability standards it adopts.

4. **Monitoring:** The Régie establishes processes for monitoring Québec registered entities through the *Québec Reliability Standards Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program (QCMEP)*. The QCMEP is analogous to the NERC CMEP.

5. **Monitoring:** NPCC monitors compliance to the reliability standards by conducting audits, self-certification, spot checks and other means in accordance with the QCMEP.

6. **Investigations:** The Régie may request or authorize NPCC or NERC to lead a compliance investigation.

7. **Violation Determination and Sanction Imposition:** The Régie makes violation and sanction determinations for all Québec registered entities after reviewing NPCC's findings and recommendations. Sanctions will be fixed according to the *Sanction Guide for the Enforcement of the Reliability Standards in effect in Québec*. The Régie may impose financial penalties or sanctions. The maximum financial penalty amount is $500 000 per occurrence per day.

8. **Enforcement Measure:** The Régie may impose a mitigation plan, a remedial action for non-compliance seriously compromising the reliability of electric power transmission, or conditions for carrying on certain activities.

9. **Public Disclosure:** In the event that a reliability standard violation is determined by the Régie, the name of the responsible entity is made public on the Régie's website. The level of detail disclosed for any violation varies according to what is deemed necessary by the Régie.

10. **Revision of a Decision:** Section 37 of the Act provides the conditions for a revision or revocation of a determination by the Régie.

11. **Further Right of Appeal:** Section 40 of the Act provides that "no appeal lies from a decision of the Régie." The only available recourse is a judicial review to the Superior Court of Québec. However, section 41 of the Act provides for a relatively tight privy clause.

12. **Further Right of Appeal:** A Superior Court decision on judicial review can be appealed to the Quebec Court of Appeal and ultimately, by permission, to the Supreme Court of Canada.

13. **Québec's Rules of Procedure:** Québec's Rules of procedure are integrated into the second agreement and the QCMEP.

14. **QCMEP and Implementation Plan:** Each year, the Régie approves the Implementation Plan to be used by NPCC to monitor and assess Registered Entities' compliance with the reliability standards. The Implementation Plan includes, among other things, the Annual Audit Plan and the Self-Certification program with their schedules.

15. **Performance Oversight:** NPCC provides the Régie and NERC with the *QCMEP Annual Implementation Report* regarding, among other things, the effectiveness of the QCMEP. Upon request from the Régie, NERC will conduct an audit of NPCC.

16. **Prevention and Outreach:** In addition to alerts and other publications issued by NERC and/or NPCC to help Québec registered entities prevent violations, the Régie may also issue similar notices for this purpose in an effort to clarify Québec's mandatory reliability standards regime, the requirements of the QCMEP and reliability standards development.

Saskatchewan - US Comparator: Standard-Making and Enforcement Functions

Table Definitions:

Provincial Organization: the Saskatchewan organization accountable and responsible for performing the function according to provincial legislation or through delegation for matters concerning Saskatchewan entities.

US Organization: the US organization that is responsible for performing the function according to an executed Memorandum of Understanding for matters concerning Saskatchewan entities.

US Comparator: the US organization that is responsible for performing the functions according to US law.

Functions		Provincial Organization	Relevant US Organization	US Comparator
Standards Making[1]	Standards Approval	SPC (1)	Not applicable	FERC
	Standards Development	Not applicable	NERC	NERC, MRO
	Entity Registration	Not applicable	NERC (2)	NERC
Compliance Monitoring	Compliance Monitoring and Violation Detection	SPC (3)	NERC and MRO (3)	NERC, MRO, FERC
Enforcement Processes	Execution of Investigations	SPC (3)	NERC and MRO (3)	NERC, MRO
	Violation Determination and Sanction Imposition	SPC (3)	NERC and MRO (3)	FERC
Violation Prevention and Outreach	Violation Prevention, Outreach, including education	Not Applicable	NERC and MRO (4)	NERC, MRO
Appeals	First Right of Appeal	SPC (5)	Not applicable	MRO Hearing Body
	Second Right of Appeal	SPC (5)	Not applicable	NERC Board of Trustees Compliance Committee (BOT CC)
	Third Right of Appeal	SPC (5)	Not applicable	FERC
Oversight	Approval of Saskatchewan's Rules of Procedure	Not Applicable	Not applicable	FERC
	Approval of Saskatchewan's Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Implementation Plan	Not Applicable	Not applicable	NERC, MRO
	Performance Oversight of CMEP	Not Applicable	NERC and MRO (6)	NERC BOT CC
	Violation Prevention and Outreach	Not Applicable	NERC and MRO (4)	NERC, MRO, FERC

[1] Reliability standards Include FERC approved NERC reliability standards and FERC approved regional reliability standards.

Notes:

1. **Standards Approval:** SaskPower has the legislative authority via *The Power Corporation Act* (Saskatchewan) to set standards and enforce compliance for the bulk electric system in the Province of Saskatchewan. Typically NERC Board of Trustees approved standards shall be viewed as being automatically adopted in Saskatchewan, unless the standard is otherwise ordered, stayed or remanded back to NERC within 120 days of receiving notice.

2. **Entity Registration:** SaskPower is currently registered in the NERC Compliance Registry.

3. **Compliance Monitoring/Enforcement Processes:** The oversight unit within SaskPower will be the monitoring, compliance and enforcement authority for the province, as per SaskPower's legislative authority. The Midwest Reliability Organization currently performs on-site compliance audits for SaskPower.

4. **Prevention and Outreach:** SaskPower receives alerts and other publications issued by NERC and/or MRO that address violation prevention.

5. **Appeals:** If SaskPower disputes an MRO finding of non-compliance regarding a reliability standard, the SaskPower Oversight Unit may choose to hear arguments.

6. **Peer Review:** NERC and MRO can initiate a peer review of each other's compliance program with a mutually agreed scope of review.

NPCC, Inc.
NORTHEAST POWER COORDINATING COUNCIL, INC.
1040 AVE OF THE AMERICAS, NEW YORK, NY 10018 TELEPHONE (212) 840-1070 FAX (212) 302-2782

Approved by NPCC Board of Directors 02-04-2015

Scope of Work
for the
Regional Standards Committee (RSC)

The NPCC Regional Standards Committee (RSC), a committee of the NPCC Board of Directors (BOD), is charged with the following:

1. Managing the NPCC Regional Standards Development Process.
2. Managing the NPCC Directory and Criteria Development Process.
3. Providing consolidated NPCC regional review and comment to the existing and proposed NERC Standards and Variances as well as participating in the NERC Reliability Standards Development Process.
4. Reviewing the FERC Orders, Rulings and Notice of Proposed Rulemakings (NOPRs) related to reliability Standards, providing a forum for developing consensus viewpoints, and submitting comments to FERC, as necessary.
5. Providing consolidated NPCC regional review and comment to the existing and proposed NERC Standards Development Process Manual and to the NERC Rules of Procedure as they relate to Standards Development.
6. Determining the need for and coordinating the development and application for interpretations for NPCC Regional Standards and Directories.
7. Providing a forum for sharing viewpoints and opinions with the goal of achieving consensus for standards and criteria related activities to support reliability.
8. Conducting the NPCC Cost Effective Analysis Procedure "CEAP" for developing regional standards and directories and produce the associated reports.

The RSC or RSC Executive Committee will solicit input from NPCC groups and for all submissions of standards related comments on behalf of NPCC in accordance with the RSC Triage process. The RSC will be the only group submitting comments to FERC, NERC, or any other industry entities on behalf of the NPCC Region.

The RSC is an open and balanced stakeholder committee inclusive of all industry stakeholder interests that provide for or are materially impacted by the reliability of the bulk power system. The RSC meetings will be open to all stakeholders who want to participate and will be publicly posted on the NPCC Website.

Decisions of the NPCC RSC will be adopted under a sector based voting structure as described in the NPCC Amended and Restated Bylaws.

The RSC will coordinate its work through NPCC Standards Staff which will administer the NPCC Regional Standards Process(es) and coordinate the review and submission of comments.

The RSC will be chaired by an NPCC member of Staff who will be assisted by the NPCC Regional Standards Process Manager (also a member of NPCC Staff) along with co-vice Chairs elected by the RSC from the existing members of the Committee at the time the vote is taken. The co-vice Chairs will serve a term of two years. The co-vice Chairs' terms may be extended through a motion and subsequent vote by the committee in accordance with the NPCC Amended and Restated Bylaws. Leadership positions of the RSC, Chair and co-vice Chairs, will be approved by the NPCC Board. Members of the RSC will be nominated by their respective companies. NPCC RSC leadership will review the nominations which will include contact information and qualifications to serve on the Committee. Appointments to the RSC will be approved by the RSC leadership. Each of the NPCC Sectors, as defined in the NPCC Amended and Restated Bylaws, will be represented on the RSC.

The RSC Executive Committee will be comprised of the RSC Chair and co-vice Chairs and two "at large" members. The at large members will be elected from the RSC membership, preferably with one U.S. and one Canadian representative and serve a term of two years, which may extended through a motion and vote by the RSC. The RSC Executive Committee will act on behalf of the Committee in between regularly scheduled meetings. All actions and reviews completed by the RSC Executive Committee on behalf of the RSC will be presented for ratification by the RSC Chair via email, conference call, or at the next regularly scheduled RSC meeting. RSC Executive Committee meetings will be open and inclusive to all RSC members and observers. Decisions of the NPCC RSC Executive Committee will be moved forward for ratification to the RSC only with full consensus of the RSC Executive Committee members.

Subcommittees and ad hoc Working Groups will be formed upon request of the RSC, by NPCC Standards program area Staff and all associated scopes or charters developed will be approved by the RSC in accordance with the most recent approved NPCC Amended and Restated Bylaws.

A. Management of the NPCC Regional Standards Process

The RSC is responsible for managing the standards process for development of standards, VRFs, VSLs, definitions, variances and interpretations in accordance with the NPCC Regional Reliability Standard Process Manual, NERC and FERC documentation. The RSC is responsible for ensuring the quality of all Standards related materials.

The RSC is responsible for administering the Cost Effectiveness Analysis Procedure "CEAP" to determine if a proposed new or revised Regional Standard is cost effective, on a requirement by requirement basis in achieving its reliability objective(s). Cost effectiveness considerations will also be undertaken during the revision and development of any NPCC Directories.

The RSC will be available to advise the NPCC BOD on any and all standards related matters.

All RSC Regional Standard related decision making activities will be approved or rejected by a vote as outlined in the NPCC Amended and Restated Bylaws as they pertain to quorum and

voting rules.

B. Management of the NPCC Directory and Criteria Process

The RSC manages and has oversight of the processes for development of NPCC Directories and Criteria. The RSC is responsible for ensuring the quality of all Directory and Criteria related materials. RSC will provide groups generating documents Quality Review guidance, and guidance on how to generate the documents and administer the NPCC Directory Development Procedure.

The RSC will be available to advise the NPCC BOD on any Directory and Criteria related matters.

C. NERC Reliability Standards

The RSC will:

- Provide NPCC review and coordinate the submission of NPCC comments to existing and developing NERC Reliability Standards when posted for NERC "Open Process Review."
- Provide a forum for NPCC to participate, solicit, and provide Regional comments as new Standard Authorization Requests (SARs), and their respective Reliability Standards, are developed in accordance with the NERC Standard Processes Manual.
- Identify upcoming issues associated with new NERC Reliability Standards and their potential impact on the NPCC Region, (i.e. Regional Difference).
- Propose solutions or guide the development of the Standards through effective and timely comments and soliciting NPCC participation on the SAR and Reliability Standards drafting teams.
- Develop and maintain a Web-Based Database for tracking and scheduling Standards development activities from a Regional perspective.
- Target a wider range of participants in the standard commenting process. Develop databases and e-mail list servers to engage more members and to elicit different perspectives.
- Conduct the process for notification, solicitation, commenting on and for proposing revisions to Standards using the NPCC Triage Process.
- Follow up on proposed and adopted changes to the NERC Standard Processes Manual and Rules of Procedure, as they apply to Reliability Standards, and provide NPCC members with basic information (or pointers to the NERC Website) for a common understanding of the process.
- Coordinate the activities of NPCC members on NERC standard drafting teams and ensure sufficient regional participation on such teams.

D. FERC Activities Affecting Standards

The RSC will review FERC Orders, Rulings and Notice of Proposed Rulemakings (NOPRs) relating to Reliability Standards. The RSC will discuss, develop comments, and if necessary submit the comments to FERC on behalf of NPCC.

Ballot Results	
Ballot Name:	Project 2014-03 TOP-001-3_Additional_Ballot
Ballot Period:	12/29/2014 - 1/7/2015
Ballot Type:	Successive
Total # Votes:	305
Total Ballot Pool:	379
Quorum:	**80.47 % The Quorum has been reached**
Weighted Segment Vote:	72.43 %
Ballot Results:	**The Ballot has Closed**

Summary of Ballot Results

Segment	Ballot Pool	Segment Weight	Affirmative # Votes	Affirmative Fraction	Negative # Votes	Negative Fraction	Negative Vote without a Comment	Abstain	No Vote
1 - Segment 1	105	1	56	0.691	25	0.309	0	2	22
2 - Segment 2	9	0.6	5	0.5	1	0.1	0	0	3
3 - Segment 3	83	1	43	0.717	17	0.283	0	7	16
4 - Segment 4	30	1	14	0.609	9	0.391	0	0	7
5 - Segment 5	82	1	42	0.667	21	0.333	0	4	15
6 - Segment 6	52	1	30	0.714	12	0.286	0	2	8
7 - Segment 7	2	0.1	0	0	1	0.1	0	0	1
8 - Segment 8	5	0.4	4	0.4	0	0	0	0	1
9 - Segment 9	3	0.2	2	0.2	0	0	0	1	0

10 - Segment 10	8	0.6	5	0.5	1	0.1	0	1	1
Totals	**379**	**6.9**	**201**	**4.998**	**87**	**1.902**	**0**	**17**	**74**

Individual Ballot Pool Results

Segment	Organization	Member	Ballot	NERC Notes
1	Ameren Services	Eric Scott	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS - (Ameren)
1	American Electric Power	Paul B Johnson	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS - (Tom Foltz - AEP)
1	American Transmission Company, LLC	Andrew Z Pusztai	Negative	COMMENT RECEIVED
1	Arizona Public Service Co.	Brian Cole	Affirmative	
1	Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc.	John Bussman	Affirmative	
1	Austin Energy	James Armke	Affirmative	
1	Avista Utilities	Heather Rosentrater		
1	Balancing Authority of Northern California	Kevin Smith	Affirmative	
1	Baltimore Gas & Electric Company	Christopher J Scanlon	Affirmative	
1	BC Hydro and Power Authority	Patricia Robertson		
1	Black Hills Corp	Wes Wingen	Affirmative	
1	Bonneville Power Administration	Donald S. Watkins	Negative	COMMENT RECEIVED
1	Brazos Electric Power Cooperative, Inc.	Tony Kroskey	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS - (ACES POWER MARKETING)
1	Bryan Texas Utilities	John C Fontenot	Affirmative	
1	CenterPoint Energy Houston Electric, LLC	John Brockhan	Negative	COMMENT RECEIVED
1	Central Electric Power Cooperative	Michael B Bax		
1	Central Iowa Power Cooperative	Kevin J Lyons	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS - (ACES)
1	Central Maine Power Company	Joseph Turano Jr.	Affirmative	
1	City of Tacoma, Department of Public Utilities, Light Division, dba Tacoma Power	Chang G Choi	Affirmative	
1	City of Tallahassee	Daniel S Langston	Affirmative	
1	Clark Public Utilities	Jack Stamper	Affirmative	
1	Cleco Power LLC	Danny McDaniel	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS - (SPP comments)
1	Colorado Springs Utilities	Shawna Speer	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS - (Colorado Springs Utilities)
1	Consolidated Edison Co. of New York	Christopher L de Graffenried	Negative	COMMENT RECEIVED
1	CPS Energy	Glenn Pressler	Affirmative	
1	Dairyland Power Coop.	Robert W. Roddy	Affirmative	
1	Dominion Virginia Power	Larry Nash	Affirmative	
1	Duke Energy Carolina	Doug E Hils	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS - (Duke Energy)
1	Encari	Steven E Hamburg		
1	Entergy Transmission	Oliver A Burke	Affirmative	
1	FirstEnergy Corp.	William J Smith	Affirmative	

1	Florida Keys Electric Cooperative Assoc.	Dennis Minton		
1	Florida Power & Light Co.	Mike O'Neil	Affirmative	
1	Gainesville Regional Utilities	Richard Bachmeier		
1	Georgia Transmission Corporation	Jason Snodgrass	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS - (Jason Snodgrass)
1	Great River Energy	Gordon Pietsch	Affirmative	
1	Hoosier Energy Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.	Bob Solomon		
1	Hydro One Networks, Inc.	Muhammed Ali	Affirmative	
1	Hydro-Quebec TransEnergie	Martin Boisvert	Affirmative	
1	Idaho Power Company	Molly Devine		
1	International Transmission Company Holdings Corp	Michael Moltane	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS - (SPP Standards Group)
1	JDRJC Associates	Jim D Cyrulewski		
1	JEA	Ted E Hobson	Affirmative	
1	KAMO Electric Cooperative	Walter Kenyon	Affirmative	
1	Kansas City Power & Light Co.	Daniel Gibson	Negative	COMMENT RECEIVED
1	Lakeland Electric	Larry E Watt	Affirmative	
1	Lee County Electric Cooperative	John Chin		
1	Lincoln Electric System	Doug Bantam	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS - (- I support MRO NSRF)
1	Long Island Power Authority	Robert Ganley	Affirmative	
1	Los Angeles Department of Water & Power	faranak sarbaz	Affirmative	
1	Lower Colorado River Authority	Martyn Turner	Affirmative	
1	M & A Electric Power Cooperative	William Price	Affirmative	
1	Manitoba Hydro	Jo-Anne M Ross	Affirmative	
1	MEAG Power	Danny Dees	Affirmative	
1	MidAmerican Energy Co.	Terry Harbour		
1	Minnkota Power Coop. Inc.	Daniel L Inman		
1	Muscatine Power & Water	Andrew J Kurriger	Affirmative	
1	N.W. Electric Power Cooperative, Inc.	Mark Ramsey		
1	National Grid USA	Michael Jones	Negative	COMMENT RECEIVED
1	NB Power Corporation	Alan MacNaughton	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS - (Please see NPCC RSC comments)
1	Nebraska Public Power District	Jamison Cawley	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS - (Support MRO NSRF comments and SPP Comments)
1	New York Power Authority	Bruce Metruck	Affirmative	
1	Northeast Missouri Electric Power Cooperative	Kevin White	Affirmative	
1	Northeast Utilities	William Temple	Affirmative	
1	Northern Indiana Public Service Co.	Julaine Dyke	Affirmative	
1	NorthWestern Energy	John Canavan		
1	Ohio Valley Electric Corp.	Scott R Cunningham	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS - (Thomas E. Foltz, American Electric Power)
1	Oklahoma Gas and Electric Co.	Terri Pyle	Negative	COMMENT RECEIVED
1	Omaha Public Power District	Doug Peterchuck	Affirmative	

1	Oncor Electric Delivery	Jen Fiegel	Negative	COMMENT RECEIVED
1	Otter Tail Power Company	Daryl Hanson		
1	Pacific Gas and Electric Company	Bangalore Vijayraghavan		
1	Peak Reliability	Jared Shakespeare	Affirmative	
1	Platte River Power Authority	John C. Collins	Affirmative	
1	Portland General Electric Co.	John T Walker	Affirmative	
1	Potomac Electric Power Co.	David Thorne	Affirmative	
1	PPL Electric Utilities Corp.	Brenda L Truhe	Affirmative	
1	Public Service Electric and Gas Co.	Kenneth D. Brown	Affirmative	
1	Public Utility District No. 1 of Okanogan County	Dale Dunckel	Affirmative	
1	Puget Sound Energy, Inc.	Denise M Lietz	Negative	COMMENT RECEIVED
1	Rochester Gas and Electric Corp.	John C. Allen	Affirmative	
1	Sacramento Municipal Utility District	Tim Kelley	Affirmative	
1	Salt River Project	Robert Kondziolka	Affirmative	
1	SaskPower	Wayne Guttormson		
1	Seattle City Light	Pawel Krupa	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS - (Seattle City Light Paul Haase's Comment)
1	Seminole Electric Cooperative, Inc.	Glenn Spurlock	Affirmative	
1	Sho-Me Power Electric Cooperative	Denise Stevens	Affirmative	
1	Snohomish County PUD No. 1	Long T Duong	Affirmative	
1	South Carolina Electric & Gas Co.	Tom Hanzlik	Affirmative	
1	South Carolina Public Service Authority	Shawn T Abrams	Abstain	
1	Southern California Edison Company	Steven Mavis		
1	Southern Company Services, Inc.	Robert A. Schaffeld	Affirmative	
1	Southern Illinois Power Coop.	William Hutchison	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS - (ACES & NRECA)
1	Southwest Transmission Cooperative, Inc.	John Shaver	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS - (ACES)
1	Sunflower Electric Power Corporation	Noman Lee Williams		
1	Tampa Electric Co.	Beth Young		
1	Tennessee Valley Authority	Howell D Scott	Affirmative	
1	Trans Bay Cable LLC	Steven Powell	Affirmative	
1	Tri-State Generation & Transmission Association, Inc.	Tracy Sliman	Affirmative	
1	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation	Richard T Jackson		
1	United Illuminating Co.	Jonathan Appelbaum	Affirmative	
1	Westar Energy	Allen Klassen	Affirmative	
1	Western Area Power Administration	Lloyd A Linke	Affirmative	
1	Wolverine Power Supply Coop., Inc.	Michelle Clements		
1	Xcel Energy, Inc.	Gregory L Pieper	Abstain	
2	BC Hydro	Venkataramakrishnan Vinnakota		
2	California ISO	Rich Vine	Affirmative	
2	Electric Reliability Council of Texas, Inc.	Cheryl Moseley	Affirmative	
2	Independent Electricity System Operator	Leonard Kula	Negative	COMMENT RECEIVED
2	ISO New England, Inc.	Matthew F Goldberg	Affirmative	
2	MISO	Marie Knox		
2	New York Independent System Operator	Gregory Campoli	Affirmative	
2	PJM Interconnection, L.L.C.	stephanie monzon	Affirmative	
2	Southwest Power Pool, Inc.	Charles H. Yeung		
3	AEP	Michael E Deloach	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS - (Thomas Foltz - American Electric Power)
3	Alabama Power Company	Robert S Moore	Affirmative	

3	Ameren Corp.	David J Jendras	Negative	COMMENT RECEIVED
3	APS	Sarah Kist	Affirmative	
3	Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc.	Todd Bennett	Affirmative	
3	Atlantic City Electric Company	NICOLE BUCKMAN		
3	Avista Corp.	Scott J Kinney		
3	BC Hydro and Power Authority	Pat G. Harrington		
3	Central Electric Power Cooperative	Adam M Weber	Affirmative	
3	Central Lincoln PUD	Steve Alexanderson	Abstain	
3	City of Anaheim Public Utilities Department	Dennis M Schmidt	Abstain	
3	City of Austin dba Austin Energy	Andrew Gallo	Affirmative	
3	City of Clewiston	Lynne Mila		
3	City of Farmington	Linda R Jacobson	Abstain	
3	City of Garland	Ronnie C Hoeinghaus	Abstain	
3	City of Green Cove Springs	Mark Schultz		
3	City of Redding	Bill Hughes	Affirmative	
3	City of Tallahassee	Bill R Fowler	Abstain	
3	Cleco Corporation	Michelle A Corley	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS - (SPP comments)
3	Colorado Springs Utilities	Jean Mueller	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS - (Group, Colorado Springs Utilities)
3	ComEd	John Bee	Affirmative	
3	Consolidated Edison Co. of New York	Peter T Yost	Negative	COMMENT RECEIVED
3	Consumers Energy Company	Gerald G Farringer	Negative	COMMENT RECEIVED
3	Cowlitz County PUD	Russell A Noble	Negative	COMMENT RECEIVED
3	CPS Energy	Jose Escamilla	Affirmative	
3	Delmarva Power & Light Co.	Michael R. Mayer		
3	Dominion Resources, Inc.	Connie B Lowe	Affirmative	
3	DTE Electric	Kent Kujala	Affirmative	
3	FirstEnergy Corp.	Cindy E Stewart	Affirmative	
3	Florida Keys Electric Cooperative	Tom B Anthony	Affirmative	
3	Florida Municipal Power Agency	Joe McKinney		
3	Florida Power & Light Co.	Summer C. Esquerre	Affirmative	
3	Florida Power Corporation	Lee Schuster	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS - (Duke Energy)
3	Georgia System Operations Corporation	Scott McGough		
3	Great River Energy	Brian Glover	Affirmative	
3	Hydro One Networks, Inc.	Ayesha Sabouba	Affirmative	
3	Imperial Irrigation District	Jesus S. Alcaraz		
3	JEA	Garry Baker	Affirmative	
3	KAMO Electric Cooperative	Theodore J Hilmes	Affirmative	
3	Kansas City Power & Light Co.	Joshua D Bach	Negative	COMMENT RECEIVED
3	Lakeland Electric	Mace D Hunter	Affirmative	
3	Lincoln Electric System	Jason Fortik	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS - (MRO MSRF)
3	Los Angeles Department of Water & Power	Mike Anctil	Affirmative	
3	Louisville Gas and Electric Co.	Charles A. Freibert	Affirmative	
3	M & A Electric Power Cooperative	Stephen D Pogue	Affirmative	
3	Manitoba Hydro	Greg C. Parent	Affirmative	
3	MEAG Power	Roger Brand	Affirmative	
3	MidAmerican Energy Co.	Thomas C. Mielnik	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS - (MRO NERC Standards

				Review Forum)
3	Modesto Irrigation District	Jack W Savage	Affirmative	
3	Muscatine Power & Water	Jenn Stover		
3	National Grid USA	Brian E Shanahan	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS - (National Grid Group Comments)
3	Nebraska Public Power District	Tony Eddleman	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS - (I support MRO NSRF and SPP comments.)
3	New York Power Authority	David R Rivera	Affirmative	
3	Northern Indiana Public Service Co.	Ramon J Barany	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS - (duke)
3	NW Electric Power Cooperative, Inc.	David McDowell		
3	Ocala Utility Services	Randy Hahn		
3	Oklahoma Gas and Electric Co.	Donald Hargrove	Negative	COMMENT RECEIVED
3	Omaha Public Power District	Blaine R. Dinwiddie	Affirmative	
3	Orlando Utilities Commission	Ballard K Mutters	Affirmative	
3	Owensboro Municipal Utilities	Thomas T Lyons	Affirmative	
3	Pacific Gas and Electric Company	John H Hagen	Affirmative	
3	Platte River Power Authority	Terry L Baker	Affirmative	
3	Portland General Electric Co.	Thomas G Ward	Affirmative	
3	Potomac Electric Power Co.	Mark Yerger	Affirmative	
3	Public Service Electric and Gas Co.	Jeffrey Mueller	Affirmative	
3	Puget Sound Energy, Inc.	Mariah R Kennedy	Negative	COMMENT RECEIVED
3	Rutherford EMC	Thomas Haire	Affirmative	
3	Sacramento Municipal Utility District	James Leigh-Kendall	Affirmative	
3	Salt River Project	John T. Underhill	Affirmative	
3	Santee Cooper	James M Poston	Abstain	
3	Seattle City Light	Dana Wheelock	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS - (Seattle City Light Paul Haase's Comment)
3	Seminole Electric Cooperative, Inc.	James R Frauen	Affirmative	
3	Sho-Me Power Electric Cooperative	Jeff L Neas		
3	Snohomish County PUD No. 1	Mark Oens	Affirmative	
3	South Carolina Electric & Gas Co.	Hubert C Young	Affirmative	
3	Southern California Edison Company	Lujuanna Medina		
3	Tacoma Power	Marc Donaldson	Affirmative	
3	Tampa Electric Co.	Ronald L. Donahey		
3	Tennessee Valley Authority	Ian S Grant	Affirmative	
3	Tri-State Generation & Transmission Association, Inc.	Janelle Marriott		
3	Westar Energy	Bo Jones	Affirmative	
3	Wisconsin Electric Power Marketing	James R Keller	Affirmative	
3	Xcel Energy, Inc.	Michael Ibold	Abstain	
4	Alliant Energy Corp. Services, Inc.	Kenneth Goldsmith	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS - (MRO NSRF)
4	Blue Ridge Power Agency	Duane S Dahlquist		
4	Central Lincoln PUD	Shamus J Gamache		
4	City of Austin dba Austin Energy	Reza Ebrahimian	Affirmative	
4	City of Redding	Nicholas Zettel	Affirmative	
4	City Utilities of Springfield, Missouri	John Allen	Affirmative	
4	Constellation Energy Control & Dispatch, L.L.C.	Margaret Powell		
				SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY

4	Consumers Energy Company	Tracy Goble	Negative	COMMENTS - (Gerald Farringer)
4	Cowlitz County PUD	Rick Syring	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS - (Cowlitz PUD)
4	DTE Electric	Daniel Herring	Affirmative	
4	Flathead Electric Cooperative	Russ Schneider	Negative	COMMENT RECEIVED
4	Florida Municipal Power Agency	Frank Gaffney		
4	Georgia System Operations Corporation	Guy Andrews	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS - (GTC's Comments)
4	Herb Schrayshuen	Herb Schrayshuen	Affirmative	
4	Illinois Municipal Electric Agency	Bob C. Thomas	Affirmative	
4	Indiana Municipal Power Agency	Jack Alvey	Negative	COMMENT RECEIVED
4	Madison Gas and Electric Co.	Joseph DePoorter	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS - (MRO NSRF)
4	Modesto Irrigation District	Spencer Tacke	Affirmative	
4	Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska	Robin L Spady		
4	Ohio Edison Company	Douglas Hohlbaugh	Affirmative	
4	Oklahoma Municipal Power Authority	Ashley Stringer	Affirmative	
4	Old Dominion Electric Coop.	Mark Ringhausen	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS - (ACES)
4	Public Utility District No. 1 of Snohomish County	John D Martinsen	Affirmative	
4	Sacramento Municipal Utility District	Mike Ramirez	Affirmative	
4	Seattle City Light	Hao Li	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS - (Seattle City Light Paul Haase's Comment)
4	Seminole Electric Cooperative, Inc.	Steven R Wallace	Affirmative	
4	South Mississippi Electric Power Association	Steve McElhaney		
4	Tacoma Public Utilities	Keith Morisette	Affirmative	
4	Utility Services, Inc.	Brian Evans-Mongeon		
4	Wisconsin Energy Corp.	Anthony P Jankowski	Affirmative	
5	Acciona Energy North America	George E Brown	Affirmative	
5	Amerenue	Sam Dwyer	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS - (Ameren comments)
5	American Electric Power	Thomas Foltz	Negative	COMMENT RECEIVED
5	Arizona Public Service Co.	Scott Takinen	Affirmative	
5	Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc.	Matthew Pacobit	Affirmative	
5	BC Hydro and Power Authority	Clement Ma	Abstain	
5	Boise-Kuna Irrigation District/dba Lucky peak power plant project	Mike D Kukla	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS - (Support SCL comments)
5	Bonneville Power Administration	Francis J. Halpin	Negative	COMMENT RECEIVED
5	Brazos Electric Power Cooperative, Inc.	Shari Heino	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS - (ACES)
5	Calpine Corporation	Hamid Zakery	Affirmative	
5	City and County of San Francisco	Daniel Mason		
5	City of Austin dba Austin Energy	Jeanie Doty	Affirmative	
5	City of Redding	Paul A. Cummings	Affirmative	
5	City of Tallahassee	Karen Webb	Affirmative	

5	City Water, Light & Power of Springfield	Steve Rose		
5	Cleco Power	Stephanie Huffman	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS - (SPP comments)
5	Cogentrix Energy Power Management, LLC	Mike D Hirst		
5	Colorado Springs Utilities	Kaleb Brimhall	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS - (Colorado Springs Utilities)
5	Con Edison Company of New York	Brian O'Boyle	Negative	COMMENT RECEIVED
5	Consumers Energy Company	David C Greyerbiehl	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS - (Jerry Farringer)
5	Cowlitz County PUD	Bob Essex	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS - (Cowlitz PUD)
5	Dairyland Power Coop.	Tommy Drea	Affirmative	
5	Dominion Resources, Inc.	Mike Garton	Affirmative	
5	DTE Electric	Mark Stefaniak	Affirmative	
5	Duke Energy	Dale Q Goodwine	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS - (Duke Energy)
5	Dynegy Inc.	Dan Roethemeyer	Abstain	
5	E.ON Climate & Renewables North America, LLC	Dana Showalter		
5	EDP Renewables North America LLC	Heather Bowden		
5	Exelon Nuclear	Mark F Draper	Affirmative	
5	First Wind	John Robertson	Affirmative	
5	FirstEnergy Solutions	Kenneth Dresner	Affirmative	
5	Florida Municipal Power Agency	David Schumann		
5	Great River Energy	Preston L Walsh	Affirmative	
5	Hydro-Québec Production	Roger Dufresne	Affirmative	
5	Independence Power & Light Dept.	James Nail	Affirmative	
5	Ingleside Cogeneration LP	Michelle R DAntuono	Negative	COMMENT RECEIVED
5	JEA	John J Babik	Affirmative	
5	Kansas City Power & Light Co.	Brett Holland	Negative	COMMENT RECEIVED
5	Kissimmee Utility Authority	Mike Blough	Affirmative	
5	Lakeland Electric	James M Howard	Affirmative	
5	Liberty Electric Power LLC	Daniel Duff	Negative	COMMENT RECEIVED
5	Lincoln Electric System	Dennis Florom	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS - (MRO NSRF)
5	Los Angeles Department of Water & Power	Kenneth Silver	Affirmative	
5	Lower Colorado River Authority	Dixie Wells	Affirmative	
5	Luminant Generation Company LLC	Rick Terrill	Affirmative	
5	Manitoba Hydro	Chris Mazur	Affirmative	
5	Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company	David Gordon		
5	MEAG Power	Steven Grego	Affirmative	
5	Muscatine Power & Water	Mike Avesing	Affirmative	
5	Nebraska Public Power District	Don Schmit	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS - (SPP and MRO NSRF)
5	Nevada Power Co.	Richard Salgo	Affirmative	
5	New York Power Authority	Wayne Sipperly	Affirmative	
5	NextEra Energy	Allen D Schriver	Affirmative	
				SUPPORTS

5	North Carolina Electric Membership Corp.	Jeffrey S Brame	Negative	THIRD PARTY COMMENTS - (ACES and GTC)
5	Northern Indiana Public Service Co.	Michael D Melvin		
5	Oglethorpe Power Corporation	Bernard Johnson	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS - (Georgia Transmission Corporation)
5	Oklahoma Gas and Electric Co.	Henry L Staples	Negative	COMMENT RECEIVED
5	Omaha Public Power District	Mahmood Z. Safi	Affirmative	
5	Orlando Utilities Commission	Richard K Kinas	Affirmative	
5	Pacific Gas and Electric Company	Alex Chua		
5	Platte River Power Authority	Christopher R Wood	Affirmative	
5	Portland General Electric Co.	Matt E. Jastram		
5	PPL Generation LLC	Annette M Bannon	Affirmative	
5	PSEG Fossil LLC	Tim Kucey	Affirmative	
5	Puget Sound Energy, Inc.	Lynda Kupfer	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS - (Denise Lietz)
5	Sacramento Municipal Utility District	Susan Gill-Zobitz	Affirmative	
5	Salt River Project	William Alkema	Affirmative	
5	Santee Cooper	Lewis P Pierce	Abstain	
5	Seattle City Light	Michael J. Haynes	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS - (Haase, Seattle)
5	Seminole Electric Cooperative, Inc.	Brenda K. Atkins	Affirmative	
5	Snohomish County PUD No. 1	Sam Nietfeld	Affirmative	
5	South Carolina Electric & Gas Co.	Edward Magic		
5	Southern California Edison Company	Denise Yaffe		
5	Southern Company Generation	William D Shultz	Affirmative	
5	Tacoma Power	Chris Mattson	Affirmative	
5	Tampa Electric Co.	RJames Rocha		
5	Tennessee Valley Authority	David Thompson	Affirmative	
5	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Melissa Kurtz		
5	USDI Bureau of Reclamation	Erika Doot		
5	Westar Energy	Bryan Taggart	Affirmative	
5	Wisconsin Electric Power Co.	Linda Horn	Affirmative	
5	Xcel Energy, Inc.	Mark A Castagneri	Abstain	
6	AEP Marketing	Edward P. Cox	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS - (Tom Foltz AEP)
6	Ameren Missouri	Robert Quinlivan	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS - (Ameren)
6	APS	Randy A. Young	Affirmative	
6	Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc.	Brian Ackermann	Affirmative	
6	Bonneville Power Administration	Brenda S. Anderson	Negative	COMMENT RECEIVED
6	City of Austin dba Austin Energy	Lisa Martin	Affirmative	
6	City of Redding	Marvin Briggs	Affirmative	
6	Cleco Power LLC	Robert Hirchak	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS - (SPP comments)
6	Colorado Springs Utilities	Shannon Fair		
6	Con Edison Company of New York	David Balban	Negative	COMMENT RECEIVED
6	Constellation Energy Commodities Group	David J Carlson	Affirmative	
6	Dominion Resources, Inc.	Louis S. Slade	Affirmative	
6	Duke Energy	Greg Cecil	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS -

				(Duke Energy)
6	FirstEnergy Solutions	Kevin Querry	Affirmative	
6	Florida Municipal Power Agency	Richard L. Montgomery		
6	Florida Power & Light Co.	Silvia P Mitchell	Affirmative	
6	Great River Energy	Donna Stephenson	Affirmative	
6	Kansas City Power & Light Co.	Jessica L Klinghoffer	Negative	COMMENT RECEIVED
6	Lakeland Electric	Paul Shipps	Affirmative	
6	Lincoln Electric System	Eric Ruskamp	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS - (MRO NSRF)
6	Los Angeles Department of Water & Power	Brad Packer	Affirmative	
6	Lower Colorado River Authority	Michael Shaw	Affirmative	
6	Luminant Energy	Brenda Hampton	Affirmative	
6	Manitoba Hydro	Blair Mukanik	Affirmative	
6	Modesto Irrigation District	James McFall	Affirmative	
6	New York Power Authority	Shivaz Chopra	Affirmative	
6	Northern Indiana Public Service Co.	Joseph O'Brien	Affirmative	
6	Oglethorpe Power Corporation	Donna Johnson	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS - (GTC)
6	Oklahoma Gas and Electric Co.	Jerry Nottnagel	Negative	COMMENT RECEIVED
6	Omaha Public Power District	Douglas Collins	Affirmative	
6	PacifiCorp	Sandra L Shaffer	Negative	COMMENT RECEIVED
6	Platte River Power Authority	Carol Ballantine	Affirmative	
6	Portland General Electric Co.	Shawn P Davis	Affirmative	
6	Power Generation Services, Inc.	Stephen C Knapp		
6	Powerex Corp.	Gordon Dobson-Mack		
6	PPL EnergyPlus LLC	Elizabeth Davis	Affirmative	
6	PSEG Energy Resources & Trade LLC	Peter Dolan	Affirmative	
6	Sacramento Municipal Utility District	Diane Enderby	Affirmative	
6	Salt River Project	William Abraham	Affirmative	
6	Santee Cooper	Michael Brown	Abstain	
6	Seattle City Light	Dennis Sismaet	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS - (Paul Haase)
6	Seminole Electric Cooperative, Inc.	Trudy S. Novak	Affirmative	
6	Snohomish County PUD No. 1	Kenn Backholm	Affirmative	
6	South Carolina Electric & Gas Co.	Matt H Bullard		
6	Southern California Edison Company	Joseph T Marone		
6	Southern Company Generation and Energy Marketing	John J. Ciza	Affirmative	
6	Tacoma Public Utilities	Michael C Hill	Affirmative	
6	Tampa Electric Co.	Benjamin F Smith II		
6	Tennessee Valley Authority	Marjorie S Parsons	Affirmative	
6	Westar Energy	Grant L Wilkerson	Affirmative	
6	Western Area Power Administration - UGP Marketing	Peter H Kinney		
6	Xcel Energy, Inc.	Peter Colussy	Abstain	
7	Occidental Chemical	Venona Greaff	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS - (Ingleside Cogeneration LP)
7	Siemens Energy, Inc.	Frank R. McElvain		
8		David L Kiguel	Affirmative	
8		Debra R Warner	Affirmative	
8		Roger C Zaklukiewicz	Affirmative	
8	Massachusetts Attorney General	Frederick R Plett	Affirmative	
8	Volkmann Consulting, Inc.	Terry Volkmann		
9	Central Lincoln PUD	Bruce Lovelin	Abstain	
9	Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities	Donald Nelson	Affirmative	
9	New York State Public Service Commission	Diane J Barney	Affirmative	



10	Florida Reliability Coordinating Council	Linda C Campbell	Affirmative	
10	Midwest Reliability Organization	Russel Mountjoy	Affirmative	
10	New York State Reliability Council	Alan Adamson		
10	Northeast Power Coordinating Council	Guy V. Zito	Affirmative	
10	ReliabilityFirst	Anthony E Jablonski	Abstain	
10	SERC Reliability Corporation	Joseph W Spencer	Affirmative	
10	Texas Reliability Entity, Inc.	Karin Schweitzer	Negative	COMMENT RECEIVED
10	Western Electricity Coordinating Council	Steven L. Rueckert	Affirmative	

Legal and Privacy : 404.446.2560 voice : 404.467.0474 fax : 3353 Peachtree Road, N.E. : Suite 600, North Tower : Atlanta, GA 30326
Washington Office: 1325 G Street, N.W. : Suite 600 : Washington, DC 20005-3801

Account Log-In/Register

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A New Jersey Nonprofit Corporation

Individual or group. (18 Responses)
Name (10 Responses)
Organization (10 Responses)
Group Name (8 Responses)
Lead Contact (8 Responses)
IF YOU WISH TO EXPRESS SUPPORT FOR ANOTHER ENTITY'S COMMENTS WITHOUT ENTERING ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS, YOU MAY DO SO HERE. (0 Responses)
Comments (18 Responses)
Question 1 (18 Responses)
Question 1 Comments (18 Responses)

Individual
Chris Scanlon
Exelon
Yes
The Exelon Companies, PECO, ComEd and BGE, agree that removing “Widespread” from the text of the standard satisfies the concerns raised by FERC. We believe this is an efficient and effective approach to clarify the standard language and complete the Project so that implementation can begin in earnest.
Individual
Amy Casuscelli
Xcel Energy
Yes
Individual
Mike Smith
Manitoba Hydro
Yes
No comment.
Group
Tennessee Valley Authority
Dennis Chastain
Yes
Group
Northeast Power Coordinating Council
Guy Zito
Yes
Individual
Mark Wilson
Independent Electricity System Operator
Yes

Group
Bonneville Power Administration
Andrea Jessup
Yes
BPA has no issues with the removal of the term “widespread” since it is not used elsewhere and is not a Continent-wide Term referenced in the NERC Glossary of Terms Used in Reliability Standards. However, NERC needs to be very clear and concise as to how they define a facility as “critical” and what constitutes “critical impact” to the interconnection to ensure there is no room for interpretation among entities. BPA believes that the definition in Requirement R1 should not be dependent on how an applicable entity interprets the term “widespread” but instead should be modified to make clear that a facility that has a critical impact on the operation of an Interconnection is critical and therefore subject to Requirement R1.
Individual
Mike Smith
Manitoba Hydro
Yes
No comments.
Individual
Maryclaire Yatsko
Seminole Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Yes
Individual
David Thorne
Pepco Holdings Inc.
Yes
Group
Dominion
Connie Lowe
Yes
Individual
David Kiguel
David Kiguel
Yes
The SAR Information Section states that "The primary goal of this SAR is to allow the Standard Drafting Team (SDT) for Project 2014-04, Physical Security to develop a standard(s) to address the directives of the March 7, 2014 FERC Order ….." This Section should be modified to reflect the fact that the purpose of the SAR is to allow the SDT to modify the requirements of the existing Standard CIP-014-1 (Physical Security) to address the directives of FERC.
Individual
Andrew Z. Pusztai

American Transmission Company, LLC
Yes
Individual
David Jendras
Ameren
Yes
Group
Duke Energy
Michael Lowman
Yes
Duke Energy agrees with the proposed revisions to the SAR, including the removal of the term “widespread” from the standard. In FERC Order 802, the Commission directed NERC to remove the term “widespread”, or in the alternative, propose specific modifications to the Reliability Standard that address the Commission’s concerns. Duke Energy recommends that if the drafting team considers making modifications to the Standard to address the FERC’s concerns, that the team consider inserting the language “critical impact on the operation of the interconnection” into the Standard. We feel that this language helps clarify and narrow down possible interpretations of what constitutes instability within an interconnection.
Group
ACES Standards Collaborators
Jason Marshall
Yes
We agree the proposed changes to the SAR address the Commission directive. However, we caution the drafting team to consider carefully how simply removing “widespread” could alter the original intent of the requirement. Widespread was added to reflect that there can be local stability issues that will not jeopardize the reliability of the overall bulk electric system. If the loss of Transmission substation or station will only cause a local stability issue, we do not believe it should be identified as requiring physical security measures. We believe this view is consistent with the intent of original FERC order directing the creation of the standard.
Group
Large Public Power Council
Joe Tarantino
Yes
The members of the Large Public Power Council agree with either the removal or modification of the word “widespread” in the Physical Security Standard to address the Commission’s concern. However, we urge the Standard Drafting Team to address the following: Any clarification made to the CIP-014 Standard should be consistent with current applicable standards, for example in the TPL-001-4 standard Requirement R6 requires the Transmission Planner and Planning Coordinator to define their criteria or methodology used in the analysis for the identification of System instability. This approach should not subject certain Facilities to the CIP-014 standard where acceptable conditions are met through acceptable performance criteria identified by the TP/PC and thereby would not deem a particular Facility as having a critical impact on the operation of the interconnection. Additionally, some degree of flexibility may be necessary across regions. Performance characteristics are potentially different between the Eastern Interconnect and the Western Interconnect; one region may be more sensitive to frequency stability while the other may be more sensitive to voltage

stability. Those Regional differences would be considered/accounted for through the TP/PC's documentation of System instability (TPL-001-4 R6).
Group
SPP Standards Review Group
Robert Rhodes
No
While we may agree with the removal of the term 'widespread' we at the same time have concerns that the intent that widespread gives the standard be captured in additional language to include specificity and structure in the standard. We don't need the standard to be about capturing small, insignificant events but at the same time we need to be sure we are capturing the events that need to be captured. We also need to be sure that anything that is added does not conflict and is consistent with existing standards such as TPL-001-4, R6. The phrase '…on the removal of the term widespread or alternatively propose modifications that address the Commission concerns in Order 802.' should be rewritten as '…on the removal of the term "widespread" or alternatively propose modifications that address the Commission's comcerns in Order 802.' for consistency with its use in the 3rd paragraph in the Industry Need section. Should the Load-Serving Entity be deleted from the list of Reliability Functions in the SAR?

SAR Information
Industry Need (What is the industry problem this request is trying to solve?):
On March 7, 2014, FERC issued an order directing the ERO to develop a standard to address the physical security of critical facilities on the Bulk-Power System. In the order, FERC stated: "The Commission directs the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), as the Commission-certified Electric Reliability Organization (ERO), to submit for approval one or more Reliability Standards that will require certain registered entities to take steps or demonstrate that they have taken steps to address physical security risks and vulnerabilities related to the reliable operation of the Bulk-Power System. The proposed Reliability Standards should require owners or operators of the Bulk-Power System, as appropriate, to identify facilities on the Bulk-Power System that are critical to the reliable operation of the Bulk-Power System. Then, owners or operators of those identified critical facilities should develop, validate and implement plans to protect against physical attacks that may compromise the operability or recovery of such facilities. The Commission directs NERC to submit the proposed Reliability Standards to the Commission within 90 days of the date of this order." *Reliability Standards for Physical Security Measures*, 146 FERC ¶ 61,166 at P 1 (2014) ("FERC Order"). In Order No. 802 (final order on CIP-014-1), issued on November 20, 2014, FERC directed NERC to remove the term "widespread" from Reliability Standard CIP-014-1 or, alternatively, to propose modifications to the Reliability Standard that address the Commission's concerns. FERC directed that NERC submit a responsive modification within six months from the effective date of this final rule.
SAR Information
Purpose or Goal (How does this request propose to address the problem described above?):
The primary goal of this SAR is to allow the Standard Drafting Team (SDT) for Project 2014-04, Physical Security to develop a standard(s) to address the directives of the March 7, 2014 FERC Order, and to address the one directive in Order 802 on the removal of the term widespread or alternatively propose modifications that address the Commission concerns in Order 802, and to ensure consistency within the NERC body of Reliability Standards.
Identify the Objectives of the proposed standard's requirements (What specific reliability deliverables are required to achieve the goal?):
Provide clear, unambiguous requirements and standard(s) to address the directives in the March 7, 2014 FERC Order regarding the physical security of critical facilities on the Bulk-Power System, and to address the one directive in Order 802 on the removal of the term widespread or alternatively propose modifications that address the Commission concerns in Order 802.

SAR Information
Brief Description (Provide a paragraph that describes the scope of this standard action.)
The SDT shall develop standard requirements, Violation Risk Factors, Violation Severity Levels, and implementation plan and shall work with compliance on an accompanying RSAW to address each of the directives in the March 7, 2014 FERC Order and to address the one directive in Order 802 on the removal of the term widespread or alternatively propose modifications that address the Commission concerns in Order 802.
Detailed Description (Provide a description of the proposed project with sufficient details for the standard drafting team to execute the SAR. Also provide a justification for the development or revision of the standard, including an assessment of the reliability and market interface impacts of implementing or not implementing the standard action.)
The SDTs execution of this SAR requires the SDT to address each of the FERC directives in the deadline required by the Order and to address the one directive in Order 802 on the removal of the term widespread or alternatively propose modifications that address the Commission concerns in Order 802. The reliability assessment and justification is also set forth in the March 7, 2014 FERC Order. The March 7, 2014 FERC Order is incorporated in its entirety into this SAR, so as not to unnecessarily repeat or paraphrase the substance of the Order. There are no market interface impacts resulting from the standard action on physical security.

Reliability Functions	
The Standard will Apply to the Following Functions (Check each one that applies.)	
☐ Regional Reliability Organization	Conducts the regional activities related to planning and operations, and coordinates activities of Responsible Entities to secure the reliability of the Bulk Electric System within the region and adjacent regions.
☐ Reliability Coordinator	Responsible for the real-time operating reliability of its Reliability Coordinator Area in coordination with its neighboring Reliability Coordinator's wide area view.

Reliability Functions	
☐ Balancing Authority	Integrates resource plans ahead of time, and maintains load-interchange-resource balance within a Balancing Authority Area and supports Interconnection frequency in real time.
☐ Interchange Authority	Ensures communication of interchange transactions for reliability evaluation purposes and coordinates implementation of valid and balanced interchange schedules between Balancing Authority Areas.
☐ Planning Coordinator	Assesses the longer-term reliability of its Planning Coordinator Area.
☐ Resource Planner	Develops a >one year plan for the resource adequacy of its specific loads within a Planning Coordinator area.
☐ Transmission Planner	Develops a >one year plan for the reliability of the interconnected Bulk Electric System within its portion of the Planning Coordinator area.
☐ Transmission Service Provider	Administers the transmission tariff and provides transmission services under applicable transmission service agreements (e.g., the pro forma tariff).
☒ Transmission Owner	Owns and maintains transmission facilities.
☒ Transmission Operator	Ensures the real-time operating reliability of the transmission assets within a Transmission Operator Area.
☐ Distribution Provider	Delivers electrical energy to the End-use customer.
☐ Generator Owner	Owns and maintains generation facilities.
☐ Generator Operator	Operates generation unit(s) to provide real and reactive power.
☐ Purchasing-Selling Entity	Purchases or sells energy, capacity, and necessary reliability-related services as required.
☐ Market Operator	Interface point for reliability functions with commercial functions.
☐ Load-Serving Entity	Secures energy and transmission service (and reliability-related services) to serve the End-use Customer.

Reliability and Market Interface Principles	
Applicable Reliability Principles (Check all that apply).	
☐	1. Interconnected bulk power systems shall be planned and operated in a coordinated manner to perform reliably under normal and abnormal conditions as defined in the NERC Standards.
☐	2. The frequency and voltage of interconnected bulk power systems shall be controlled within defined limits through the balancing of real and reactive power supply and demand.
☐	3. Information necessary for the planning and operation of interconnected bulk power systems shall be made available to those entities responsible for planning and operating the systems reliably.
☐	4. Plans for emergency operation and system restoration of interconnected bulk power systems shall be developed, coordinated, maintained and implemented.
☒	5. Facilities for communication, monitoring and control shall be provided, used and maintained for the reliability of interconnected bulk power systems.
☐	6. Personnel responsible for planning and operating interconnected bulk power systems shall be trained, qualified, and have the responsibility and authority to implement actions.
☐	7. The security of the interconnected bulk power systems shall be assessed, monitored and maintained on a wide area basis.
☒	8. Bulk power systems shall be protected from malicious physical or cyber attacks.

Does the proposed Standard comply with all of the following Market Interface Principles?	Enter (yes/no)
1. A reliability standard shall not give any market participant an unfair competitive advantage.	Yes
2. A reliability standard shall neither mandate nor prohibit any specific market structure.	Yes
3. A reliability standard shall not preclude market solutions to achieving compliance with that standard.	Yes
4. A reliability standard shall not require the public disclosure of commercially sensitive information. All market participants shall have equal opportunity to access commercially non-sensitive information that is required for compliance with reliability standards.	Yes

Related Standards	
Standard No.	Explanation
CIP-006-5 CIP-008-5 CIP-009-5	Review to ensure no language and terminology inconsistency with requirements developed under this project.

Related SARs	
SAR ID	Explanation
N/A	N/A

Regional Variances	
Region	Explanation
ERCOT	N/A
FRCC	N/A
MRO	N/A
NPCC	N/A
RFC	N/A
SERC	N/A
SPP	N/A

Regional Variances	
WECC	N/A

NERC
NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY CORPORATION

Standards Authorization Request Form

When completed, email this form to:
Barbara.Nutter@nerc.net

For questions about this form or for assistance in completing the form, call Barb Nutter at 404-446-9692.

NERC welcomes suggestions for improving the reliability of the Bulk-Power System through improved Reliability Standards. Please use this form to submit your proposal for a new NERC Reliability Standard or a revision to an existing standard.

Request to propose a new or a revision to a Reliability Standard			
Proposed Standard:	Project 2014-04 Physical Security Reliability Standard(s)		
Date Submitted:	March 12, 2014 (revised November 20, 2014)		
SAR Requester Information			
Name:	Stephen Crutchfield		
Organization:	NERC Staff		
Telephone:	609-651-9455	E-mail:	Stephen.crutchfield@nerc.net
SAR Type (Check as many as applicable)			
☐ New Standard		☐ Withdrawal of existing Standard	
☒ Revision to existing Standard		☐ Urgent Action	

SAR Information
Industry Need (What is the industry problem this request is trying to solve?):
On March 7, 2014, FERC issued an order directing the ERO to develop a standard to address the physical security of critical facilities on the Bulk-Power System. In the order, FERC stated: "The Commission directs the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), as the Commission-certified Electric Reliability Organization (ERO), to submit for approval one or more Reliability Standards that will require certain registered entities to take steps or demonstrate that they have taken steps to address physical security risks and vulnerabilities related to the reliable operation of the Bulk-Power System. The proposed Reliability Standards should require owners or operators of the Bulk-Power System, as appropriate, to identify facilities on the Bulk-Power System that are critical to the reliable operation of the Bulk-Power System. Then, owners or operators of those identified critical facilities should develop, validate and implement plans to protect against physical attacks that may compromise the operability or recovery of such facilities. The Commission directs NERC to submit the proposed Reliability Standards to the Commission within 90 days of the date of this order." *Reliability Standards for Physical Security Measures*, 146 FERC ¶ 61,166 at P 1 (2014) ("FERC Order"). In Order No. 802 (final order on CIP-014-1), issued on November 20, 2014, FERC directed NERC to remove the term "widespread" from Reliability Standard CIP-014-1 or, alternatively, to propose modifications to the Reliability Standard that address the Commission's concerns. FERC directed that NERC submit a responsive modification within six months from the effective date of this final rule.

SAR Information
Purpose or Goal (How does this request propose to address the problem described above?):
The primary goal of this SAR is to allow the Standard Drafting Team (SDT) for Project 2014-04, Physical Security to develop a standard(s) to address the directives of the March 7, 2014 FERC Order, and to address the one directive in Order 802 on the removal of the term widespread or alternatively propose modifications that address the Commission concerns in Order 802, and to ensure consistency within the NERC body of Reliability Standards.
Identify the Objectives of the proposed standard's requirements (What specific reliability deliverables are required to achieve the goal?):
Provide clear, unambiguous requirements and standard(s) to address the directives in the March 7, 2014 FERC Order regarding the physical security of critical facilities on the Bulk-Power System, and to address the one directive in Order 802 on the removal of the term widespread or alternatively propose modifications that address the Commission concerns in Order 802.

SAR Information
Brief Description (Provide a paragraph that describes the scope of this standard action.)
The SDT shall develop standard requirements, Violation Risk Factors, Violation Severity Levels, and implementation plan and shall work with compliance on an accompanying RSAW to address each of the directives in the March 7, 2014 FERC Order and to address the one directive in Order 802 on the removal of the term widespread or alternatively propose modifications that address the Commission concerns in Order 802.
Detailed Description (Provide a description of the proposed project with sufficient details for the standard drafting team to execute the SAR. Also provide a justification for the development or revision of the standard, including an assessment of the reliability and market interface impacts of implementing or not implementing the standard action.)
The SDTs execution of this SAR requires the SDT to address each of the FERC directives in the deadline required by the Order and to address the one directive in Order 802 on the removal of the term widespread or alternatively propose modifications that address the Commission concerns in Order 802. The reliability assessment and justification is also set forth in the March 7, 2014 FERC Order. The March 7, 2014 FERC Order is incorporated in its entirety into this SAR, so as not to unnecessarily repeat or paraphrase the substance of the Order. There are no market interface impacts resulting from the standard action on physical security.

Reliability Functions	
The Standard will Apply to the Following Functions (Check each one that applies.)	
☐ Regional Reliability Organization	Conducts the regional activities related to planning and operations, and coordinates activities of Responsible Entities to secure the reliability of the Bulk Electric System within the region and adjacent regions.
☐ Reliability Coordinator	Responsible for the real-time operating reliability of its Reliability Coordinator Area in coordination with its neighboring Reliability Coordinator's wide area view.

Reliability Functions	
☐ Balancing Authority	Integrates resource plans ahead of time, and maintains load-interchange-resource balance within a Balancing Authority Area and supports Interconnection frequency in real time.
☐ Interchange Authority	Ensures communication of interchange transactions for reliability evaluation purposes and coordinates implementation of valid and balanced interchange schedules between Balancing Authority Areas.
☐ Planning Coordinator	Assesses the longer-term reliability of its Planning Coordinator Area.
☐ Resource Planner	Develops a >one year plan for the resource adequacy of its specific loads within a Planning Coordinator area.
☐ Transmission Planner	Develops a >one year plan for the reliability of the interconnected Bulk Electric System within its portion of the Planning Coordinator area.
☐ Transmission Service Provider	Administers the transmission tariff and provides transmission services under applicable transmission service agreements (e.g., the pro forma tariff).
☒ Transmission Owner	Owns and maintains transmission facilities.
☒ Transmission Operator	Ensures the real-time operating reliability of the transmission assets within a Transmission Operator Area.
☐ Distribution Provider	Delivers electrical energy to the End-use customer.
☐ Generator Owner	Owns and maintains generation facilities.
☐ Generator Operator	Operates generation unit(s) to provide real and reactive power.
☐ Purchasing-Selling Entity	Purchases or sells energy, capacity, and necessary reliability-related services as required.
☐ Market Operator	Interface point for reliability functions with commercial functions.
☐ Load-Serving Entity	Secures energy and transmission service (and reliability-related services) to serve the End-use Customer.

Reliability and Market Interface Principles	
Applicable Reliability Principles (Check all that apply).	
☐	1. Interconnected bulk power systems shall be planned and operated in a coordinated manner to perform reliably under normal and abnormal conditions as defined in the NERC Standards.
☐	2. The frequency and voltage of interconnected bulk power systems shall be controlled within defined limits through the balancing of real and reactive power supply and demand.
☐	3. Information necessary for the planning and operation of interconnected bulk power systems shall be made available to those entities responsible for planning and operating the systems reliably.
☐	4. Plans for emergency operation and system restoration of interconnected bulk power systems shall be developed, coordinated, maintained and implemented.
☒	5. Facilities for communication, monitoring and control shall be provided, used and maintained for the reliability of interconnected bulk power systems.
☐	6. Personnel responsible for planning and operating interconnected bulk power systems shall be trained, qualified, and have the responsibility and authority to implement actions.
☐	7. The security of the interconnected bulk power systems shall be assessed, monitored and maintained on a wide area basis.
☒	8. Bulk power systems shall be protected from malicious physical or cyber attacks.

Does the proposed Standard comply with all of the following Market Interface Principles?	Enter (yes/no)
1. A reliability standard shall not give any market participant an unfair competitive advantage.	Yes
2. A reliability standard shall neither mandate nor prohibit any specific market structure.	Yes
3. A reliability standard shall not preclude market solutions to achieving compliance with that standard.	Yes
4. A reliability standard shall not require the public disclosure of commercially sensitive information. All market participants shall have equal opportunity to access commercially non-sensitive information that is required for compliance with reliability standards.	Yes

Related Standards	
Standard No.	Explanation
CIP-006-5 CIP-008-5 CIP-009-5	Review to ensure no language and terminology inconsistency with requirements developed under this project.

Related SARs	
SAR ID	Explanation
N/A	N/A

Regional Variances	
Region	Explanation
ERCOT	N/A
FRCC	N/A
MRO	N/A
NPCC	N/A
RFC	N/A
SERC	N/A
SPP	N/A

Regional Variances	
WECC	N/A

Ballot Results	
Ballot Name:	Project 2014-03 TOP-001-3 Final_Ballot
Ballot Period:	1/15/2015 - 1/21/2015
Ballot Type:	Final
Total # Votes:	321
Total Ballot Pool:	379
Quorum:	**84.70 % The Quorum has been reached**
Weighted Segment Vote:	72.69 %
Ballot Results:	**A quorum was reached and there were sufficient affirmative votes for approval.**

Summary of Ballot Results

Segment	Ballot Pool	Segment Weight	Affirmative # Votes	Affirmative Fraction	Negative # Votes	Negative Fraction	Negative Vote without a Comment	Abstain	No Vote
1 - Segment 1	105	1	59	0.686	27	0.314	0	2	17
2 - Segment 2	9	0.6	5	0.5	1	0.1	0	1	2
3 - Segment 3	83	1	48	0.727	18	0.273	0	6	11
4 - Segment 4	30	1	15	0.625	9	0.375	0	0	6
5 - Segment 5	82	1	42	0.646	23	0.354	0	4	13
6 - Segment 6	52	1	31	0.705	13	0.295	0	1	7
7 - Segment 7	2	0.1	0	0	1	0.1	0	0	1
8 - Segment 8	5	0.5	5	0.5	0	0	0	0	0
9 - Segment 9	3	0.2	2	0.2	0	0	0	1	0

10 - Segment 10	8	0.6	5	0.5	1	0.1	0	1	1
Totals	**379**	**7**	**212**	**5.089**	**93**	**1.911**	**0**	**16**	**58**

Individual Ballot Pool Results

Segment	Organization	Member	Ballot	NERC Notes
1	Ameren Services	Eric Scott	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS
1	American Electric Power	Paul B Johnson	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS
1	American Transmission Company, LLC	Andrew Z Pusztai	Negative	
1	Arizona Public Service Co.	Brian Cole	Affirmative	
1	Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc.	John Bussman	Affirmative	
1	Austin Energy	James Armke	Affirmative	
1	Avista Utilities	Heather Rosentrater		
1	Balancing Authority of Northern California	Kevin Smith	Affirmative	
1	Baltimore Gas & Electric Company	Christopher J Scanlon	Affirmative	
1	BC Hydro and Power Authority	Patricia Robertson		
1	Black Hills Corp	Wes Wingen	Affirmative	
1	Bonneville Power Administration	Donald S. Watkins	Negative	COMMENT RECEIVED
1	Brazos Electric Power Cooperative, Inc.	Tony Kroskey	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS
1	Bryan Texas Utilities	John C Fontenot	Affirmative	
1	CenterPoint Energy Houston Electric, LLC	John Brockhan	Negative	COMMENT RECEIVED
1	Central Electric Power Cooperative	Michael B Bax		
1	Central Iowa Power Cooperative	Kevin J Lyons	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS
1	Central Maine Power Company	Joseph Turano Jr.	Affirmative	
1	City of Tacoma, Department of Public Utilities, Light Division, dba Tacoma Power	Chang G Choi	Affirmative	
1	City of Tallahassee	Daniel S Langston	Affirmative	
1	Clark Public Utilities	Jack Stamper	Affirmative	
1	Cleco Power LLC	Danny McDaniel	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS
1	Colorado Springs Utilities	Shawna Speer	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS
1	Consolidated Edison Co. of New York	Christopher L de Graffenried	Negative	
1	CPS Energy	Glenn Pressler	Affirmative	
1	Dairyland Power Coop.	Robert W. Roddy	Affirmative	
1	Dominion Virginia Power	Larry Nash	Affirmative	
1	Duke Energy Carolina	Doug E Hils	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS
1	Encari	Steven E Hamburg		
1	Entergy Transmission	Oliver A Burke	Affirmative	
1	FirstEnergy Corp.	William J Smith	Affirmative	
1	Florida Keys Electric Cooperative Assoc.	Dennis Minton		
1	Florida Power & Light Co.	Mike O'Neil	Affirmative	
1	Gainesville Regional Utilities	Richard Bachmeier		
1	Georgia Transmission Corporation	Jason Snodgrass	Negative	
1	Great River Energy	Gordon Pietsch	Affirmative	
1	Hoosier Energy Rural Electric Cooperative,	Bob Solomon		

	Inc.			
1	Hydro One Networks, Inc.	Muhammed Ali	Affirmative	
1	Hydro-Quebec TransEnergie	Martin Boisvert	Affirmative	
1	Idaho Power Company	Molly Devine	Affirmative	
1	International Transmission Company Holdings Corp	Michael Moltane	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS
1	JDRJC Associates	Jim D Cyrulewski	Affirmative	
1	JEA	Ted E Hobson	Affirmative	
1	KAMO Electric Cooperative	Walter Kenyon	Affirmative	
1	Kansas City Power & Light Co.	Daniel Gibson	Negative	
1	Lakeland Electric	Larry E Watt	Affirmative	
1	Lee County Electric Cooperative	John Chin		
1	Lincoln Electric System	Doug Bantam	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS
1	Long Island Power Authority	Robert Ganley	Affirmative	
1	Los Angeles Department of Water & Power	faranak sarbaz	Affirmative	
1	Lower Colorado River Authority	Martyn Turner	Affirmative	
1	M & A Electric Power Cooperative	William Price	Affirmative	
1	Manitoba Hydro	Jo-Anne M Ross	Affirmative	
1	MEAG Power	Danny Dees	Affirmative	
1	MidAmerican Energy Co.	Terry Harbour	Negative	
1	Minnkota Power Coop. Inc.	Daniel L Inman		
1	Muscatine Power & Water	Andrew J Kurriger	Affirmative	
1	N.W. Electric Power Cooperative, Inc.	Mark Ramsey		
1	National Grid USA	Michael Jones	Negative	
1	NB Power Corporation	Alan MacNaughton	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS
1	Nebraska Public Power District	Jamison Cawley	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS
1	New York Power Authority	Bruce Metruck	Affirmative	
1	Northeast Missouri Electric Power Cooperative	Kevin White	Affirmative	
1	Northeast Utilities	William Temple	Affirmative	
1	Northern Indiana Public Service Co.	Julaine Dyke	Negative	
1	NorthWestern Energy	John Canavan		
1	Ohio Valley Electric Corp.	Scott R Cunningham	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS
1	Oklahoma Gas and Electric Co.	Terri Pyle	Negative	COMMENT RECEIVED
1	Omaha Public Power District	Doug Peterchuck	Affirmative	
1	Oncor Electric Delivery	Jen Fiegel	Negative	COMMENT RECEIVED
1	Otter Tail Power Company	Daryl Hanson		
1	Pacific Gas and Electric Company	Bangalore Vijayraghavan		
1	Peak Reliability	Jared Shakespeare	Affirmative	
1	Platte River Power Authority	John C. Collins	Affirmative	
1	Portland General Electric Co.	John T Walker	Affirmative	
1	Potomac Electric Power Co.	David Thorne	Affirmative	
1	PPL Electric Utilities Corp.	Brenda L Truhe	Affirmative	
1	Public Service Electric and Gas Co.	Kenneth D. Brown	Affirmative	
1	Public Utility District No. 1 of Okanogan County	Dale Dunckel	Affirmative	
1	Puget Sound Energy, Inc.	Denise M Lietz	Negative	
1	Rochester Gas and Electric Corp.	John C. Allen	Affirmative	
1	Sacramento Municipal Utility District	Tim Kelley	Affirmative	
1	Salt River Project	Robert Kondziolka	Affirmative	
1	SaskPower	Wayne Guttormson	Abstain	
1	Seattle City Light	Pawel Krupa	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS
1	Seminole Electric Cooperative, Inc.	Glenn Spurlock	Affirmative	

1	Sho-Me Power Electric Cooperative	Denise Stevens	Affirmative	
1	Snohomish County PUD No. 1	Long T Duong	Affirmative	
1	South Carolina Electric & Gas Co.	Tom Hanzlik	Affirmative	
1	South Carolina Public Service Authority	Shawn T Abrams	Abstain	
1	Southern California Edison Company	Steven Mavis	Affirmative	
1	Southern Company Services, Inc.	Robert A. Schaffeld	Affirmative	
1	Southern Illinois Power Coop.	William Hutchison	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS
1	Southwest Transmission Cooperative, Inc.	John Shaver	Negative	
1	Sunflower Electric Power Corporation	Noman Lee Williams		
1	Tampa Electric Co.	Beth Young		
1	Tennessee Valley Authority	Howell D Scott	Affirmative	
1	Trans Bay Cable LLC	Steven Powell	Affirmative	
1	Tri-State Generation & Transmission Association, Inc.	Tracy Sliman	Affirmative	
1	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation	Richard T Jackson		
1	United Illuminating Co.	Jonathan Appelbaum	Affirmative	
1	Westar Energy	Allen Klassen	Affirmative	
1	Western Area Power Administration	Lloyd A Linke	Affirmative	
1	Wolverine Power Supply Coop., Inc.	Michelle Clements		
1	Xcel Energy, Inc.	Gregory L Pieper	Affirmative	
2	BC Hydro	Venkataramakrishnan Vinnakota		
2	California ISO	Rich Vine	Affirmative	
2	Electric Reliability Council of Texas, Inc.	Cheryl Moseley	Affirmative	
2	Independent Electricity System Operator	Leonard Kula	Negative	COMMENT RECEIVED
2	ISO New England, Inc.	Matthew F Goldberg	Affirmative	
2	MISO	Marie Knox	Abstain	
2	New York Independent System Operator	Gregory Campoli	Affirmative	
2	PJM Interconnection, L.L.C.	stephanie monzon	Affirmative	
2	Southwest Power Pool, Inc.	Charles H. Yeung		
3	AEP	Michael E Deloach	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS
3	Alabama Power Company	Robert S Moore	Affirmative	
3	Ameren Corp.	David J Jendras	Negative	COMMENT RECEIVED
3	APS	Sarah Kist	Affirmative	
3	Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc.	Todd Bennett	Affirmative	
3	Atlantic City Electric Company	NICOLE BUCKMAN		
3	Avista Corp.	Scott J Kinney		
3	BC Hydro and Power Authority	Pat G. Harrington		
3	Central Electric Power Cooperative	Adam M Weber	Affirmative	
3	Central Lincoln PUD	Steve Alexanderson	Abstain	
3	City of Anaheim Public Utilities Department	Dennis M Schmidt	Abstain	
3	City of Austin dba Austin Energy	Andrew Gallo	Affirmative	
3	City of Clewiston	Lynne Mila	Affirmative	
3	City of Farmington	Linda R Jacobson	Abstain	
3	City of Garland	Ronnie C Hoeinghaus	Abstain	
3	City of Green Cove Springs	Mark Schultz	Affirmative	
3	City of Redding	Bill Hughes	Affirmative	
3	City of Tallahassee	Bill R Fowler	Abstain	
3	Cleco Corporation	Michelle A Corley	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS
3	Colorado Springs Utilities	Jean Mueller	Negative	
3	ComEd	John Bee	Affirmative	
3	Consolidated Edison Co. of New York	Peter T Yost	Negative	
3	Consumers Energy Company	Gerald G Farringer	Negative	COMMENT RECEIVED
3	Cowlitz County PUD	Russell A Noble	Negative	COMMENT RECEIVED
3	CPS Energy	Jose Escamilla	Affirmative	
3	Delmarva Power & Light Co.	Michael R. Mayer		
3	Dominion Resources, Inc.	Connie B Lowe	Affirmative	

3	DTE Electric	Kent Kujala	Affirmative	
3	FirstEnergy Corp.	Cindy E Stewart	Affirmative	
3	Florida Keys Electric Cooperative	Tom B Anthony	Affirmative	
3	Florida Municipal Power Agency	Joe McKinney	Affirmative	
3	Florida Power & Light Co.	Summer C. Esquerre	Affirmative	
3	Florida Power Corporation	Lee Schuster	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS
3	Georgia System Operations Corporation	Scott McGough	Negative	
3	Great River Energy	Brian Glover	Affirmative	
3	Hydro One Networks, Inc.	Ayesha Sabouba	Affirmative	
3	Imperial Irrigation District	Jesus S. Alcaraz		
3	JEA	Garry Baker	Affirmative	
3	KAMO Electric Cooperative	Theodore J Hilmes	Affirmative	
3	Kansas City Power & Light Co.	Joshua D Bach	Negative	
3	Lakeland Electric	Mace D Hunter	Affirmative	
3	Lincoln Electric System	Jason Fortik	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS
3	Los Angeles Department of Water & Power	Mike Anctil	Affirmative	
3	Louisville Gas and Electric Co.	Charles A. Freibert	Affirmative	
3	M & A Electric Power Cooperative	Stephen D Pogue	Affirmative	
3	Manitoba Hydro	Greg C. Parent	Affirmative	
3	MEAG Power	Roger Brand	Affirmative	
3	MidAmerican Energy Co.	Thomas C. Mielnik	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS
3	Modesto Irrigation District	Jack W Savage	Affirmative	
3	Muscatine Power & Water	Jenn Stover		
3	National Grid USA	Brian E Shanahan	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS
3	Nebraska Public Power District	Tony Eddleman	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS
3	New York Power Authority	David R Rivera	Affirmative	
3	Northern Indiana Public Service Co.	Ramon J Barany	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS
3	NW Electric Power Cooperative, Inc.	David McDowell		
3	Ocala Utility Services	Randy Hahn	Affirmative	
3	Oklahoma Gas and Electric Co.	Donald Hargrove	Negative	COMMENT RECEIVED
3	Omaha Public Power District	Blaine R. Dinwiddie	Affirmative	
3	Orlando Utilities Commission	Ballard K Mutters	Affirmative	
3	Owensboro Municipal Utilities	Thomas T Lyons	Affirmative	
3	Pacific Gas and Electric Company	John H Hagen	Affirmative	
3	Platte River Power Authority	Terry L Baker	Affirmative	
3	Portland General Electric Co.	Thomas G Ward	Affirmative	
3	Potomac Electric Power Co.	Mark Yerger	Affirmative	
3	Public Service Electric and Gas Co.	Jeffrey Mueller	Affirmative	
3	Puget Sound Energy, Inc.	Mariah R Kennedy	Negative	COMMENT RECEIVED
3	Rutherford EMC	Thomas Haire	Affirmative	
3	Sacramento Municipal Utility District	James Leigh-Kendall	Affirmative	
3	Salt River Project	John T. Underhill	Affirmative	
3	Santee Cooper	James M Poston	Abstain	
3	Seattle City Light	Dana Wheelock	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS
3	Seminole Electric Cooperative, Inc.	James R Frauen	Affirmative	
3	Sho-Me Power Electric Cooperative	Jeff L Neas		
3	Snohomish County PUD No. 1	Mark Oens	Affirmative	
3	South Carolina Electric & Gas Co.	Hubert C Young	Affirmative	

3	Southern California Edison Company	Lujuanna Medina		
3	Tacoma Power	Marc Donaldson	Affirmative	
3	Tampa Electric Co.	Ronald L. Donahey		
3	Tennessee Valley Authority	Ian S Grant	Affirmative	
3	Tri-State Generation & Transmission Association, Inc.	Janelle Marriott		
3	Westar Energy	Bo Jones	Affirmative	
3	Wisconsin Electric Power Marketing	James R Keller	Affirmative	
3	Xcel Energy, Inc.	Michael Ibold	Affirmative	
4	Alliant Energy Corp. Services, Inc.	Kenneth Goldsmith	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS
4	Blue Ridge Power Agency	Duane S Dahlquist		
4	Central Lincoln PUD	Shamus J Gamache		
4	City of Austin dba Austin Energy	Reza Ebrahimian	Affirmative	
4	City of Redding	Nicholas Zettel	Affirmative	
4	City Utilities of Springfield, Missouri	John Allen	Affirmative	
4	Constellation Energy Control & Dispatch, L.L.C.	Margaret Powell		
4	Consumers Energy Company	Tracy Goble	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS
4	Cowlitz County PUD	Rick Syring	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS
4	DTE Electric	Daniel Herring	Affirmative	
4	Flathead Electric Cooperative	Russ Schneider	Negative	COMMENT RECEIVED
4	Florida Municipal Power Agency	Frank Gaffney	Affirmative	
4	Georgia System Operations Corporation	Guy Andrews	Negative	
4	Herb Schrayshuen	Herb Schrayshuen	Affirmative	
4	Illinois Municipal Electric Agency	Bob C. Thomas	Affirmative	
4	Indiana Municipal Power Agency	Jack Alvey	Negative	COMMENT RECEIVED
4	Madison Gas and Electric Co.	Joseph DePoorter	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS
4	Modesto Irrigation District	Spencer Tacke	Affirmative	
4	Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska	Robin L Spady		
4	Ohio Edison Company	Douglas Hohlbaugh	Affirmative	
4	Oklahoma Municipal Power Authority	Ashley Stringer	Affirmative	
4	Old Dominion Electric Coop.	Mark Ringhausen	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS
4	Public Utility District No. 1 of Snohomish County	John D Martinsen	Affirmative	
4	Sacramento Municipal Utility District	Mike Ramirez	Affirmative	
4	Seattle City Light	Hao Li	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS
4	Seminole Electric Cooperative, Inc.	Steven R Wallace	Affirmative	
4	South Mississippi Electric Power Association	Steve McElhaney		
4	Tacoma Public Utilities	Keith Morisette	Affirmative	
4	Utility Services, Inc.	Brian Evans-Mongeon		
4	Wisconsin Energy Corp.	Anthony P Jankowski	Affirmative	
5	Acciona Energy North America	George E Brown	Affirmative	
5	Amerenue	Sam Dwyer	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS
5	American Electric Power	Thomas Foltz	Negative	COMMENT RECEIVED
5	Arizona Public Service Co.	Scott Takinen	Affirmative	
5	Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc.	Matthew Pacobit	Affirmative	
5	BC Hydro and Power Authority	Clement Ma	Abstain	
				SUPPORTS

5	Boise-Kuna Irrigation District/dba Lucky peak power plant project	Mike D Kukla	Negative	THIRD PARTY COMMENTS
5	Bonneville Power Administration	Francis J. Halpin	Negative	COMMENT RECEIVED
5	Brazos Electric Power Cooperative, Inc.	Shari Heino	Negative	
5	Calpine Corporation	Hamid Zakery	Affirmative	
5	City and County of San Francisco	Daniel Mason		
5	City of Austin dba Austin Energy	Jeanie Doty	Affirmative	
5	City of Redding	Paul A. Cummings	Affirmative	
5	City of Tallahassee	Karen Webb	Affirmative	
5	City Water, Light & Power of Springfield	Steve Rose		
5	Cleco Power	Stephanie Huffman	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS
5	Cogentrix Energy Power Management, LLC	Mike D Hirst		
5	Colorado Springs Utilities	Kaleb Brimhall	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS
5	Con Edison Company of New York	Brian O'Boyle	Negative	
5	Consumers Energy Company	David C Greyerbiehl	Negative	
5	Cowlitz County PUD	Bob Essex	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS
5	Dairyland Power Coop.	Tommy Drea	Affirmative	
5	Dominion Resources, Inc.	Mike Garton	Affirmative	
5	DTE Electric	Mark Stefaniak	Affirmative	
5	Duke Energy	Dale Q Goodwine	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS
5	Dynegy Inc.	Dan Roethemeyer	Abstain	
5	E.ON Climate & Renewables North America, LLC	Dana Showalter		
5	EDP Renewables North America LLC	Heather Bowden		
5	Exelon Nuclear	Mark F Draper	Affirmative	
5	First Wind	John Robertson	Affirmative	
5	FirstEnergy Solutions	Kenneth Dresner	Affirmative	
5	Florida Municipal Power Agency	David Schumann	Affirmative	
5	Great River Energy	Preston L Walsh	Affirmative	
5	Hydro-Québec Production	Roger Dufresne	Affirmative	
5	Independence Power & Light Dept.	James Nail	Affirmative	
5	Ingleside Cogeneration LP	Michelle R DAntuono	Negative	
5	JEA	John J Babik	Affirmative	
5	Kansas City Power & Light Co.	Brett Holland	Negative	
5	Kissimmee Utility Authority	Mike Blough	Affirmative	
5	Lakeland Electric	James M Howard	Affirmative	
5	Liberty Electric Power LLC	Daniel Duff	Negative	COMMENT RECEIVED
5	Lincoln Electric System	Dennis Florom	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS
5	Los Angeles Department of Water & Power	Kenneth Silver	Affirmative	
5	Lower Colorado River Authority	Dixie Wells	Affirmative	
5	Luminant Generation Company LLC	Rick Terrill	Affirmative	
5	Manitoba Hydro	Chris Mazur	Affirmative	
5	Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company	David Gordon		
5	MEAG Power	Steven Grego	Affirmative	
5	Muscatine Power & Water	Mike Avesing	Negative	
5	Nebraska Public Power District	Don Schmit	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS
5	Nevada Power Co.	Richard Salgo	Negative	
5	New York Power Authority	Wayne Sipperly	Affirmative	
5	NextEra Energy	Allen D Schriver	Affirmative	
				SUPPORTS

5	North Carolina Electric Membership Corp.	Jeffrey S Brame	Negative	THIRD PARTY COMMENTS
5	Northern Indiana Public Service Co.	Michael D Melvin		
5	Oglethorpe Power Corporation	Bernard Johnson	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS
5	Oklahoma Gas and Electric Co.	Henry L Staples	Negative	COMMENT RECEIVED
5	Omaha Public Power District	Mahmood Z. Safi	Affirmative	
5	Orlando Utilities Commission	Richard K Kinas	Affirmative	
5	Pacific Gas and Electric Company	Alex Chua		
5	Platte River Power Authority	Christopher R Wood	Affirmative	
5	Portland General Electric Co.	Matt E. Jastram		
5	PPL Generation LLC	Annette M Bannon	Affirmative	
5	PSEG Fossil LLC	Tim Kucey	Affirmative	
5	Puget Sound Energy, Inc.	Lynda Kupfer	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS
5	Sacramento Municipal Utility District	Susan Gill-Zobitz	Affirmative	
5	Salt River Project	William Alkema	Affirmative	
5	Santee Cooper	Lewis P Pierce	Abstain	
5	Seattle City Light	Michael J. Haynes	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS
5	Seminole Electric Cooperative, Inc.	Brenda K. Atkins	Affirmative	
5	Snohomish County PUD No. 1	Sam Nietfeld	Affirmative	
5	South Carolina Electric & Gas Co.	Edward Magic	Abstain	
5	Southern California Edison Company	Denise Yaffe		
5	Southern Company Generation	William D Shultz	Affirmative	
5	Tacoma Power	Chris Mattson	Affirmative	
5	Tampa Electric Co.	RJames Rocha		
5	Tennessee Valley Authority	David Thompson	Affirmative	
5	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Melissa Kurtz		
5	USDI Bureau of Reclamation	Erika Doot		
5	Westar Energy	Bryan Taggart	Affirmative	
5	Wisconsin Electric Power Co.	Linda Horn	Affirmative	
5	Xcel Energy, Inc.	Mark A Castagneri	Affirmative	
6	AEP Marketing	Edward P. Cox	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS
6	Ameren Missouri	Robert Quinlivan	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS
6	APS	Randy A. Young	Affirmative	
6	Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc.	Brian Ackermann	Affirmative	
6	Bonneville Power Administration	Brenda S. Anderson	Negative	COMMENT RECEIVED
6	City of Austin dba Austin Energy	Lisa Martin	Affirmative	
6	City of Redding	Marvin Briggs	Affirmative	
6	Cleco Power LLC	Robert Hirchak	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS
6	Colorado Springs Utilities	Shannon Fair		
6	Con Edison Company of New York	David Balban	Negative	
6	Constellation Energy Commodities Group	David J Carlson	Affirmative	
6	Dominion Resources, Inc.	Louis S. Slade	Affirmative	
6	Duke Energy	Greg Cecil	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS
6	FirstEnergy Solutions	Kevin Querry	Affirmative	
6	Florida Municipal Power Agency	Richard L. Montgomery	Affirmative	
6	Florida Power & Light Co.	Silvia P Mitchell	Affirmative	
6	Great River Energy	Donna Stephenson	Affirmative	
6	Kansas City Power & Light Co.	Jessica L Klinghoffer	Negative	

6	Lakeland Electric	Paul Shipps	Affirmative	
6	Lincoln Electric System	Eric Ruskamp	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS
6	Los Angeles Department of Water & Power	Brad Packer	Affirmative	
6	Lower Colorado River Authority	Michael Shaw	Affirmative	
6	Luminant Energy	Brenda Hampton	Affirmative	
6	Manitoba Hydro	Blair Mukanik	Affirmative	
6	Modesto Irrigation District	James McFall	Affirmative	
6	New York Power Authority	Shivaz Chopra	Affirmative	
6	Northern Indiana Public Service Co.	Joseph O'Brien	Negative	
6	Oglethorpe Power Corporation	Donna Johnson	Negative	
6	Oklahoma Gas and Electric Co.	Jerry Nottnagel	Negative	COMMENT RECEIVED
6	Omaha Public Power District	Douglas Collins	Affirmative	
6	PacifiCorp	Sandra L Shaffer	Negative	
6	Platte River Power Authority	Carol Ballantine	Affirmative	
6	Portland General Electric Co.	Shawn P Davis	Affirmative	
6	Power Generation Services, Inc.	Stephen C Knapp		
6	Powerex Corp.	Gordon Dobson-Mack		
6	PPL EnergyPlus LLC	Elizabeth Davis	Affirmative	
6	PSEG Energy Resources & Trade LLC	Peter Dolan	Affirmative	
6	Sacramento Municipal Utility District	Diane Enderby	Affirmative	
6	Salt River Project	William Abraham	Affirmative	
6	Santee Cooper	Michael Brown	Abstain	
6	Seattle City Light	Dennis Sismaet	Negative	
6	Seminole Electric Cooperative, Inc.	Trudy S. Novak	Affirmative	
6	Snohomish County PUD No. 1	Kenn Backholm	Affirmative	
6	South Carolina Electric & Gas Co.	Matt H Bullard		
6	Southern California Edison Company	Joseph T Marone		
6	Southern Company Generation and Energy Marketing	John J. Ciza	Affirmative	
6	Tacoma Public Utilities	Michael C Hill	Affirmative	
6	Tampa Electric Co.	Benjamin F Smith II		
6	Tennessee Valley Authority	Marjorie S Parsons	Affirmative	
6	Westar Energy	Grant L Wilkerson	Affirmative	
6	Western Area Power Administration - UGP Marketing	Peter H Kinney		
6	Xcel Energy, Inc.	Peter Colussy	Affirmative	
7	Occidental Chemical	Venona Greaff	Negative	SUPPORTS THIRD PARTY COMMENTS
7	Siemens Energy, Inc.	Frank R. McElvain		
8		David L Kiguel	Affirmative	
8		Debra R Warner	Affirmative	
8		Roger C Zaklukiewicz	Affirmative	
8	Massachusetts Attorney General	Frederick R Plett	Affirmative	
8	Volkmann Consulting, Inc.	Terry Volkmann	Affirmative	
9	Central Lincoln PUD	Bruce Lovelin	Abstain	
9	Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities	Donald Nelson	Affirmative	
9	New York State Public Service Commission	Diane J Barney	Affirmative	
10	Florida Reliability Coordinating Council	Linda C Campbell	Affirmative	
10	Midwest Reliability Organization	Russel Mountjoy	Affirmative	
10	New York State Reliability Council	Alan Adamson		
10	Northeast Power Coordinating Council	Guy V. Zito	Affirmative	
10	ReliabilityFirst	Anthony E Jablonski	Abstain	
10	SERC Reliability Corporation	Joseph W Spencer	Affirmative	
10	Texas Reliability Entity, Inc.	Karin Schweitzer	Negative	COMMENT RECEIVED
10	Western Electricity Coordinating Council	Steven L. Rueckert	Affirmative	

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Washington Office: 1325 G Street, N.W. : Suite 600 : Washington, DC 20005-3801

Account Log-In/Register

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Lee R. Pedowicz

From: Lainis, Helen <helen.lainis@ieso.ca>
Sent: Thursday, November 06, 2014 9:52 AM
To: Lee R. Pedowicz
Subject: RE: Comment Form--Project 2014-03 - Revisions to TOP and IRO Standards - TOP-001-3

Lee,

I don't know if you want to insert our comment, but this is what we are struggling with:

We will be recommending to our management to cast a NEGATIVE vote. Our concern centers around the proposed retirement of Requirement R4 of TOP-004-2 without having it reinstated in TOP-001-3 or having some of the requirements in TOP-001-3 revised to addressing the reliability need for confirming or reestablishing valid SOLs/IROLs in an unknown or unstudied state.

Requirement R4 of TOP-004-2 stipulates that:

R4. If a Transmission Operator enters an unknown operating state (i.e., any state for which valid operating limits have not been determined), it will be considered to be in an emergency and shall restore operations to respect proven reliable power system limits within 30 minutes.

In previous postings, we expressed a concern that by retiring R4 of TOP-004-2, the responsible entity (TOP in this case) will no longer be required to reconfirm or reestablish valid SOLs or IROLs when entering an unknown (or unstudied) state. We recognize that by virtue of the proposed definition of Operational Planning Analysis (OPA) and Real-time Assessment (RTA), as well as the new requirement for TOPs to update their OPA results through the performance of a RTA every 30 minutes, that the entities will always be assessing the reliability of the BES. The SDT thus argues that this, together with the TOP-001-3 Requirements R12, R13, and R14, will allow the operators sufficient flexibility within a structured environment to take the necessary actions for the reliability of the Bulk Power System and hence Requirement R4 of TOP-004-2 can be retired.

We continue to disagree with this rationale. We believe that an unknown (a better word is unstudied) state is one which has not been assessed before in IROL or SOL calculation or reliability assessment, and therefore there does not exist an updated, valid limit until it is re-determined (or reconfirmed). An unknown operating state includes an unstudied state beyond those which the calculated SOLs or IROLs are intended to cover. Predetermined reduction or judgment may need to be applied when system conditions, such as two or more critical facilities are out of service, go beyond what's covered by the basic set of limits. When an unstudied state is encountered, a necessary first step for the operating entities in these areas is to reconfirm or recalculate the limits that are valid and applicable for the prevailing conditions. The reconfirmed or reestablish limits will become the target to which the system must be adjusted.

The OPA and RTA are good tools. However, these tools only look ahead at anticipated conditions and assess real-time situation in response to system changes, but by themselves they are not limit calculation mechanisms. Therefore, while these tasks will aid in assessing performance of the system against established limits, such limits may not exist; and OPA and RTA are not the tasks to calculate limits for the anticipated or prevailing conditions, especially for the stability restricted SOLs/IROLs. A set of valid limit (voltage and stability limited type) may not exist for conditions that have not been studied and therefore there is no such "set of limits currently in place". As such, when the limits do not exist, as in the case of SOLs or IROLs that are restricted by stability and when the prevailing conditions are ones that have not been studied before, there is not a target (SOL or IROL) with which the system is to be restored to.

We recommend that R4 of TOP-004-2 is reinserted to TOP-001-3, or to expand Requirement R13 to require TOPs to reestablish valid SOLs when the prevailing conditions are beyond those that are covered by or have been studied in SOL calculations.

Helen

From: Lee R. Pedowicz [mailto:lpedowicz@npcc.org]
Sent: November 06, 2014 7:25 AM
To: rscmembers; tfco; co8; jtfc; connie.lowe@dom.com; Damase Hebert; donald.e.nelson@state.ma.us; Jack Kogan; jonathan.appelbaum@uinet.com; Kristin Halper; mazza.chantal@hydro.qc.ca; negliat@oru.com; rjfalsetti@cogeco.ca
Subject: Comment Form--Project 2014-03 - Revisions to TOP and IRO Standards - TOP-001-3

Good morning.

Attached is a copy of the Comment Form for Project 2014-03 - Revisions to TOP and IRO Standards on which I've marked comments received, and will be submitting to NERC to meet the Monday, Nov. 10, 2014 Comment Form submission deadline.

I want to thank everyone for their help.

Thanks.

Lee

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Lee R. Pedowicz

From: Lainis, Helen <helen.lainis@ieso.ca>
Sent: Friday, November 07, 2014 9:56 AM
To: Lee R. Pedowicz
Subject: RE: Comment Form--Project 2014-03 - Revisions to TOP and IRO Standards - TOP-001-3

Lee,
I know we got a response from the SDT but we did not think it was adequately addressed…we'll just reiterate our comment in our submission…
Anyway, folks here are asking how NPCC members are voting on this…do have a sense (NE-ISO and NYISO I believe are negative on this?)
So, don't worry about including our comment,
Thanks though,
Helen
P.S. Congratulations on the DME…really good work!

From: Lee R. Pedowicz [mailto:lpedowicz@npcc.org]
Sent: November 07, 2014 9:06 AM
To: Lainis, Helen
Subject: FW: Comment Form--Project 2014-03 - Revisions to TOP and IRO Standards - TOP-001-3
Importance: High

Good morning, Helen.

I got a response to the Comment Form I sent out yesterday that included your comments. The response said that page 51 of the Mapping Document (attached, and highlighted) addresses your concerns. Let me know.

Thanks.

Lee

From: Lee R. Pedowicz
Sent: Thursday, November 06, 2014 10:48 AM
To: rscmembers; connie.lowe@dom.com; Damase Hebert; donald.e.nelson@state.ma.us; Jack Kogan; jonathan.appelbaum@uinet.com; Kristin Halper; mazza.chantal@hydro.qc.ca; negliat@oru.com; rjfalsetti@cogeco.ca
Subject: Comment Form--Project 2014-03 - Revisions to TOP and IRO Standards - TOP-001-3

Good morning.

Attached is a copy of the Comment Form for Project 2014-03 - Revisions to TOP and IRO Standards on which I've marked an additional comment in red which deals with the retirement of TOP-004-2, and I think is of interest. Let me know your thoughts as soon as possible. The comment submission deadline is this coming Monday, Nov. 10, 2014.

Thanks.

Lee

This message is intended only for the use of the intended recipients, and it may be privileged and confidential. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any review, retransmission, conversion to hard copy, copying, circulation or other use of this message is strictly prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify me immediately by return e-mail, and delete this message from your system.

Lee R. Pedowicz

From: Lainis, Helen <helen.lainis@ieso.ca>
Sent: Friday, November 07, 2014 10:10 AM
To: Lee R. Pedowicz
Subject: RE: Comment Form--Project 2014-03 - Revisions to TOP and IRO Standards - TOP-001-3

Sure, you can keep my name on the list…

From: Lee R. Pedowicz [mailto:lpedowicz@npcc.org]
Sent: November 07, 2014 10:07 AM
To: Lainis, Helen
Subject: RE: Comment Form--Project 2014-03 - Revisions to TOP and IRO Standards - TOP-001-3

Good morning, Helen.

Thanks for the support on Disturbance Monitoring--we certainly needed it. Now I can retire (only kidding)…….

I'm going to take out your comment. Should I leave your name on the NPCC Comment Form list?

Lee

From: Lainis, Helen [mailto:helen.lainis@ieso.ca]
Sent: Friday, November 07, 2014 9:56 AM
To: Lee R. Pedowicz
Subject: RE: Comment Form--Project 2014-03 - Revisions to TOP and IRO Standards - TOP-001-3

Lee,
I know we got a response from the SDT but we did not think it was adequately addressed…we'll just reiterate our comment in our submission…
Anyway, folks here are asking how NPCC members are voting on this…do have a sense (NE-ISO and NYISO I believe are negative on this?)
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Helen
P.S. Congratulations on the DME…really good work!

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Sent: November 07, 2014 9:06 AM
To: Lainis, Helen
Subject: FW: Comment Form--Project 2014-03 - Revisions to TOP and IRO Standards - TOP-001-3
Importance: High

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Sent: Thursday, November 06, 2014 10:48 AM
To: rscmembers; connie.lowe@dom.com; Damase Hebert; donald.e.nelson@state.ma.us; Jack Kogan; jonathan.appelbaum@uinet.com; Kristin Halper; mazza.chantal@hydro.qc.ca; negliat@oru.com; rjfalsetti@cogeco.ca
Subject: Comment Form--Project 2014-03 - Revisions to TOP and IRO Standards - TOP-001-3

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Attached is a copy of the Comment Form for Project 2014-03 - Revisions to TOP and IRO Standards on which I've marked an additional comment in red which deals with the retirement of TOP-004-2, and I think is of interest. Let me know your thoughts as soon as possible. The comment submission deadline is this coming Monday, Nov. 10, 2014.

Thanks.

Lee

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NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY CORPORATION

Unofficial Comment Form

Project 2014-03 Revisions to TOP/IRO Reliability Standards
TOP-001-3

Please **DO NOT** use this form for submitting comments. Please use the electronic form to submit comments on the Standard. The electronic comment form must be completed by 8:00 p.m. EST **Monday, November 10, 2014**.

If you have questions please contact Ed Dobrowolski at ed.dobrowolski@nerc.net or by telephone at 609-947-3673.

Additional information about this project is available on the project page.

Background Information - Project 2014-03 – Revisions to TOP/IRO Reliability Standards

On November 21, 2013, FERC issued a NOPR proposing to remand three revised TOP Reliability Standards: TOP-001-2 (Transmission Operations), TOP-002-3 (Operations Planning), TOP-003-2 (Operational Reliability Data), and one Protection Systems (PRC) Reliability Standard, PRC-001-2 (System Protection Coordination) to replace the eight currently-effective TOP standards and four revised IRO Reliability Standards: IRO-001-3 (Responsibilities and Authorities), IRO-002-3 (Analysis Tools), IRO-005-4 (Current Day Operations), and IRO-014-2 (Coordination Among Reliability Coordinators) to replace six currently-effective IRO standards. In the NOPR, FERC stated that NERC "has removed critical reliability aspects that are included in the currently-effective standards without adequately addressing these aspects in the proposed standards."

In response, NERC filed a motion requesting that FERC defer action on the NOPR until January 31, 2015 to provide NERC and the industry the opportunity to thoroughly examine the technical concerns raised in the NOPR and afford time to review the proposed TOP and IRO Standards through the NERC standards development process. That motion to defer action was granted on January 14, 2014.

The drafting team formed to address those concerns has made revisions to the TOP and IRO standards proposed to be remanded, along with several other IRO standards to provide consistency amongst the TOP and IRO standards, to address NOPR issues and recommendations made by the Independent Expert Review Panel, the IRO five-year review team, and the 2011 SW Outage Report. In the ballot that ended September 19, 2014, all of the standards except TOP-001-3 achieved greater than the required two thirds ballot pool approval. The SDT has reviewed stakeholder comments submitted in that comment period and made only clarifying and non-substantive changes to all of the standards except TOP-001. No changes were made to the definitions or implementation plan.

The SDT has made numerous changes in the third posting for proposed TOP-001-3 in order to respond to industry comments raised in the second posting.

Enter comments in simple text format. Bullets, numbers, and special formatting will not be retained.

Commenters are reminded that this is not a forum for questioning the issues raised in the FERC NOPR of November 21, 2013 but to objectively evaluate the work of the SDT in responding to the issues raised in the NOPR, and the recommendations made by the Independent Expert Review Panel (IERP), the IRO FYRT, and the SW Outage Report.

Questions

1. Do you agree with the changes made to respond to industry comments to proposed TOP-001-3? If not, please provide technical rationale for your disagreement along with suggested language changes.

   Yes:

   No: X

Comments: We commented in the last posting to replace the word "ensure" in requirements R1 and R2, and in the standard's other requirements where applicable. We note that "ensure" has been replaced with "address". The Purpose of the standard is "To prevent instability, uncontrolled separation, or Cascading outages that adversely impact the reliability of the Interconnection by ensuring prompt action to prevent or mitigate such occurrences." "Maintain" or "restore" are more appropriate words to use than "address". The Time Horizon should only be "Real-time Operations". "Ensure" in Measure M1 should also be replaced with the word selected to be used in R1.

Regarding Requirement R3, Time Horizons should only be "Real-time Operations".

The 30 minute requirement in Requirement R13 is too restrictive and is inconsistent with EOP-008 which allows two hours to restore such functionality. If entities are permitted two hours to restore situational awareness following an evacuation, entities should be granted the same time consideration to restore Real-time assessment capability in R13. Therefore we recommend either of the following revisions to R13:

- Each Transmission Operator shall perform a Real-time Assessment at least once every two hours.
- Each Transmission Operator shall perform a Real-time Assessment at least once every 30 minutes when the EMS and SCADA are functional. Following the loss of EMS, a Transmission Operator shall regain ability to perform Real-time assessments within two hours.

Requirement R7 has removed an important concept of TOP-001-1a Requirement R6. A supporting TOP should not be obligated to activate emergency procedures beyond those activated by the TOP that is in the emergency. As an example, a supporting TOP should not be obligated to go into voltage reduction if the TOP with the emergency as not take the same voltage reduction action first. Simply stating, '… has implemented its Emergency procedures,' is not specific. TOP-001-1a Requirement R6 reads:

R6. Each Transmission Operator, Balancing Authority, and Generator Operator shall render all available emergency assistance to others as requested, provided that the requesting entity has implemented its comparable emergency procedures, unless such actions would violate safety, equipment, or regulatory or statutory requirements.

Recommend the following change to R7 to target the TOP's requirement to assist other TOPs to those in the same RC area:

> **R7.** Each Transmission Operator shall assist other Transmission Operators ***within their Reliability Coordinator's region***, if requested and able, provided that the requesting entity has implemented its Emergency procedures, unless such assistance cannot be physically implemented or would violate safety, equipment, regulatory, or statutory requirements. *[Violation Risk Factor: High] [Time Horizon: Real-Time Operations]*

In Part 10.2 the phrase '... as necessary by the TOP' is unclear. What TOP? Part 10.2 should be revised to be consistent with Part 10.1 and read:

> 10.2. Outside its Transmission Operator Area:

Sub-parts 10.1.3 and 10.2.3 should be made consistent.

"Ensure" remains in the posted requirement R13. Suggested rewording R13:
Each Transmission Operator shall perform or have performed a Real-time Assessment at least once every 30 minutes.

The "s" in system should be capitalized in Requirement R15.

R3, M3, M4, R5, M5, M6 all use the words to comply with operating instructions, but R4 and R6 use the words perform an operating instruction. The wording should be consistent.

Measure M7 should be corrected to be written like M3 and M5 in the past tense: "…unless such assistance could not be physically implemented…"

Measure M8 should be revised since R8, and the first part of M8 refer to operations "that result in, or could result in, an Emergency". Therefore, the last sentence in M8 should read:
"If no such situations have occurred, the TOP may provide an attestation."

Requirement R11 directs the Balancing Authority to "…monitor its Balancing Authority Area, including the status of Special Protection Systems that impact generation or Load…". Monitoring Special Protection Systems is not a function of the Balancing Authority. Requirement R11 can be removed.

Should M11 use the same examples of evidence as does M10, for example Energy Management System description documents?

M12 should have a broader scope. If the auditor is to verify that the TOP did not operate outside IROL for a duration exceeding IROL T_V, then the TOP should provide information on all occasions in which he operated outside IROL for any period of time. This would reflect the RSAW's audit approach. M12 should read:

> "Each Transmission Operator shall make available evidence to show that for any occasion in which it operated outside any identified Interconnection Reliability Operating Limit (IROL), the continuous duration did not exceed its associated IROL Tv. Such evidence could include but is not limited to dated computer logs or reports in electronic or hard copy format specifying the date, time, duration, and details of the excursion. If such a situation has not occurred, the Transmission Operator may provide an attestation that an event has not occurred."

For IROLs there is a maximum exceedance duration specified, but for SOLs in R14/M14 there is no leeway. Thus if a SOL is exceeded for 30 seconds, the TOP must have evidence it initiated its Operating Plan. This applies also for the VSL in the Table of Compliance Elements. No difference is made if the TOP initiates its Plan within the minute or after half an hour. Entities generally have very many SOL exceedances a year and to document each of them a proof of Implementation of a Plan is unrealistic. Whereas IROLs may be more severe than SOLs, the measure is less stringent.

In the C. Compliance section, under 1.3 Data Retention, Measure M14 is mentioned in the second and third paragraphs giving it two different data retention periods. There is a typing error in the fourth paragraph referring to R13/M13: "Each TOP shall each keep data (…)". Remove the second "each".

In the Table of Compliance Elements there is a typing error in the last paragraph for Severe VSL listing for R8: "or more than 15%".

For R9, replace "and" with "or" because generally only one of the elements will be outaged. The VSLs should be revised to read "…sustained outage of telemetering or control equipment, or monitoring or assessment capabilities, or associated communication channels."

R10 and R11 should have similar VSLs. Presently if the TOP does not monitor a facility, it will be a Moderate VSL but if the BA does not monitor a facility, it is a severe VSL. Everything is lumped together for the BA whereas in reality it is not an all or nothing situation. R11 should therefore have VSLs equivalent to those in R10.

R14 should have different VSLs depending on the time it took the TOP to initiate its Operating Plan.

R15 should have different VSLs depending on the time it took the TOP to inform its RC.

Requirement R15 appears to be past tense, ' inform.. RC of actions *taken*…'. So one would believe that a pre-call is not required before actions are taken by the TOP. What is the purpose of this requirement? What is the added value in informing the RC after the fact of the actions that were taken to mitigate SOL exceedances? The TOP should be obligated to notify the RC if it cannot manage the exceedance on its

own and needs assistance (another requirement). However, notifications via SCADA should be sufficient to address the concern.

M15 – This measure does not include multi-modal communications. The TOP should be able to take credit for telemetered information (breaker operations) that communicates to the RC actions that have been taken. Also there is no time component for when to report. For example during, 5 minutes after, a day after.

The word “own” should not be deleted from Requirement R16. It provides clarity that this is only pertaining to the equipment the Transmission Operator owns and not other equipment.

The new requirement R19 addresses the data exchange capabilities needed. If non-BES facilities are to be included anywhere in the standard, they should be included in the BES by exception, especially since they are contributing to a SOL exceedance.

R19 and R20 seem redundant with R10 and R11 since in R10 and R11 the TOP and BA are monitoring reliability required data, and they must have the data exchange capabilities. Also, TOP-003-3 requires the TOP to develop data specifications to support Real-time monitoring and operation of the BES, and negotiate with data supplying entities the format, period and security protocol of the data exchange. This implies the requirement of a data exchange capability. We suggest removing R19 and R20.

What defines a neighboring Transmission Operator Area? There are many instances where the loss of a facility in, let’s say in Transmission Operator Area “A”, which is not electrically “adjacent” to Transmission Operator Area “B”, impacts Transmission Operator Area “B”.

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Unofficial Comment Form

Project 2014-03 Revisions to TOP/IRO Reliability Standards
TOP-001-3

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If you have questions please contact Ed Dobrowolski at ed.dobrowolski@nerc.net or by telephone at 609-947-3673.

Additional information about this project is available on the project page.

Background Information - Project 2014-03 – Revisions to TOP / IRO Reliability Standards

On November 21, 2013, FERC issued a NOPR proposing to remand three revised TOP Reliability Standards: TOP-001-2 (Transmission Operations), TOP-002-3 (Operations Planning), TOP-003-2 (Operational Reliability Data), and one Protection Systems (PRC) Reliability Standard, PRC-001-2 (System Protection Coordination) to replace the eight currently-effective TOP standards and four revised IRO Reliability Standards: IRO-001-3 (Responsibilities and Authorities), IRO-002-3 (Analysis Tools), IRO-005-4 (Current Day Operations), and IRO-014-2 (Coordination Among Reliability Coordinators) to replace six currently-effective IRO standards. In the NOPR, FERC stated that NERC "has removed critical reliability aspects that are included in the currently-effective standards without adequately addressing these aspects in the proposed standards."

In response, NERC filed a motion requesting that FERC defer action on the NOPR until January 31, 2015 to provide NERC and the industry the opportunity to thoroughly examine the technical concerns raised in the NOPR and afford time to review the proposed TOP and IRO Standards through the NERC standards development process. That motion to defer action was granted on January 14, 2014.

The drafting team formed to address those concerns has made revisions to the TOP and IRO standards proposed to be remanded, along with several other IRO standards to provide consistency amongst the TOP and IRO standards, to address NOPR issues and recommendations made by the Independent Expert Review Panel, the IRO five-year review team (FYRT), and the 2011 SW Outage Report. In the ballot that ended September 19, 2014, all of the standards except TOP-001-3 achieved greater than the required two thirds ballot pool approval. The SDT has reviewed stakeholder comments submitted in that comment period and made only clarifying and non-substantive changes to all of the standards except TOP-001. No changes were made to the definitions or implementation plan.

The SDT has made numerous changes in the fourth posting for proposed TOP-001-3 in order to respond to industry comments raised in the third posting.

- Requirement R1 – removed the 'direct action' language to alleviate concerns about potential double jeopardy issues as direct actions are included in other standards and requirements where necessary; replaced 'address' with 'maintain'. .

- Requirement R2 - removed the 'direct action' language to alleviate concerns about potential double jeopardy issues as direct actions are included in other standards and requirements where necessary; replaced 'address' with 'maintain'.
- Requirements R3, R4, R5, and R6 – removed the Load-Serving Entity as an applicable entity following the recent Board action on removing Load-Serving Entity as a functional entity. (Note – Load-Serving Entity was not removed from proposed IRO-010-2 or proposed TOP-003-3 as those standards have already been approved by industry and the Board. Load-Serving Entity will be removed from those standards when the overarching project to remove Load-Serving Entity is initiated.)
- Requirement R7 – Added the phrases 'within its Reliability Coordinator Area' (as Transmission Operators will only be expected to react to requests from other Transmission Operators within the Reliability Coordinator Area and any assistance for Transmission Operator Areas outside the Reliability Coordinator Area will be done through requests from the Reliability Coordinators) and 'comparable' assistance (to assure that a transmission Operator isn't asked to do go further than the requesting Transmission Operator has done).
- Requirement R9 – added 'known' as a qualifier for impacted entities; clarified that the requirement is for all outages by adding 'planned and unplanned' as qualifiers to outages; replaced 'sustained' by '30 minutes or more' to achieve clarity and consistency with other standards.
- Requirement R10 – deleted the phrase 'non-BES' as any need for non-BES data will be defined in the Reliability Coordinator SOL methodology and included in BES as part of BES Exception Process as necessary; clarified that an entity does not have to 'monitor' outside of its Transmission Operator Area – it only needs to utilize necessary data.
- Requirement R11 – replaced the phrase 'perform its reliability functions' with more specific language – 'maintain Load-interchange balance within its Balancing Authority Area and support Interconnection frequency'.
- Requirement R15 – capitalized 'System'
- Requirement R16 – made the language for the list of applicable outages consistent with that of the language in Requirement R9.
- Requirement R17 - made the language for the list of applicable outages consistent with that of the language in Requirement R9.
- Made commensurate changes in matching Measures and cleaned up language in Measures M8 and M12.
- Made commensurate changes to VSL language and changed the VSL for Requirement R11 from binary to incremental.
- Added language to the SOL Exceedance White Paper explaining that the Reliability Coordinator's SOL methodology will specify requirements to include any non-BES data or external data in order for a Transmission Operator to determine SOLs in accordance with the Reliability Coordinator's SOL methodology.

Enter comments in simple text format. Bullets, numbers, and special formatting will not be retained.

Commenters are reminded that this is not a forum for questioning the issues raised in the FERC NOPR of November 21, 2013 but to objectively evaluate the work of the SDT in responding to the issues raised in the NOPR, and the recommendations made by the Independent Expert Review Panel (IERP), the IRO FYRT, and the SW Outage Report.

Questions

1. Do you agree with the changes made to respond to industry comments to proposed TOP-001-3? If not, please provide technical rationale for your disagreement along with suggested language changes.

   Yes:

   No: X

Comments: Regarding Requirement R13, there is concern that an operator will be obligated to perform the assessment. Given that the Rationale for Requirement R13, although not auditable, supports the Requirement's wording, suggest revising the Rationale Box to read:

The new requirement R13 is in response to NOPR paragraphs 55 and 60 concerning Real-time analysis responsibilities for Transmission Operators and is copied from approved IRO-008-1, Requirement R2. The Transmission Operator's Operating Plan may describe how to perform the Real-time Assessment.

It would also be helpful to confirm that at times no actions may be required if system conditions have not changed within the thirty minute window and that previous contingency analysis or assessments may be used to perform the Real time Assessment for subsequent hours.

A suggested revision to Requirement R13:

R13. Each Transmission Operator shall ensure that a Real-time Assessment is performed at least once every 30 minutes, or in the timeframe specified in an Operating Plan when the Transmission Operator operates in a known state and is unable to perform the Real-Time Assessment every 30 minutes.

And for Measure M13:

M13. Each Transmission Operator shall have, and make available upon request, evidence to show it ensured that a Real-Time Assessment was performed at least once every 30 minutes, or in the timeframe specified in an Operating Plan when the Transmission Operator operates in a known state and is unable to perform the Real-time Assessment every 30 minutes. This evidence could include but is not limited to dated computer logs showing times the assessment was conducted, dated checklists, or other evidence.

Appropriate wording consistent with this should be added to Section F. Associated Documents.

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NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY CORPORATION

Standards Announcement

Solicitation for Drafting and Review Team Nominations

Nomination Period Open through January 20, 2015

Now Available

Nominations are being sought for the projects listed below. Previous drafting or review team experience is beneficial but not required. A brief description of the desired qualifications, expected commitment, and other pertinent information for each project is included below, and more detailed information is included on the unofficial Word version of the nomination form.

Project 2015-02 – Emergency Operations Periodic Review
The purpose of this project is to conduct a periodic review of a subset of Emergency Operations (EOP) Standards. The periodic review comprehensively reviews EOP-004, EOP-005, EOP-006, and EOP-008 to evaluate, for example, whether the requirements are clear and unambiguous. The periodic review will include background information, along with any associated worksheets or reference documents, to guide a comprehensive review that results in a recommendation that the Reliability Standard should be: (1) reaffirmed as is (i.e., no changes needed); (2) revised (which may include revising or retiring one or more requirements); or (3) withdrawn. The four NERC Reliability Standards in this periodic review project concern methodologies for planning for, reporting, and communicating Emergencies.

Project 2015-03 – Periodic Review of System Operating Limit Standards
The purpose of this project is to conduct a periodic review of a subset of Facilities Design, Connections, and Maintenance (FAC) Standards. The periodic review comprehensively reviews FAC-010, FAC-011, and FAC-014 to evaluate, for example, whether the requirements are clear and unambiguous. The three NERC Reliability Standards in this periodic review project concern methodologies for determining and communicating System Operating Limits. The periodic review will include background information, along with any associated worksheets or reference documents, to guide a comprehensive review that results in a recommendation that the Reliability Standard should be: (1) reaffirmed as is (i.e., no changes needed); (2) revised (which may include revising or retiring one or more requirements); or (3) withdrawn.

Project 2015-04 – Alignment of NERC Glossary of Terms (Definitions section of the Rules of Procedure)
The purpose of this project is to align the NERC Glossary of Terms (Glossary) and the Definitions Used in the Rules of Procedure (Appendix 2 of the Rules of Procedure). There are many

inconsistencies between the defined terms contained in the Glossary and the NERC Rules of Procedure. The drafting team will be responsible for identifying inconsistencies in the defined terms, revising the defined term in order to address the inconsistencies, and posting for comment and ballot the proposed revisions to the defined terms.

The drafting team work and proposed revisions will be undertaken in accordance with the processes outlined in the NERC Rules of Procedure, Section 1400 ("Amendments to the NERC Rules of Procedure") and the Standard Processes Manual, Section 5 ("Process for Developing a Defined Term").

Project 2007-06.2 – System Protection Coordination

The proposed project is phase 2 of Project 2007-06 – System Protection Coordination is revising Reliability Standard PRC-001-1.1 (System Protection Coordination). Phase 1 is under the direction of the System Protection Coordination Standard Drafting Team (SPCSDT) which is proposing to incorporate PRC-001-1.1, Requirements R3 and R4 into a new Reliability Standard, PRC-027-1 (Coordination of Protection System Performance During Faults). Phase 2 will focus on revising PRC-001-1.1, Requirements R1, R2, R5, and R6 in accordance with the revisions occurring due to phase 1.

Instructions for Submitting Nominations

Please complete and submit the electronic nomination form. Please do not submit multiple forms; one nominee may volunteer for more than one project on a single form by indicating the order of preference within the form. An unofficial version of the nomination form is provided for convenience in compiling the necessary information.

Next Steps

The Standards Committee is expected to begin appointing drafting and review teams for these projects in January 2015. Nominees will be notified shortly after they have been appointed to a drafting or review team.

Standards Development Process

The Standard Processes Manual 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.

For more information or assistance, please contact Ryan Stewart, Manager of Standards Development, or at 404.446.9697.

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NERC
NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY CORPORATION

BAL-002-2 Background Document

January 2015

RELIABILITY | ACCOUNTABILIT






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Introduction

The revision to NERC Policy Standards in 1996 created a Disturbance Control Standard (DCS). It replaced B1 [Area Control Error (ACE) must return to zero within 10 minutes following a disturbance] and B2 (ACE must start to return to zero in 1 minute following a disturbance) with a standard that states: ACE must return to either zero or a pre-disturbance value of ACE within 15 minutes following a reportable disturbance. Balancing Authorities were required to report all disturbances equal to or greater than 80% of the Balancing Authority's Most Severe Single Contingency (MSSC).

BAL-002 was created to replace portions of Policy 1. It measures the ability of an applicable entity to recover from a reportable event with the deployment of reserve. The reliable operation of the interconnected power system requires that adequate capacity and energy be available to maintain scheduled frequency and avoid loss of firm load following loss of transmission or generation contingencies. This capacity (Contingency Reserve) is necessary to replace capacity and energy lost due to forced outages of generation or transmission equipment. The design of BAL-002 and Policy 1 was predicated on the Interconnection operating under normal conditions, and the requirements of BAL-002 assured recovery from single contingency (N-1) events.

This document provides background on the development and implementation of BAL-002-2 - Contingency Reserve for Recovery from a Balancing Contingency Event. This document explains the rationale and considerations for the requirements and their associated compliance information. BAL-002-2 was developed to fulfill the NERC Balancing Authority Controls (Project 2007-05) Standard Authorization Request (SAR), which includes the incorporation of the FERC Order 693 directives. The original SAR, approved by the industry, presumes there is presently sufficient Contingency Reserve in all the North American Interconnections. The underlying goal of the SAR was to update the standard to make the measurement process more objective and to provide information to the Balancing Authority or Reserve Sharing Group, such that the parties would better understand the use of Contingency Reserve to balance resources and demand following a Reportable Balancing Contingency Event.

Currently, the existing BAL-002-1 standard contains Requirements specific to a Reserve Sharing Group which the drafting team believes are commercial in nature and a contractual arrangement between the reserve sharing group parties. BAL-002-2 is intended to measure the successful deployment of contingency reserve by responsible entities. Relationships between the entities should not be part of the performance requirements, but left up to a commercial transaction.

Clarity and specifics are provided with several new definitions. Additionally, the BAL-002-2 eliminates any question about who is the applicable entity and assures that the applicable entity is held responsible for the performance requirement. The drafting team's goal was to have BAL-002-2 be solely a performance standard. The primary objective of BAL-002-2 is to ensure that the applicable entity is prepared to balance resources and demand and to return its ACE to defined values (subject to applicable limits) following a Reportable Balancing Contingency Event.

As proposed, this standard is not intended to address events greater than a Responsible Entity's Most Severe Single Contingency. These large multi-unit events, although unlikely, do occur. Many interactions occur during these events and Balancing Authorities and Reserve Sharing Groups must react to these events. However, requiring a recovery of ACE within a specific time period is much too simple of a methodology to adequately address all of these interactions. The suite of NERC Standard work together to ensure that the Interconnections are operated in a safe and reliable manner. It is not just one standard, rather it is the combination of the BAL-001-2 standard, (in which R2 requires operation within an ACE bandwidth based on interconnection frequency), TOP-007, and EOP-002, which collectively address issues when large events occur.

- The Balancing Authority ACE Limit (BAAL) in R2 of BAL-001-2 looks at Interconnection frequency to provide the BA a range in which the BA should strive to operate as well as a 30-minute period to address instances when the BA is outside of that range. If an event larger than the BA's MSSC occurs, the BAAL will likely change to a much tighter control limit based on the change in interconnection frequency. The 30-minute limit under the BAAL allows the BA (and its RC) time to quickly evaluate the best course of action and then react in a reasonable manner. BAAL also ensures the Responsible Entity balances resources and demand when events occur of less magnitude than a Reportable Balancing Contingency. In addition R1 of BAL-001-2 requires the BA to respond to assure Control Performance Standard 1 (CPS1) is met. This may prompt the BA to respond in some circumstances in less than 10 minutes.
- The TOP-007 standard addresses transmission line loading. Members of the BAL-002-2 drafting team are aware of instances (typically N-2 or less) that could cause transmission overloads if certain units were lost and reserves responded.
- Under EOP-002, if the BA does not believe that it can meet certain parameters, different rules are implemented.

Because of the potential for significant unintended consequences that could occur under a requirement to activate all reserves, the drafting team recommends to the industry that the revised BAL-002-2 only address events which are planned for (N-1) and not any loss of resource(s) that would exceed MSSC. Therefore, the definitions and Requirements under BAL-002-2 exclude events greater than the MSSC. This provides clarity of Requirements, supports

reliable operation of the Bulk Electric System and allows other standards to address events of greater magnitude and complexity.

Within NERC's State of Reliability Report, ALR2-5 "Disturbance Control Events Greater Than the Most Severe Single Contingency" has been tracked and reported since 2006. For the period 2006 to 2011 there have been 90 disturbance events that exceeded the MSSC, with the highest in any given year being 24 events. Evaluation of the data illustrates events greater than MSSC occur very infrequently, and the drafting team believes their exclusion will not have any adverse impact on reliability.

The metric reports the number of DCS events greater than MSSC, regardless of the size of a Balancing Authority or RSG and of the number of reporting entities within a Regional Entity. A small Balancing Authority or RSG may have a relatively small MSSC. As such, a high number of DCS events greater than MSSC may not indicate a reliability problem for the reporting Regional Entity, but may indicate an issue for the respective Balancing Authority or RSG. In addition, events greater than MSSC may not cause a reliability issue for a BA, RSG or Regional Entity that has more stringent standards which require contingency reserve greater than MSSC.

Background

Reliably balancing an Interconnection requires frequency management and all of its aspects. Inputs to frequency management include Tie-Line Bias Control, Area Control Error (ACE), and the various Requirements in NERC Resource and Demand Balancing Standards, specifically BAL-001-2 Real Power Balancing Control Performance and BAL-003-1 Frequency Response and Frequency Bias Setting.

Balancing Contingency Event

BAL-002-2 applies during the real-time operations to ensure the Balancing Authority or Reserve Sharing Group balance resources and demand by returning its Area Control Error to defined values following a Reportable Balancing Contingency Event.

The drafting team included a specific definition for a Balancing Contingency Event to eliminate any confusion and ambiguity. The prior version of BAL-002 was broad and could be interpreted in various ways leaving the ability to measure compliance in the eye of the beholder. Including the specific definition allows the Responsible Entity to fully understand how to perform and meet compliance. Also, FERC Order 693 (at P355) directed entities to include a Requirement that measures response for any event or contingency that causes a frequency deviation. By developing a specific definition that depicts the events causing an unexpected change to the Responsible Entity's ACE, the necessary response requirements assure the intent of the FERC requirement is met.

Most Severe Single Contingency

The Most Severe Single Contingency (MSSC) term has been widely used within the industry; however, it has never been defined. In order to eliminate a wide range of definitions, the drafting team has included a specific definition designed to fulfill the needs of the standard. In addition, in order to meet FERC Order No. 693 (at P356), to develop a continent-wide contingency reserve policy, it was necessary to establish a definition of MSSC.

When an entity determines its MSSC, the review needs to include the largest loss of resource that might occur for either generation or transmission loss. If the loss of transmission causes the loss of generation and load, the size of that event would be the net change. Since the size of an event where both load and generation are lost due to the loss of the transmission would be less than just the loss of the generator, this event is unlikely to be the entity's MSSC. Also, note here that the drafting team removed the previous requirement to review the MSSC at least annually. An entity should know what its MSSC is at all times. Therefore, an annual review is no longer required

Contingency Reserve

Most system operators generally have a good understanding of the need to balance resources and demand and return their Area Control Error to defined values following a Reportable Balancing Contingency Event. However, the existing Contingency Reserve definition is focused primarily on generation and not sufficiently on Demand-Side Management (DSM). In order to meet FERC Order No. 693 (at P 356) to include a requirement that explicitly allows DSM to be used as a resource for contingency reserve, the drafting team elected to expand the definition of Contingency Reserve to explicitly include capacity associated with DSM.

Additionally, conflict existed between BAL-002 and EOP-002 as to when an entity could deploy its contingency reserve. EOP-002 also applies during the real-time operations time horizon and addresses capacity and energy emergencies. Given that an entity and/or event can transition suddenly from normal operations (BAL-002) into emergency operations (EOP-002), this transitional seam must be explicitly addressed in order to provide clarity to responsible entities regarding the actions to be taken.

To eliminate the possible conflict and to assure BAL-002 and EOP-002 work together and complement each other, the drafting team clarified the existing definition of Contingency Reserve. The conflict arises since the actions required by Energy Deficient Entities before declaring either an Energy Emergency Alert 2 or an Energy Emergency Alert 3 include deployment of all Operating Reserve which includes Contingency Reserve. An Energy Deficient Entity may need to declare either an Energy Emergency Alert 2 or an Energy Emergency Alert 3, without incurring a Balancing Contingency Event. Without incurring a Balancing Contingency Event, a Responsible Entity cannot utilize its Contingency Reserve to the extent it drops below MSSC without violating NERC Standard BAL-002-2. To resolve this conflict, the drafting team elected to allow the Responsible Entity to be exempt from R2 if in an Energy Emergency Alert Level under which the Responsible Entity no longer has required Contingency Reserves available provided that the Responsible Entity has made preparations for interruption of Firm

Load to replace the shortfall of Contingency Reserve to avoid the uncontrolled failure of components or cascading outages of the Interconnection. Also, to assure the system operator has the necessary flexibility to address the transition from normal operations (BAL-002) into emergency operations (EOP) the drafting team elected to allow the Responsible entity to be exempt from R2 during one or more of the following periods when the Responsible Entity is:

- using its Contingency Reserve for Contingencies that are not Balancing Contingency Events;
- responding to an Operating Instruction requiring the use of Contingency Reserve;
- resolving the exceedance of a System Operating Limit or IROL that requires the use of Contingency Reserve; and,
- in a Contingency Event Recovery Period or its subsequent Contingency Reserve Restoration Period.

For additional technical justification for exempting periods from R2 to facilitate transitioning from normal operations into emergency operations please refer to Attachment 3.

Reserve Sharing Group Reporting ACE

The drafting team elected to include this definition to provide clarity for measurement of compliance of the appropriate Responsible Entity. Additionally, this definition is necessary since the drafting team has eliminated R5.1 and R5.2 that are in the existing standard. R5.1 and R5.2 mix definitions with performance. The drafting team has included all the performance requirements in the proposed standards R1 and R2, and therefore has added the definition of Reserve Sharing Group Reporting ACE.

Other Definitions

Other definitions have been added or modified to assure clarification within the standard and requirements.

Rationale by Requirement

Requirement 1

The Responsible Entity experiencing a Reportable Balancing Contingency Event shall, within the Contingency Event Recovery Period, demonstrate recovery by returning its Reporting ACE to at least the recovery value of:

- Zero (if its Pre-Reporting Contingency Event ACE Value was positive or equal to zero); however, during the Contingency Event Recovery Period, any Balancing Contingency Event that occurs shall reduce the required recovery:

(i) beginning at the time of, and (ii) by the magnitude of, each individual Balancing Contingency Event,

or

- Its Pre-Reporting Contingency Event ACE Value, (if its Pre-Reporting Contingency Event ACE was negative): however, during the Contingency Event Recovery Period, any Balancing Contingency Event that occurs shall reduce the required recovery: (i) beginning at the time of, and (ii) by the magnitude of, each individual Balancing Contingency Event.

1.1 All Reportable Balancing Contingency Events will be documented using CR Form 1.

1.2. A Responsible Entity is not subject to compliance with Requirement R1 when it is experiencing a Reliability Coordinator approved Energy Emergency Alert Level under which Contingency Reserves have been activated.

1.3 Requirement R1 (in its entirety) does not apply:

- (i) when the Responsible Entity experiences a Balancing Contingency Event that exceeds its Most Severe Single Contingency, or
- (ii) after multiple Balancing Contingency Events for which the combined magnitude exceeds the Responsible Entity's Most Severe Single Contingency for those events that occur within that 105 minute period.

Background and Rationale

Requirement R1 reflects the operating principles first established by NERC Policy 1. Its objective is to assure the Responsible Entity balances resources and demand and returns its Reportable Area Control Error (ACE) to defined values (subject to applicable limits) following a Reportable Balancing Contingency Event. It requires the Responsible Entity to recover from events that would be less than or equal to the Responsible Entity's MSSC. It establishes the amount of Contingency Reserve and recovery and restoration timeframes the Responsible Entity must demonstrate in a compliance evaluation. It is intended to eliminate the ambiguities and questions associated with the existing standard. In addition, it allows Responsible Entities to have a clear way to demonstrate compliance and support the Interconnection to the full extent of its MSSC.

By including new definitions, and modifying existing definitions, and the above R1, the drafting team believes it has successfully fulfilled the requirements of FERC Order No. 693 (at P 356) to include a requirement that explicitly allows DSM to be used as a resource for Contingency Reserve. It also recognizes that the loss of transmission as well as generation may require the deployment of Contingency Reserve.

Additionally, R1 is designed to assure the applicable entity uses reserve to cover a Reportable Balancing Contingency Event or the combination of any previous Balancing Contingency Events that have occurred within the specified period, to address the Order's concern that the applicable entity is responding to events and performance is measured. The Reportable Balancing Contingency Event definition, along with R1 allows for measurement of performance. The drafting team has included Attachment 2 illustrating an example of the calculation for Requirement R1.

In addition, the standard drafting team (SDT) through R1 Parts 1.2 and 1.3 has clearly identified when R1 is not applicable. By including R1 Part 1.2, the proposed standard eliminates the existing conflict with the EOP Standards and further addresses the outstanding interpretation. By clearly stating when R1 is not applicable or does not apply, it eliminates any auditor interpretation and allows the Responsible Entity to perform the function in a reliable manner. A fundamental goal of the SDT is to assure the Responsible Entity has enough flexibility to maintain service to load while managing reliability. Also, the SDT's intent is to eliminate any potential overlap or conflict with any other NERC Reliability Standard to eliminate duplicative reporting, and other issues.

The drafting team used data supplied by the Consortium for Electric Reliability Technology Solutions (CERTS) to help determine all events that have an impact on frequency. Data that was compiled by CERTS to provide information on measured frequency events is presented in Attachment 1. Analyzing the data, reveals events of 100 MW or greater would capture all frequency events for all interconnections. However, at a 100 MW reporting threshold, the number of events reported would significantly increase with no reliability gain since 100 MW is more reflective of the outlying events, especially on larger interconnections.

The goal of the drafting team was to design a continent-wide standard to capture the majority of the events that impact frequency. After reviewing the data and industry comments, the SDT elected to establish reporting threshold minimums for each respective Interconnection. This assures the requirements of FERC Order No. 693 are met. The reportable threshold was selected as the lesser of 80% of the applicable entity's Most Severe Single Contingency or the following values for each respective Interconnection:

- Eastern Interconnection – 900 MW
- Western Interconnection – 500 MW
- ERCOT – 800 MW
- Quebec – 500 MW

Additionally, the drafting team used only loss of resource events for purposes of determining the above thresholds.

Violation Severity Levels

In the Violation Severity Levels for Requirement R1, the impact of the Responsible Entity recovering from a Reportable Balancing Contingency Event depends on the percentage of desired recovery achieved.

Compliance Calculation

It is important to note that R1 adjusts the required recovery value of Reporting ACE for any other Balancing Contingency Events that occur during the Contingency Event Recovery Period. However, to determine compliance with R1, the measured contingency reserve response (instead of the required recovery value of Reporting ACE) is adjusted for any other Balancing Contingency Events that occur during the Contingency Event Recovery Period. Both methods of adjustment are mathematically equivalent. Accordingly, the measured contingency reserve response is computed and compared with the MW lost as follows (assuming all resource loss values, i.e. Balancing Contingency Events, are positive) to measure compliance[1]:

- The measured contingency reserve response is equal to one of the following:
  - If the Pre-Reportable Contingency Event ACE Value is greater than or equal to zero, then the measured contingency reserve response equals (a) the megawatt value of the Reportable Balancing Contingency Event plus (b) the most positive ACE value within its Contingency Event Recovery Period (and following the occurrence of the last subsequent event, if any) plus (c) the sum of the megawatt losses of the subsequent Balancing Contingency Events occurring within the Contingency Event Recovery Period of the Reportable Balancing Contingency Event.
  - If the Pre-Reportable Contingency Event ACE Value is less than zero, then the measured contingency reserve response equals (a) the megawatt value of the Reportable Balancing Contingency Event plus (b) the most positive ACE value within its Contingency Event Recovery Period (and following the occurrence of the last subsequent event, if any) plus (c) the sum of the megawatt losses of subsequent Balancing Contingency Events occurring within the Contingency Event Recovery Period of the Reportable Balancing Contingency Event, minus (d) the Pre-Reportable Contingency Event ACE Value.
- Compliance is computed as follows on CR Form 1 in order to document all Balancing Contingency Events used in compliance determination:

[1] In adjusting for the adverse impact of rapidly succeeding (i.e. "near") Events on a Responsible Entity's Recovery from an Event, the SDT thought it more prudent to adjust for future near Events rather than for past near Events because the future Events place an added burden on performance, while adjusting for the past Events instead lowers the performance requirement. To adjust for both future and past Events amounts to double dealing because an Event is subsequent to a prior near Event, and both Events would be serving to relieve Recovery from each other. The SDT allowed only for the extreme case of exempting from recovery prior near Events that combined exceed MSSC.

- If the measured contingency reserve response is greater than or equal to the megawatts lost, then the Reportable Balancing Contingency Event Compliance equals 100 percent.
- If the measured contingency reserve response is less than or equal to zero, then the Reportable Balancing Contingency Event Compliance equals 0 percent.
- If the measured contingency reserve response is less than the megawatts lost but greater than zero, then the Reportable Balancing Contingency Event Compliance equals 100% * (1 – ((megawatts lost – measured contingency reserve response) / megawatts lost)).

The above computations can be expressed mathematically in the following 5 sequential steps, labeled as [1-5], where:

ACE_BEST – most positive ACE during the Contingency Event Recovery Period occurring after the last subsequent event, if any (MW)

ACE_PRE - Pre-Reportable Contingency Event ACE Value (MW)

COMPLIANCE - Reportable Balancing Contingency Event Compliance percentage (0 - 100%)

MEAS_CR_RESP - measured contingency reserve response for the Reportable Balancing Contingency Event (MW)

MSSC – Most Severe Single Contingency (MW)

MW_LOST - megawatt loss of the Reportable Balancing Contingency Event (MW)

SUM_SUBSQ - sum of the megawatt losses of subsequent Balancing Contingency Events occurring within the Contingency Event Recovery Period of the Reportable Balancing Contingency Event (MW)

If ACE_PRE is greater than or equal to 0, then

MEAS_CR_RESP = MW_LOST +ACE_BEST + SUM_SUBSQ **[1]**

If ACE_PRE is less than 0, then

MEAS_CR_RESP = MW_LOST +ACE_BEST + SUM_SUBSQ – ACE_PRE **[2]**

If MEAS_CR_RESP is greater than or equal to MW_LOST, then

COMPLIANCE = 100 **[3]**

If MEAS_CR_RESP is less than or equal to 0, then

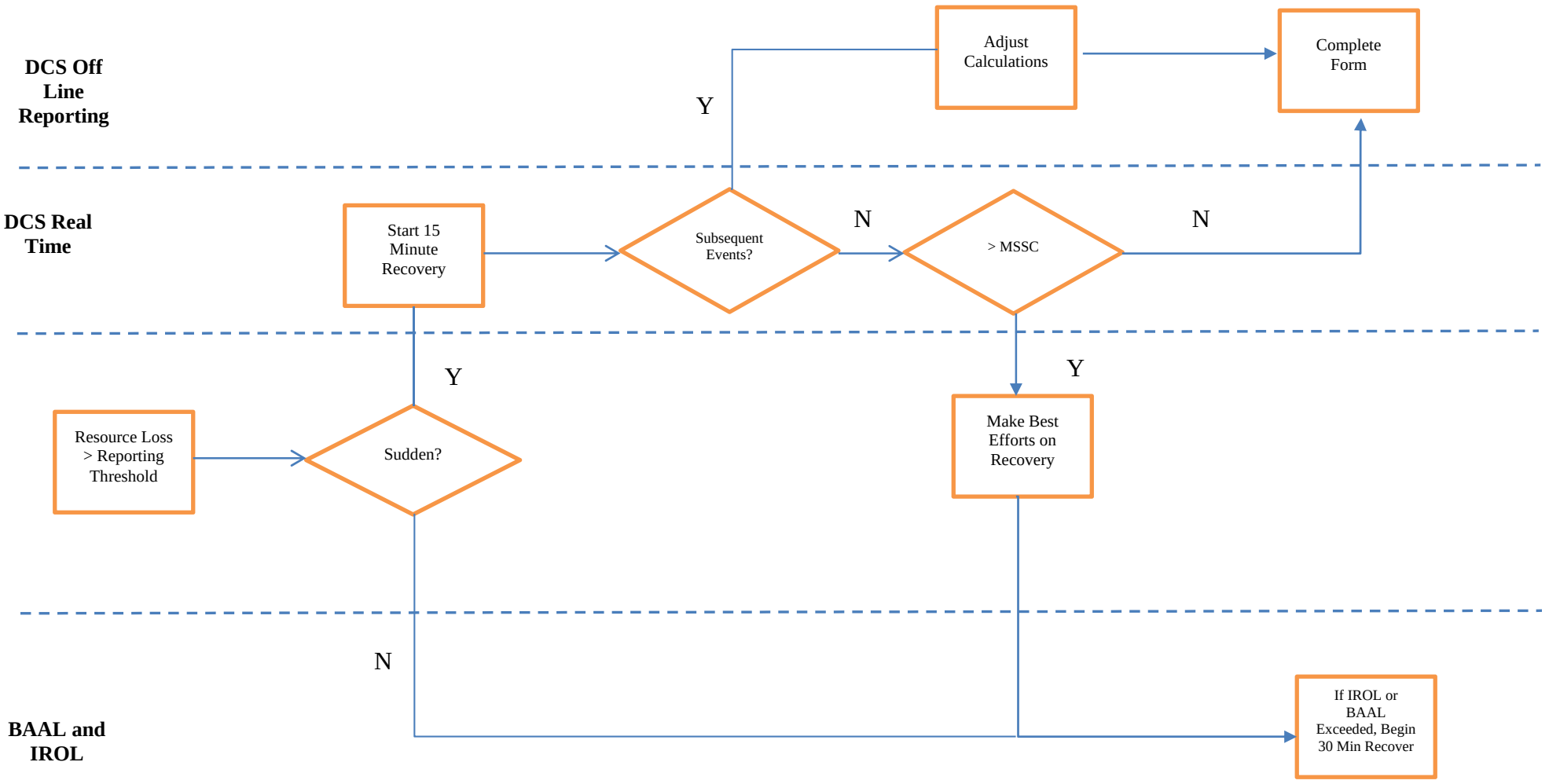
COMPLIANCE = 0 **[4]**

If MEAS_CR_RESP is greater than 0, and, MEAS_CR_RESP is less than MW_LOST, then

COMPLIANCE = 100 * (1 – ((MW_LOST – MEAS_CR_RESP)/ MW_LOST)) **[5]**

The Decision Tree flow diagram for DCS below, provides a visualization of the logic flow for a Reportable Balancing Contingency Event. It includes decision blocks for initial event determination, subsequent event determination, and checking for MSSC exceedance which should assist the Responsible Entity with Event Recovery and analysis.

Decision Tree for DCS



Requirement 2

R2. The Responsible Entity shall maintain Contingency Reserve, averaged over each Clock Hour, greater than or equal to its average Clock Hour Most Severe Single Contingency, except during one or more of the following periods when the Responsible Entity is:

2.1 using its Contingency Reserve, for a period not to exceed 90 minutes, to mitigate the reliability concerns associated with Contingencies that are not Balancing Contingency Events; and/or

2.2 using its Contingency Reserve, for a period not to exceed 90 minutes, to respond to an Operating Instruction requiring the use of Contingency Reserve; and/or

2.3 using its Contingency Reserve for a period not to exceed 90 minutes, to resolve the exceedance of a System Operating Limit (SOL) or Interconnection Reliability Operation Limit (IROL) that requires the use of Contingency Reserve; and/or

2.4 in a Contingency Reserve Restoration Period; and/or

2.5 in a Contingency Event Recovery Period; and/or

2.6 in an Energy Emergency Alert Level under which the Responsible Entity no longer has required Contingency Reserve available provided that the Responsible Entity has made preparations for interruption of Firm Load to replace the shortfall of Contingency Reserve to avoid the uncontrolled failure of components or cascading outages of the Interconnection. For this exemption to apply, the preparations must be initiated within 5 minutes from the time that the Energy Emergency Alert Level is declared.

Background and Rationale

R2 establishes a uniform continent-wide contingency reserve requirement. R2 establishes a requirement that contingency reserve be at least equal to the applicable entity's Most Severe Single Contingency. By including a definition of Most Severe Single Contingency and R2, a consistent uniform continent-wide contingency reserve requirement has been established. Its goal is to assure that the Responsible Entity will have sufficient contingency reserve that can be deployed to meet R1.

FERC Order 693 (at P356) directed BAL-002 to be developed as a continent-wide contingency reserve policy. R2 fulfills the requirement associated with the required amount of contingency reserve a Responsible Entity must have available to respond to a Reportable Balancing Contingency Event. Within FERC Order 693 (at P336) the Commission noted that the appropriate mix of operating reserve, spinning reserve and non-spinning reserve should be addressed. However, the Order predated the approval of the new BAL-003, which addresses frequency responsive reserve and the amount of frequency response obligation. With the development of BAL-003, and the associated reliability performance requirement, the SDT believes that, with R2 of BAL-002 and the approval of BAL-003, the Commission's goals of a

continent-wide contingency reserves policy is met. The suites of BAL standards (BAL-001, BAL-002, and BAL-003) are all performance-based. With the suite of standards and the specific requirements within each respective standard, a continent-wide contingency policy is established.

In the Violation Severity Levels for Requirement R1, the impact of the Responsible Entity recovering from a Reportable Balancing Contingency Event depends on the amount of its Contingency Reserve available and whether it has sufficient response. Additionally, the drafting team understands that the Responsible Entity's available Contingency Reserve may vary slightly from MSSC at any time. This variability is recognized in Requirement R2 through averaging the available Contingency Reserve over each Clock Hour.

The ideal goal of maintaining an amount of Contingency Reserve to cover the Most Severe Single Contingency at all times is not necessarily in the best interest of reliability. It may have the unintended result of tying operators' hands by removing use of their available contingency reserve from their toolbox in order to maintain service to load or manage other reliability issues. By allowing for the occasional use of this minimal amount of Contingency Reserve at the operators' discretion for other contingencies, reliability is enhanced. The SDT crafted the proposed standard to encourage the operators to use, at their discretion and within the limits set forth in the standard, their available contingency reserve to best serve reliability in Real-time. The last thing that anyone desires is to have Contingency Reserve held available and the lights go off because the standard would penalize the operator for using the Contingency Reserve to maintain service to the load. However, the drafting team did not believe that the use of reserves for issues other than a Reportable Balancing Contingency Event should be unbounded. The SDT limited the use of Contingency Reserve.

Attachment 1

NERC Interconnections 2009-2013

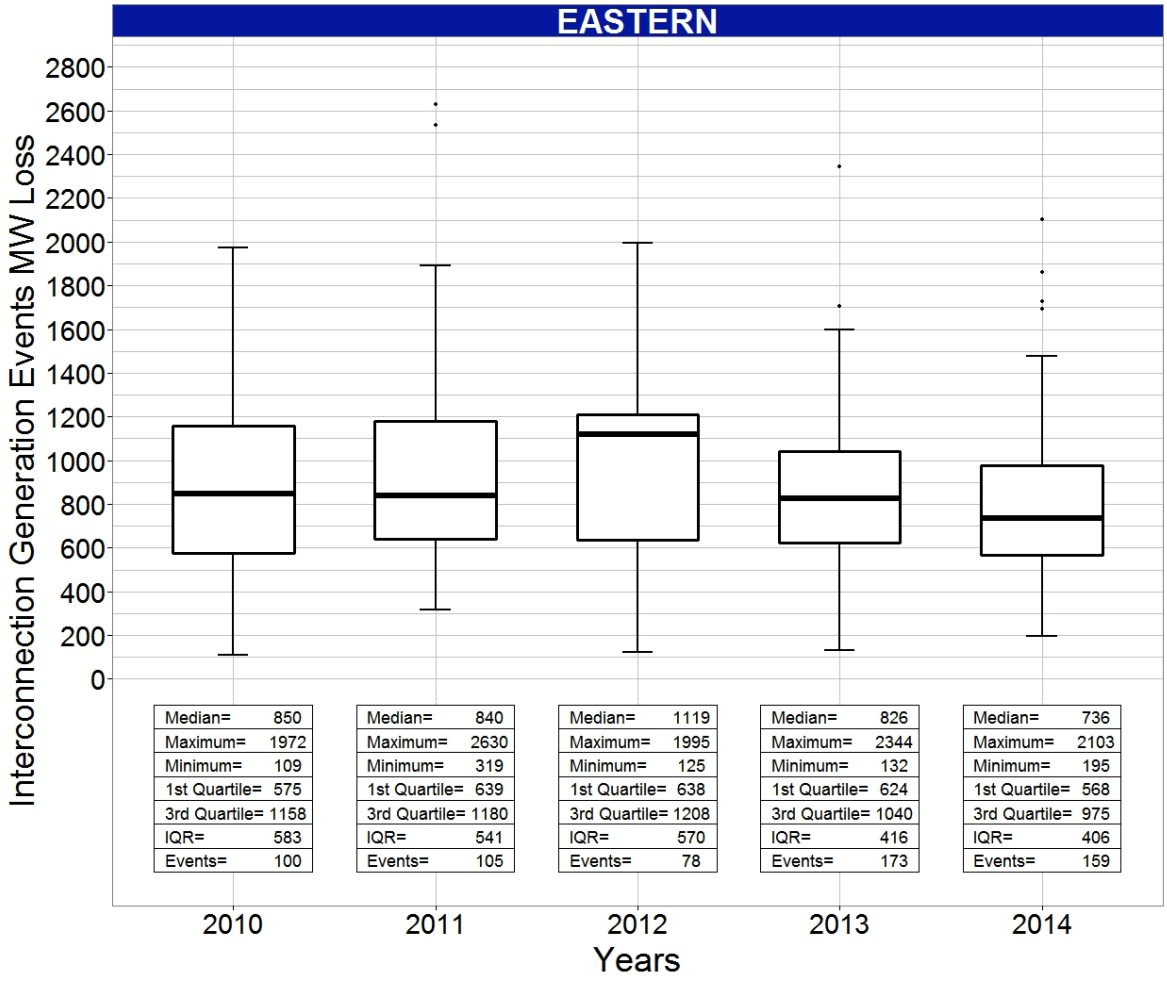
Frequency Events Loss MW Statistics

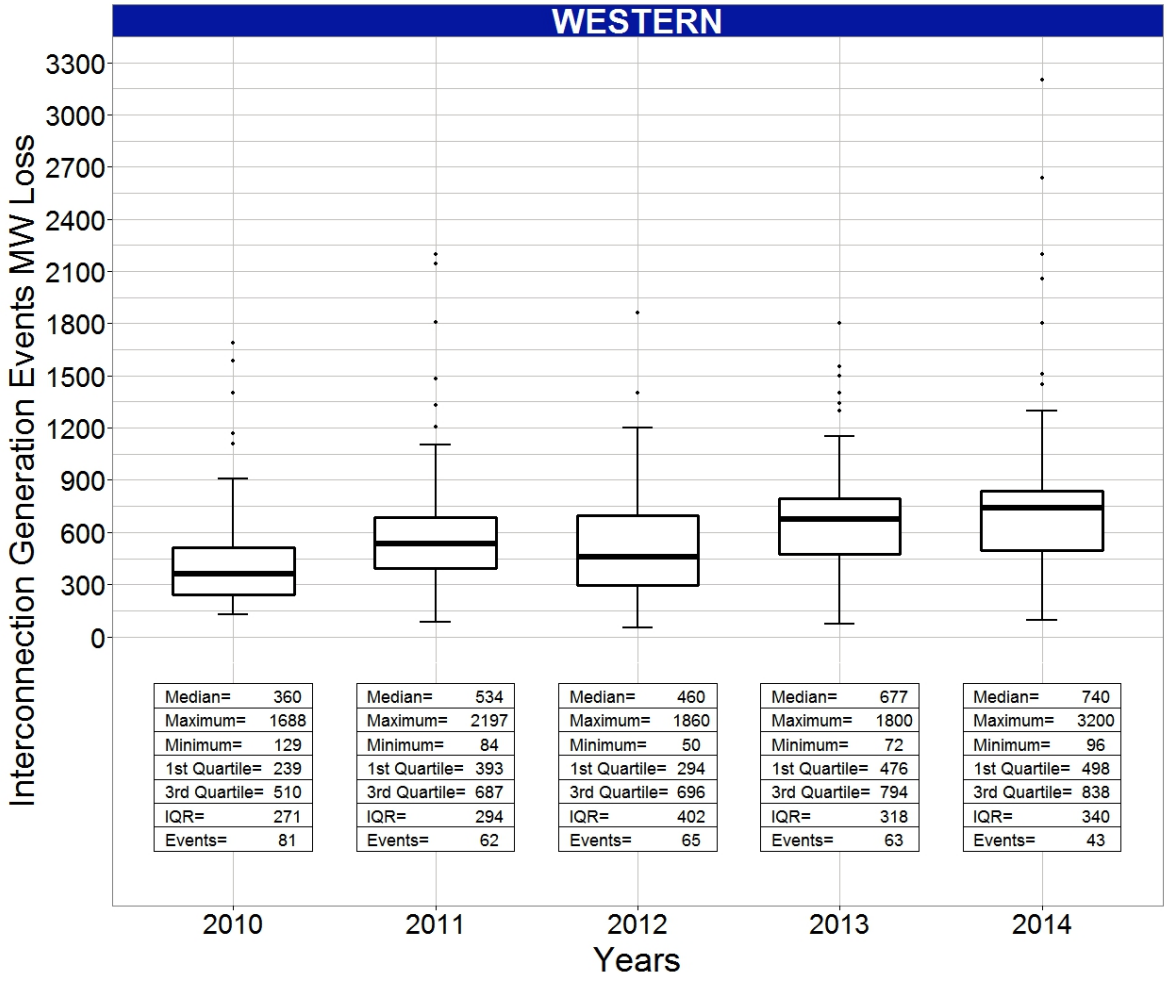
For: NERC BARC Standard Drafting Team

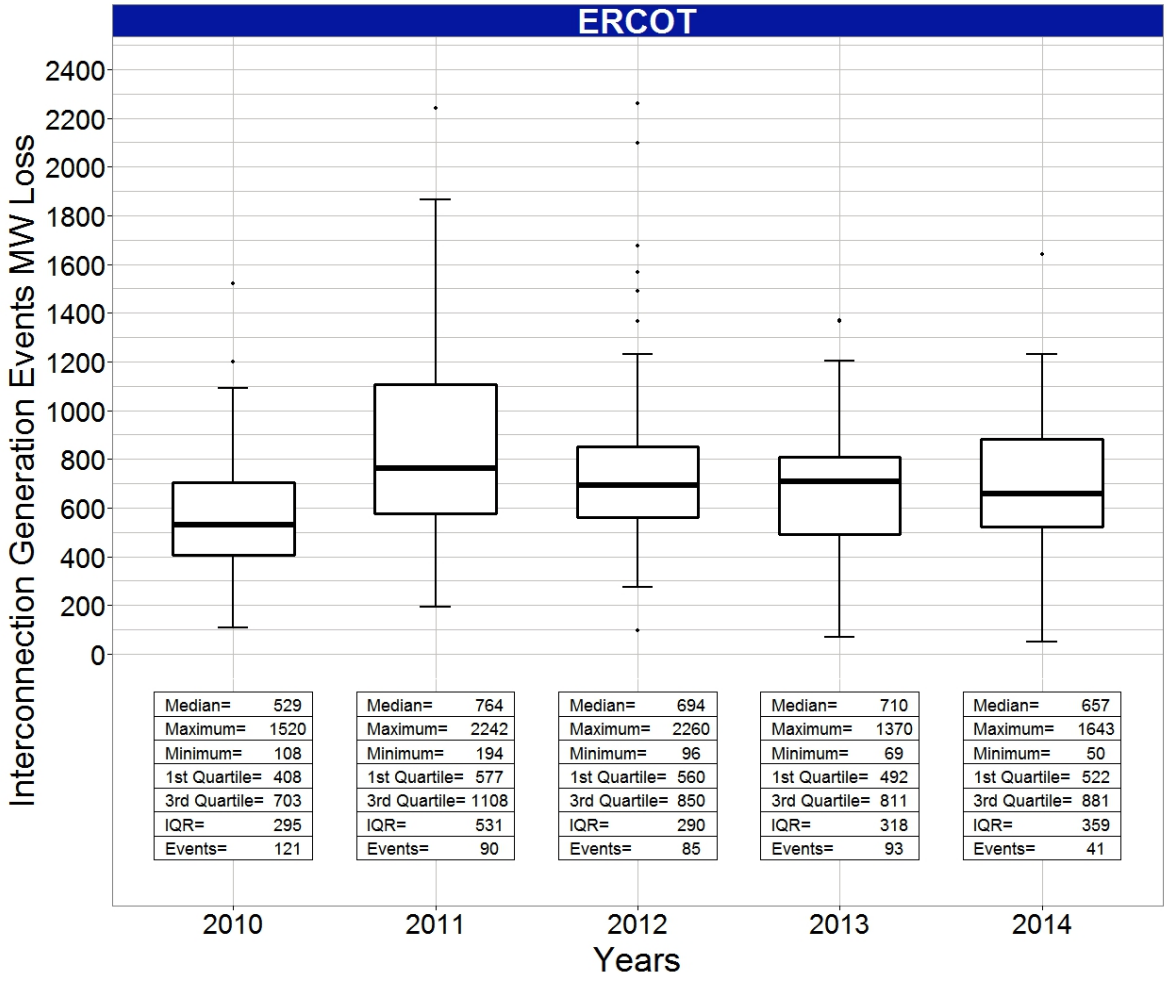
Prepared by: CERTS

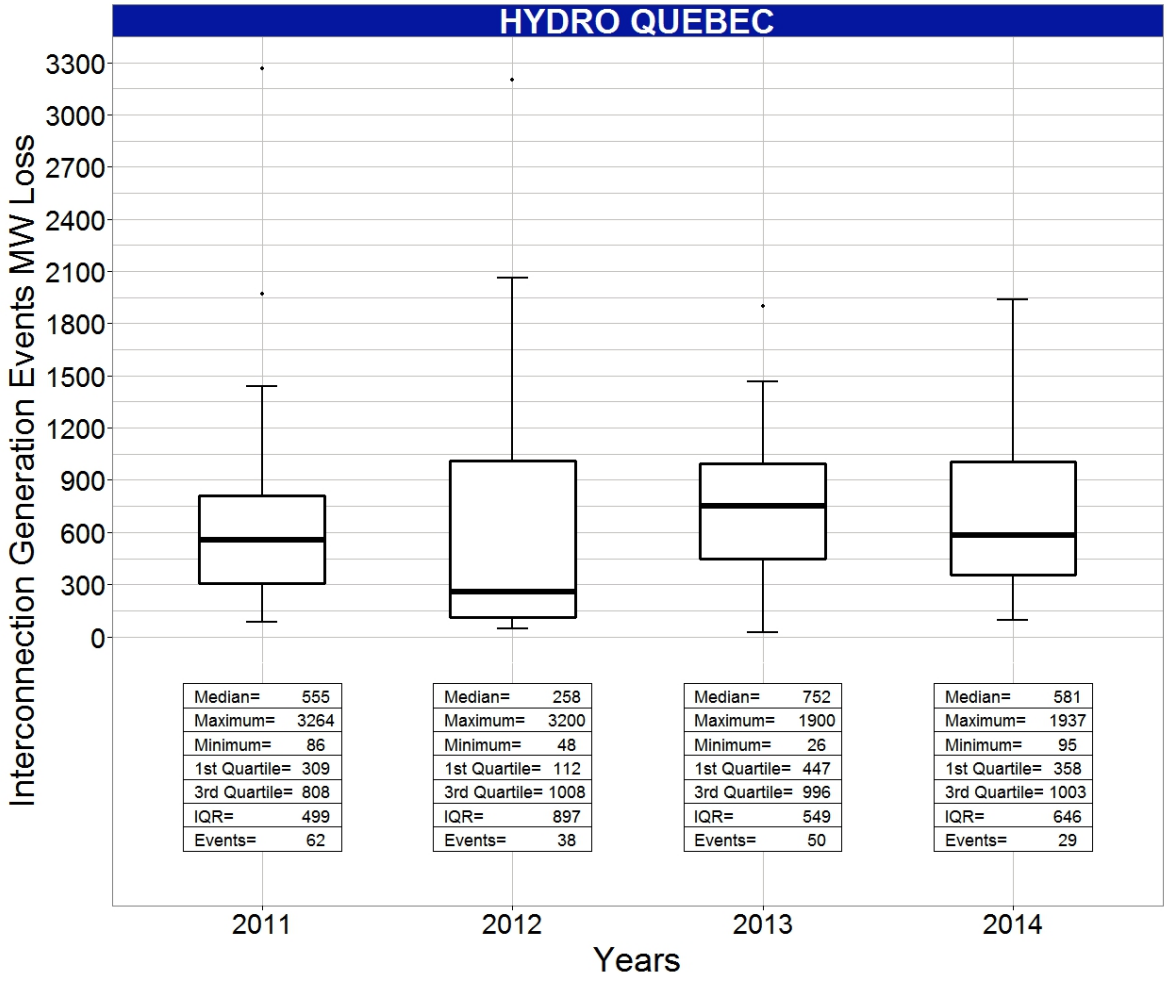
Date: October 15, 2013

CERTS
Consortium for Electric Reliability Technology Solutions


EASTERN
Interconnection Generation Events MW Loss
2800
2600
2400
2200
2000
1800
1600
1400
1200
1000
800
600
400
200
0
Median= 850
Maximum= 1972
Minimum= 109
1st Quartile= 575
3rd Quartile= 1158
IQR= 583
Events= 100
Median= 840
Maximum= 2630
Minimum= 319
1st Quartile= 639
3rd Quartile= 1180
IQR= 541
Events= 105
Median= 1119
Maximum= 1995
Minimum= 125
1st Quartile= 638
3rd Quartile= 1208
IQR= 570
Events= 78
Median= 826
Maximum= 2344
Minimum= 132
1st Quartile= 624
3rd Quartile= 1040
IQR= 416
Events= 173
Median= 736
Maximum= 2103
Minimum= 195
1st Quartile= 568
3rd Quartile= 975
IQR= 406
Events= 159
2010
2011
2012
2013
2014
Years


WESTERN
Interconnection Generation Events MW Loss
3300
3000
2700
2400
2100
1800
1500
1200
900
600
300
0
Median= 360
Maximum= 1688
Minimum= 129
1st Quartile= 239
3rd Quartile= 510
IQR= 271
Events= 81
Median= 534
Maximum= 2197
Minimum= 84
1st Quartile= 393
3rd Quartile= 687
IQR= 294
Events= 62
Median= 460
Maximum= 1860
Minimum= 50
1st Quartile= 294
3rd Quartile= 696
IQR= 402
Events= 65
Median= 677
Maximum= 1800
Minimum= 72
1st Quartile= 476
3rd Quartile= 794
IQR= 318
Events= 63
Median= 740
Maximum= 3200
Minimum= 96
1st Quartile= 498
3rd Quartile= 838
IQR= 340
Events= 43
2010
2011
2012
2013
2014
Years


ERCOT
Interconnection Generation Events MW Loss
2400
2200
2000
1800
1600
1400
1200
1000
800
600
400
200
0
Median= 529
Maximum= 1520
Minimum= 108
1st Quartile= 408
3rd Quartile= 703
IQR= 295
Events= 121
Median= 764
Maximum= 2242
Minimum= 194
1st Quartile= 577
3rd Quartile= 1108
IQR= 531
Events= 90
Median= 694
Maximum= 2260
Minimum= 96
1st Quartile= 560
3rd Quartile= 850
IQR= 290
Events= 85
Median= 710
Maximum= 1370
Minimum= 69
1st Quartile= 492
3rd Quartile= 811
IQR= 318
Events= 93
Median= 657
Maximum= 1643
Minimum= 50
1st Quartile= 522
3rd Quartile= 881
IQR= 359
Events= 41
2010
2011
2012
2013
2014
Years


HYDRO QUEBEC
Interconnection Generation Events MW Loss
3300
3000
2700
2400
2100
1800
1500
1200
900
600
300
0
Median= 555
Maximum= 3264
Minimum= 86
1st Quartile= 309
3rd Quartile= 808
IQR= 499
Events= 62
Median= 258
Maximum= 3200
Minimum= 48
1st Quartile= 112
3rd Quartile= 1008
IQR= 897
Events= 38
Median= 752
Maximum= 1900
Minimum= 26
1st Quartile= 447
3rd Quartile= 996
IQR= 549
Events= 50
Median= 581
Maximum= 1937
Minimum= 95
1st Quartile= 358
3rd Quartile= 1003
IQR= 646
Events= 29
2011
2012
2013
2014
Years

Attachment 2

BAL-002-2 R1 Example

Requirement 1

The Responsible Entity experiencing a Reportable Balancing Contingency Event shall, within the Contingency Event Recovery Period, demonstrate recovery by returning its Reporting ACE to at least the recovery value of: *[Violation Risk Factor: Medium][Time Horizon: Real-time Operations]*

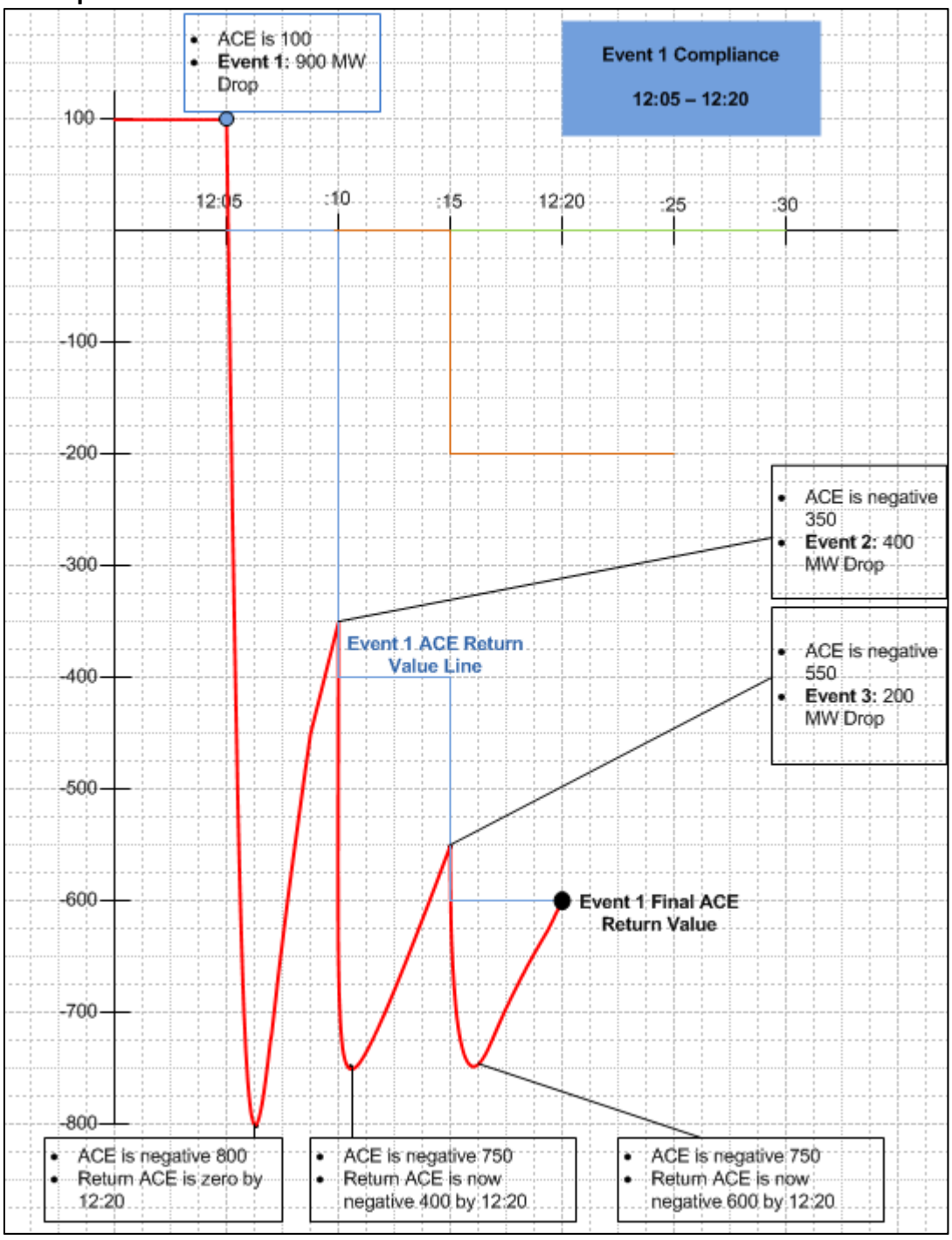
- Zero, (if its Pre-Reporting Contingency Event ACE Value was positive or equal to zero); however, during the Contingency Event Recovery Period, any Balancing Contingency Event that occurs shall reduce the required recovery: (i) beginning at the time of, and (ii) by the magnitude of, each individual Balancing Contingency Event,

Or,

- Its Pre-Reporting Contingency Event ACE Value, (if its Pre-Reporting Contingency Event ACE Value was negative); however, during the Contingency Event Recovery Period, any Balancing Contingency Event that occurs shall reduce the required recovery: (i) beginning at the time of, and (ii) by the magnitude of, each individual Balancing Contingency Event.

To illustrate the above requirement the following scenario of three Balancing Contingency Events, and compliance for each event, is provided. It is assumed in this scenario that the reportable event threshold is 200 MW.

Event 1 Compliance



- Responsible Entity Pre-Reporting Contingency Event ACE Value is 100 MW
- Time of the Balancing Contingency Event - 12:05
- Size of the Balancing Contingency Event - 900 MW
- Responsible Entity MSSC - 2,000 MW

- Resulting Responsible Entity's ACE Value following the Balancing Contingency Event – negative 800 MW

With no additional Contingency Events, the Responsible Entity must demonstrate recovery of Event 1 by returning its Reporting ACE to at least the recovery value of zero within the Contingency Event Recovery Period, or by 12:20.

However, if the Responsible Entity experienced another Contingency Event (Event 2) based upon the following:

- ACE had recovered to negative 350 – prior to Event 2
- Time of the Contingency Event - 12:10
- Size of the Contingency Event - 400 MW
- Responsible Entity Reporting ACE Value at 12:10 – negative 750

At the time of Event 2, the Responsible Entity would reduce the value of its required recovery from the original Balancing Contingency Event 1 by the size of the Contingency Event at 12:10 (Event 2), thus lowering the required recovery value of ACE to negative 400 MW. The Responsible Entity would demonstrate recovery from Balancing Contingency Event 1, taking into account Event 2, by returning its Reporting ACE to at least a negative 400 MW by 12:20.

Now if the Responsible Entity experienced an additional Contingency event (Event 3) prior to 12:20 namely:

- ACE had recovered to negative 550 MW – prior to Event 3
- Time of the Contingency Event - 12:15
- Size of the Contingency Event - 200 MW
- Responsible Entity Reporting ACE Value at 12:15 – negative 750

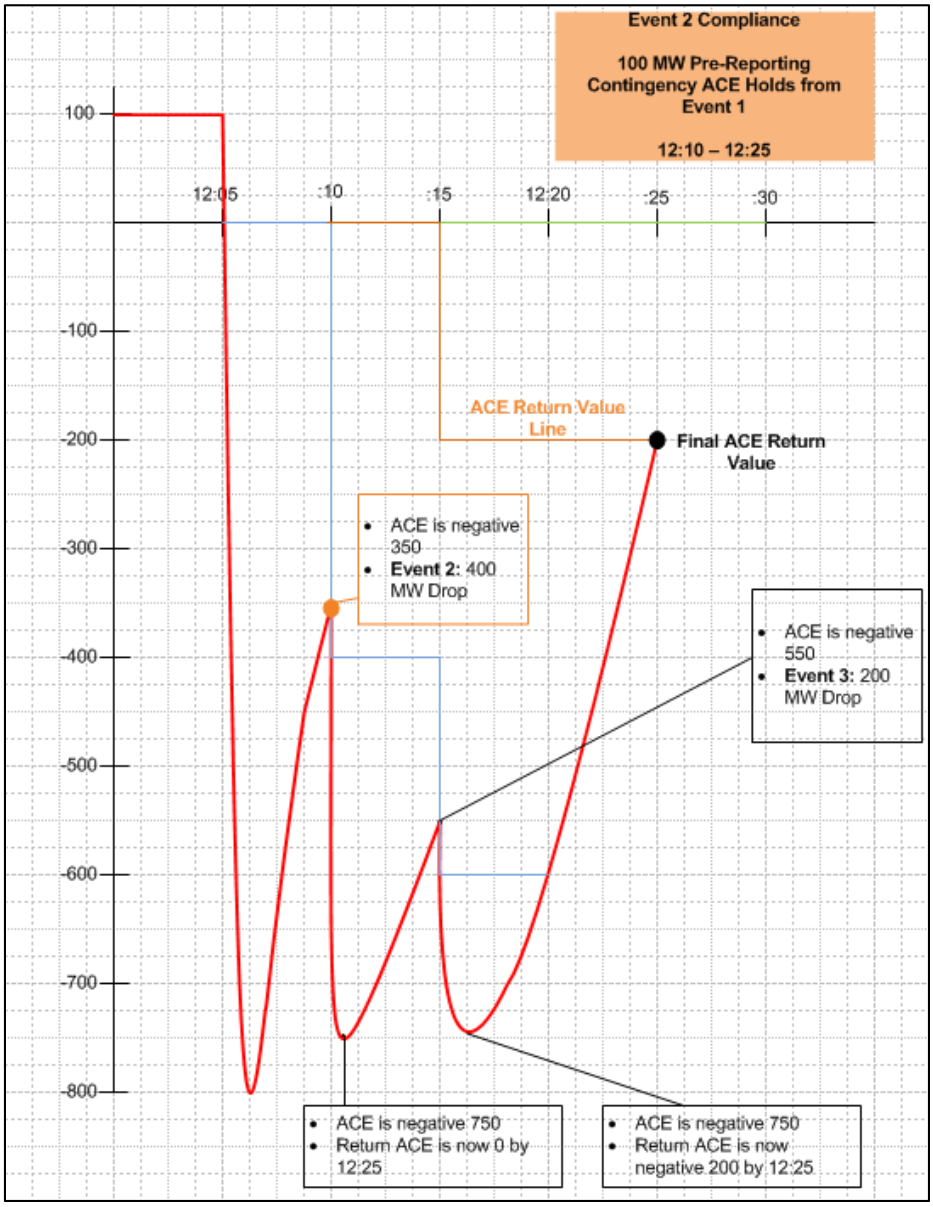
At the time of Event 3, the Responsible Entity would reduce the value of its required ACE recovery from the original Balancing Contingency Event 1 by the size of the Contingency Event at 12:10 (Event 2) and the Contingency Event at 12:15 (Event 3), thus lowering the required ACE recovery value to negative 600 MW. The Responsible Entity would demonstrate recovery from Balancing Contingency Event 1, taking into account Events 2 and 3 by returning its Reporting ACE to at least a negative 600 MW by 12:20.

The Responsible Entity must show compliance for all events that might occur during the Contingency Event Recovery Period (Event 1). Event 2 and Event 3 from the example above would demonstrate compliance in a similar fashion as was demonstrated for Event 1 above. Each would have its own unique Contingency Event Recovery Period as defined by the start of the respective contingency event (i.e. Event 2's Contingency Event Recovery Period would begin at 12:10 and end at 12:25; Event 3's Contingency Event Recovery Period would begin at 12:15 and end at 12:30). The required ACE Value (0 MW) of recovery from Events 1; the required ACE Value (-200 MW) of Recovery from Event 2 would be the required Value (0 MW) of

Recovery from final Event 3) minus the size of Event 3 (200 MW), while the required ACE Value (-600 MW) of Recovery from Event 1 would be the required Value (0MW) of Recovery from final Event 3 minus the size (600 MW) of the events 2 (400 MW) & 3 (200 MW) subsequent to Event 1.

The following demonstrates the logic used for compliance with Event 2 (from 12:10 – 12:25, including Event 3).

Event 2 Compliance



Responsible Entity's required ACE Value of recovery from Event 2 is 0 MW (the same as it was from the pre-existing initial Contingency Event 1 prior to any adjustment for Event 2)

- Time of the Balancing Contingency Event - 12:10
- Size of the Balancing Contingency Event - 400 MW
- Responsible Entity MSSC - 2,000 MW
- Resulting Responsible Entity's ACE Value following the Balancing Contingency Event – negative 750 MW

With no additional Contingency Events, the Responsible Entity must demonstrate recovery from Event 2 by returning its Reporting ACE to Event 1's prior, unadjusted Pre-Reporting Contingency Event ACE value of 0 MW within the Contingency Event Recovery Period, or by 12:25.

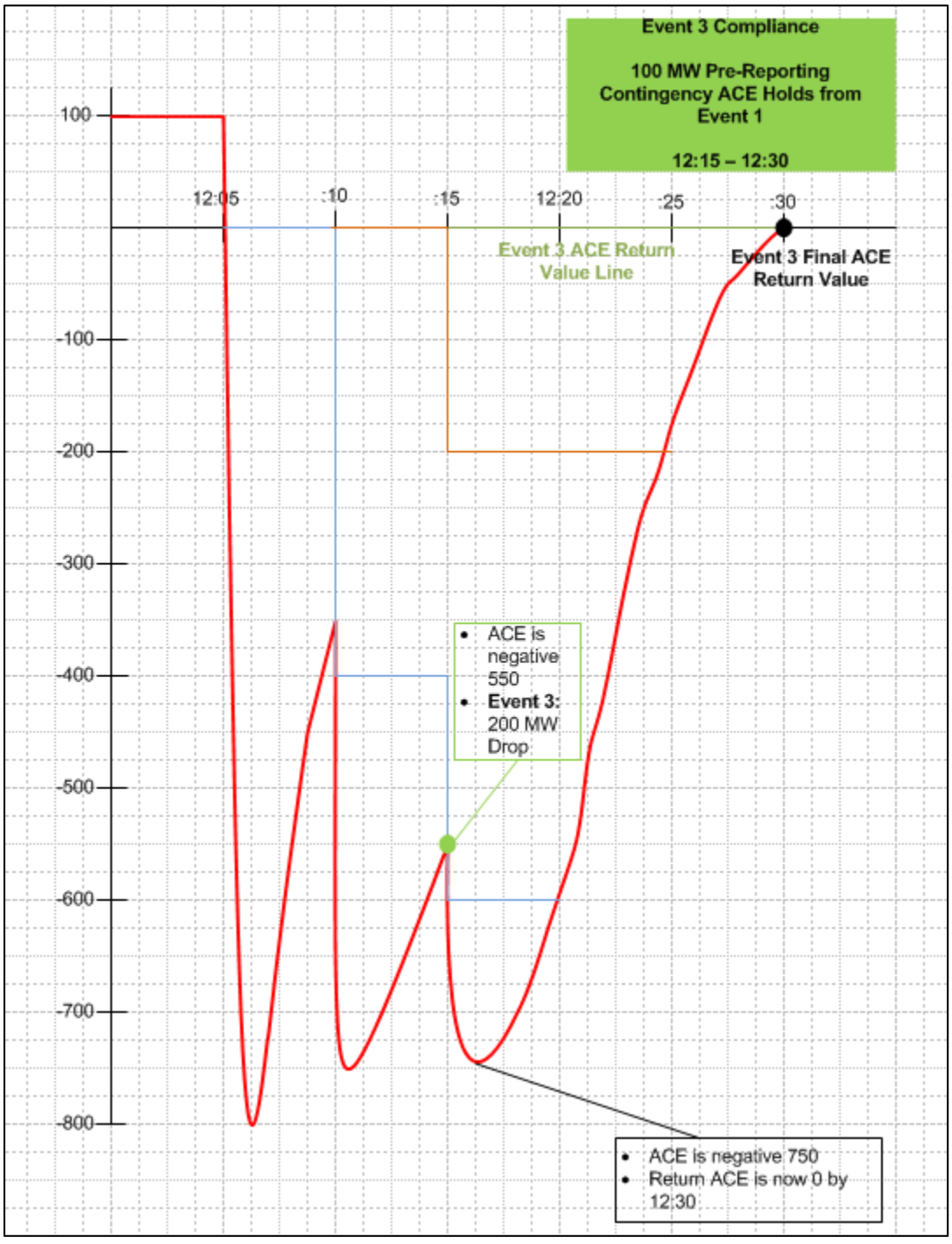
However, the Responsible Entity experienced another Contingency Event (Event 3) based upon the following:

- ACE had recovered to negative 550 – prior to Event 3
- Time of the Contingency Event - 12:15
- Size of the Contingency Event - 200 MW
- Responsible Entity Reporting ACE post Contingency Event – negative 750

At the time of Event 3, the Responsible Entity would reduce the value of its required recovery from the Balancing Contingency Event 2 by the size of Contingency Event 3 at 12:15, thus lowering the required ACE recovery from Event 2 to negative 200 MW. The Responsible Entity would demonstrate recovery from both Balancing Contingency Event 1 and Balancing Contingency Event 2, taking in to account Event 3, by returning its Reporting ACE to at least a negative 200 MW by 12:30.

The following demonstrates the logic used for compliance following Event 3 (from 12:15 – 12:30).

Event 3 Compliance



The Responsible Entity's required ACE Value of recovery from final Event 3 is 0 MW (the same as it was from the initial Balancing Contingency Event 1 prior to any subsequent events)

- Time of the Balancing Contingency Event - 12: 15
- Size of the Balancing Contingency Event - 200 MW
- Responsible Entity MSSC - 2,000 MW
  Resulting Responsible Entity's ACE Value following the Balancing Contingency Event – negative 750 MW

With no additional Contingency Events, the Responsible Entity must demonstrate recovery of final Event 3 by returning its Reporting ACE to the 0 MW ACE value of 0 MW of recovery from the initial Event 1 within the Contingency Event Recovery Period, or by 12:30.

The above examples illustrate the minimum response for compliance. Actual events and recoveries will differ because of matters such as, but not limited to, Contingency Reserve being deployed differently.

Attachment 3

Technical Justification for Applicability of BAL-002 During Emergency Alerts

Technical Justification for Applicability of BAL-002 During Energy Emergency Alerts

I. INTRODUCTION

The Balancing Authority Reliability-based Controls standard drafting team (BARC SDT) has identified a conflict between NERC Reliability Standards BAL-002 and EOP-002 that unnecessarily requires arbitrary interruption of Firm Load. In order to address this issue, the BARC SDT is recommending that Standard BAL-002-2 not be enforceable during an Energy Emergency Alert (EEA) event where the EEA process requires the use of Contingency Reserve to maintain load service.[2] This document provides support for this recommendation and an overview of reliable frequency management on the North American Interconnections.

II. BACKGROUND

Reliably balancing an Interconnection requires frequency management and all of its aspects. Inputs to frequency management include Tie-Line Bias Control, Area Control Error (ACE), and the various Requirements in NERC Resource and Demand Balancing Standards, specifically BAL-001-2 Real Power Balancing Control Performance and BAL-003-1 Frequency Response and Frequency Bias Setting.

Reliability Standard BAL-002 applies during the real-time operations time horizon and addresses the balancing of resources and demand following a disturbance. Reliability Standard EOP-002 also applies during the real-time operations time horizon and addresses capacity and energy emergencies. Given that an entity and/or event can transition suddenly from normal operations into emergency operations (EOP-002) where Contingency Reserve maintained under BAL-002 may be utilized to serve Firm Load, this transitional seam must be explicitly addressed in order to provide clarity to responsible entities regarding the actions to be taken. The proposed applicability of BAL-002 is designed to address this issue.

III. LEGACY REQUIREMENTS

The Resource and Demand Balancing (BAL) standards include both requirements that have a sound technical basis and legacy requirements that the industry has used for years but fail to

[2] The proposed applicability section states: "Applicability is determined on an individual Reportable Balancing Contingency Event basis, but the Responsible Entity is not subject to compliance during periods when the Responsible Entity is in an Energy Emergency Alert Level under which Contingency Reserves have been activated."

have a sound technical basis. NERC began replacing these legacy requirements with technically based requirements starting with the Control Performance Standard1 (CPS1). Both Control Performance Standard2 (CPS2) and the Disturbance Control Standard (DCS) remain in the legacy category. The following are specific concerns associated with these requirements.

- When CPS1 was implemented to replace A1/A2, previous requirements were modified so that CPS1 would apply at all times including the (disturbance) periods where DCS is applicable, not just during normal operations/periods. So DCS is not the only standard governing disturbance conditions.
- The Disturbance Control Standard (DCS) and its precursor B1/B2 have been unique in requiring immediate action by the Balancing Authority (BA), in this case to address unexpected imbalances within defined limits.
- DCS, albeit results-based in its current form, was initially designed to measure the utilization of Contingency Reserve to address a loss of resource within the defined limits. In its results-based form it assumed that implementing sufficient Contingency Reserves as needed to comply with the recovery requirement would be a reasonably equitable minimum quantity for all BAs participating in interconnected operation.
- DCS is based upon ACE recovery to the lower of pre-disturbance ACE or zero. A Balancing Authority which might be under-generating prior to a generation loss, could lose a generating unit and under DCS be deemed compliant if it returned ACE to its pre-disturbance state, though it could still be depressing Interconnection frequency.
- As DCS recovery from a reportable event must occur within a 15-minute period, it is possible for a Balancing Authority's ACE to again go negative after that time, with a similar impact on Interconnection frequency.
- Since CPS2 allows a BA to be unaccountable for approximately 74 hours of operation in a 31-day month, an imbalance condition may persist and negatively impact Interconnection frequency for many hours[3].
- When ACE is modulated by frequency, "significant" losses are defined not only by the size of the event causing an ACE deviation, but also contingent on the deviation of Interconnection frequency from Scheduled Frequency.

IV. TIE-LINE BIAS FREQUENCY CONTROL AND ACE

[3] Reliability-Based Control v3, Standard Authorization Request Form, November 7, 2007.

Tie-Line Bias Frequency Control is implemented on the North American Interconnections through the use of the ACE Equation.[4] In general, ACE is the term used to determine the load-generation imbalance that is being contributed by each Balancing Authority (BA) on an Interconnection. ACE is a powerful indicator, because it indicates the imbalance within the boundaries of a single BA, thus defining the Secondary Control responsibilities for that BA and, therefore, the control action that would return ACE to zero. ACE includes the Frequency Bias Setting term, which allows the Primary Frequency Control to be a shared service throughout a multi-BA Interconnection, while assigning to each individual BA the specific responsibilities of maintaining its own Secondary Frequency Control.

In summary, ACE only provides guidance with respect to Secondary Frequency Control and does not indicate or provide any direct measure of Primary Frequency Control, and only reflects the estimated Frequency Response as represented by the Frequency Bias Setting term. NERC Requirements and supporting documentation for Frequency Response (Primary Frequency Control) are included in BAL-003-1 Frequency Response and Frequency Bias Setting standard. More detail on Tie-Line Bias Frequency Control and ACE is attached.[5]

V. CONTROL PERFORMANCE STANDARD1 (CPS1)

Prior to the development of CPS1, the industry assumed that, "It is impossible, however, to use frequency deviation to identify the specific control area (sic, i.e. BA) with the under- or over-generation creating the frequency deviation…".[3] In the 1990's the development of CPS1 demonstrated that not only was it possible to identify the specific BA creating the frequency deviation, but that it is also possible not only to determine the relative contribution by each BA to the magnitude of the frequency deviation[6], but also to determine the relative contribution of each BA to the reliability risk caused by that deviation. In addition, the CPS1 Requirement provided a guarantee: "If all BAs on an interconnection complied with the CPS1 Requirement,

[4] Illian, Howard F., Understanding ACE, CPS1 and BAAL, Prepared for the NERC BARC Standard Drafting Team, September 10, 2010 rev. August 19, 2014, Section 2, pp. 1-4, for a derivation of the ACE Equation and the requirements for implementing it that are included in the definition of ACE appearing in the NERC Glossary.

[5] Illian, Howard F., Frequency Control Performance Measurement and Requirements, Ernest Orlando Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, December 2010, for a discussion of the history of Frequency Control and Performance Measurement.

[6] Illian, Howard F., Understanding ACE, CPS1 and BAAL, Section 2, pp. 5-10 for a derivation of the CPS1 requirement.

the Root Mean Squared[7] value of the frequency deviation for that Interconnection would be less than the epsilon1[8] frequency deviation limit for that Interconnection."

CPS1 is a rolling annual average of individual measurements each averaged over one-minute, and is assessed monthly. CPS1 measures the covariance between the ACE of a BA and the frequency deviation of the Interconnection which is equal to the sum of the ACEs of all of the BAs. CPS1 has the great value of using the Interconnection frequency to determine the degree to which ACE among the BAs on a multiple BA Interconnection is harming or helping interconnection frequency. Since the frequency deviation is a measured value, the ACE of a BA will directly affect only the CPS1 of the BA with the ACE and not the CPS1 measure of other BAs.

VI. BALANCING AUTHORITY ACE LIMIT (BAAL)

When the Balancing Resources and Demand (BRD) standard drafting team recognized the need for a control measure over a shorter time horizon than either CPS1 (annual) or Control Performance Standard 2[9] (CPS2, monthly) provided, it began looking for a measure that would allow a window for common imbalance events like a unit trip, while providing a limit on how much frequency deviation should be allowed over that short period. After considering numerous alternatives, BAAL was selected as the appropriate short-term measure.[10,11]

[7] "Root Mean Squared" means the square root of the mean of the squared errors, so that positive and negative errors do not offset each other and any shift in the mean is counted as error.

[8] "Epsilon1" is the frequency deviation limit determined for each North American Interconnection and used by CPS1 to bound the Root Mean Squared frequency deviation. It is 18 mHz on the Eastern, 22.8 mHz on the Western, 30 mHz on the ERCOT, and 21 mHz on the Quebec Interconnections.

[9] Proposed to be replaced by BAAL under BAL-001-2, CPS2 requires the BA to move its ACE within predefined L10 bounds when it is binding (during only 90% of the ten-minute periods per month) without regard to whether such action helps or hurts Interconnection frequency.

[10] Illian, Howard F., Meeting the Discrete Event Measure (DEM) Objectives with the Abnormal Operations Measure (AOM), Prepared for the NERC Balancing Resources and Demand Standard Drafting Team, March 20, 2004.

[11] Illian, Howard F., Setting the Balancing Authority ACE Limit (BAAL) for the NERC Abnormal Operations Measure (AOM), Prepared for the NERC Balancing Resources and Demand Standard Drafting Team, March 28, 2004.

Considerable evaluation and Field Trials have shown that BAAL[12] is a better indicator of contributions to reliability risk of an interconnection than the magnitude of ACE alone. This superiority, like CPS1's, derives from the concurrent use of both ACE and frequency error in the BAAL measure. Thus BAAL captures the relative contribution to reliability by all of the ACEs on an interconnection and indicates where each BA stands relative to its secondary control responsibilities and the current state of the interconnection as indicated by the frequency error for both under- and over-frequency conditions.

VII. INTERACTION BETWEEN STANDARDS

The drafting team has identified as an issue the existence of points where the standards are in conflict with each other. The drafting team has attempted to address the conflicts identified, as follows:

NERC standard EOP-002 requires a BA to use all its reserves during an Energy Emergency Alert 2 (EEA2) or higher. The following language is found in EOP-002 Attachment 1-EOP-002:

> **2.6.4 Operating Reserves.** Operating reserves are being utilized such that the Energy Deficient Entity is carrying reserves below the required minimum or has initiated emergency assistance through its operating reserve sharing program.

The current BAL-002 specifies a minimum level reserve requirement at all times unless a qualifying event has occurred. The drafting team noted that in the EEA process an entity is driven to request an EEA rarely as the result of a single unit loss. In fact, an EEA declaration by the Reliability Coordinator might result from issues that include no event that would qualify as a Disturbance and the EEA situation could last longer than the reserve recovery period of 90 minutes. For this reason, the drafting team recommends significant changes to the standards in question.

In addition to the identified conflict, other standards can require the activation of contingency reserve. These include other BAL standards, IRO standards and TOP standards. Compared to those standards, the BAL-002 standard provides the least direct measure of reliability. Therefore, an entity should never be conflicted between applying the requirements of BAL-002 and complying with the other standards.

[12] Illian, Howard F., Understanding ACE, CPS1 and BAAL, Prepared for the NERC BARC Standard Drafting Team, September 10, 2010 rev. August 19, 2014, Section 2, pp. 10, for a derivation of the BAAL requirement.

Finally, there is one overarching principal not reflected in the discussion up to this point, namely keeping the lights on if possible. If there is a requirement to bring ACE back no matter what, then that requirement will have the unintended consequence of shedding Firm Load, especially during an EEA. During the EEA process, the expectation is that a BA will have firm load ready to shed in order to meet its reserve requirement under R2 of the proposed BAL-002 standard. However, if the BAL-002 standard also requires the entity to meet R1 during the EEA, entities will shed firm load to restore ACE to its pre-contingency level, regardless of the lack of any reliability issues. In other words, frequency could be settling at or very near 60 Hz, no transmission lines are overloaded as determined by the TOP standards, and the entity is operating within the parameters defined in BAL-001, but firm load would be interrupted simply to bring the entity's ACE back to what it was prior to the loss of the unit. Since the industry has defined reliability as frequency at or near 60 Hz and transmission lines operating within their limits, there is no reason to interrupt firm load.

Instead, the BARC SDT is recommending that Standard BAL-002-2 not be enforceable during an EEA event where the EEA process requires the use of Contingency Reserve to maintain load service. Instead, the Reliability Coordinator, Transmission Operators and the impacted Balancing Authorities should use real-time situational awareness, taking into account issues addressed in BAL-001, BAL-003, the IRO suite of standards and the TOP suite of standards, to determine what actions are appropriate when conditions are abnormal. This process would allow continued load service without arbitrarily requiring interruption of firm load.

This concern arises because the other standards look at specific reliability issues other than just balancing between scheduled and actual interchange. BAL-001-2 and BAL-003-1 look at interconnection frequency to determine whether the Balancing Authority is helping or hurting reliability. During an EEA event, curtailing load to move ACE back to a pre-event level could adversely affect frequency. If frequency goes up from 60 Hz when a Balancing Authority interrupts load, the impact is detrimental to the interconnection. Under the TOP standards, if flows on transmission lines are within the limits specified, there is no need to alter the flows on the transmission system by interrupting load.

Finally, the Reliability Coordinator has a wide area view of the electric system as required under the IRO standards. The IRO standards clearly state the Reliability Coordinator's responsibilities during the EEA process. If the Reliability Coordinator has not identified a reliability concern in its near term operations evaluation, actions such as interruption of firm load should not occur simply to balance load and resources within the BA. During abnormal (emergency) situations, taking significant actions with a narrow view will not be beneficial for Interconnection reliability.

EXAMPLES

- Example 1

  On an usually cold day in February 2011, at 06:22, a Balancing Authority Area (BAA) experienced a 350 MW generation loss when a 750 MW joint ownership unit tripped off-line. Earlier in the day the BAA operator experienced loss of several generating units with a total capacity of 1050 MW, the latest loss being just 38 minutes prior to the 350 MW loss. When the 350 MW event occurred the BAA operator requested reserve/emergency assistance, shed 300 MW of customer load to restore contingency reserve, and requested the RC post an EEA3. The EEA3 was posted. Although the frequency only touched 59.91 Hz, averaging 59.951 Hz in the first minute of the outage, was it really necessary to cut load and leave people in the cold, dark of that morning to restore contingency reserve? Having idle generation, when the Interconnection is operating reliably, does not warrant shedding customer load.

- Example 2

  In June 2012, at 17:08, a BAA experienced an 800 MW generation loss. The BA and the reserve sharing group (RSG) it participates in were in the process of replacing the lost generation when, in the thirteenth minute of the recovery when there were no identified frequency, voltage or loading threats to reliability, the BAA was directed by its Reliability Coordinator (RC) to shed 120 MW of customer load. Although the combined Area Control Error (ACE) of the RSG participants was positive, the RC focused on the ACE of the BAA that lost the generation – which was still negative – ignoring the fact that the Interconnection frequency (59.96 Hz) was above the Frequency Trigger Limit (59.932 Hz). The needless shedding of customer load when system reliability is not threatened attracted the attention of state regulators who were not happy with the action. This demonstrates that focusing solely on a BAA's ACE and not on the true Interconnection reliability indicators can cause actions that do not support reliability.

- Example 3

  In June 2004, at 0741, a series of events led to a generation loss of over 4,600 MW. In spite of the event size, the Interconnection frequency was arrested without triggering automatic underfrequency load shedding, thanks to governor action, frequency sensitive load and deployment of Contingency Reserve (as required by BAL-002). Some transmission elements exceeded their limits for a short time (as permitted by the EOP standards), And, prior to the disturbance, the frequency was in the normal operating range due to automatic generation control (AGC) operation (as required by BAL-001). During the event almost 1,000 MW of interruptible customer load was shed throughout the interconnected systems by devices that automatically operated to protect various parts of the

system (as determined by the TPL and TOP Standards). This demonstrates how the suite of standards defined by NERC work together to efficiently protect the system and minimize customer interruptions.

VIII. CONCLUSIONS

There are important conclusions that can be drawn from this work and the mathematical guarantees that it provides:

- The Disturbance Control Standard (DCS) as currently configured only looks at ACE, the imbalance contribution of a single BA, and does not include a specific frequency error component that indicates the BA's contribution relative to the condition of the interconnection to which the BA is connected.

- As the DCS measure does not have a specific frequency component, compliance to DCS at times conflicts with the overall goal of targeting operation within predefined Interconnection frequency limits. For example, DCS recovery initiated from above Scheduled Frequency has a detrimental impact on Interconnection frequency.

- The focus on ACE alone is insufficient to control frequency on a multiple BA Interconnection. The correlation of the ACEs among the BAs on the Interconnection will affect the quality of frequency control independent of how any individual ACE is controlled.

- Adequate control of Interconnection frequency requires the use of both ACE (individual BA balancing error) and frequency deviation.

- Adequate control of reliability risk on an Interconnection requires the use of ACE, frequency deviation and available frequency response.

- BAAL addresses all events impacting Interconnection frequency, both above and below scheduled frequency.

BAAL addresses all of the above issues in its time domain without requiring response to or measurement of events that fail to raise reliability concerns. For these reasons, the proposed applicability of BAL-002 is a reasonable and technically-justified approach that addresses the seam with EOP-002.

NERC
NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY CORPORATION

BAL-002-2 Background Document

January 2015

RELIABILITY | ACCOUNTABILIT






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Introduction

The revision to NERC Policy Standards in 1996 created a Disturbance Control Standard (DCS). It replaced B1 [~~(~~Area Control Error (ACE) must return to zero within 10 minutes following a disturbance~~)~~] and B2 (ACE must start to return to zero in 1 minute following a disturbance) with a standard that states: ACE must return to either zero or a pre-disturbance value of ACE within 15 minutes following a reportable disturbance. Balancing Authorities were~~are~~ required to report all disturbances equal to or greater than 80% of the Balancing Authority's Most Severe Single Contingency (MSSC).

BAL-002 was created to replace portions of Policy 1. It measures the ability of an applicable entity to recover from a reportable event with the deployment of reserve. The reliable operation of the interconnected power system requires that adequate capacity and energy be available ~~at all times~~ to maintain scheduled frequency and avoid loss of firm load following loss of transmission or generation contingencies. This capacity (Contingency Reserve) is necessary to replace capacity and energy lost due to forced outages of generation or transmission equipment. The design of BAL-002 and Policy 1 was predicated on the Interconnection operating under normal conditions, and the requirements of BAL-002 assured recovery from single contingency (N-1) events.

This document provides background on the development and implementation of BAL-002-2 - Contingency Reserve for Recovery from a Balancing Contingency Event. This document explains the rationale and considerations for the requirements and their associated compliance information. BAL-002-2 was developed to fulfill the NERC Balancing Authority Controls (Project 2007-05) Standard Authorization Request (SAR), which includes the incorporation of the FERC Order 693 directives. The original SAR, approved by the industry, presumes there is presently sufficient Contingency Reserve in all the North American Interconnections. The underlying goal of the SAR was to update the standard to make the measurement process more objective and to provide information to the Balancing Authority or Reserve Sharing Group, such that the parties would better understand the use of Contingency Reserve to balance resources and demand following a Reportable Balancing Contingency Event.

Currently, the existing BAL-002-1 standard contains Requirements specific to a Reserve Sharing Group which the drafting team believes are commercial in nature and ~~is~~ a contractual arrangement between the reserve sharing group parties. BAL-002-2 is intended to measure the successful deployment of contingency reserve by responsible entities. Relationships between the entities should not be part of the performance requirements, but left up to a commercial transaction.

Clarity and specifics are provided with several new definitions. Additionally, the BAL-002-2 eliminates any question about who is the applicable entity and assures that the applicable entity is held responsible for the performance requirement. The drafting team's goal was to have BAL-002-2 be solely a performance standard. The primary objective of BAL-002-2 is to ensure that the applicable entity is prepared to balance resources and demand and to return its ACE to defined values (subject to applicable limits) following a Reportable Balancing Contingency Event.

As proposed, this standard is not intended to address events greater than a Responsible Entity's Most Severe Single Contingency. These large multi-unit events, although unlikely, do occur. Many interactions occur during these events and Balancing Authorities and Reserve Sharing Groups must react to these events. However, requiring a recovery of ACE within a specific time period is much too simple of a methodology to adequately address all of these interactions. The suite of NERC Standard work together to ensure that the Interconnections are operated in a safe and reliable manner. It is not just one standard, rather it is the combination of the BAL-001-2 standard, (in which R2 requires operation within an ACE bandwidth based on interconnection frequency), TOP-007, and EOP-002, which collectively address issues when large events occur.

- The Balancing Authority ACE Limit (BAAL) in R2 of BAL-001-2 looks at Interconnection frequency to provide the BA a range in which the BA should strive to operate as well as a 30-minute period to address instances when the BA is outside of that range. If an event larger than the BA's MSSC occurs, the BAAL will likely change to a much tighter control limit based on the change in interconnection frequency. The 30-minute limit under the BAAL ~~will~~ allow<u>s</u> the BA (and its RC) time to quickly evaluate the best course of action and then react in a reasonable manner. BAAL also ensures the Responsible Entity balances resources and demand <u>when</u>~~for~~ events <u>occur</u> of less magnitude than a Reportable Balancing Contingency. In addition R1 of BAL-001-2 ~~will~~ require<u>s</u> the BA to respond to assure Control Performance Standard 1 (CPS1) is met. This may ~~require~~ <u>prompt</u> the BA to respond in some circumstances in less than 10 minutes.
- The TOP-007 standard addresses transmission line loading. Members of the BAL-002-2 drafting team are aware of instances <u>(typically N-2 or less)</u> that could cause transmission overloads if certain units ~~(typically N-1-1 or greater)~~ were lost and reserves responded.
- Under EOP-002, if the BA does not believe that it can meet certain parameters, different rules are implemented.

Because of the potential for significant unintended consequences that could occur under a requirement to activate all reserves, the drafting team recommends to the industry that the revised BAL-002-2 only address events which are planned for (N-1) and not any loss of resource(s) that would exceed MSSC. Therefore, the definitions and R~~r~~equirements under BAL-002-2 exclude events greater than the MSSC. This provides clarity of Requirements, supports

reliable operation of the Bulk Electric System and allows other standards to address events of greater magnitude and complexity.

Within NERC's State of Reliability Report, ALR2-5 "Disturbance Control Events Greater Than the Most Severe Single Contingency" has been tracked and reported since 2006. For the period 2006 to 2011 there have been 90 disturbance events that exceeded the MSSC, with the highest in any given year being 24 events. ~~When~~ Eevaluationng of the data illustrates~~,~~ events greater than MSSC occur very infrequently, and the drafting team believes their exclusion will not have any adverse impact on reliability.

The metric reports the number of DCS events greater than MSSC, ~~without~~ regardless of ~~to~~ the size of a Balancing Authority or RSG and ~~without respect to~~ of the number of reporting entities within a Regional Entity. A small Balancing Authority or RSG may have a relatively small MSSC. As such, a high number of DCS events greater than MSSC may not indicate a reliability problem for the reporting Regional Entity, but may indicate an issue for the respective Balancing Authority or RSG. In addition, events greater than MSSC may not cause a reliability issue for a BA, RSG or Regional Entity ~~if they have~~ that has more stringent standards which require contingency reserve greater than MSSC.

Background

~~This section discusses the new definitions associated with BAL-002-2.~~Reliably balancing an Interconnection requires frequency management and all of its aspects. Inputs to frequency management include Tie-Line Bias Control, Area Control Error (ACE), and the various Requirements in NERC Resource and Demand Balancing Standards, specifically BAL-001-2 Real Power Balancing Control Performance and BAL-003-1 Frequency Response and Frequency Bias Setting.

Balancing Contingency Event

~~The purpose of~~ BAL-002-2 applies during the real-time operations ~~and is~~ to ensure the Balancing Authority or Reserve Sharing Group balance resources and demand by returning its Area Control Error to defined values following a Reportable Balancing Contingency Event~~-~~.

The drafting team included a specific definition for a Balancing Contingency Event to eliminate any confusion and ambiguity. The prior version of BAL-002 was broad and could be interpreted in various ways~~manners~~ leaving the ability to measure compliance ~~up to~~in the eye of the beholder. ~~By li~~including the specific definition~~, it~~ allows the Responsible Entity to fully understand how to perform and meet compliance. Also, FERC Order 693 (at P355) directed entities to include a Requirement that measures response for any event or contingency that

causes a frequency deviation. By developing a specific definition that depicts the events causing an unexpected change to the Responsible Entity's ACE, the necessary response requirements assures the intent of the FERC's requirement is met.

Most Severe Single Contingency

The Most Severe Single Contingency (MSSC) term has been widely used within the industry; however, it has never been defined. In order to eliminate a wide range of definitions, the drafting team has included a specific definition designed to fulfill the needs of the standard. In addition, in order to meet FERC Order No. 693 (at P356), to develop a continent-wide contingency reserve policy, it was necessary to establish a definition offor MSSC.

When an entity determines its MSSC, the review needs to include the largest loss of resource that might occur for either generation or transmission loss. If the loss of transmission causes the loss of generation and load, the size of that event would be the net change. Since the size of an event where both load and generation are lost due to the loss of the transmission would be less than just the loss of the generator, it this event is unlikelyimpossible for this event to be the entity's MSSC. Also, note here that the drafting team removed the previous requirement to review the MSSC at least annually. An entity should know what its MSSC is at all times. Therefore, an annual review is no longer required

Contingency Reserve

Most system operators generally have a good understanding of the need to balance resources and demand and return their Area Control Error to defined values following a Reportable Balancing Contingency Event. However, the existing Contingency Reserve definition is primarily focused primarily on generation and not sufficiently on Demand-Side Management (DSM). In order to meet FERC Order No. 693 (at P 356) to include a requirement that explicitly allows DSM to be used as a resource for contingency reserve, the drafting team elected to expand the definition of Contingency Reserve to explicitly include capacity associated with DSM.

Additionally, conflict existed between BAL-002 and EOP-002 as to when an entity could deploy its contingency reserve. EOP-002 also applies during the real-time operations time horizon and addresses capacity and energy emergencies. Given that an entity and/or event can transition suddenly from normal operations (BAL-002) into emergency operations (EOP-002), this transitional seam must be explicitly addressed in order to provide clarity to responsible entities regarding the actions to be taken.

To eliminate the possible conflict and to assure BAL-002 and EOP-002 work together and complement each other, the drafting team clarified the existing definition of Contingency Reserve. The conflict arises since the actions required by Energy Deficient Entities before declaring either an Energy Emergency Alert 2 or an Energy Emergency Alert 3 requiresinclude deployment of all Operating Reserve which includes Contingency Reserve. An Energy Deficient Entity may need to declare either an Energy Emergency Alert 2 or an Energy Emergency Alert 3, without incurring a Balancing Contingency Event. Without incurring a Balancing Contingency Event, a Responsible Entity cannot utilize its Contingency Reserve to the extent it drops below MSSC without violating the NERC Standard BAL-002-2. To resolve this conflict, the drafting

team elected to allow the Responsible Entity to be exempt from R2 if in an Energy Emergency Alert Level under which the Responsible Entity no longer has required Contingency Reserves available provided that~~have been activated or where~~ the Responsible Entity has made preparations for interruption of Firm Load to replace the shortfall of Contingency Reserve to avoid the uncontrolled failure of components or cascading outages of the Interconnection.~~is unable to meet Contingency Reserve requirements due to system conditions.~~

Also, to assure the system operator has the necessary flexibility to address the transition from normal operations (BAL-002) into emergency operations (EOP) the drafting team elected to allow the Responsible entity to be exempt from R2 during one or more of the following periods when the Responsible Entity is:

- using its Contingency Reserve for Contingencies that are not Balancing Contingency Events;
- responding to an Operating Instruction requiring the use of Contingency Reserve;
- resolving the exceedance of a System Operating Limit or IROL that requires the use of Contingency Reserve; and,
- in a Contingency Event Recovery Period or its subsequent Contingency Reserve Restoration Period.

For additional technical justification for exempting periods from R2 to facilitate~~applicability of~~ transitioning ~~suddenly~~ from normal operations into emergency operations please refer to Attachment 3.

~~to use its Contingency Reserve while in a declared Energy Emergency Alert 2 or Energy Emergency Alert 3.~~

Reserve Sharing Group Reporting ACE

The drafting team elected to include this definition to provide clarity for measurement of compliance of~~for~~ the appropriate Responsible Entity. Additionally, this definition is necessary since the drafting team has eliminated R5.1 and R5.2 that are in ~~from~~ the existing standard. R5.1 and R5.2 mix~~are~~ definitions ~~mixed~~ with performance. The drafting team has included all the performance requirements in the proposed standards R1 and R2, and therefore has~~must~~ added the definition of ~~the~~ Reserve Sharing Group Reporting ACE.

Other Definitions

Other definitions have been added or modified to assure clarification within the standard and requirements.

Rationale by Requirement

Requirement 1

The Responsible Entity experiencing a Reportable Balancing Contingency Event shall, within the Contingency Event Recovery Period, demonstrate recovery by returning its Reporting ACE to at least the recovery value of:

- Zero (if its Pre-Reporting Contingency Event ACE Value was positive or equal to zero); however, during the Contingency Event Recovery Period, any Balancing Contingency Event that occurs shall reduce the required recovery: (i) beginning at the time of, and (ii) by the magnitude of, each individual Balancing Contingency Event,

or

- Its Pre-Reporting Contingency Event ACE Value, (if its Pre-Reporting Contingency Event ACE was negative): however, during the Contingency Event Recovery Period, any Balancing Contingency Event that occurs shall reduce the required recovery: (i) beginning at the time of, and (ii) by the magnitude of, each individual Balancing Contingency Event.

1.1 All Reportable Balancing Contingency Events will be documented using CR Form 1.

1.2. A Responsible Entity is not subject to compliance with Requirement R1 when it is experiencing a Reliability Coordinator approved Energy Emergency Alert Level under which Contingency Reserves have been activated.

1.3 Requirement R1 (in its entirety) does not apply:

- (i) when the Responsible Entity experiences a Balancing Contingency Event that exceeds its Most Severe Single Contingency, or
- (ii) after multiple Balancing Contingency Events for which the combined magnitude exceeds the Responsible Entity's Most Severe Single Contingency for those events that occur within that 105 minute period. ~~.~~

Background and Rationale

Requirement R1 reflects the operating principles first established by NERC Policy 1. Its objective is to assure the Responsible Entity balances resources and demand and returns its Reportable Area Control Error (ACE) to defined values (subject to applicable limits) following a Reportable Balancing Contingency Event. It requires the Responsible Entity to recover from events that would be less than or equal to the Responsible Entity's MSSC. It establishes ~~a ceiling for~~ the amount of Contingency Reserve and recovery and restoration timeframes the Responsible Entity must demonstrate in a compliance evaluation. It is intended to eliminate the ambiguities and questions associated with the existing standard. In addition, it allows

Responsible Entities to have a clear way to demonstrate compliance and support the Interconnection to the full extent of its MSSC.

By including new definitions, and modifying existing definitions, and the above R1, the drafting team believes it has successfully fulfilled the requirements of FERC Order No. 693 (at P 356) to include a requirement that explicitly allows DSM to be used as a resource for Contingency Reserve. It also recognizes that the loss of transmission as well as generation may require the deployment of Contingency Reserve.

Additionally, R1 is designed to assure the applicable entity uses reserve to cover a Reportable Balancing Contingency Event or the combination of any previous Balancing Contingency Events that have occurred within the specified period, to address the Order's concern that the applicable entity is responding to events and performance is measured. The Reportable Balancing Contingency Event definition, along with R1 allows for measurement of performance. The drafting team has included Attachment 2 illustrating an example of the calculation for Requirement R1.

In addition, the standard drafting team (SDT) through R1 Pparts 1.2 and R1.3 has clearly identified when R1 is not applicable. By including R1 Part 1.2, the proposed standard eliminates the existing conflict with the EOP Standards and further addresses the outstanding interpretation. By clearly stating when R1 is not applicable or does not apply, it eliminates any auditor interpretation and allows the Responsible Entity to perform the function in a reliable manner. A fundamental goal of the SDT is to assure the Responsible Entity has enough flexibility to maintain service to load while managing reliability. Also, the SDT's intent is to eliminate any potential overlap or conflict with any other NERC Reliability Standard to eliminate duplicative reporting, and other issues.

The drafting team used data supplied by the Consortium for Electric Reliability Technology Solutions (CERTS) to help determine all events that have an impact on frequency. Data that was compiled by CERTS to provide information on measured frequency events is presented in Attachment 1. Analyzing the data, one could demonstratereveals events of 100 MW or greater would capture all frequency events for all interconnections. However, at a 100 MW reporting threshold, the number of events reported would significantly increase with no reliability gain since 100 MW is more reflective of the outlying events, especially on larger interconnections.

The goal of the drafting team was to design a continent-wide standard to capture the majority of the events that impact frequency. After reviewing the data and industry comments, the SDT elected to establish reporting threshold minimums for each respective Interconnection. This assures the requirements of the FERC Order No. 693 are met. The reportable threshold was selected as the lesser of 80% of the applicable entity's(s) Most Severe Single Contingency or the following values for each respective Interconnection:

- Eastern Interconnection – 900 MW
- Western Interconnection – 500 MW
- ERCOT – 800 MW
- Quebec – 500 MW

Additionally, the drafting team ~~only~~ used only loss of resource~~the positive~~ events for purposes of determining the above thresholds.

Violation Severity Levels

In the Violation Severity Levels for Requirement R1, the impact of the Responsible Entity recovering from a Reportable Balancing Contingency Event depends on the percentage of desired recovery achieved~~amount of its Contingency Reserve available and whetherdoes it hasve sufficient response~~. ~~The VSL takes these factors into account.~~

Compliance Calculation

It is important to note that R1 adjusts the required recovery value of Reporting ACE for any other Balancing Contingency Events that occur during the Contingency Event Recovery Period. However, to determine compliance with R1, the measured contingency reserve response (instead of the required recovery value of Reporting ACE) is adjusted for any other Balancing Contingency Events that occur during the Contingency Event Recovery Period. Both methods of adjustment are mathematically equivalent. Accordingly~~To determine compliance with R1~~, the measured contingency reserve response is computed and compared with the MW lost as follows (assuming all resource loss values, i.e. Balancing Contingency Events, are positive) to measure compliance[1]:

- The measured contingency reserve response is equal to one of the following:
  - If the Pre-Reportable Contingency Event ACE Value is greater than or equal to zero, then the measured contingency reserve response equals (a) the megawatt value of the Reportable Balancing Contingency Event plus (b) the most positive ACE value within its Contingency Event Recovery Period (and following the occurrence of the last subsequent event, if any) plus (c) the sum of the megawatt losses of the subsequent Balancing Contingency Events occurring within the Contingency Event Recovery Period of the Reportable Balancing Contingency Event.
  - If the Pre-Reportable Contingency Event ACE Value is less than zero, then the measured contingency reserve response equals (a) the megawatt value of the Reportable Balancing Contingency Event plus (b) the most positive ACE value within its Contingency Event Recovery Period (and following the occurrence of the last subsequent event, if any) plus (c) the sum of the

[1] In adjusting for the adverse impact of rapidly succeeding (i.e. "near") Events on a Responsible Entity's Recovery from an Event, the SDT thought it more prudent to adjust for future near Events rather than for past near Events because the future Events place an added burden on performance, while adjusting for the past Events instead lowers the performance requirement. To adjust for both future and past Events amounts to double dealing because an Event is subsequent to a prior near Event, and both Events would be serving to relieve Recovery from each other. The SDT allowed only for the extreme case of exempting from recovery prior near Events that combined exceed MSSC.

megawatt losses of subsequent Balancing Contingency Events occurring within the Contingency Event Recovery Period of the Reportable Balancing Contingency Event, minus (d) the Pre-Reportable Contingency Event ACE Value.

- Compliance is computed as follows on CR Form 1 in order to document all Balancing Contingency Events used in compliance determination:
    - If the measured contingency reserve response is greater than or equal to the megawatts lost, then the Reportable Balancing Contingency Event Compliance equals 100 percent.
    - If the measured contingency reserve response is less than or equal to zero, then the Reportable Balancing Contingency Event Compliance equals 0 percent.
    - If the measured contingency reserve response is less than the megawatts lost but greater than zero, then the Reportable Balancing Contingency Event Compliance equals 100% * (1 – ((megawatts lost – measured contingency reserve response) / megawatts lost)).

The above computations can be expressed mathematically in the following 5 sequential steps, labeled as [1-5], where:

ACE_BEST – most positive ACE during the Contingency Event Recovery Period occurring after the last subsequent event, if any (MW)

ACE_PRE - Pre-Reportable Contingency Event ACE Value (MW)

COMPLIANCE - Reportable Balancing Contingency Event Compliance percentage (0 - 100%)

MEAS_CR_RESP - measured contingency reserve response for the Reportable Balancing Contingency Event (MW)

MSSC – Most Severe Single Contingency (MW)

MW_LOST - megawatt loss of the Reportable Balancing Contingency Event (MW)

SUM_SUBSQ - sum of the megawatt losses of subsequent Balancing Contingency Events occurring within the Contingency Event Recovery Period of the Reportable Balancing Contingency Event (MW)

If ACE_PRE is greater than or equal to 0, then

MEAS_CR_RESP = MW_LOST +ACE_BEST + SUM_SUBSQ **[1]**

If ACE_PRE is less than 0, then

MEAS_CR_RESP = MW_LOST +ACE_BEST + SUM_SUBSQ – ACE_PRE **[2]**

If MEAS_CR_RESP is greater than or equal to MW_LOST, then

COMPLIANCE = 100 **[3]**

If MEAS_CR_RESP is less than or equal to 0, then

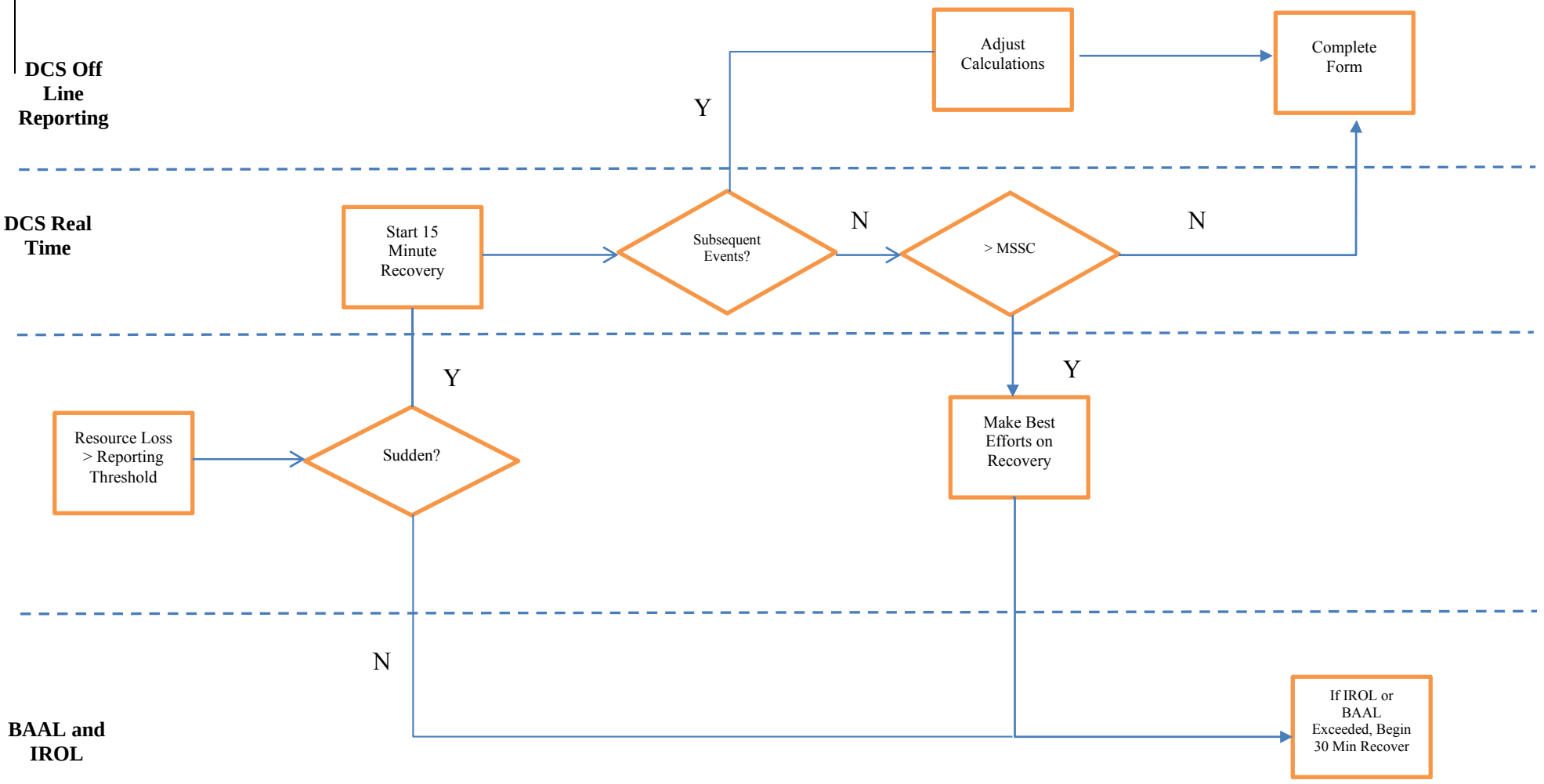
COMPLIANCE = 0 **[4]**

If MEAS_CR_RESP is greater than 0, and, MEAS_CR_RESP is less than MW_LOST, then

COMPLIANCE = 100 * (1 – ((MW_LOST – MEAS_CR_RESP)/ MW_LOST)) **[5]**

The Decision Tree flow diagram for DCS below, provides a visualization of the logic flow for a Reportable Balancing Contingency Event. It includes decision blocks for initial event determination, subsequent event determination, and checking for MSSC exceedance which should assist the Responsible Entity with Event Recovery and analysis.

Decision Tree for DCS



Requirement 2

R2. The Responsible Entity shall maintain Contingency Reserve, averaged over each Clock Hour, greater than or equal to its average Clock Hour Most Severe Single Contingency, except during one or more of the following periods when the Responsible Entity is:

2.1 using its Contingency Reserve, for a period not to exceed 90 minutes, to mitigate the reliability concerns associated with Contingencies that are not Balancing Contingency Events; and/or

2.2 using its Contingency Reserve, for a period not to exceed 90 minutes, to respond to an Operating Instruction requiring the use of Contingency Reserve; and/or

2.3 using its Contingency Reserve for a period not to exceed 90 minutes, to resolve the exceedance of a System Operating Limit (SOL) or Interconnection Reliability Operation Limit (IROL) that requires the use of Contingency Reserve; and/or

2.4 in a Contingency Reserve Restoration Period; and/or

2.5 in a Contingency Event Recovery Period; and/or

2.6 in an Energy Emergency Alert Level under which the Responsible Entity no longer has required Contingency Reserve available provided that the Responsible Entity has made preparations for interruption of Firm Load to replace the shortfall of Contingency Reserve to avoid the uncontrolled failure of components or cascading outages of the Interconnection. For this exemption to apply, the preparations must be initiated within 5 minutes from the time that the Energy Emergency Alert Level is declared.

~~using its Contingency Reserve for Contingencies that are not Balancing Contingency Events.~~

~~responding to an Operating Instruction requiring the use of Contingency Reserve;~~

~~resolving the exceedance of a System Operating Limit or IROL that requires the use of Contingency Reserve; and,~~

~~in a Contingency Event Recovery Period or its subsequent Contingency Reserve Restoration Period.~~

~~*Any time an entity deploys Contingency Reserve for any of the above reasons and its remaining Contingency Reserve is below the required minimum level, the entity will have a period not to exceed 90 minutes from the time the amount of Contingency Reserves drops below the level required in this R2 to restore its reserves to meet R2.*~~

~~in an Energy Emergency Alert Level under which the Responsible Entity no longer has required Contingency Reserve available provided that the Responsible Entity has made preparations for interruption of Firm Load to replace the shortfall of Contingency Reserve to avoid the uncontrolled failure of components or cascading outages of the Interconnection.~~

~~The Responsible Entity shall maintain Contingency Reserve, averaged over each Clock Hour, greater than or equal to its average Clock Hour Most Severe Single Contingency, except during periods when the Responsible Entity is in:~~

~~a restoration period because it has used its Contingency Reserve for Contingencies that are not Balancing Contingency Events. This required restoration begins when the Responsible Entity's Contingency Reserve falls below its MSSC and must not exceed 90 minutes; and/or~~

~~a Contingency Event Recovery Period or its subsequent Contingency Reserve Restoration Period; and/or~~

~~an Energy Emergency Alert Level under which Contingency Reserves have been activated.~~

Background and Rationale

R2 establishes a uniform continent-wide contingency reserve requirement. R2 establishes a requirement that contingency reserve be at least equal to the applicable entity's Most Severe Single Contingency. By including a definition of Most Severe Single Contingency and R2, a consistent uniform continent-wide contingency reserve requirement has been established. Its goal is to assure that the Responsible Entity will have sufficient contingency reserve that can be deployed to meet R1.

FERC Order 693 (at P356) directed BAL-002 to be developed as a continent-wide contingency reserve policy. R2 fulfills the requirement associated with the required amount of contingency reserve a Responsible Entity must have available to respond to a Reportable Balancing Contingency Event. Within FERC Order 693 (at P336) the Commission noted that the appropriate mix of operating reserve, spinning reserve and non-spinning reserve should be addressed. However, the Order predated the approval of the new BAL-003, which addresses frequency responsive reserve and the amount of frequency response obligation. With the development of BAL-003, and the associated reliability performance requirement, the SDT believes that, with R2 of BAL-002 and the approval of BAL-003, the Commission's goals of a continent-wide contingency reserves policy is met. The suites of BAL standards (BAL-001, BAL-002, and BAL-003) are all performance-based. With the suite of standards and the specific requirements within each respective standard, a continent-wide contingency policy is established.

In the Violation Severity Levels for Requirement R1, the impact of the Responsible Entity recovering from a Reportable Balancing Contingency Event depends on the amount of its Contingency Reserve available and whether~~does~~ it has~~have~~ sufficient response. Additionally, the drafting team understands that the Responsible Entity's available Contingency Reserve may

vary slightly from MSSC at any time. This variability is recognized in Requirement R2 through averaging the available Contingency Reserve over each Clock Hour.

The ideal goal of maintaining an amount of Contingency Reserve to cover the Most Severe Single Contingency at all times is not necessarily in the best interest of reliability. It may have the unintended result of tying ~~the~~ operators' hands by removing ~~the~~ use of their available contingency reserve from their toolbox in order to maintain service to load or manage other reliability issues. By allowing for the occasional use of this minimal amount of Contingency Reserve at the operators' discretion for other contingencies, reliability is enhanced. The SDT crafted the proposed standard to encourage the operators to use, at their discretion and within the limits set forth in the standard, their available contingency reserve to best serve reliability in R~~r~~eal-time. The last thing that anyone desires is to have Contingency Reserve held available and the lights go off because the standard would penalize the operator for using the Contingency Reserve to maintain service to the load. However, the drafting team did not believe that the use of reserves for ~~other~~ issues other than a Reportable Balancing Contingency Event should be unbounded. The SDT limited the use of Contingency Reserve ~~for only other Contingencies, thus bounding the use of Contingency Reserve to only the N-1 conditions~~.

Attachment 1

NERC Interconnections 2009-2013

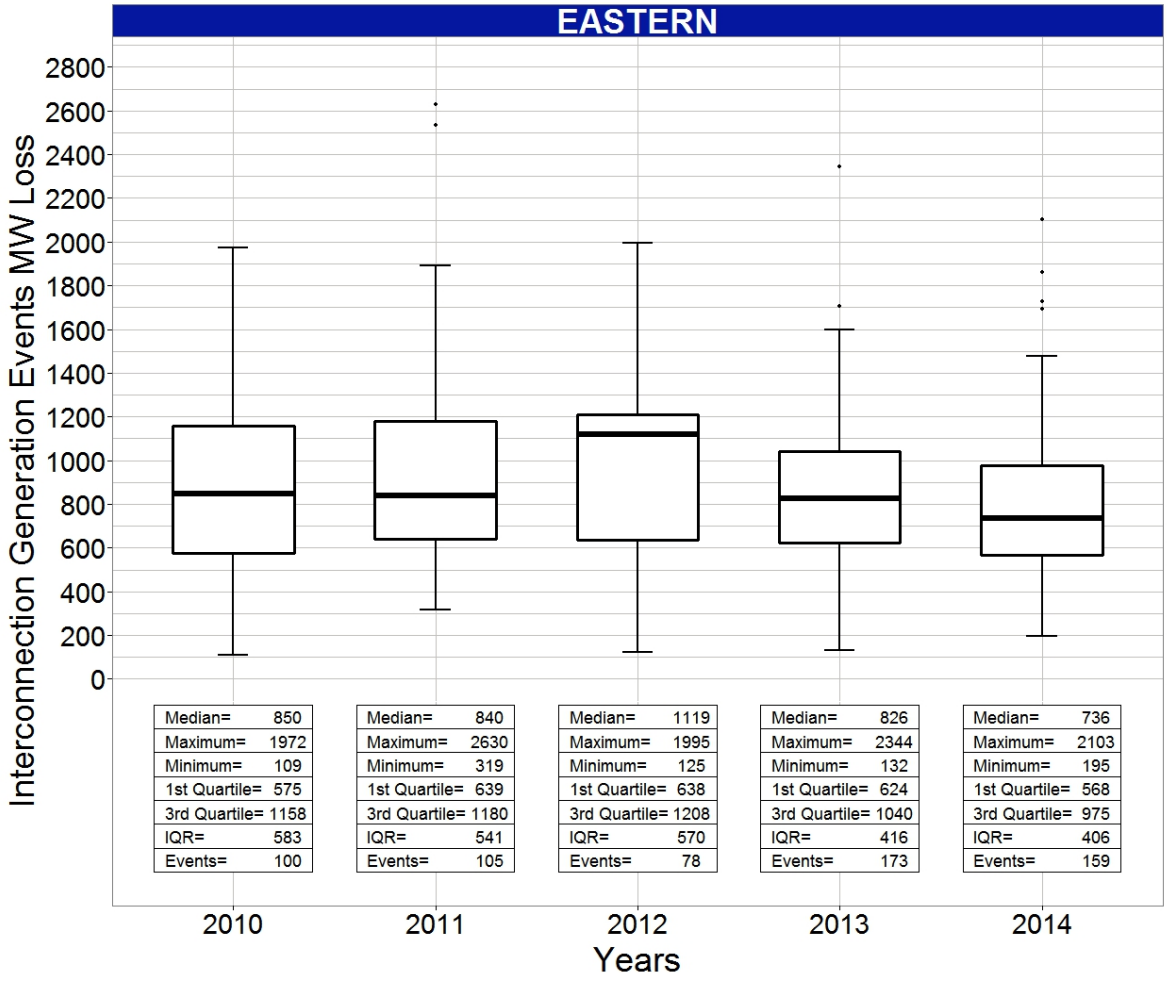
Frequency Events Loss MW Statistics

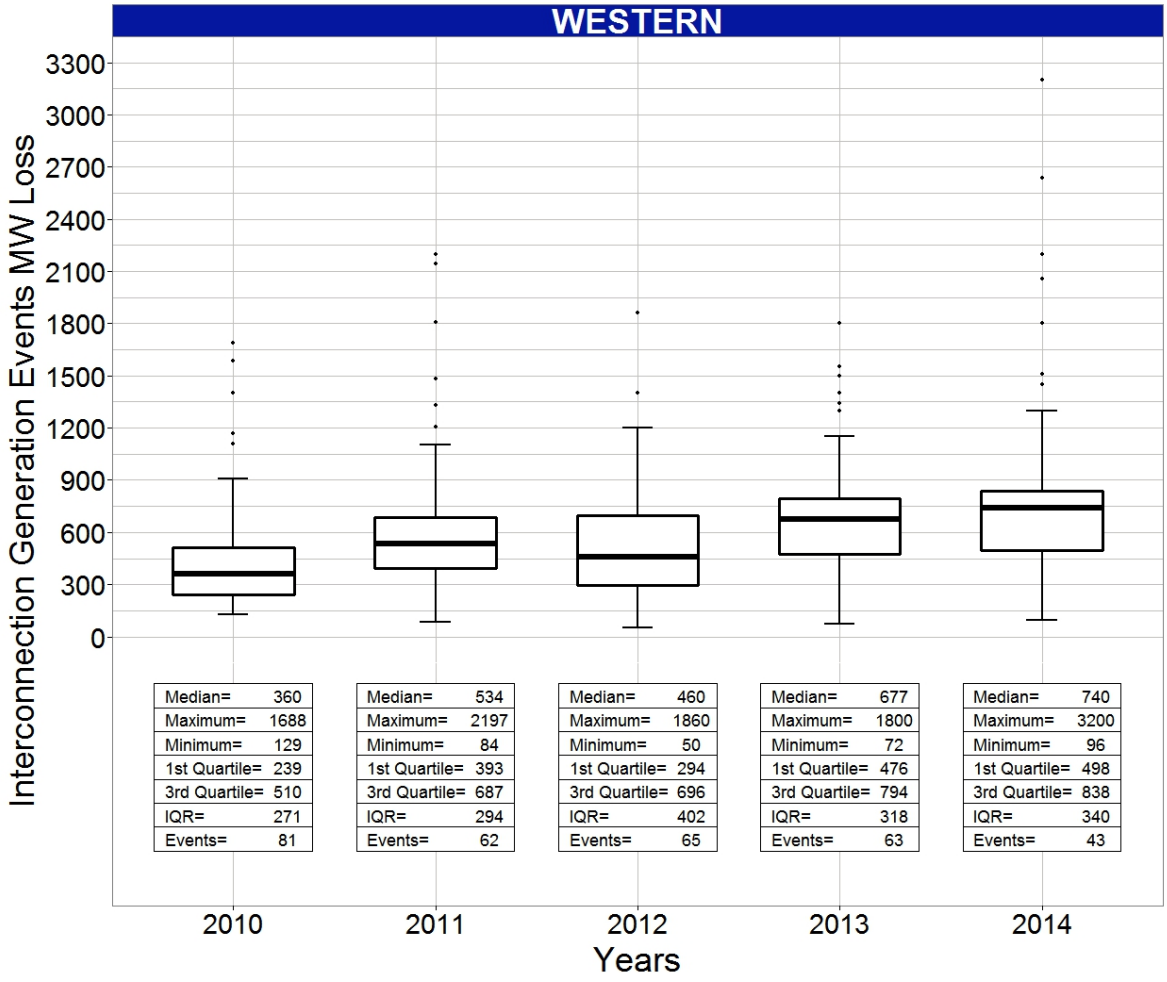
For: NERC BARC Standard Drafting Team

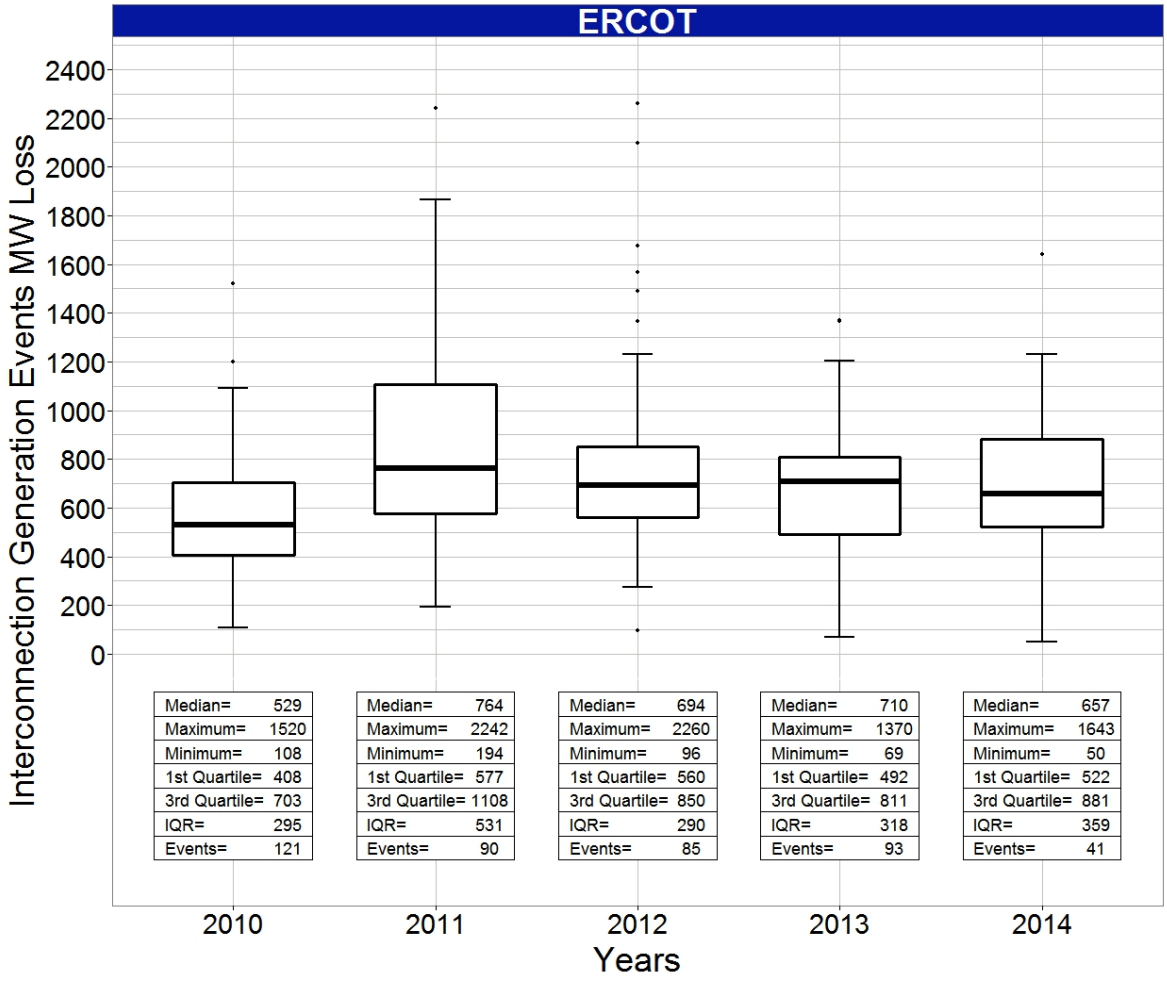
Prepared by: CERTS

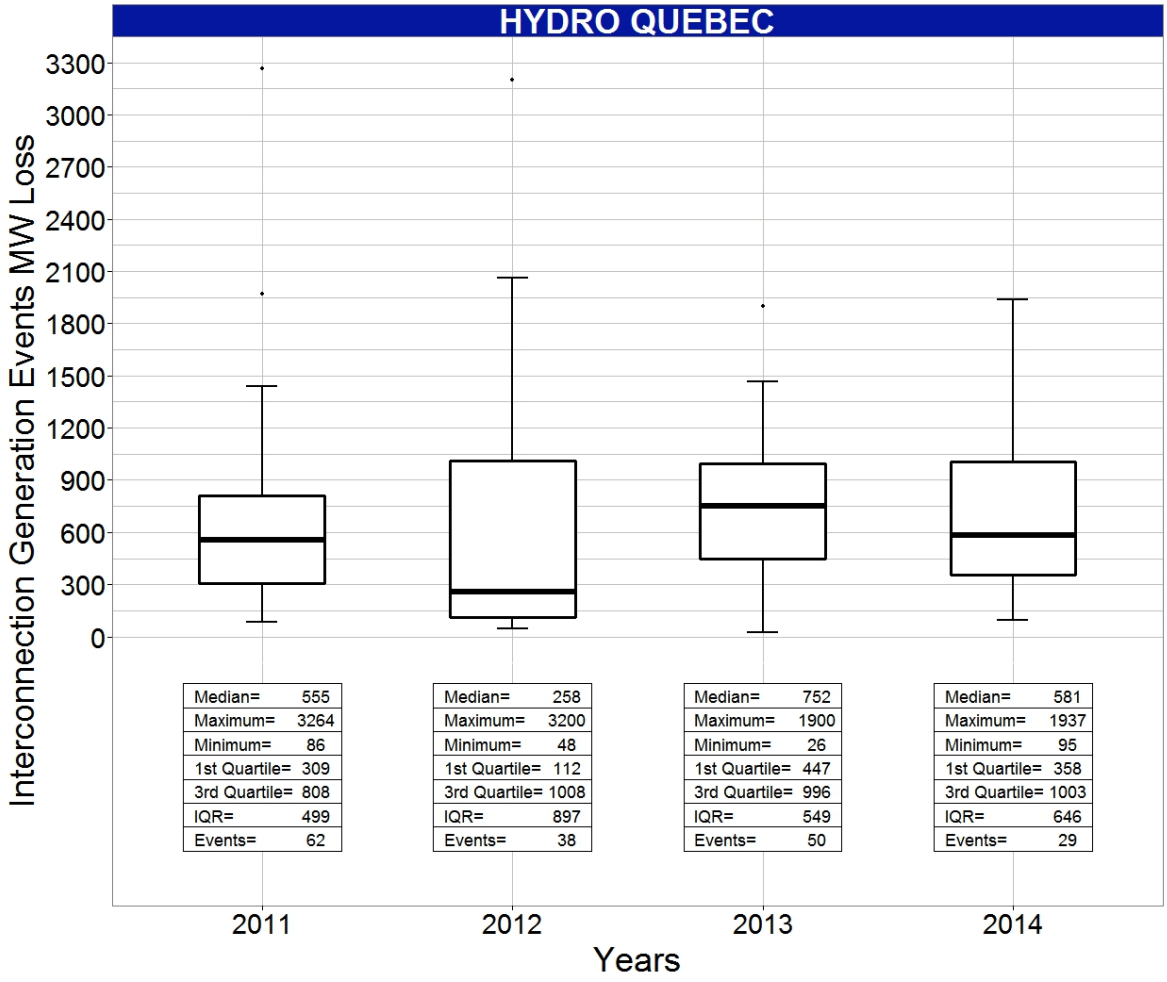
Date: October 15, 2013

CERTS
Consortium for Electric Reliability Technology Solutions


EASTERN
Interconnection Generation Events MW Loss
2800
2600
2400
2200
2000
1800
1600
1400
1200
1000
800
600
400
200
0
Median= 850
Maximum= 1972
Minimum= 109
1st Quartile= 575
3rd Quartile= 1158
IQR= 583
Events= 100
Median= 840
Maximum= 2630
Minimum= 319
1st Quartile= 639
3rd Quartile= 1180
IQR= 541
Events= 105
Median= 1119
Maximum= 1995
Minimum= 125
1st Quartile= 638
3rd Quartile= 1208
IQR= 570
Events= 78
Median= 826
Maximum= 2344
Minimum= 132
1st Quartile= 624
3rd Quartile= 1040
IQR= 416
Events= 173
Median= 736
Maximum= 2103
Minimum= 195
1st Quartile= 568
3rd Quartile= 975
IQR= 406
Events= 159
2010
2011
2012
2013
2014
Years


WESTERN
Interconnection Generation Events MW Loss
3300
3000
2700
2400
2100
1800
1500
1200
900
600
300
0
Median= 360
Maximum= 1688
Minimum= 129
1st Quartile= 239
3rd Quartile= 510
IQR= 271
Events= 81
Median= 534
Maximum= 2197
Minimum= 84
1st Quartile= 393
3rd Quartile= 687
IQR= 294
Events= 62
Median= 460
Maximum= 1860
Minimum= 50
1st Quartile= 294
3rd Quartile= 696
IQR= 402
Events= 65
Median= 677
Maximum= 1800
Minimum= 72
1st Quartile= 476
3rd Quartile= 794
IQR= 318
Events= 63
Median= 740
Maximum= 3200
Minimum= 96
1st Quartile= 498
3rd Quartile= 838
IQR= 340
Events= 43
2010
2011
2012
2013
2014
Years


ERCOT
Interconnection Generation Events MW Loss
2400
2200
2000
1800
1600
1400
1200
1000
800
600
400
200
0
Median= 529
Maximum= 1520
Minimum= 108
1st Quartile= 408
3rd Quartile= 703
IQR= 295
Events= 121
Median= 764
Maximum= 2242
Minimum= 194
1st Quartile= 577
3rd Quartile= 1108
IQR= 531
Events= 90
Median= 694
Maximum= 2260
Minimum= 96
1st Quartile= 560
3rd Quartile= 850
IQR= 290
Events= 85
Median= 710
Maximum= 1370
Minimum= 69
1st Quartile= 492
3rd Quartile= 811
IQR= 318
Events= 93
Median= 657
Maximum= 1643
Minimum= 50
1st Quartile= 522
3rd Quartile= 881
IQR= 359
Events= 41
2010
2011
2012
2013
2014
Years


HYDRO QUEBEC
Interconnection Generation Events MW Loss
3300
3000
2700
2400
2100
1800
1500
1200
900
600
300
0
Median= 555
Maximum= 3264
Minimum= 86
1st Quartile= 309
3rd Quartile= 808
IQR= 499
Events= 62
Median= 258
Maximum= 3200
Minimum= 48
1st Quartile= 112
3rd Quartile= 1008
IQR= 897
Events= 38
Median= 752
Maximum= 1900
Minimum= 26
1st Quartile= 447
3rd Quartile= 996
IQR= 549
Events= 50
Median= 581
Maximum= 1937
Minimum= 95
1st Quartile= 358
3rd Quartile= 1003
IQR= 646
Events= 29
2011
2012
2013
2014
Years

Attachment 2

BAL-002-2 R1 Example

Requirement 1

The Responsible Entity experiencing a Reportable Balancing Contingency Event shall, within the Contingency Event Recovery Period, demonstrate recovery by returning its Reporting ACE to at least the recovery value of: *[Violation Risk Factor: Medium][Time Horizon: Real-time Operations]*

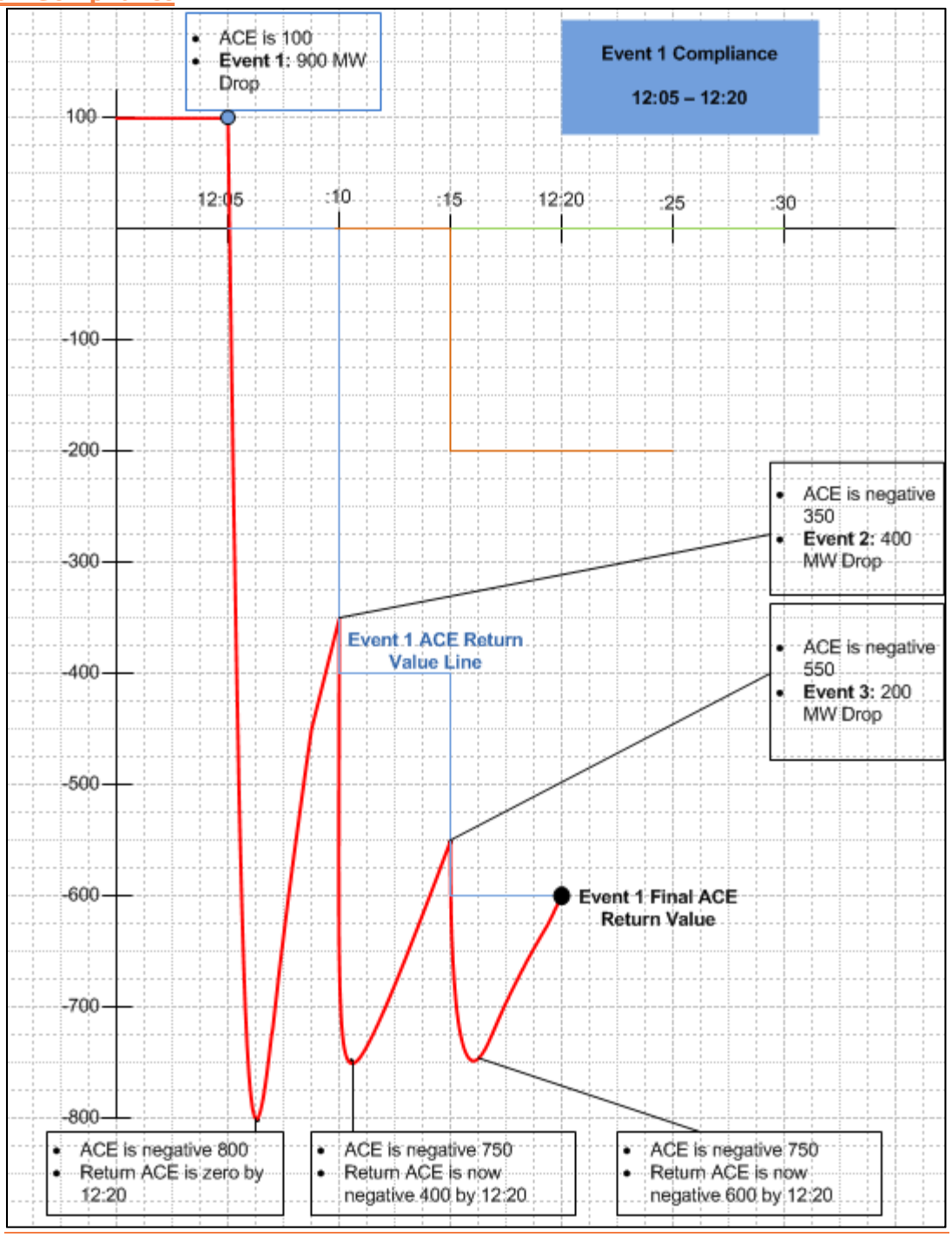
- Zero, (if its Pre-Reporting Contingency Event ACE Value was positive or equal to zero); however, during the Contingency Event Recovery Period, any Balancing Contingency Event that occurs shall reduce the required recovery: (i) beginning at the time of, and (ii) by the magnitude of, each individual Balancing Contingency Event,

Or,

- Its Pre-Reporting Contingency Event ACE Value, (if its Pre-Reporting Contingency Event ACE Value was negative); however, during the Contingency Event Recovery Period, any Balancing Contingency Event that occurs shall reduce the required recovery: (i) beginning at the time of, and (ii) by the magnitude of, each individual Balancing Contingency Event.

To illustrate the above requirement the following scenario of three Balancing Contingency Events, and compliance for each event, is provided. It is assumed in this scenario that the reportable event threshold is 200 MW.

Event 1 Compliance



- Responsible Entity Pre□Reporting Contingency Event ACE Value is 100 MW
- Time of the Balancing Contingency Event □ 12:05
- Size of the Balancing Contingency Event □ 900 MW
- Responsible Entity MSSC □ 2,000 MW

- Resulting Responsible Entity's ACE Value following the Balancing Contingency Event – negative 800 MW

With no additional Contingency Events, the Responsible Entity must demonstrate recovery of Event 1 by returning its Reporting ACE to at least the recovery value of zero within the Contingency Event Recovery Period, or by 12:20.

However, if the Responsible Entity experienced another Contingency Event (Event 2) based upon the following:

- ACE had recovered to negative 350 – prior to Event 2
- Time of the Contingency Event 12:10
- Size of the Contingency Event 400 MW
- Responsible Entity Reporting ACE Value at 12:10 – negative 750

At the time of Event 2, the Responsible Entity would reduce the value of its required recovery from the original Balancing Contingency Event 1 by the size of the Contingency Event at 12:10 (Event 2), thus lowering the required recovery value of ACE to negative 400 MW. The Responsible Entity would demonstrate recovery from Balancing Contingency Event 1, taking into account Event 2, by returning its Reporting ACE to at least a negative 400 MW by 12:20.

Now if the Responsible Entity experienced an additional Contingency event (Event 3) prior to 12:20 namely:

- ACE had recovered to negative 550 MW – prior to Event 3
- Time of the Contingency Event 12:15
- Size of the Contingency Event 200 MW
- Responsible Entity Reporting ACE Value at 12:15 – negative 750

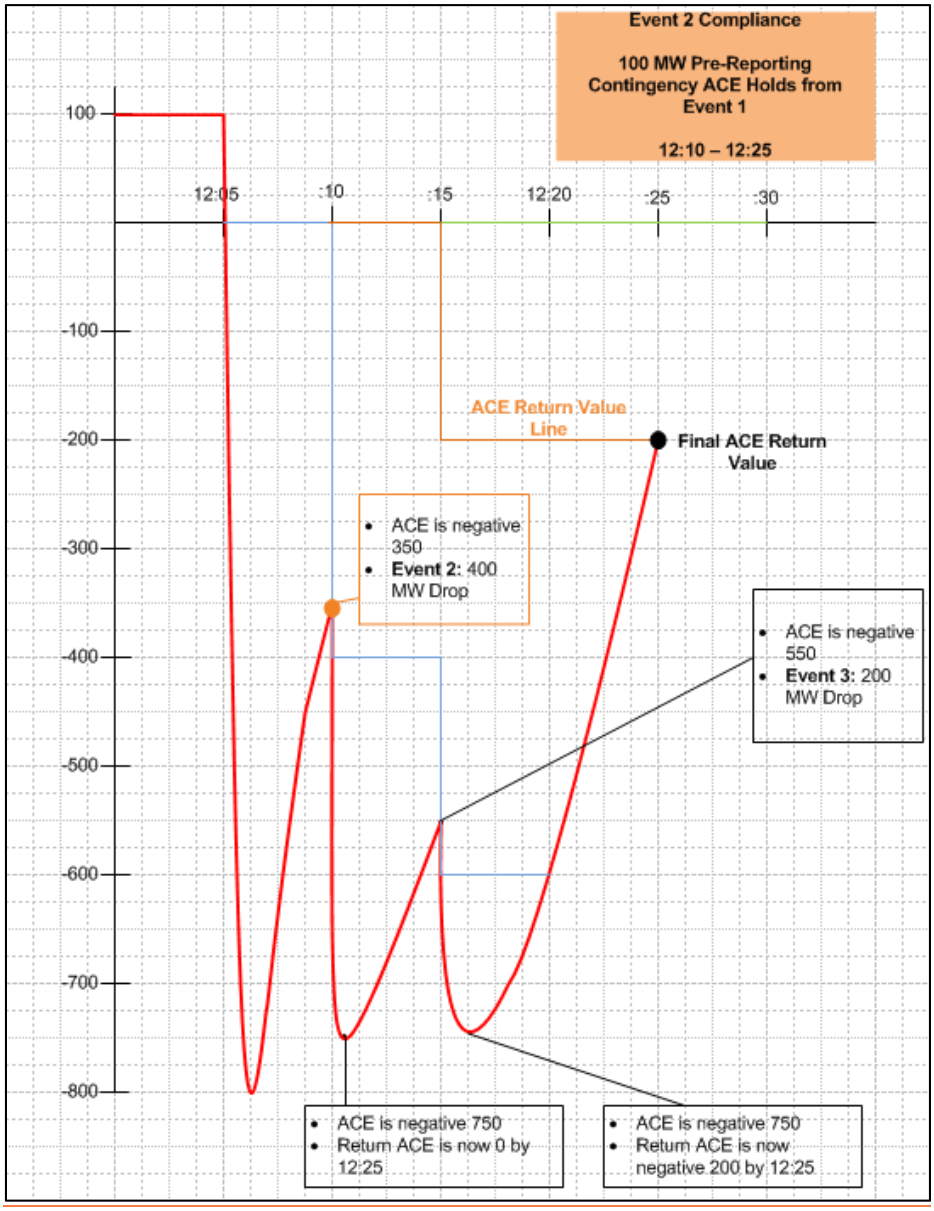
At the time of Event 3, the Responsible Entity would reduce the value of its required ACE recovery from the original Balancing Contingency Event 1 by the size of the Contingency Event at 12:10 (Event 2) and the Contingency Event at 12:15 (Event 3), thus lowering the required ACE recovery value to negative 600 MW. The Responsible Entity would demonstrate recovery from Balancing Contingency Event 1, taking into account Events 2 and 3 by returning its Reporting ACE to at least a negative 600 MW by 12:20.

The Responsible Entity must show compliance for all events ~~in kind~~ that might occur during the Contingency Event Recovery Period (Event 1). Event 2 and Event 3 from the example above would demonstrate compliance in a similar fashion as was demonstrated for Event 1 above. Each would have its own unique Contingency Event Recovery Period as defined by the start of the respective contingency event (i.e. Event 2's Contingency Event Recovery Period would begin at ~~from~~ 12:10 and end at 12:25; Event 3's Contingency Event Recovery Period would begin at ~~from~~ 12:15 and end at 12:30). ~~However, t~~The ~~Pre-Reporting Contingency~~ required ACE Value (0 MW) of recovery from~~for~~ Events 1; the required ACE Value (-200 MW) of Recovery from Event 2 would be the required Value (0 MW) of Recovery from final Event 3) minus the size of Event 3 (200 MW), while the required ACE Value (-600 MW) of Recovery

from Event 1 would be the required Value (0MW) of Recovery from final Event 3 minus the size (600 MW) of the events 2 (400 MW) & 3 (200 MW) subsequent to Event 1.

The following demonstrates the logic used for compliance with Event 2 (from 12:10 – 12:25, including Event 3).

Event 2 Compliance



Responsible Entity's required ACE Value of recovery from Event 2 is 0 MW (the same as it was from the pre-existing initial Contingency Event 1 prior to any adjustment for Event 2)

- Time of the Balancing Contingency Event 12:10
- Size of the Balancing Contingency Event 400 MW
- Responsible Entity MSSC 2,000 MW

- Resulting Responsible Entity's ACE Value following the Balancing Contingency Event – negative 750 MW

With no additional Contingency Events, the Responsible Entity must demonstrate recovery from Event 2 by returning its Reporting ACE to Event 1's prior, unadjusted Pre-Reporting Contingency Event ACE value of 0 MW within the Contingency Event Recovery Period, or by 12:25.

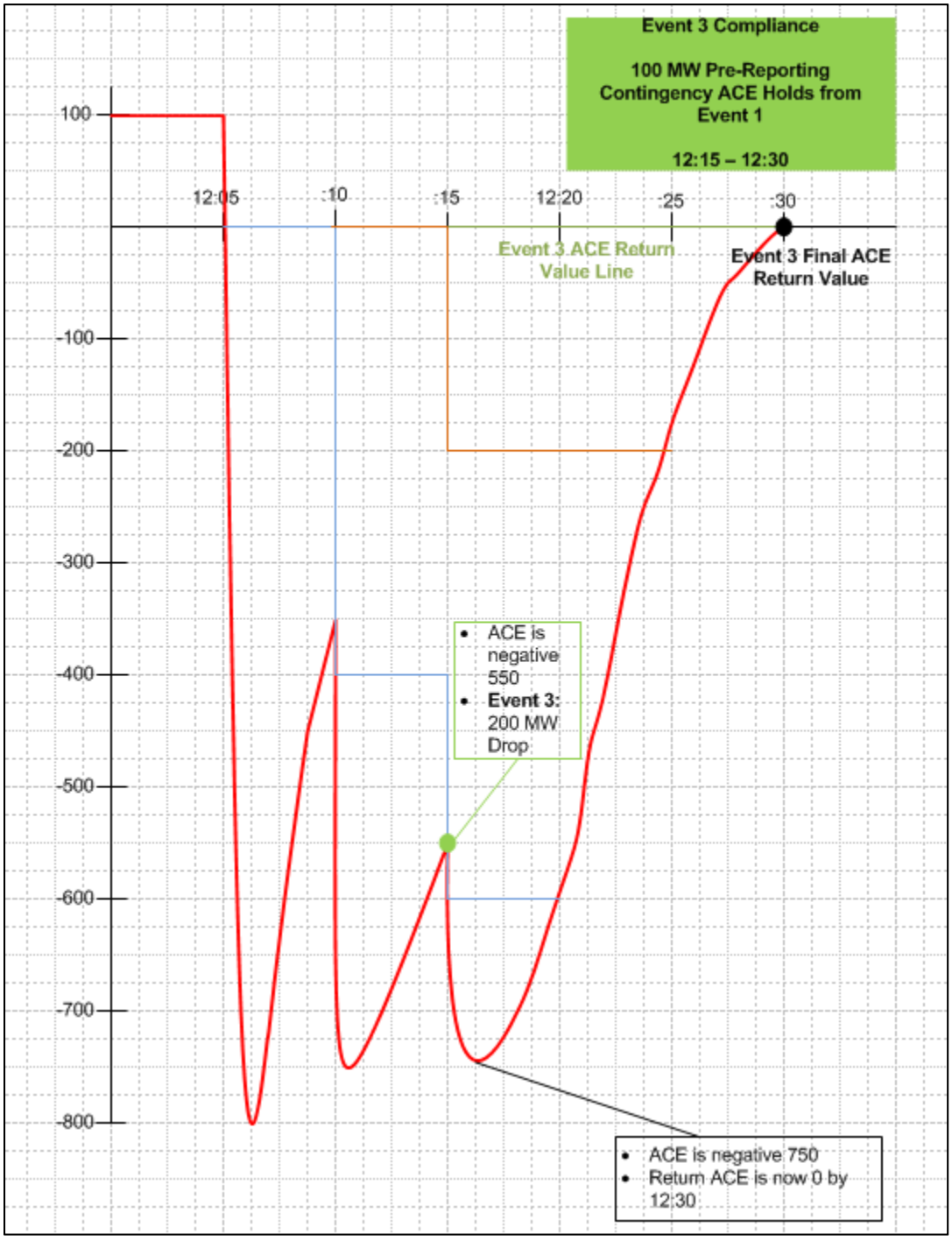
However, the Responsible Entity experienced another Contingency Event (Event 3) based upon the following:

- ACE had recovered to negative 550 – prior to Event 3
- Time of the Contingency Event 12:15
- Size of the Contingency Event 200 MW
- Responsible Entity Reporting ACE post Contingency Event – negative 750

At the time of Event 3, the Responsible Entity would reduce the value of its required recovery from the Balancing Contingency Event 2 by the size of Contingency Event 3 at 12:15, thus lowering the required ACE recovery from Event 2 to negative 200 MW. The Responsible Entity would demonstrate recovery from both Balancing Contingency Event 1 and Balancing Contingency Event 2, taking in to account Event 3, by returning its Reporting ACE to at least a negative 200 MW by 12:30.

The following demonstrates the logic used for compliance following Event 3 (from 12:15 – 12:30).

Event 3 Compliance



The Responsible Entity's required ACE Value of recovery from final Event 3 is 0 MW (the same as it was from the initial Balancing Contingency Event 1 prior to any subsequent events)

- Time of the Balancing Contingency Event 12: 15
- Size of the Balancing Contingency Event 200 MW
- Responsible Entity MSSC 2,000 MW
  Resulting Responsible Entity's ACE Value following the Balancing Contingency Event – negative 750 MW

With no additional Contingency Events, the Responsible Entity must demonstrate recovery of final Event 3 by returning its Reporting ACE to the 0 MW ACE value of 0 MW of recovery from the initial Event 1 within the Contingency Event Recovery Period, or by 12:30.

The above examples illustrate the minimum response for compliance. Actual events and recoveries will differ because of matters such as, but not limited to, Contingency Reserve being deployed differently.

~~In order to illustrate the above requirement the following is provided:~~

~~Responsible Entity Pre-Reporting Contingency Event ACE Value is 100 MW~~

~~Time of the Balancing Contingency Event - 12:05~~

~~Size of the Balancing Contingency Event - 900 MW~~

~~Responsible Entity MSSC - 2,000 MW~~

~~Resulting Responsible Entity's ACE Value following the Balancing Contingency Event – negative 800 MW~~

~~With no additional Contingency Events, the Responsible Entity must demonstrate recovery by returning its Reporting ACE to at least the recovery value of zero within the Contingency Event Recovery Period, or by 12:20.~~

~~However, if the Responsible Entity experienced another Contingency Event based upon the following:~~

~~Time of the Contingency Event - 12:10~~

~~Size of the Contingency Event - 400 MW~~

~~Responsible Entity Reporting ACE Value at 12:10 – negative 750~~

~~The Responsible Entity would reduce its required recovery value for the Balancing Contingency Event required recovery by the size of the Contingency Event at 12:10, thus resulting in the required ACE being reduce by 400 MW to negative 400 MW. The Responsible Entity would demonstrate recovery from the Balancing Contingency Event by returning its Reporting ACE to a negative 400 MW by 12:20.~~

~~Now if the Responsible Entity experienced an additional Contingency event prior to 12:20 for example:~~

~~Time of the Contingency Event – 12:15~~

~~Size of the Contingency Event - 200 MW~~

~~Responsible Entity Reporting ACE Value at 12:15 – negative 750~~

~~The Responsible Entity would reduce its required recovery value for the Balancing Contingency Event required recovery by the size of the Contingency Event at 12:15, thus resulting in the required ACE recovery being reduced by another 200 MWof to negative 600 MW. The Responsible Entity would demonstrate recovery from the Balancing Contingency Event by returning its Reporting ACE to a negative 200 MW by 12:20.~~

~~This would continue on for any additional Contingency Events that might occur during the Contingency Event Recovery Period. Note that the adjustments to the Reportable ACE value required for recovery are made only after the subsequent Balancing Contingency Event fully occurs.~~

Attachment 3

Technical Justification for Applicability of BAL-002 During Emergency Alerts

Technical Justification for Applicability of BAL-002 During Energy Emergency Alerts

I. INTRODUCTION

The Balancing Authority Reliability-based Controls standard drafting team (BARC SDT) has identified a conflict between NERC Reliability Standards BAL-002 and EOP-002 that unnecessarily requires arbitrary interruption of Firm Load. In order to address this issue, the BARC SDT is recommending that Standard BAL-002-2 not be enforceable during an Energy Emergency Alert (EEA) event where the EEA process requires the use of Contingency Reserve to maintain load service.[2] This document provides support for this recommendation and an overview of reliable frequency management on the North American Interconnections.

II. BACKGROUND

Reliably balancing an Interconnection requires frequency management and all of its aspects. Inputs to frequency management include Tie-Line Bias Control, Area Control Error (ACE), and the various Requirements in NERC Resource and Demand Balancing Standards, specifically BAL-001-2 Real Power Balancing Control Performance and BAL-003-1 Frequency Response and Frequency Bias Setting.

Reliability Standard BAL-002 applies during the real-time operations time horizon and addresses the balancing of resources and demand following a disturbance. Reliability Standard EOP-002 also applies during the real-time operations time horizon and addresses capacity and energy emergencies. Given that an entity and/or event can transition suddenly from normal operations into emergency operations (EOP-002) where Contingency Reserve maintained under BAL-002 may be utilized to serve Firm Load, this transitional seam must be explicitly addressed in order to provide clarity to responsible entities regarding the actions to be taken. The proposed applicability of BAL-002 is designed to address this issue.

III. LEGACY REQUIREMENTS

The Resource and Demand Balancing (BAL) standards include both requirements that have a sound technical basis and legacy requirements that the industry has used for years but fail to

[2] The proposed applicability section states: "Applicability is determined on an individual Reportable Balancing Contingency Event basis, but the Responsible Entity is not subject to compliance during periods when the Responsible Entity is in an Energy Emergency Alert Level under which Contingency Reserves have been activated."

have a sound technical basis. NERC began replacing these legacy requirements with technically based requirements starting with the Control Performance Standard1 (CPS1). Both Control Performance Standard2 (CPS2) and the Disturbance Control Standard (DCS) remain in the legacy category. The following are specific concerns associated with these requirements.

- When CPS1 was implemented to replace A1/A2, previous requirements were modified so that CPS1 would apply at all times including the (disturbance) periods where DCS is applicable, not just during normal operations/periods. So DCS is not the only standard governing disturbance conditions.
- The Disturbance Control Standard (DCS) and its precursor B1/B2 have been unique in requiring immediate action by the Balancing Authority (BA), in this case to address unexpected imbalances within defined limits.
- DCS, albeit results-based in its current form, was initially designed to measure the utilization of Contingency Reserve to address a loss of resource within the defined limits. In its results-based form it assumed that implementing sufficient Contingency Reserves as needed to comply with the recovery requirement would be a reasonably equitable minimum quantity for all BAs participating in interconnected operation.
- DCS is based upon ACE recovery to the lower of pre-disturbance ACE or zero. A Balancing Authority which might be under-generating prior to a generation loss, could lose a generating unit and under DCS be deemed compliant if it returned ACE to its pre-disturbance state, though it could still be depressing Interconnection frequency.
- As DCS recovery from a reportable event must occur within a 15-minute period, it is possible for a Balancing Authority's ACE to again go negative after that time, with a similar impact on Interconnection frequency.
- Since CPS2 allows a BA to be unaccountable for approximately 74 hours of operation in a 31-day month, an imbalance condition may persist and negatively impact Interconnection frequency for many hours[3].
- When ACE is modulated by frequency, "significant" losses are defined not only by the size of the event causing an ACE deviation, but also contingent on the deviation of Interconnection frequency from Scheduled Frequency.

IV. TIE-LINE BIAS FREQUENCY CONTROL AND ACE

[3] Reliability-Based Control v3, Standard Authorization Request Form, November 7, 2007.

Tie-Line Bias Frequency Control is implemented on the North American Interconnections through the use of the ACE Equation.[4] In general, ACE is the term used to determine the load-generation imbalance that is being contributed by each Balancing Authority (BA) on an Interconnection. ACE is a powerful indicator, because it indicates the imbalance within the boundaries of a single BA, thus defining the Secondary Control responsibilities for that BA and, therefore, the control action that would return ACE to zero. ACE includes the Frequency Bias Setting term, which allows the Primary Frequency Control to be a shared service throughout a multi-BA Interconnection, while assigning to each individual BA the specific responsibilities of maintaining its own Secondary Frequency Control.

In summary, ACE only provides guidance with respect to Secondary Frequency Control and does not indicate or provide any direct measure of Primary Frequency Control, and only reflects the estimated Frequency Response as represented by the Frequency Bias Setting term. NERC Requirements and supporting documentation for Frequency Response (Primary Frequency Control) are included in BAL-003-1 Frequency Response and Frequency Bias Setting standard. More detail on Tie-Line Bias Frequency Control and ACE is attached.[5]

V. CONTROL PERFORMANCE STANDARD1 (CPS1)

Prior to the development of CPS1, the industry assumed that, "It is impossible, however, to use frequency deviation to identify the specific control area (sic, i.e. BA) with the under- or over-generation creating the frequency deviation…".[3] In the 1990's the development of CPS1 demonstrated that not only was it possible to identify the specific BA creating the frequency deviation, but that it is also possible not only to determine the relative contribution by each BA to the magnitude of the frequency deviation[6], but also to determine the relative contribution of each BA to the reliability risk caused by that deviation. In addition, the CPS1 Requirement provided a guarantee: "If all BAs on an interconnection complied with the CPS1 Requirement,

[4] Illian, Howard F., Understanding ACE, CPS1 and BAAL, Prepared for the NERC BARC Standard Drafting Team, September 10, 2010 rev. August 19, 2014, Section 2, pp. 1-4, for a derivation of the ACE Equation and the requirements for implementing it that are included in the definition of ACE appearing in the NERC Glossary.

[5] Illian, Howard F., Frequency Control Performance Measurement and Requirements, Ernest Orlando Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, December 2010, for a discussion of the history of Frequency Control and Performance Measurement.

[6] Illian, Howard F., Understanding ACE, CPS1 and BAAL, Section 2, pp. 5-10 for a derivation of the CPS1 requirement.

the Root Mean Squared[7] value of the frequency deviation for that Interconnection would be less than the epsilon1[8] frequency deviation limit for that Interconnection."

CPS1 is a rolling annual average of individual measurements each averaged over one-minute, and is assessed monthly. CPS1 measures the covariance between the ACE of a BA and the frequency deviation of the Interconnection which is equal to the sum of the ACEs of all of the BAs. CPS1 has the great value of using the Interconnection frequency to determine the degree to which ACE among the BAs on a multiple BA Interconnection is harming or helping interconnection frequency. Since the frequency deviation is a measured value, the ACE of a BA will directly affect only the CPS1 of the BA with the ACE and not the CPS1 measure of other BAs.

VI. BALANCING AUTHORITY ACE LIMIT (BAAL)

When the Balancing Resources and Demand (BRD) standard drafting team recognized the need for a control measure over a shorter time horizon than either CPS1 (annual) or Control Performance Standard 2[9] (CPS2, monthly) provided, it began looking for a measure that would allow a window for common imbalance events like a unit trip, while providing a limit on how much frequency deviation should be allowed over that short period. After considering numerous alternatives, BAAL was selected as the appropriate short-term measure.[10,11]

[7] "Root Mean Squared" means the square root of the mean of the squared errors, so that positive and negative errors do not offset each other and any shift in the mean is counted as error.

[8] "Epsilon1" is the frequency deviation limit determined for each North American Interconnection and used by CPS1 to bound the Root Mean Squared frequency deviation. It is 18 mHz on the Eastern, 22.8 mHz on the Western, 30 mHz on the ERCOT, and 21 mHz on the Quebec Interconnections.

[9] Proposed to be replaced by BAAL under BAL-001-2, CPS2 requires the BA to move its ACE within predefined L10 bounds when it is binding (during only 90% of the ten-minute periods per month) without regard to whether such action helps or hurts Interconnection frequency.

[10] Illian, Howard F., Meeting the Discrete Event Measure (DEM) Objectives with the Abnormal Operations Measure (AOM), Prepared for the NERC Balancing Resources and Demand Standard Drafting Team, March 20, 2004.

[11] Illian, Howard F., Setting the Balancing Authority ACE Limit (BAAL) for the NERC Abnormal Operations Measure (AOM), Prepared for the NERC Balancing Resources and Demand Standard Drafting Team, March 28, 2004.

Considerable evaluation and Field Trials have shown that BAAL[12] is a better indicator of contributions to reliability risk of an interconnection than the magnitude of ACE alone. This superiority, like CPS1's, derives from the concurrent use of both ACE and frequency error in the BAAL measure. Thus BAAL captures the relative contribution to reliability by all of the ACEs on an interconnection and indicates where each BA stands relative to its secondary control responsibilities and the current state of the interconnection as indicated by the frequency error for both under- and over-frequency conditions.

VII. INTERACTION BETWEEN STANDARDS

The drafting team has identified as an issue the existence of points where the standards are in conflict with each other. The drafting team has attempted to address the conflicts identified, as follows:

NERC standard EOP-002 requires a BA to use all its reserves during an Energy Emergency Alert 2 (EEA2) or higher. The following language is found in EOP-002 Attachment 1-EOP-002:

> **2.6.4 Operating Reserves.** Operating reserves are being utilized such that the Energy Deficient Entity is carrying reserves below the required minimum or has initiated emergency assistance through its operating reserve sharing program.

The current BAL-002 specifies a minimum level reserve requirement at all times unless a qualifying event has occurred. The drafting team noted that in the EEA process an entity is driven to request an EEA rarely as the result of a single unit loss. In fact, an EEA declaration by the Reliability Coordinator might result from issues that include no event that would qualify as a Disturbance and the EEA situation could last longer than the reserve recovery period of 90 minutes. For this reason, the drafting team recommends significant changes to the standards in question.

In addition to the identified conflict, other standards can require the activation of contingency reserve. These include other BAL standards, IRO standards and TOP standards. Compared to those standards, the BAL-002 standard provides the least direct measure of reliability. Therefore, an entity should never be conflicted between applying the requirements of BAL-002 and complying with the other standards.

[12] Illian, Howard F., Understanding ACE, CPS1 and BAAL, Prepared for the NERC BARC Standard Drafting Team, September 10, 2010 rev. August 19, 2014, Section 2, pp. 10, for a derivation of the BAAL requirement.

Finally, there is one overarching principal not reflected in the discussion up to this point, namely keeping the lights on if possible. If there is a requirement to bring ACE back no matter what, then that requirement will have the unintended consequence of shedding Firm Load, especially during an EEA. During the EEA process, the expectation is that a BA will have firm load ready to shed in order to meet its reserve requirement under R2 of the proposed BAL-002 standard. However, if the BAL-002 standard also requires the entity to meet R1 during the EEA, entities will shed firm load to restore ACE to its pre-contingency level, regardless of the lack of any reliability issues. In other words, frequency could be settling at or very near 60 Hz, no transmission lines are overloaded as determined by the TOP standards, and the entity is operating within the parameters defined in BAL-001, but firm load would be interrupted simply to bring the entity's ACE back to what it was prior to the loss of the unit. Since the industry has defined reliability as frequency at or near 60 Hz and transmission lines operating within their limits, there is no reason to interrupt firm load.

Instead, the BARC SDT is recommending that Standard BAL-002-2 not be enforceable during an EEA event where the EEA process requires the use of Contingency Reserve to maintain load service. Instead, the Reliability Coordinator, Transmission Operators and the impacted Balancing Authorities should use real-time situational awareness, taking into account issues addressed in BAL-001, BAL-003, the IRO suite of standards and the TOP suite of standards, to determine what actions are appropriate when conditions are abnormal. This process would allow continued load service without arbitrarily requiring interruption of firm load.

This concern arises because the other standards look at specific reliability issues other than just balancing between scheduled and actual interchange. BAL-001-2 and BAL-003-1 look at interconnection frequency to determine whether the Balancing Authority is helping or hurting reliability. During an EEA event, curtailing load to move ACE back to a pre-event level could adversely affect frequency. If frequency goes up from 60 Hz when a Balancing Authority interrupts load, the impact is detrimental to the interconnection. Under the TOP standards, if flows on transmission lines are within the limits specified, there is no need to alter the flows on the transmission system by interrupting load.

Finally, the Reliability Coordinator has a wide area view of the electric system as required under the IRO standards. The IRO standards clearly state the Reliability Coordinator's responsibilities during the EEA process. If the Reliability Coordinator has not identified a reliability concern in its near term operations evaluation, actions such as interruption of firm load should not occur simply to balance load and resources within the BA. During abnormal (emergency) situations, taking significant actions with a narrow view will not be beneficial for Interconnection reliability.

EXAMPLES

- Example 1

  On an usually cold day in February 2011, at 06:22, a Balancing Authority Area (BAA) experienced a 350 MW generation loss when a 750 MW joint ownership unit tripped off-line. Earlier in the day the BAA operator experienced loss of several generating units with a total capacity of 1050 MW, the latest loss being just 38 minutes prior to the 350 MW loss. When the 350 MW event occurred the BAA operator requested reserve/emergency assistance, shed 300 MW of customer load to restore contingency reserve, and requested the RC post an EEA3. The EEA3 was posted. Although the frequency only touched 59.91 Hz, averaging 59.951 Hz in the first minute of the outage, was it really necessary to cut load and leave people in the cold, dark of that morning to restore contingency reserve? Having idle generation, when the Interconnection is operating reliably, does not warrant shedding customer load.

- Example 2

  In June 2012, at 17:08, a BAA experienced an 800 MW generation loss. The BA and the reserve sharing group (RSG) it participates in were in the process of replacing the lost generation when, in the thirteenth minute of the recovery when there were no identified frequency, voltage or loading threats to reliability, the BAA was directed by its Reliability Coordinator (RC) to shed 120 MW of customer load. Although the combined Area Control Error (ACE) of the RSG participants was positive, the RC focused on the ACE of the BAA that lost the generation – which was still negative – ignoring the fact that the Interconnection frequency (59.96 Hz) was above the Frequency Trigger Limit (59.932 Hz). The needless shedding of customer load when system reliability is not threatened attracted the attention of state regulators who were not happy with the action. This demonstrates that focusing solely on a BAA's ACE and not on the true Interconnection reliability indicators can cause actions that do not support reliability.

- Example 3

  In June 2004, at 0741, a series of events led to a generation loss of over 4,600 MW. In spite of the event size, the Interconnection frequency was arrested without triggering automatic underfrequency load shedding, thanks to governor action, frequency sensitive load and deployment of Contingency Reserve (as required by BAL-002). Some transmission elements exceeded their limits for a short time (as permitted by the EOP standards), And, prior to the disturbance, the frequency was in the normal operating range due to automatic generation control (AGC) operation (as required by BAL-001). During the event almost 1,000 MW of interruptible customer load was shed throughout the interconnected systems by devices that automatically operated to protect various parts of the

system (as determined by the TPL and TOP Standards). This demonstrates how the suite of standards defined by NERC work together to efficiently protect the system and minimize customer interruptions.

VIII. CONCLUSIONS

There are important conclusions that can be drawn from this work and the mathematical guarantees that it provides:

- The Disturbance Control Standard (DCS) as currently configured only looks at ACE, the imbalance contribution of a single BA, and does not include a specific frequency error component that indicates the BA's contribution relative to the condition of the interconnection to which the BA is connected.

- As the DCS measure does not have a specific frequency component, compliance to DCS at times conflicts with the overall goal of targeting operation within predefined Interconnection frequency limits. For example, DCS recovery initiated from above Scheduled Frequency has a detrimental impact on Interconnection frequency.

- The focus on ACE alone is insufficient to control frequency on a multiple BA Interconnection. The correlation of the ACEs among the BAs on the Interconnection will affect the quality of frequency control independent of how any individual ACE is controlled.

- Adequate control of Interconnection frequency requires the use of both ACE (individual BA balancing error) and frequency deviation.

- Adequate control of reliability risk on an Interconnection requires the use of ACE, frequency deviation and available frequency response.

- BAAL addresses all events impacting Interconnection frequency, both above and below scheduled frequency.

BAAL addresses all of the above issues in its time domain without requiring response to or measurement of events that fail to raise reliability concerns. For these reasons, the proposed applicability of BAL-002 is a reasonable and technically-justified approach that addresses the seam with EOP-002.

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Project 2010-14.1 Mapping Document
Transition of BAL-002-0 to BAL-002-2

Standard: BAL-002-0 – Disturbance Control Standard		
Requirement in Approved Standard	**Transitions to the below Requirement in New Standard or Other Action**	**Description and Change Justification**
BAL-002-0 R1	This Requirement has been moved into BAL-002-2 Applicability and "Additional Compliance Information" sections	This requirement does not provide for a reliability outcome and if violated would not cause separation, instability or cascading outages.
BAL-002-0 R2	This requirement has been removed from BAL-002-2	This requirement falls under the Paragraph 81 rules. This requirement defines a commercial agreement between the BA involved in the RSG. This requirement does not provide for a reliability outcome and if violated would not cause separation, instability or cascading outages.
BAL-002-0 R3	Requirement R1 and R2	This requirement was broken apart. The requirement was defining two separate actions; 1) to require activation of Contingency Reserves, and 2) to require having Contingency Reserves equal to its MSSC.
BAL-002-0 R4	This Requirement has been moved into BAL-002-2 Requirement R1 and into the "Contingency Event Recovery Period" and "Contingency Reserve Restoration Period" definitions.	A portion of this requirement was defining the timing for recovery from an event. This has now been defined and has been proposed to be added to the NERC Glossary of Terms.

Standard: BAL-002-0 – Disturbance Control Standard		
Requirement in Approved Standard	**Transitions to the below Requirement in New Standard or Other Action**	**Description and Change Justification**
BAL-002-0 R5	This Requirement has been moved into BAL-002-2 Requirement R1 and "Reserve Sharing Group Reporting ACE" definition.	A portion of this requirement was defining how a RSG calculates its ACE. This has now been defined and has been proposed to be added to the NERC Glossary of Terms.
BAL-002-0 R6	This Requirement has been moved into the BAL-002-2 Requirement R1 and "Contingency Event Restoration Period" definition.	A portion of this requirement was defining the timing for recovery from an event. This has now been defined and has been proposed to be added to the NERC Glossary of Terms.

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Implementation Plan

Project 2010-14.1 Balancing Authority Reliability-based Controls - Reserves

Implementation Plan for BAL-002-2 – Disturbance Control Performance - Contingency Reserve for Recovery from a Balancing Contingency Event

Approvals Required

BAL-002-2 – Disturbance Control Performance - Contingency Reserve for Recovery from a Balancing Contingency Event

Prerequisite Approvals

None

Revisions to Glossary Terms

The following definitions shall become effective when BAL-002-2 becomes effective:

Balancing Contingency Event: Any single event described in Subsections (A), (B), or (C) below, or any series of such otherwise single events, with each separated from the next by less than one minute.

A. Sudden loss of generation:
    a. Due to
        i. Unit tripping,
        ii. Loss of generator Facility resulting in isolation of the generator from the Bulk Electric System or from the responsible entity's electric system, or
        iii. Sudden unplanned outage of transmission Facility;
    b. And, that causes an unexpected change to the responsible entity's ACE;
B. Sudden loss of an Import, due to forced outage of transmission equipment that causes an unexpected imbalance between generation and load on the Interconnection.
C. Sudden restoration of a load that was used as a resource that causes an unexpected change to the responsible entity's ACE.

Most Severe Single Contingency (MSSC): The Balancing Contingency Event, due to a single contingency, that would result in the greatest loss (measured in MW) of resource output used by

the Reserve Sharing Group (RSG) or a Balancing Authority that is not participating as a member of a RSG at the time of the event to meet firm system load and export obligation (excluding export obligation for which Contingency Reserve obligations are being met by the Sink Balancing Authority).

Reportable Balancing Contingency Event: Any Balancing Contingency Event resulting in a loss of MW output less than or equal to the Most Severe Single Contingency, and greater than or equal to the lesser amount of: (i) 80% of the Most Severe Single Contingency, or (ii) the amount listed below for the applicable Interconnection, and occurring within a one-minute interval of the initial sudden decline in ACE based on EMS scan rate data. Prior to any given calendar quarter, the 80% threshold may be reduced by the responsible entity upon written notification to the Regional Entity.

- Eastern Interconnection – 900 MW
- Western Interconnection – 500 MW
- ERCOT – 800 MW
- Quebec – 500 MW

Contingency Event Recovery Period: A period beginning at the time that the resource output begins to decline within the first one-minute interval that defines a Balancing Contingency Event, and extends for fifteen minutes thereafter.

Contingency Reserve Restoration Period: A period not exceeding 90 minutes following the end of the Contingency Event Recovery Period.

Pre-Reporting Contingency Event ACE Value: The average value of Reporting ACE, or Reserve Sharing Group Reporting ACE when applicable, in the 16-second interval immediately prior to the start of the Contingency Event Recovery Period based on EMS scan rate data.

Reserve Sharing Group Reporting ACE: At any given time of measurement for the applicable Reserve Sharing Group, the algebraic sum of the ACEs (or equivalent as calculated at such time of measurement) of the Balancing Authorities participating in the Reserve Sharing Group at the time of measurement.

Contingency Reserve: The provision of capacity that may be deployed by the Balancing Authority to respond to a Balancing Contingency Event and other contingency requirements (such as Energy Emergency Alerts as specified in the associated EOP standard). The capacity may be provided by resources such as Demand-Side Management (DSM), Interruptible Load and unloaded generation.

Applicable Entities

Balancing Authority

Reserve Sharing Group

Applicable Facilities

N/A

Conforming Changes to Other Standards

None

Effective Dates

BAL-002-2 shall become effective as follows:

> The first day of the first calendar quarter that is six months after the date that this standard is approved by applicable regulatory authorities or as otherwise provided for in a jurisdiction where approval by an applicable governmental authority is required for a standard to go into effect. Where approval by an applicable governmental authority is not required, the standard shall become effective on the first day of the first calendar quarter that is six months after the date the standard is adopted by the NERC Board of Trustees', or as otherwise provided for in that jurisdiction.

Justification

The six-month period for implementation of BAL-002-2 will provide ample time for Balancing Authorities to make necessary modifications to existing software programs to ensure compliance.

Retirements

BAL-002-0, Disturbance Control Performance, and BAL-002-1, Disturbance Control Performance should be retired at midnight of the day immediately prior to the Effective Date of BAL-002-2 in the particular jurisdiction in which the new standard is becoming effective.

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Implementation Plan

Project 2010-14.1 Balancing Authority Reliability-based Controls - Reserves

Implementation Plan for BAL-002-2 – Disturbance Control Performance - Contingency Reserve for Recovery from a Balancing Contingency Event

Approvals Required

BAL-002-2 – Disturbance Control Performance - Contingency Reserve for Recovery from a Balancing Contingency Event

Prerequisite Approvals

None

Revisions to Glossary Terms

The following definitions shall become effective when BAL-002-2 becomes effective:

Balancing Contingency Event: Any single event described in Subsections (A), (B), or (C) below, or any series of such otherwise single events, with each separated from the next by less than one minute.

A. Sudden loss of generation:
   a. Due to
      i. Unit tripping,
      ii. Loss of generator ~~Interconnection~~ Facility resulting in isolation of the generator from the Bulk Electric System or from the responsible entity's electric system, or
      iii. Sudden unplanned outage of transmission Facility;
   b. And, that causes an unexpected change to the responsible entity's ACE;

B. Sudden loss of an Import, due to forced outage of transmission equipment that causes an unexpected imbalance between generation and load on the Interconnection.

C. Sudden restoration of a load that was used as a resource that causes an unexpected change to the responsible entity's ACE.

Most Severe Single Contingency (MSSC): The Balancing Contingency Event, due to a single contingency, that would result in the greatest loss (measured in MW) of resource output used by the Reserve Sharing Group (RSG) or a Balancing Authority that is not participating as a member of a RSG at the time of the event to meet firm system load and export obligation (excluding export obligation for which Contingency Reserve obligations are being met by the ~~s~~Sink Balancing Authority).

Reportable Balancing Contingency Event: Any Balancing Contingency Event resulting in a loss of MW output less than or equal to the Most Severe Single Contingency, and greater than or equal to the lesser amount of: (i) 80% of the Most Severe Single Contingency, or (ii) the amount listed below for the applicable Interconnection, and occurring within a one-minute interval of the initial sudden decline in ACE based on EMS scan rate data. Prior to any given calendar quarter, the 80% threshold may be reduced by the responsible entity upon written notification to the Regional Entity.

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Standard Development Timeline

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Description of Current Draft

(Describe the type of action associated with this posting, such as 30-day informal comment period, 45-day formal comment period with parallel ballot, 45-day formal comment period with parallel additional ballot, final ballot.)

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Anticipated Actions	Date
45-day formal comment period with parallel additional ballot	February/March 2015
Final ballot	April 2015
NERC Board adoption	May 2015

New or Modified Terms Used in NERC Reliability Standards

This section includes all new or modified terms used in the proposed standard that will be included in the *Glossary of Terms Used in NERC Reliability Standards* upon applicable regulatory approval. Terms used in the proposed standard that are already defined and are not being modified can be found in the *Glossary of Terms Used in NERC Reliability Standards*. The new or revised terms listed below will be presented for approval with the proposed standard.

Term:

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    a. Due to
        i. Unit tripping,
        ii. Loss of generator Facility resulting in isolation of the generator from the Bulk Electric System or from the responsible entity's electric system, or
        iii. Sudden unplanned outage of transmission Facility;
    b. And, that causes an unexpected change to the responsible entity's ACE;
B. Sudden loss of an import, due to forced outage of transmission equipment that causes an unexpected imbalance between generation and load on the Interconnection.
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When this standard has received ballot approval, the text boxes will be moved to the Supplemental Material Section of the standard.

A. Introduction

1. **Title:** Disturbance Control Standard – Contingency Reserve for Recovery from a Balancing Contingency Event

2. **Number:** BAL-002-2

3. **Purpose:** To ensure the Balancing Authority or Reserve Sharing Group balances resources and demand and returns the Balancing Authority's or Reserve Sharing Group's Area Control Error to defined values (subject to applicable limits) following a Reportable Balancing Contingency Event.

4. **Applicability:**

   4.1. Responsible Entity

   4.1.1. Balancing Authority

   4.1.1.1. A Balancing Authority that is a member of a Reserve Sharing Group is the Responsible Entity only in periods during which the Balancing Authority is not in active status under the applicable agreement or governing rules for the Reserve Sharing Group.

   4.1.2. Reserve Sharing Group

5. **Effective Date:** The standard shall become effective on the first day of the first calendar quarter that is six months after the date that the standard is approved by an applicable governmental authority or as otherwise provided for in a jurisdiction where approval by an applicable governmental authority is required for a standard to go into effect. Where approval by an applicable governmental authority is not required, the standard shall become effective on the first day of the first calendar quarter that is six months after the date the standard is adopted by the NERC Board of Trustees or as otherwise provided for in that jurisdiction.

6. **Background:**

   Reliably balancing an Interconnection requires frequency management and all of its aspects. Inputs to frequency management include Tie-Line Bias Control, Area Control Error (ACE), and the various Requirements in NERC Resource and Demand Balancing Standards, specifically BAL-001-2 Real Power Balancing Control Performance and BAL-003-1 Frequency Response and Frequency Bias Setting.

B. Requirements and Measures

Rationale for Requirement R1: Requirement R1 reflects the operating principles first established by NERC Policy 1. Its objective is to assure the Responsible Entity balances resources and demand and returns its Reportable Area Control Error (ACE) to defined values (subject to applicable limits) following a Reportable Balancing Contingency Event. It requires the Responsible Entity to recover from events that would be less than or equal to the Responsible Entity's MSSC. It establishes the amount of Contingency Reserve and recovery and restoration timeframes the Responsible Entity must demonstrate in a compliance evaluation. It is intended to eliminate the ambiguities and questions associated with the existing standard. In addition, it allows Responsible Entities to have a clear way to demonstrate compliance and support the Interconnection to the full extent of its MSSC.

Requirement R1 does not apply when an entity experiences a Balancing Contingency Event that exceeds its MSSC (which includes multiple Balancing Contingency Events as described in R1.3 below) because a fundamental goal of the SDT is to assure the Responsible Entity has enough flexibility to maintain service to load while managing reliability. Also, the SDT's intent is to eliminate any potential overlap or conflict with any other NERC Reliability Standard to eliminate duplicative reporting, and other issues.

R1. The Responsible Entity experiencing a Reportable Balancing Contingency Event shall, within the Contingency Event Recovery Period, demonstrate recovery by returning its Reporting ACE to at least the recovery value of: *[Violation Risk Factor: Medium] [Time Horizon: Real-time Operations]*

- Zero, (if its Pre-Reporting Contingency Event ACE Value was positive or equal to zero); however, during the Contingency Event Recovery Period, any Balancing Contingency Event that occurs shall reduce the required recovery: (i) beginning at the time of, and (ii) by the magnitude of, each individual Balancing Contingency Event,

or,

- Its Pre-Reporting Contingency Event ACE Value, (if its Pre-Reporting Contingency Event ACE Value was negative); however, during the Contingency Event Recovery Period, any Balancing Contingency Event that occurs shall reduce the required recovery: (i) beginning at the time of, and (ii) by the magnitude of, each individual Balancing Contingency Event.

1.1. All Reportable Balancing Contingency Events will be documented using CR Form 1.

1.2. A Responsible Entity is not subject to compliance with Requirement R1 when it is experiencing a Reliability Coordinator approved Energy Emergency Alert Level under which Contingency Reserves have been activated.

1.3. Requirement R1 (in its entirety) does not apply:

- (i) when the Responsible Entity experiences a Balancing Contingency Event that exceeds its Most Severe Single Contingency, or
- (ii) after multiple Balancing Contingency Events for which the combined magnitude exceeds the Responsible Entity's Most Severe Single Contingency for those events that occur within a 105-minute period.

M1. Each Responsible Entity shall have, and provide upon request, as evidence, a CR Form 1 with date and time of occurrence to show compliance with Requirement R1, or dated documentation that demonstrates compliance with Requirement 1.2 and 1.3.

Rationale for Requirement R2: R2 establishes a uniform continent-wide contingency reserve requirement. R2 establishes a requirement that contingency reserve be at least equal to the applicable entity's Most Severe Single Contingency. By including a definition of Most Severe Single Contingency and R2, a consistent uniform continent-wide contingency reserve requirement has been established. Its goal is to assure that the Responsible Entity will have sufficient contingency reserve that can be deployed to meet R1.

FERC Order 693 (at P356) directed BAL-002 to be developed as a continent-wide contingency reserve policy. R2 fulfills the requirement associated with the required amount of contingency reserve a Responsible Entity must have available to respond to a Reportable Balancing Contingency Event. Within FERC Order 693 (at P336) the Commission noted that the appropriate mix of operating reserve, spinning reserve and non-spinning reserve should be addressed. However, the Order predated the approval of the new BAL-003, which addresses frequency responsive reserve and the amount of frequency response obligation. With the development of BAL-003, and the associated reliability performance requirement, the SDT believes that, with R2 of BAL-002 and the approval of BAL-003, the Commission's goals of a continent-wide contingency reserves policy is met. The suites of BAL standards (BAL-001, BAL-002, and BAL-003) are all performance-based. With the suite of standards and the specific requirements within each respective standard, a continent-wide contingency policy is established.

In the Violation Severity Levels for Requirement R1, the impact of the Responsible Entity recovering from a Reportable Balancing Contingency Event depends on the amount of its Contingency Reserve available and whether it has sufficient response. Additionally, the drafting team understands that the Responsible Entity's available Contingency Reserve may vary slightly from MSSC at any time. This variability is recognized in Requirement R2 through averaging the available Contingency Reserve over each Clock Hour.

The ideal goal of maintaining an amount of Contingency Reserve to cover the Most Severe Single Contingency at all times is not necessarily in the best interest of reliability. It may have the unintended result of tying operators' hands by removing use of their

available contingency reserve from their toolbox in order to maintain service to load or manage other reliability issues. By allowing for the occasional use of this minimal amount of Contingency Reserve at the operators' discretion for other contingencies, reliability is enhanced. The SDT crafted the proposed standard to encourage the operators to use, at their discretion and within the limits set forth in the standard, their available contingency reserve to best serve reliability in Real-time. The last thing that anyone desires is to have Contingency Reserve held available and the lights go off because the standard would penalize the operator for using the Contingency Reserve to maintain service to the load. However, the drafting team did not believe that the use of reserves for issues other than a Reportable Balancing Contingency Event should be unbounded. The SDT limited the use of Contingency Reserve.

R2. The Responsible Entity shall maintain Contingency Reserve, averaged over each Clock Hour, greater than or equal to its average Clock Hour Most Severe Single Contingency, except during one or more of the following periods when the Responsible Entity is: *[Violation Risk Factor: Medium] [Time Horizon: Real-time Operations]*

2.1 using its Contingency Reserve, for a period not to exceed 90 minutes, to mitigate the reliability concerns associated with Contingencies that are not Balancing Contingency Events; and/or

2.2 using its Contingency Reserve, for a period not to exceed 90 minutes, to respond to an Operating Instruction requiring the use of Contingency Reserve; and/or

2.3 using its Contingency Reserve for a period not to exceed 90 minutes, to resolve the exceedance of a System Operating Limit (SOL) or Interconnection Reliability Operation Limit (IROL) that requires the use of Contingency Reserve; and/or

2.4 in a Contingency Reserve Restoration Period; and/or

2.5 in a Contingency Event Recovery Period; and/or

2.6 in an Energy Emergency Alert Level under which the Responsible Entity no longer has required Contingency Reserve available provided that the Responsible Entity has made preparations for interruption of Firm Load to replace the shortfall of Contingency Reserve to avoid the uncontrolled failure of components or cascading outages of the Interconnection. For this exemption to apply, the preparations must be initiated within 5 minutes from the time that the Energy Emergency Alert Level is declared.

M2. Each Responsible Entity shall have dated documentation that demonstrates compliance with Requirement R2. Evidence of compliance may include, but is not limited to, documenting Contingencies and Energy Emergency Alert Levels through outage records, operator logs, and others.

Compliance may be achieved by demonstrating that:

- Contingency Reserve, averaged over each Clock Hour, meets or exceeds the required Contingency Reserve; or,
- Contingency Reserve has been restored to the required Contingency Reserve levels within the specified period: or,
- the sum of the Contingency Reserve and Firm Load available as a substitute for unavailable Contingency Reserve reaches the required Contingency Reserve level within the specified period;

  Any shortfall from compliance will be measured as compliance of 100% minus the shortfall's percentage share of MSSC.

If the recording of Contingency Reserve or MSSC is interrupted such that more than 50 percent of the samples within the clock hour are invalid data, then that clock hour is excluded from evaluation. If any portion of the Clock Hour is excluded by rule in Requirement R2, then compliance with that portion of the hour not excluded may be shown by either determination of the integrated value for that portion of the hour not excluded by the rule or an instantaneous value showing reserves any time during the excluded period.

C. Compliance

1. Compliance Monitoring Process

1.1. Compliance Enforcement Authority

As defined in the NERC Rules of Procedure, "Compliance Enforcement Authority" means NERC or the Regional Entity in their respective roles of monitoring and enforcing compliance with the NERC Reliability Standards.

1.2. Evidence Retention

The following evidence retention period(s) identify the period of time an entity is required to retain specific evidence to demonstrate compliance. For instances where the evidence retention period specified below is shorter than the time since the last audit, the Compliance Enforcement Authority may ask an entity to provide other evidence to show that it was compliant for the full-time period since the last audit.

The Responsible Entity shall retain data or evidence to show compliance for the current year, plus three previous calendar years, unless directed by its Compliance Enforcement Authority to retain specific evidence for a longer period of time as part of an investigation.

If a Responsible Entity is found noncompliant, it shall keep information related to the noncompliance until found compliant, or for the time period specified above, whichever is longer.

The Compliance Enforcement Authority shall keep the last audit records and all subsequent requested and submitted records.

1.3. Compliance Monitoring and Assessment Processes:

As defined in the NERC Rules of Procedure, "Compliance Monitoring and Assessment Processes" refers to the identification of the processes that will be used to evaluate data or information for the purpose of assessing performance or outcomes with the associated Reliability Standard.

1.4. Additional Compliance Information

The Responsible Entity may use Contingency Reserve for any Balancing Contingency Event and as required for any other applicable standards.

Table of Compliance Elements

R #	Time Horizon	VRF	Violation Severity Levels			
			Lower VSL	Moderate VSL	High VSL	Severe VSL
R1.	**Real-time Operations**	**Medium**	The Responsible Entity recovered less than 100% but more than 90% of required recovery from a Reportable Balancing Contingency Event during the Contingency Event Recovery Period OR The Responsible Entity failed to use CR Form 1 to document a Reportable Balancing Contingency Event.	The Responsible Entity recovered 90% or less but more than 80% of required recovery from a Reportable Balancing Contingency Event during the Contingency Event Recovery Period.	The Responsible Entity recovered 80% or less but more than 70% of required recovery from a Reportable Balancing Contingency Event during the Contingency Event Recovery Period.	The Responsible Entity recovered 70% or less of required recovery during the Contingency Event Recovery Period.
R2.	**Real-time Operations**	**Medium**	The Responsible Entity had Contingency Reserve but the Clock Hour average amount of Contingency Reserve was less than 100% of MSSC but was greater than or equal	The Responsible Entity had Contingency Reserve but the Clock Hour average amount of Contingency Reserve was less than 90% of MSSC but was greater than or equal	The Responsible Entity had Contingency Reserve but the Clock Hour average amount of Contingency Reserve was less than 80% of MSSC but was greater than or equal	The Responsible Entity did not have Contingency Reserve that was equal to or greater than 70% of MSSC averaged over the Clock Hour.

			to 90% of MSSC as averaged over the Clock Hour.	to 80% of MSSC as averaged over the Clock Hour.	to 70% of MSSC as averaged over the Clock Hour.	

D. Regional Variances

None.

E. Interpretations

None.

F. Associated Documents

BAL-002-2 Contingency Reserve for Recovery from a Balancing Contingency Event Background Document

CR Form 1

Version History

Version	Date	Action	Change Tracking
0	April 1, 2005	Effective Date	New
0	August 8, 2005	Removed “Proposed” from Effective Date	Errata
0	February 14, 2006	Revised graph on page 3, “10 min.” to “Recovery time.” Removed fourth bullet.	Errata
2		NERC BOT Adoption	Complete revision

R2.

R3.

R4.

R5.

R6.

R7.

R8.

Standards Attachments

NOTE: Use this section for attachments or other documents that are referenced in the standard as part of the requirements. These should appear after the end of the standard template and before the Supplemental Material. If there are none, delete this section.

R9.

R10.

[Application Guidelines, Guidelines and Technical Basis, Training Material, Reference Material and/or other Supplemental Material]

R11.

Rationale

R12. Upon Board approval, the text from the rationale boxes will be moved to this section.

R13.

Standard Development Timeline

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        i. Unit tripping,
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Pre-Reporting Contingency Event ACE Value: The average value of Reporting ACE, or Reserve Sharing Group Reporting ACE when applicable, in the 16--second interval immediately prior to the start of the Contingency Event Recovery Period based on EMS scan rate data.

Reserve Sharing Group Reporting ACE: At any given time of measurement for the applicable Reserve Sharing Group, the algebraic sum of the ACEs (or equivalent as calculated at such time of measurement) of the Balancing Authorities participating in the Reserve Sharing Group at the time of measurement.

Contingency Reserve: The provision of capacity that may be deployed by the Balancing Authority to respond to a Balancing Contingency Event and other contingency requirements (such as Energy Emergency Alerts as specified in the associated EOP standard). The capacity may be provided by resources such as Demand--Side Management (DSM), Interruptible Load and unloaded generation.

When this standard has received ballot approval, the text boxes will be moved to the Supplemental Material Section of the standard.

A. Introduction

1. **Title:** Disturbance Control Standard – Contingency Reserve for Recovery from a Balancing Contingency Event

2. **Number:** BAL-002-2

3. **Purpose:** To ensure the Balancing Authority or Reserve Sharing Group balances resources and demand and returns the Balancing Authority's or Reserve Sharing Group's Area Control Error to defined values (subject to applicable limits) following a Reportable Balancing Contingency Event.

4. **Applicability:**

   4.1. Responsible Entity

   4.1.1. Balancing Authority

   4.1.1.1. A Balancing Authority that is a member of a Reserve Sharing Group is the Responsible Entity only in periods during which the Balancing Authority is not in active status under the applicable agreement or governing rules for the Reserve Sharing Group.

   4.1.2. Reserve Sharing Group

5. **Effective Date:** The standard shall become effective on the first day of the first calendar quarter that is six months after the date that the standard is approved by an applicable governmental authority or as otherwise provided for in a jurisdiction where approval by an applicable governmental authority is required for a standard to go into effect. Where approval by an applicable governmental authority is not required, the standard shall become effective on the first day of the first calendar quarter that is six months after the date the standard is adopted by the NERC Board of Trustees or as otherwise provided for in that jurisdiction.

6. **Background:**

Reliably balancing an Interconnection requires frequency management and all of its aspects. Inputs to frequency management include Tie-Line Bias Control, Area Control Error (ACE), and the various Requirements in NERC Resource and Demand Balancing Standards, specifically BAL-001-2 Real Power Balancing Control Performance and BAL-003-1 Frequency Response and Frequency Bias Setting.

B. Requirements and Measures

Rationale for Requirement R1: Requirement R1 reflects the operating principles first established by NERC Policy 1. Its objective is to assure the Responsible Entity balances resources and demand and returns its Reportable Area Control Error (ACE) to defined values (subject to applicable limits) following a Reportable Balancing Contingency Event. It requires the Responsible Entity to recover from events that would be less than or equal to the Responsible Entity's MSSC. It establishes the amount of Contingency Reserve and recovery and restoration timeframes the Responsible Entity must demonstrate in a compliance evaluation. It is intended to eliminate the ambiguities and questions associated with the existing standard. In addition, it allows Responsible Entities to have a clear way to demonstrate compliance and support the Interconnection to the full extent of its MSSC.

Requirement R1 does not apply when an entity experiences a Balancing Contingency Event that exceeds its MSSC (which includes multiple Balancing Contingency Events as described in R1.3 below) because a fundamental goal of the SDT is to assure the Responsible Entity has enough flexibility to maintain service to load while managing reliability. Also, the SDT's intent is to eliminate any potential overlap or conflict with any other NERC Reliability Standard to eliminate duplicative reporting, and other issues.

R1. The Responsible Entity experiencing a Reportable Balancing Contingency Event shall, within the Contingency Event Recovery Period, demonstrate recovery by returning its Reporting ACE to at least the recovery value of: *[Violation Risk Factor: Medium] [Time Horizon: Real-time Operations]*

- Zero, (if its Pre-Reporting Contingency Event ACE Value was positive or equal to zero); however, during the Contingency Event Recovery Period, any Balancing Contingency Event that occurs shall reduce the required recovery: (i) beginning at the time of, and (ii) by the magnitude of, each individual Balancing Contingency Event,

or,

- Its Pre-Reporting Contingency Event ACE Value, (if its Pre-Reporting Contingency Event ACE Value was negative); however, during the Contingency Event Recovery Period, any Balancing Contingency Event that occurs shall reduce the required recovery: (i) beginning at the time of, and (ii) by the magnitude of, each individual Balancing Contingency Event.

1.1. All Reportable Balancing Contingency Events will be documented using CR Form 1.

1.2. A Responsible Entity is not subject to compliance with Requirement R1 when it is experiencing a~~n~~ Reliability Coordinator approved Energy Emergency Alert Level under which Contingency Reserves have been activated.

1.3. Requirement R1 (in its entirety) does not apply:

- (i) when the Responsible Entity experiences a Balancing Contingency Event that exceeds its Most Severe Single Contingency, or
- (ii) after multiple Balancing Contingency Events for which the combined magnitude exceeds the Responsible Entity's Most Severe Single Contingency for those events that occur within a 105-minute period.

M1. Each Responsible Entity shall have, and provide upon request, as evidence, a CR Form 1 with date and time of occurrence to show compliance with Requirement R1, or dated documentation that demonstrates compliance with Requirement 1.2 and 1.3.

Rationale for Requirement R2: R2 establishes a uniform continent-wide contingency reserve requirement. R2 establishes a requirement that contingency reserve be at least equal to the applicable entity's Most Severe Single Contingency. By including a definition of Most Severe Single Contingency and R2, a consistent uniform continent-wide contingency reserve requirement has been established. Its goal is to assure that the Responsible Entity will have sufficient contingency reserve that can be deployed to meet R1.

FERC Order 693 (at P356) directed BAL-002 to be developed as a continent-wide contingency reserve policy. R2 fulfills the requirement associated with the required amount of contingency reserve a Responsible Entity must have available to respond to a Reportable Balancing Contingency Event. Within FERC Order 693 (at P336) the Commission noted that the appropriate mix of operating reserve, spinning reserve and non-spinning reserve should be addressed. However, the Order predated the approval of the new BAL-003, which addresses frequency responsive reserve and the amount of frequency response obligation. With the development of BAL-003, and the associated reliability performance requirement, the SDT believes that, with R2 of BAL-002 and the approval of BAL-003, the Commission's goals of a continent-wide contingency reserves policy is met. The suites of BAL standards (BAL-001, BAL-002, and BAL-003) are all performance-based. With the suite of standards and the specific requirements within each respective standard, a continent-wide contingency policy is established.

In the Violation Severity Levels for Requirement R1, the impact of the Responsible Entity recovering from a Reportable Balancing Contingency Event depends on the amount of its Contingency Reserve available and whether it has sufficient response. Additionally, the drafting team understands that the Responsible Entity's available Contingency Reserve may vary slightly from MSSC at any time. This variability is recognized in Requirement R2 through averaging the available Contingency Reserve over each Clock Hour.

The ideal goal of maintaining an amount of Contingency Reserve to cover the Most Severe Single Contingency at all times is not necessarily in the best interest of reliability. It may have the unintended result of tying operators' hands by removing use of their

available contingency reserve from their toolbox in order to maintain service to load or manage other reliability issues. By allowing for the occasional use of this minimal amount of Contingency Reserve at the operators' discretion for other contingencies, reliability is enhanced. The SDT crafted the proposed standard to encourage the operators to use, at their discretion and within the limits set forth in the standard, their available contingency reserve to best serve reliability in Real-time. The last thing that anyone desires is to have Contingency Reserve held available and the lights go off because the standard would penalize the operator for using the Contingency Reserve to maintain service to the load. However, the drafting team did not believe that the use of reserves for issues other than a Reportable Balancing Contingency Event should be unbounded. The SDT limited the use of Contingency Reserve.

R2. The Responsible Entity shall maintain Contingency Reserve, averaged over each Clock Hour, greater than or equal to its average Clock Hour Most Severe Single Contingency, except during one or more of the following periods when the Responsible Entity is ~~in~~: *[Violation Risk Factor: Medium] [Time Horizon: Real-time Operations]*

2.1 using its Contingency Reserve, for a period not to exceed 90 minutes, to mitigate the reliability concerns associated with Contingencies that are not Balancing Contingency Events; and/or

2.2 using its Contingency Reserve, for a period not to exceed 90 minutes, to respond to an Operating Instruction requiring the use of Contingency Reserve; and/or

2.3 using its Contingency Reserve for a period not to exceed 90 minutes, to resolve the exceedance of a System Operating Limit (SOL) or Interconnection Reliability Operation Limit (IROL) that requires the use of Contingency Reserve; and/or

2.4 in a Contingency Reserve Restoration Period; and/or

2.5 in a Contingency Event Recovery Period; and/or

2.6 in an Energy Emergency Alert Level under which the Responsible Entity no longer has required Contingency Reserve available provided that the Responsible Entity has made preparations for interruption of Firm Load to replace the shortfall of Contingency Reserve to avoid the uncontrolled failure of components or cascading outages of the Interconnection. For this exemption to apply, the preparations must be initiated within 5 minutes from the time that the Energy Emergency Alert Level is declared.

M2. Each Responsible Entity shall have dated documentation that demonstrates compliance with Requirement R2.~~, e~~ Evidence of compliance may include, but is not limited to, documenting Contingencies and Energy Emergency Alert Levels through outage records~~, an Energy Emergency Alert Level under which Contingency Reserves have been activated with communication from their RC~~, operator logs, and others.

Compliance may be achieved by demonstrating that:

- Contingency Reserve, averaged over each Clock Hour, meets or exceeds the required Contingency Reserve; or,
- Contingency Reserve has been restored to the required Contingency Reserve levels within the specified period: or,
- the sum of the Contingency Reserve and Firm Load available as a substitute for unavailable Contingency Reserve reaches the required Contingency Reserve level within the specified period;

  Any shortfall from compliance will be measured as compliance of 100% minus the shortfall's percentage share of MSSC.

If the recording of Contingency Reserve or MSSC is interrupted such that more than 50 percent of the samples within the clock hour are invalid data, then that clock hour is excluded from evaluation. If any portion of the Clock Hour is excluded by rule in Requirement R2, then compliance with that portion of the hour not excluded may be shown by either determination of the integrated value for that portion of the hour not excluded by the rule or an instantaneous value showing reserves any time during the excluded period.

C. Compliance

1. Compliance Monitoring Process

1.1. Compliance Enforcement Authority

As defined in the NERC Rules of Procedure, "Compliance Enforcement Authority" means NERC or the Regional Entity in their respective roles of monitoring and enforcing compliance with the NERC Reliability Standards.

1.2. Evidence Retention

The following evidence retention period(s) identify the period of time an entity is required to retain specific evidence to demonstrate compliance. For instances where the evidence retention period specified below is shorter than the time since the last audit, the Compliance Enforcement Authority may ask an entity to provide other evidence to show that it was compliant for the full-time period since the last audit.

The Responsible Entity shall retain data or evidence to show compliance for the current year, plus three previous calendar years, unless directed by its

Compliance Enforcement Authority to retain specific evidence for a longer period of time as part of an investigation.

If a Responsible Entity is found noncompliant, it shall keep information related to the noncompliance until found compliant, or for the time period specified above, whichever is longer.

The Compliance Enforcement Authority shall keep the last audit records and all subsequent requested and submitted records.

1.3. Compliance Monitoring and Assessment Processes:

As defined in the NERC Rules of Procedure, "Compliance Monitoring and Assessment Processes" refers to the identification of the processes that will be used to evaluate data or information for the purpose of assessing performance or outcomes with the associated Reliability Standard.

~~**1.4. Compliance Audits**~~

~~Self-Certifications~~

~~Spot Checking~~

~~Compliance Investigations~~

~~Self-Reporting~~

~~Complaints~~

~~1.5.~~1.4. Additional Compliance Information

The Responsible Entity may use Contingency Reserve for any Balancing Contingency Event and as required for any other applicable standards.

~~A Responsible Entity is not subject to compliance with this standard in any period during which the Responsible Entity is in an Energy Emergency Alert Level under which Contingency Reserves have been activated.~~

Table of Compliance Elements

R #	Time Horizon	VRF	Violation Severity Levels			
			Lower VSL	Moderate VSL	High VSL	Severe VSL
R1.	**Real-time Operations**	**Medium**	The Responsible Entity recovered ~~partially from a Reportable Balancing Contingency Event during the Contingency Event Recovery Period but recovered~~ less than 100% but more than 90% of required recovery from a Reportable Balancing Contingency Event during the Contingency Event Recovery Period OR The Responsible Entity failed to use CR Form 1 to document a Reportable Balancing Contingency Event.	The Responsible Entity recovered ~~partially from a Reportable Balancing Contingency Event during the Contingency Event Recovery Period but recovered~~ 90% or less but more than 80% of required recovery from a Reportable Balancing Contingency Event during the Contingency Event Recovery Period.	The Responsible Entity recovered ~~partially from a Reportable Balancing Contingency Event during the Contingency Event Recovery Period but recovered~~ 80% or less but more than 70% of required recovery from a Reportable Balancing Contingency Event during the Contingency Event Recovery Period.	The Responsible Entity recovered 70% or less of required recovery during the Contingency Event Recovery Period.
R2.	**Real-time Operations**	**Medium**	The Responsible Entity had Contingency	The Responsible Entity had Contingency	The Responsible Entity had Contingency	The Responsible Entity did not have

			Reserve but the Clock Hour average amount of Contingency Reserve was less than 100% of MSSC but was greater than or equal to 90% of MSSC as averaged over the Clock Hour.	Reserve but the Clock Hour average amount of Contingency Reserve was less than 90% of MSSC but was greater than or equal to 80% of MSSC as averaged over the Clock Hour.	Reserve but the Clock Hour average amount of Contingency Reserve was less than 80% of MSSC but was greater than or equal to 70% of MSSC as averaged over the Clock Hour.	Contingency Reserve that was equal to or greater than 70% of MSSC averaged over the Clock Hour.

D. Regional Variances

None.

E. Interpretations

None.

F. Associated Documents

BAL-002-2 Contingency Reserve for Recovery from a Balancing Contingency Event Background Document

CR Form 1

Version History

Version	Date	Action	Change Tracking
0	April 1, 2005	Effective Date	New
0	August 8, 2005	Removed “Proposed” from Effective Date	Errata

0	February 14, 2006	Revised graph on page 3, “10 min.” to “Recovery time.” Removed fourth bullet.	Errata
2		NERC BOT Adoption	Complete revision

R2.

R3.

R4.

R5.

R6.

R7.

R8.

Standards Attachments

NOTE: Use this section for attachments or other documents that are referenced in the standard as part of the requirements. These should appear after the end of the standard template and before the Supplemental Material. If there are none, delete this section.

R9.

R10.

[Application Guidelines, Guidelines and Technical Basis, Training Material, Reference Material and/or other Supplemental Material]

R11.

Rationale

R12. Upon Board approval, the text from the rationale boxes will be moved to this section.

R13.

Line	Project	Link to Ballot Results https://standards.nerc.net/Ballot.aspx (clicking in the column to the right of "Ballot Periods" column links to the Ballot Results)	Ballot Type	Start Date	End Date (Sorted Oldest to Newest)	Ballot Results	Recommendation / Date	How NPCC Voted	Comments
1	Project 2007-24	Request for Interpretation - TPL-002 and TPL-003 - Ameren_in	Initial Ballot	4/25/2008	5/7/2008	Quorum: 82.61% Approval: 80.73%			
2	Project 2007-26	Request for Interpretation - TPL-002 and TPL-003 - MISO_in	Initial Ballot	4/25/2008	5/7/2008	Quorum: 83.01% Approval: 79.89%			
3	Project 2008-04	FAC-010_FAC-011_FAC-014_Order_705_in	Initial Ballot	6/2/2008	6/11/2008	Quorum: 88.83% Approval: 95.43%			
4	Project 2008-07	Interpretation Request - EOP-002 - Brookfield_in	Initial Ballot	6/2/2008	6/11/2008	Quorum: 89.67% Approval: 76.47%			
5	Project 2008-04	FAC-010_FAC-011_FAC-014_Order_705_rc	Recirculation Ballot	6/13/2008	6/22/2008	Quorum: 89.36% Approval: 95.21%			
6	Project 2008-09	Request for Interpretation - EOP-001-0 - RECM_in	Initial Ballot	6/19/2008	7/2/2008	Quorum: 84.82% Approval: 85.79%			
7	Project 2007-24	Request for Interpretation - TPL-002 and TPL-003 - Ameren_rc	Recirculation Ballot	6/27/2008	7/7/2008	Quorum: 83.57% Approval: 79.13%			
8	Project 2007-26	Request for Interpretation - TPL-002 and TPL-003 - MISO_rc	Recirculation Ballot	6/27/2008	7/7/2008	Quorum: 83.98% Approval: 78.31%			
9	Pre-2006	IROL Standard - IRO-010_in	Initial Ballot	7/21/2008	7/30/2008	Quorum: 92.71% Approval: 88.40%			
10	Pre-2006	IROL Standard - IRO-009_in	Initial Ballot	7/21/2008	7/30/2008	Quorum: 92.63% Approval: 89.44%			
11	Pre-2006	IROL Standard - IRO-008_in	Initial Ballot	7/21/2008	7/30/2008	Quorum: 92.67% Approval: 91.71%			
12	Project 2006-07	ATC et al Standard - MOD-030_in	Initial Ballot	7/21/2008	7/30/2008	Quorum: 94.37% Approval: 56.56%			
13	Project 2006-07	ATC et al Standard - MOD-029_in	Initial Ballot	7/21/2008	7/30/2008	Quorum: 94.67% Approval: 92.62%			
14	Project 2006-07	ATC et al Standard - MOD-028_in	Initial Ballot	7/21/2008	7/30/2008	Quorum: 94.64% Approval: 79.47%			
15	Project 2006-07	ATC et al Standard - MOD-008_in	Initial Ballot	7/21/2008	7/30/2008	Quorum: 94.27% Approval: 80.44%			
16	Project 2006-07	ATC et al Standard - MOD-001_in	Initial Ballot	7/21/2008	7/30/2008	Quorum: 94.02% Approval: 75.97%			
17	Project 2008-10	Request for Interpretation - CIP-006-1 - Progress Energy_in	Initial Ballot	8/7/2008	8/16/2008	Quorum: 88.18% Approval: 21.52%			
18	Pre-2006	IROL Standard - IRO-008_rc	Recirculation Ballot	8/12/2008	8/21/2008	Quorum: 93.72% Approval: 89.49%			
19	Pre-2006	IROL Standard - IRO-009_rc	Recirculation Ballot	8/12/2008	8/21/2008	Quorum: 93.68% Approval: 86.53%			
20	Pre-2006	IROL Standard - IRO-010_rc	Recirculation Ballot	8/12/2008	8/21/2008	Quorum: 93.75% Approval: 85.95%			
21	Project 2006-07	ATC et al Standards - MOD-001_rc	Recirculation Ballot	8/12/2008	8/21/2008	Quorum: 94.87% Approval: 76.83%			
22	Project 2006-07	ATC et al Standard - MOD-008_rc	Recirculation Ballot	8/12/2008	8/21/2008	Quorum: 95.15% Approval: 81.49%			
23	Project 2006-07	ATC et al Standard - MOD-028_rc	Recirculation Ballot	8/12/2008	8/21/2008	Quorum: 95.54% Approval: 79.34%			
24	Project 2006-07	ATC et al Standard - MOD-029_rc	Recirculation Ballot	8/12/2008	8/21/2008	Quorum: 95.56% Approval: 92.24%			
25	Project 2006-07	ATC et al Standard - MOD-030_rc	Recirculation Ballot	8/12/2008	8/21/2008	Quorum: 95.24% Approval: 74.26%			
26	Project 2008-11	Request for Interpretation - VAR-002-1 - ICF Consulting_in	Initial Ballot	9/9/2008	9/17/2008	Quorum: 85.78% Approval: 90.37%			
27	Project 2006-07	ATC et al Standard - MOD-004_in	Initial Ballot	9/11/2008	9/21/2008	Quorum: 79.26% Approval: 66.29%			
28	Project 2007-14	Permanent Changes to CI Timing Tables_in	Initial Ballot	9/12/2008	9/22/2008	Quorum: 79.74% Approval: 100.00%			
29	Project 2008-07	Request for Interpretation - Brookfield Power - EOP-002_rb	Re-ballot	10/6/2008	10/24/2008	Quorum: 82.61% Approval: 74.67%			
30	Project 2008-13	Request for Interpretation - TOP-002-2 - Orlando Utilities Commission_in	Initial Ballot	10/21/2008	10/30/2008	Quorum: 83.33% Approval: 96.94%			
31	Project 2006-01	Project 2006-01 - PER-005-1_in	Initial Ballot	10/27/2008	11/5/2008	Quorum: 90.13% Approval: 82.47%			
32	Project 2006-09	Project 2006-09 - FAC-008-2 - Facility Ratings_in	Initial Ballot	10/27/2008	11/5/2008	Quorum: 89.13% Approval: 70.01%			
33	Project 2006-07	ATC et al Standard - MOD-004_rc	Recirculation Ballot	10/28/2008	11/6/2008	Quorum: 91.49% Approval: 83.71%			
34	Project 2006-07	Project 2006-07 (ATC) MOD-030-2_in	Initial Ballot	12/1/2008	12/10/2008	Quorum: 83.77% Approval: 86.51%			

Line	Project	Link to Ballot Results https://standards.nerc.net/Ballot.aspx (clicking in the column to the right of "Ballot Periods" column links to the Ballot Results)	Ballot Type	Start Date	End Date (Sorted Oldest to Newest)	Ballot Results	Recommendation / Date	How NPCC Voted	Comments
35	Project 2006-09	Project 2006-09 - FAC-008-2 - Facility Ratings_rc	Recirculation Ballot	12/10/2008	12/19/2008	Quorum: 93.04% Approval: 57.37%			
36	Project 2008-13	Request for Interpretation - TOP-002-2 - Orlando Utilities Commission_rc	Recirculation Ballot	12/10/2008	12/19/2008	Quorum: 87.62% Approval: 97.47%			
37	Project 2006-01	Project 2006-01 - PER-005-1_rc	Recirculation Ballot	12/12/2008	12/22/2008	Quorum: 91.48% Approval: 80.63%			
38	Project 2008-15	Request for Interpretation - CIP-006-1a - US Army COE_in	Initial Ballot	1/5/2009	1/14/2009	Quorum: 91.15% Approval: 97.39%			
39	Project 2008-16	TOP-004-2 VSL Revisions_in	Initial Ballot	1/5/2009	1/14/2009	Quorum: 91.20% Approval: 93.93%			
40	Project 2008-11	Request for Interpretation - VAR-002-1 - ICF Consulting_rc	Recirculation Ballot	1/6/2009	1/15/2009	Quorum: 91.47% Approval: 91.21%			
41	Project 2006-07	Project 2006-07 (ATC) MOD-030-2_rc	Recirculation Ballot	1/20/2009	1/29/2009	Quorum: 85.86% Approval: 86.39%			
42	Project 2008-16	TOP-004-2 VSL Revisions_rc	Recirculation Ballot	1/28/2009	2/6/2009	Quorum: 92.59% Approval: 96.06%			
43	Project 2008-15	Request for Interpretation - CIP-006-1a - US Army COE_rc	Recirculation Ballot	2/6/2009	2/16/2009	Quorum: 93.81% Approval: 99.12%			
44	Project 2008-09	Interpretation Request - EOP-001 - R1 - RECM_in	Initial Ballot	2/27/2009	3/9/2009	Quorum: 89.67% Approval: 89.03%			
45	Project 2008-18	Project 2008-18 Interpretation-Manitoba Hydro_in	Initial Ballot	3/19/2009	3/30/2009	Quorum: 89.78% Approval: 92.62%			
46	Project 2008-06	Project 2008-06: CIP-002-1-CIP-009-1 Revisions_in	Initial Ballot	4/1/2009	4/10/2009	Quorum: 91.90% Approval: 84.06%			
47	Project 2009-10	Project 2009-10 Interpretation - CMPWG - PRC-005-1 R1_in	Initial Ballot	4/8/2009	4/17/2009	Quorum: 92.70% Approval: 92.71%			
48	Project 2006-03	Project 2006-03 EOP-001_EOP-005_EOP-006 System Restoration and Blackstart_in	Initial Ballot	4/14/2009	4/23/2009	Quorum: 89.81% Approval: 76.63%			
49	Project 2008-06	Project 2008-06: CIP-002-1-CIP-009-1 Revisions_rc	Recirculation Ballot	4/17/2009	4/27/2009	Quorum: 94.37% Approval: 88.32%			
50	Project 2008-18	Project 2008-18 Interpretation-Manitoba Hydro_rc	Recirculation Ballot	4/17/2009	4/27/2009	Quorum: 95.56% Approval: 92.81%			
51	Project 2009-11	Project 2009-11 Interpretation WECC Reliability Coordination Subcommittee IRO-10-1_in	Initial Ballot	4/22/2009	5/1/2009	Quorum: 88.64% Approval: 84.77%			
52	Project 2006-03	Project 2006-03 EOP-001_EOP-005_EOP-006 System Restoration and Blackstart_rc	Recirculation Ballot	5/6/2009	5/18/2009	Quorum: 92.08% Approval: 75.39%			
53	Project 2009-15	Project 2009-15 Interpretation - NYISO - MOD-001-1, MOD-029-1_in	initial Ballot	5/25/2009	6/4/2009	Quorum: 85.13% Approval: 82.10%			
54	Project 2009-11	Project 2009-11 Interpretation WECC Reliability Coordination Subcommittee IRO-10-1_rc	Recirculation Ballot	5/26/2009	6/5/2009	Quorum: 90.45% Approval: 85.76%			
55	Project 2009-14	Project 2009-14 Interpretation - PacifiCorp - TPL-002-0a_in	Initial Ballot	6/1/2009	6/11/2009	Quorum: 87.10% Approval: 95.71%			
56	Project 2009-08	Project 2009-08 - Nuclear Plant Interface Coordination for Order 716_in	Initial Ballot	6/12/2009	6/22/2009	Quorum: 81.72% Approval: 94.09%			
57	Project 2008-14	Project 2008-14 VSLs for CIP-002-1 through CIP-009-1_in	Initial Ballot	6/15/2009	6/24/2009	Quorum: 87.23% Approval: 83.94%			
58	Project 2008-14	Project 2008-14 VSLs for CIP-002-1 through CIP-009-1_rc	Recirculation Ballot	7/7/2009	7/16/2009	Quorum: 92.77% Approval: 84.96%			
59	Project 2009-15	Project 2009-15 Interpretation - NYISO - MOD-001-1, MOD-029-1_rc	Recirculation Ballot	7/8/2009	7/17/2009	Quorum: 90.26% Approval: 82.25%			
60	Project 2009-08	Project 2009-08 - Nuclear Plant Interface Coordination for Order 716_rc	Recirculation Ballot	7/10/2009	7/20/2009	Quorum: 87.10% Approval: 96.94%			
61	Project 2009-10	Project 2009-10 Interpretation - CMPWG - PRC-005-1 R1_rc	Recirculation Ballot	7/24/2009	8/6/2009	Quorum: 95.26% Approval: 95.62%			
62	Project 2009-14	Project 2009-14 Interpretation - PacifiCorp - TPL-002-0a_rc	Recirculation Ballot	7/24/2009	8/6/2009	Quorum: 91.24% Approval: 98.85%			
63	Project 2007-23	Project 2007-23 TPL Violation Severity Levels_in	Initial Ballot	7/31/2009	8/10/2009	Quorum: 85.71% Approval: 90.46%			
64	Project 2007-23	Project 2007-23 TOP Violation Severity Levels_in	Initial Ballot	7/31/2009	8/10/2009	Quorum: 86.40% Approval: 89.14%			
65	Project 2007-23	Project 2007-23 PRC Violation Severity Levels_in	Initial Ballot	7/31/2009	8/10/2009	Quorum: 86.32% Approval: 88.26%			
66	Project 2007-23	Project 2007-23 IRO Violation Severity Levels_in	Initial Ballot	7/31/2009	8/10/2009	Quorum: 86.16% Approval: 90.15%			
67	Project 2007-23	Project 2007-23 INT, PER, and NUC Violation Severity Levels_in	Initial Ballot	7/31/2009	8/10/2009	Quorum: 85.71% Approval: 88.63%			
68	Project 2007-23	Project 2007-23 FAC and MOD Violation Severity Levels_in	Initial Ballot	7/31/2009	8/10/2009	Quorum: 86.64% Approval: 87.63%			

Line	Project	Link to Ballot Results https://standards.nerc.net/Ballot.aspx (clicking in the column to the right of "Ballot Periods" column links to the Ballot Results)	Ballot Type	Start Date	End Date (Sorted Oldest to Newest)	Ballot Results	Recommendation / Date	How NPCC Voted	Comments
69	Project 2007-23	Project 2007-23 CIP, COM, and VAR Violation Severity Levels_in	Initial Ballot	7/31/2009	8/10/2009	Quorum: 86.50% Approval: 85.78%			
70	Project 2007-23	Project 2007-23 BAL Violation Severity Levels_in	Initial Ballot	7/31/2009	8/10/2009	Quorum: 86.28% Approval: 89.56%			
71	Project 2008-08	Project 2008-08 EOP Violation Severity Levels_in	Initial Ballot	7/31/2009	8/10/2009	Quorum: 87.98% Approval: 87.31%			
72	Project 2009-17	Project 2009-17 Interpretation - Y-W Electric and Tri-State - PRC-004-1 and PRC-005-1_in	Initial Ballot	7/31/2009	8/10/2009	Quorum: 90.32% Approval: 62.15%			
73	RSDP V7	Reliability Standards Development Procedure - Version 7 - June 2009_rb	Re-ballot	7/27/2009	8/14/2009	Quorum: 84.65% Approval: 74.79%			
74	Project 2009-09	Project 2009-09 - Interpretation - Covanta Energy - CIP-001-1_in	Initial Ballot	8/6/2009	8/17/2009	Quorum: 84.68% Approval: 68.92%			
75	Project 2007-23	Project 2007-23 TPL Violation Severity Levels_rc	Recirculation Ballot	8/17/2009	8/27/2009	Quorum: 91.96% Approval: 89.28%			
76	Project 2007-23	Project 2007-23 BAL Violation Severity Levels_rc	Recirculation Ballot	8/17/2009	8/27/2009	Quorum: 92.04% Approval: 89.41%			
77	Project 2007-23	Project 2007-23 CIP, COM, and VAR Violation Severity Levels_rc	Recirculation Ballot	8/17/2009	8/27/2009	Quorum: 92.41% Approval: 84.64%			
78	Project 2007-23	Project 2007-23 FAC and MOD Violation Severity Levels_rc	Recirculation Ballot	8/17/2009	8/27/2009	Quorum: 92.67% Approval: 88.04%			
79	Project 2007-23	Project 2007-23 INT, PER, and NUC Violation Severity Levels_rc	Recirculation Ballot	8/17/2009	8/27/2009	Quorum: 92.17% Approval: 88.73%			
80	Project 2007-23	Project 2007-23 IRO Violation Severity Levels_rc	Recirculation Ballot	8/17/2009	8/27/2009	Quorum: 91.96% Approval: 90.77%			
81	Project 2007-23	Project 2007-23 PRC Violation Severity Levels_rc	Recirculation Ballot	8/17/2009	8/27/2009	Quorum: 92.31% Approval: 86.93%			
82	Project 2007-23	Project 2007-23 TOP Violation Severity Levels_rc	Recirculation Ballot	8/17/2009	8/27/2009	Quorum: 92.11% Approval: 88.26%			
83	Project 2008-08	Project 2008-08 EOP Violation Severity Levels_rc	Recirculation Ballot	8/17/2009	8/27/2009	Quorum: 92.70% Approval: 85.80%			
84	Order 706-B	Order 706-B Nuclear Implementation Plan_in	Initial Ballot	8/19/2009	8/28/2009	Quorum: 81.96% Approval: 97.37%			
85	Project 2008-07	Request for Interpretation - Brookfield Power - EOP-002_rc	Recirculation Ballot	8/20/2009	8/31/2009	Quorum: 86.96% Approval: 70.85%			
86	Project 2009-12	Project 2009-12 - Interpretation - PacifiCorp - CIP-005-1_in	Initial Ballot	8/27/2009	9/8/2009	Quorum: 84.68% Approval: 80.37%			
87	Project 2009-13	Project 2009-13 - Interpretation - PacifiCorp - CIP-006-1_in	Initial Ballot	8/27/2009	9/8/2009	Quorum: 84.92% Approval: 79.04%			
88	Project 2009-18	Project 2009-18 - Withdraw Three Midwest ISO Waivers_in	Initial Ballot	8/27/2009	9/8/2009	Quorum: 85.28% Approval: 99.62%			
89	Order 706-B	Order 706-B Nuclear Implementation Plan_rc	Recirculation Ballot	9/1/2009	9/10/2009	Quorum: 87.11% Approval: 97.18%			
90	RSDP V7	Reliability Standards Development Procedure - Version 7 - June 2009_rc	Recirculation Ballot	9/2/2009	9/14/2009	Quorum: 86.31% Approval: 76.09%			
91	Project 2008-06	Project 2008-06 Cyber Security (VRFs and VSLs for Version 2 CIP Standards)_in	Initial Ballot	9/10/2009	9/21/2009	Quorum: 87.45% Approval: 94.18%			
92	Project 2009-16	Project 2009-16 - Interpretation - WECC - CIP-007-1_in	Initial Ballot	9/9/2009	9/21/2009	Quorum: 85.31% Approval: 100.00%			
93	Project 2006-04	Project 2006-04 - Back-up Facilities - EOP-008-1_in	Initial Ballot	9/16/2009	9/28/2009	Quorum: 82.69% Approval: 72.86%			
94	Project 2009-09	Project 2009-09 - Interpretation - Covanta Energy - CIP-001-1_rc	Recirculation Ballot	9/29/2009	10/9/2009	Quorum: 89.92% Approval: 68.31%			
95	Project 2008-10	Project 2008-10 - Interpretation of CIP-006-1 Revised R1 for Progress Energy	Initial Ballot	9/30/2009	10/12/2009	Quorum: 79.92% Approval: 74.47%			
96	Project 2009-12	Project 2009-12 - Interpretation - PacifiCorp - CIP-005-1_rc	Recirculation Ballot	10/16/2009	10/26/2009	Quorum: 86.29% Approval: 83.25%			
97	Project 2008-06	Project 2008-06 Cyber Security (VRFs and VSLs for Version 2 CIP Standards)_rc	Recirculation Ballot	11/2/2009	11/12/2009	Quorum: 88.70% Approval: 94.24%			
98	Project 2008-09	Project 2008-09 - Interpretation - RECM - Revision 2_in	Initial Ballot	11/5/2009	11/16/2009	Quorum: 85.97% Approval: 98.07%			
99	Project 2009-21	Project 2009-21 - Cyber Security Ninety-day Response_in	Initial Ballot	11/20/2009	11/30/2009	Quorum: 89.58% Approval: 88.07%			
100	Project 2009-17	Project 2009-17 - Interpretation Y-W Electric and Tri-State (Revision 1)_in	Initial Ballot	11/19/2009	12/7/2009	Quorum: 85.83% Approval: 58.91%			
101	Project 2009-20	Project 2009-20 - Interpretation - BAL-003-0 - Energy Mark, Inc._in	Initial Ballot	11/20/2009	12/7/2009	Quorum: 87.11% Approval: 93.40%			
102	Project 2009-21	Project 2009-21 - Cyber Security Ninety-day Response_rc	Recirculation Ballot	12/3/2009	12/14/2009	Quorum: 93.33% Approval: 85.55%			

Line	Project	Link to Ballot Results https://standards.nerc.net/Ballot.aspx (clicking in the column to the right of "Ballot Periods" column links to the Ballot Results)	Ballot Type	Start Date	End Date (Sorted Oldest to Newest)	Ballot Results	Recommendation / Date	How NPCC Voted	Comments
103	Project 2009-23	Project 2009-23 - Interpretation - CIP-004-2 - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers_in	Initial Ballot	12/1/2009	12/14/2009	Quorum: 86.13% Approval: 72.11%			
104	Project 2009-13	Project 2009-13 - Interpretation - PacifiCorp - CIP-006-1_rc	Recirculation Ballot	12/11/2009	12/23/2009	Quorum: 90.08% Approval: 78.77%			
105	Project 2009-24	Project 2009-24 - Interpretation - FMPA - EOP-005-1_ in	Initial Ballot	1/5/2010	1/15/2010	Quorum: 87.68% Approval: 17.79%			
106	Project 2009-25	Project 2009-25 - Interpretation - BPA - BAL-001-01.a and BAL-002-0_ in	Initial Ballot	1/5/2010	1/15/2010	Quorum: 88.00% Approval: 34.28%			
107	Project 2009-26	Project 2009-26 - Interpretation - WECC - CIP-004-1_in	Initial Ballot	1/6/2010	1/19/2010	Quorum: 84.21% Approval: 42.24%			
108	Project 2009-06	Project 2009-06 - Facility Ratings: FAC-008-2	Initial Ballot	1/12/2010	1/22/2010	Quorum: 89.16% Approval: 75.16%			
109	Project 2009-27	Project 2009-27 - Interpretation - TOP-002-2a for FMPAA_in	Initial Ballot	2/10/2010	2/22/2010	Quorum: 84.98% Approval: 90.82%			
110	Project 2009-28	Project 2009-28 - Interpretation - EOP-001-1 and EOP-001-2 for FMPP_in	Initial Ballot	2/10/2010	2/22/2010	Quorum: 87.36% Approval: 91.79%			
111	Project 2009-29	Project 2009-29 - Interpretation - TOP-002-2a for FMPP_in	Initial Ballot	2/11/2010	2/22/2010	Quorum: 84.34% Approval: 84.56%			
112	Project 2009-19	Project 2009-19 - Interpretation - BAL-002-0 Northwest Power Pool RSG_in	Initial Ballot	2/15/2010	2/26/2010	Quorum: 89.83% Approval: 48.60%			
113	Project 2009-20	Project 2009-20 - Interpretation - BAL-003-0 - Energy Mark, Inc._rc	Recirculation Ballot	2/16/2010	2/26/2010	Quorum: 92.44% Approval: 91.90%			
114	Project 2009-30	Project 2009-30 - Interpretation - PRC-001-1 for WPSC_in	Initial Ballot	2/15/2010	2/26/2010	Quorum: 89.51% Approval: 48.74%			
115	Project 2006-02	Project 2006-02 - Assess Transmission Future Needs - TPL-001-1_in	Initial Ballot	2/19/2010	3/1/2010	Quorum: 91.38% Approval: 35.36%			
116	Project 2009-31	Project 2009-31 - Interpretation - TOP-001-1 for FMPP_in	Initial Ballot	3/3/2010	3/16/2010	Quorum: 88.24% Approval: 98.27%			
117	Project 2009-06	Project 2009-06 - Facility Ratings: FAC-008-2	Recirculation Ballot	3/8/2010	3/18/2010	Quorum: 93.71% Approval: 78.15%			
118	Project 2009-32	Project 2009-32 - Interpretation - EOP-003-1 for FMPP_rb	Re-ballot	3/10/2010	3/31/2010	Quorum: 91.37% Approval: 77.66%			
119	Project 2009-23	Project 2009-23 - Interpretation - CIP-004-2 - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Revision 1)_in	Initial Ballot	3/29/2010	4/8/2010	Quorum: 88.52% Approval: 63.43%			
120	Project 2008-09	Project 2008-09 - Interpretation - RECM - Revision 3_in	Initial Ballot	4/15/2010	4/26/2010	Quorum: 81.97% Approval: 98.64%			
121	SPM	Standards Process Manual Revisions_in	Initial Ballot	4/19/2010	4/29/2010	Quorum: 87.82% Approval: 80.48%			
122	Project 2009-17	Project 2009-17 - Interpretation Y-W Electric and Tri-State (Revision 2)_in	Initial Ballot	4/28/2010	5/10/2010	Quorum: 83.15% Approval: 74.55%			
123	SPM	Standards Process Manual Revisions_rc	Recirculation Ballot	4/30/2010	5/10/2010	Quorum: 93.73% Approval: 86.69%			
124	Project 2010-11	Project 2010-11 SAR for TPL Table 1 Order_in	Initial Ballot	5/17/2010	5/27/2010	Quorum: 84.41% Approval: 63.75%			
125	Project 2010-09	Project 2010-09: NUC Implementation Plans for CIP Version 2 and Version 3_in	Initial Ballot	5/19/2010	6/1/2010	Quorum: 84.83% Approval: 90.83%			
126	Project 2010-09	Project 2010-09: NUC Implementation Plans for CIP Version 2 and Version 3_rc	Recirculation Ballot	6/22/2010	7/2/2010	Quorum: 89.10% Approval: 87.24%			
127	Project 2006-04	Project 2006-04 - Backup Facilities - Revision 1_in	Initial Ballot	6/23/2010	7/6/2010	Quorum: 89.05% Approval: 79.45%			
128	Project 2006-08	Project 2006-08 - Reliability Coordination - Transmission Loading Relief_in	Initial Ballot	6/23/2010	7/6/2010	Quorum: 87.04% Approval: 84.98%			
129	Project 2007-01	Project 2007-01 Underfrequency Load Shedding: PRC-006-1 and EOP-003-1	Initial Ballot	7/7/2010	7/17/2010	Quorum: 86.94% Approval: 43.13%			
130	Project 2007-17	Project 2007-17 Protection System Maintenance and Testing: PRC-005-2	Initial Ballot	7/8/2010	7/17/2010	Quorum:91.12 % Approval: 22.91%			
131	Project 2007-17	Project 2007-17 Protection System Maintenance and Testing: PRC-005-2	Non-binding Poll	7/8/2010	7/17/2010	Quorum: 86.00% Approval: 28.00%			
132	Project 2007-17	Project 2007-17 Protection System Maintenance and Testing: Protection System definition	Initial Ballot	7/8/2010	7/17/2010	Quorum: 87.85% Approval: 39.35%			
133	Project 2007-07	Project 2007-07 Vegetation Management: FAC-003-2	Initial Ballot	7/9/2010	7/19/2010	Quorum: 86.18% Approval: 65.93%			
134	Project 2006-04	Prokect 2006-04 - Backup Facilities - Revision 1_rc	Recirculation Ballot	7/16/2010	7/26/2010	Quorum: 93.43% Approval: 85.22%			
135	Project 2007-17	Project 2007-17 Protection System Maintenance: Protection System definition	Successive Ballot	7/23/2010	8/2/2010	Quorum: 94.70% Approval: 58.61%			
136	Project 2007-01	Project 2007-01 Underfrequency Load Shedding: PRC-006-1 and EOP-003-1	Successive Ballot	7/24/2010	8/3/2010	Quorum: 92.99% Approval: 49.61%			

Line	Project	Link to Ballot Results https://standards.nerc.net/Ballot.aspx (clicking in the column to the right of "Ballot Periods" column links to the Ballot Results)	Ballot Type	Start Date	End Date (Sorted Oldest to Newest)	Ballot Results	Recommendation / Date	How NPCC Voted	Comments
137	Project 2006-08	Project 2006-08 - Reliability Coordination - Transmission Loading Relief_rc	Recirculation Ballot	8/20/2010	8/30/2010	Quorum: 88.26% Approval: 93.93%			
138	Project 2007-04	Project 2007-04 - Certifying System Operators: PER-003-1	Initial Ballot	9/14/2010	9/24/2010	Quorum: 92.73% Approval: 79.17%			
139	Project 2010-15	Project 2010-15 - Urgent Action Revisions to CIP-005-3	Initial Ballot	9/17/2010	9/27/2010	Quorum: 96.46% Approval: 21.77%			
140	Project 2007-01	Project 2007-01 Underfrequency Load Shedding: PRC-006-1 and EOP-003-1	Successive Ballot	9/24/2010	10/4/2010	Quorum: 85.71% Approval: 81.72%			
141	Project 2007-17	Project 2007-17 Protection System Maintenance: Protection System definition	Successive Ballot	10/2/2010	10/14/2010	Quorum: 84.11% Approval: 84.52%			
142	Project 2008-09	Project 2008-09 - Interpretation - RECM - Revision 3_rc	Recirculation Ballot	10/4/2010	10/14/2010	Quorum: 88.11% Approval: 99.14%			
143	Project 2009-28	Project 2009-28 - Interpretation - EOP-001-1 and EOP-001-2 for FMPP_rc	Recirculation Ballot	10/5/2010	10/15/2010	Quorum: 92.19% Approval: 94.78%			
144	Project 2009-27	Project 2009-27 - Interpretation - TOP-002-2a for FMPAA_rc	Recirculation Ballot	10/6/2010	10/16/2010	Quorum: 91.21% Approval: 93.44%			
145	Project 2007-01	Project 2007-01 Underfrequency Load Shedding: PRC-006-1 and EOP-003-1	Recirculation Ballot	10/18/2010	10/28/2010	Quorum: 89.84% Approval: 84.67%			
146	Project 2008-06	Project 2008-06 Cyber Security 706 (Version 4 CIP Standards)_in	Initial Ballot	10/20/2010	11/3/2010	Quorum: 93.66% Approval: 43.33%			
147	Project 2010-10	Project 2010-10 FAC-013-2 Planning Transfer Capability_in	Initial Ballot	10/20/2010	11/3/2010	Quorum: 88.54% Approval: 39.85%			
148	2010 SPM	2010 Standard Processes Manual (Proposed Changes)_in	Initial Ballot	10/28/2010	11/7/2010	Quorum: 81.61% Approval: 93.72%			
149	Project 2007-17	Project 2007-17 Protection System Maintenance: Protection System definition	Recirculation Ballot	11/1/2010	11/11/2010	Quorum: 89.41% Approval: 86.83%			
150	2010 SPM	2010 Standard Processes Manual (Proposed Changes)_rc	Recirculation Ballot	11/9/2010	11/13/2010	Quorum: 87.00% Approval: 92.88%			
151	Project 2009-17	Project 2009-17 - Interpretation Y-W Electric and Tri-State (Revision 2)_rc	Recirculation Ballot	11/19/2010	12/3/2010	Quorum: 87.81% Approval: 82.41%			
152	Project 2008-06	Project 2008-06 Cyber Security 706 (Version 4 CIP Standards)_sb_in	Initial Ballot	12/1/2010	12/10/2010	Quorum: 87.07% Approval: 77.06%			
153	Project 2010-15	Project 2010-15 - Expedited Action Revisions to CIP-005-3	Initial Ballot	12/2/2010	12/11/2010	Quorum: 84.46% Approval: 42.89%			
154	Project 2007-04	Project 2007-04 - Certifying System Operators: PER-003-1	Recirculation Ballot	12/2/2010	12/13/2010	Quorum: 95.50% Approval: 86.91%			
155	Project 2010-13	Project 2010-13 - Relay Loadability Order - PRC-023	Initial Ballot	12/7/2010	12/16/2010	Quorum: 88.00% Approval: 51.51%			
156	Project 2007-17	Project 2007-17 Protection System Maintenance and Testing: PRC-005-2	Successive Ballot	12/10/2010	12/20/2010	Quorum: 79.88% Approval: 44.65%			
157	Project 2007-17	Project 2007-17 Protection System Maintenance and Testing: PRC-005-2	Non-binding Poll	12/10/2010	12/20/2010	Quorum: 78.00% Approval: 53.00%			
158	Project 2008-06	Project 2008-06 Cyber Security 706 (Version 4 CIP Standards)_sb_rc	Recirculation Ballot	12/20/2010	12/30/2010	Quorum: 90.49% Approval: 80.56%			
159	Project 2010-11	Project 2010-11 TPL Table 1 Footnote B SAR_in	Recirculation Ballot	12/27/2010	1/5/2011	Quorum: 90.42% Approval: 83.33%			
160	Project 2008-06	Project 2008-06 - Cyber Security - Order 706: CIP-002-5	Initial Ballot	12/16/2011	1/6/2011	Quorum: 93.62% Approval: 22.09%	Oppose 12/16/11		
161	Project 2008-06	Project 2008-06 - Cyber Security - Order 706: CIP-003-5	Initial Ballot	12/16/2011	1/6/2011	Quorum: 93.62% Approval: 33.49%	Oppose 12/16/11		
162	Project 2008-06	Project 2008-06 - Cyber Security - Order 706: CIP-004-5	Initial Ballot	12/16/2011	1/6/2011	Quorum: 93.60% Approval: 26.82%	Oppose 12/16/11		
163	Project 2008-06	Project 2008-06 - Cyber Security - Order 706: CIP-005-5	Initial Ballot	12/16/2011	1/6/2011	Quorum: 93.60% Approval: 28.04%	Oppose 12/16/11		
164	Project 2008-06	Project 2008-06 - Cyber Security - Order 706: CIP-006-5	Initial Ballot	12/16/2011	1/6/2011	Quorum: 93.61% Approval: 29.60%	Oppose 12/16/11		
165	Project 2008-06	Project 2008-06 - Cyber Security - Order 706: CIP-007-5	Initial Ballot	12/16/2011	1/6/2011	Quorum: 93.61% Approval: 24.15%	Oppose 12/16/11		
166	Project 2008-06	Project 2008-06 - Cyber Security - Order 706: CIP-008-5	Initial Ballot	12/16/2011	1/6/2011	Quorum: 94.02% Approval: 34.30%	Oppose 12/16/11		
167	Project 2008-06	Project 2008-06 - Cyber Security - Order 706: CIP-009-5	Initial Ballot	12/16/2011	1/6/2011	Quorum: 93.61% Approval: 27.28%	Oppose 12/16/11		
168	Project 2008-06	Project 2008-06 - Cyber Security - Order 706: CIP-010-1	Initial Ballot	12/16/2011	1/6/2011	Quorum: 93.61% Approval: 26.61%	Oppose 12/16/11		
169	Project 2008-06	Project 2008-06 - Cyber Security - Order 706: CIP-011-1	Initial Ballot	12/16/2011	1/6/2011	Quorum: 93.61% Approval: 29.88%	Oppose 12/16/11		
170	Project 2008-06	Project 2008-06 - Cyber Security - Order 706: CIP V5 Implementation	Initial Ballot	12/16/2011	1/6/2011	Quorum: 92.15% Approval: 42.06%	Oppose 12/16/11		

Line	Project	Link to Ballot Results https://standards.nerc.net/Ballot.aspx (clicking in the column to the right of "Ballot Periods" column links to the Ballot Results)	Ballot Type	Start Date	End Date (Sorted Oldest to Newest)	Ballot Results	Recommendation / Date	How NPCC Voted	Comments
171	Project 2008-06	Project 2008-06 - Cyber Security - Order 706: CIP V5 Definitions	Initial Ballot	12/16/2011	1/6/2011	Quorum: 92.56% Approval: 25.34%	Oppose 12/16/11		
172	Project 2010-10	Project 2010-10: FAC Order 729_in	Initial Ballot	12/30/2010	1/8/2011	Quorum: 83.23% Approval: 58.16%			
173	Project 2010-10	Project 2010-10: FAC Order 729_rc	Recirculation Ballot	1/14/2011	1/23/2011	Quorum: 86.65% Approval: 68.98%			
174	Project 2010-11	Project 2010-11 TPL Table 1 Footnote B SAR_rc	Recirculation Ballot	1/26/2011	2/5/2011	Quorum: 93.29% Approval: 86.79%	Support 1/5/11		
175	Project 2010-13	Project 2010-13 - Relay Loadability Order - PRC-023	Successive Ballot	1/24/2011	2/14/2011	Quorum: 83.95% Approval: 65.71%	Support 2/11/11		
176	Project 2007-23	Project 2007-23 - Violation Severity Levels	Non-binding Poll	2/9/2011	2/22/2011	Quorum: 78.00% Approval: 72.00%	Support 10/28/10		
177	Project 2007-07	Project 2007-07 Vegetation Management: FAC-003-2	Successive Ballot	2/18/2011	2/28/2011	Quorum: 79.28% Approval: 79.34%	Support 2/22/11		
178	Project 2010-13	Project 2010-13 - Relay Loadability Order - PRC-023	Recirculation Ballot	2/24/2011	3/6/2011	Quorum: 87.35% Approval: 68.83%	Support 2/11/11		
179	Project 2006-06	Project 2006-06 - Reliability Coordination - COM-001, COM-002, IRO-001, and IRO-014	Initial Ballot	2/25/2011	3/7/2011	Quorum: 87.10% Approval: 49.54%	Support 3/2/11		
180	Project 2010-15	Project 2010-15 - Expedited Action Revisions to CIP-005-4	Successive Ballot	4/19/2011	4/28/2011	Quorum: 79.66% Approval: 38.00%	Oppose 4/19/11		
181	Project 2009-06	Project 2009-06 - Facility Ratings: FAC-008-3	Initial Ballot	4/21/2011	5/2/2011	Quorum: 86.01% Approval: 48.74%	Abstain 4/26/11		
182	Project 2009-06	Project 2009-06 - Facility Ratings: FAC-008-3	Non-binding Poll	4/21/2011	5/2/2011	Quorum: 75.58% Approval: 73.00%			
183	Project 2007-17	Project 2007-17 - Protection System Maintenance and Testing: PRC-005	Successive Ballot	5/3/2011	5/12/2011	Quorum: 78.33% Approval: 67.00%	No Recommendation		
184	Project 2007-17	Project 2007-17 - Protection System Maintenance and Testing: PRC-005	Non-binding Poll	5/3/2011	5/12/2011	Quorum: 75.00% Approval: 66.00%			
185	Project 2009-06	Project 2009-06 - Facility Ratings: FAC-008-3	Recirculation Ballot	5/12/2011	5/23/2011	Quorum: 91.25% Approval: 78.92%	Support 5/12/11		
186	Project 2006-02	Project 2006-02 - Assess Transmission and Future Needs - TPL-001 through TPL-006	Successive Ballot	5/18/2011	5/31/2011	Quorum: 92.07% Approval: 73.99%			
187	Project 2006-02	Project 2006-02 - Assess Transmission and Future Needs - TPL-001 through TPL-006	Non-binding Poll	5/18/2011	5/31/2011	Quorum: 86.79% Approval: 71.9%			
188	Project 2007-03	Project 2007-03 - Real-time Operations: TOP-001-2, TOP-002-2 and TOP-003-2	Initial Ballot	5/31/2011	6/9/2011	Quorum: 88.47% Approval: 48.64%	Oppose 5/31/11		
189	Project 2007-03	Project 2007-03 - Real-time Operations: TOP-001-2, TOP-002-2 and TOP-003-2	Non-binding Poll	5/31/2011	6/9/2011	Quorum: 84.18% Approval: 41.00%			
190	Project 2007-17	Project 2007-17 – Protection System Maintenance and Testing – PRC-005	Recirculation Ballot	6/20/2011	6/30/2011	Quorum: 82.97% Approval: 64.76%	Support 6/28/11		
191	Project 2007-17	Project 2007-17 – Protection System Maintenance and Testing – PRC-005	Non-binding Poll	6/20/2011	6/30/2011	Quorum: 52.63% Approval: 60.00%			
192	Project 2006-02	Project 2006-02 - Assess Transmission and Future Needs	Recirculation Ballot	7/13/2011	7/22/2011	Quorum: 94.33% Approval: 75.37%			
193	Project 2006-06	Project 2006-06 - Reliability Coordination - IRO-002-3	Recirculation Ballot	7/15/2011	7/25/2011	Quorum: 94.13% Approval: 76.99%	Support 7/22/11		
194	Project 2006-06	Project 2006-06 - Reliability Coordination - IRO-005-4	Recirculation Ballot	7/15/2011	7/25/2011	Quorum: 94.13% Approval: 75.17%	Support 7/22/11		
195	Project 2006-06	Project 2006-06 - Reliability Coordination - IRO-014-2	Recirculation Ballot	7/15/2011	7/25/2011	Quorum: 94.13% Approval: 76.27%	Support 7/22/11		
196	Project 2006-06	Project 2006-06 - Reliability Coordination - IRO-002-3	Non-binding Poll	7/15/2011	7/25/2011	Quorum: 75.37% Approval: 93.00%			
197	Project 2006-06	Project 2006-06 - Reliability Coordination - IRO-005-4	Non-binding Poll	7/15/2011	7/25/2011	Quorum: 75.66% Approval: 93.00%			
198	Project 2006-06	Project 2006-06 - Reliability Coordination - IRO-014-2	Non-binding Poll	7/15/2011	7/25/2011	Quorum: 75.37% Approval: 89.00%			
199	Project 2007-09	Project 2007-09 – Generator Verification: MOD-026-1	Initial Ballot	7/22/2011	8/1/2011	Quorum: 90.25% Approval: 46.53%	No Consensus 7/28/11		
200	Project 2007-09	Project 2007-09 – Generator Verification: MOD-026-1	Non-binding Poll	7/22/2011	8/1/2011	Quorum: 88.75% Approval: 56.00%			
201	Project 2007-09	Project 2007-09 – Generator Verification: PRC-024-1	Initial Ballot	7/22/2011	8/1/2011	Quorum: 90.82% Approval: 18.23%	No Consensus 7/28/11		
202	Project 2007-09	Project 2007-09 – Generator Verification: PRC-024-1	Non-binding Poll	7/22/2011	8/1/2011	Quorum: 88.35% Approval: 20.79%			
203	Project 2007-17	Project 2007-17 - Protection System Maintenance and Testing: PRC-005	Initial Ballot	9/19/2011	9/29/2011	Quorum: 84.86% Approval: 61.10%	Support 9/21/11		
204	Project 2007-17	Project 2007-17 - Protection System Maintenance and Testing: PRC-005	Non-binding Poll	9/19/2011	9/29/2011	Quorum: 83.13% Approval: 68.68%			

Line	Project	Link to Ballot Results https://standards.nerc.net/Ballot.aspx (clicking in the column to the right of "Ballot Periods" column links to the Ballot Results)	Ballot Type	Start Date	End Date (Sorted Oldest to Newest)	Ballot Results	Recommendation / Date	How NPCC Voted	Comments
205	Project 2010-17	Project 2010-17 - Definition of Bulk Electric System: Definition of BES	Initial Ballot	9/30/2011	10/10/2011	Quorum: 92.97% Approval: 71.68%	No Consensus 10/3/11		
206	Project 2010-17	Project 2010-17 - Definition of Bulk Electric System: Detailed Information to Support BES Exceptions Request	Initial Ballot	9/30/2011	10/10/2011	Quorum: 89.53% Approval: 64.03%	No Consensus 10/7/111		
207	Project 2007-07	Project 2007-07 Vegetation Management: FAC-003-2	Recirculation Ballot	10/4/2011	10/13/2011	Quorum: 87.17% Approval: 86.25%	Support 2/22/11		
208	Project 2011-INT-01	Project 2011-INT-01 - Interpretation of MOD-028 for Florida Power & Light Company	Initial Ballot	11/7/2011	11/16/2011	Quorum: 88.05% Approval: 85.53%	Support 11/8/11		
209	Project 2009-22	Project 2009-22 - Interpretation of COM-002-2 R2 by the IRC	Initial Ballot	11/8/2011	11/17/2011	Quorum: 91.20% Approval: 95.05%	Support 11/8/11		
210	Project 2010-07	Project 2010-07 - Generator Requirements at the Transmission Interface: FAC-001-1	Initial Ballot	11/9/2011	11/18/2011	Quorum: 88.22% Approval: 86.94%	Support 11/10/11		
211	Project 2010-07	Project 2010-07 - Generator Requirements at the Transmission Interface: FAC-003-3	Initial Ballot	11/9/2011	11/18/2011	Quorum: 85.08% Approval: 85.71%	Support 11/10/11		
212	Project 2010-07	Project 2010-07 - Generator Requirements at the Transmission Interface: FAC-003-X	Initial Ballot	11/9/2011	11/18/2011	Quorum: 84.82% Approval: 85.31%	Support 11/10/11		
213	Project 2010-07	Project 2010-07 - Generator Requirements at the Transmission Interface: PRC-004-2.1	Initial Ballot	11/9/2011	11/18/2011	Quorum: 84.29% Approval: 96.09%	Support 11/10/11		
214	Project 2008-10	Project 2008-10 - Interpretation of CIP-006-x R1 for Progress Energy	Successive Ballot	11/11/2011	11/21/2011	Quorum: 83.53% Approval: 95.99%	Support 11/14/11		
215	Project 2010-17	Project 2010-17 - Definition of Bulk Electric System and Implementation Plan	Recirculation Ballot	11/10/2011	11/21/2011	Quorum: 95.92% Approval: 81.32%	Support 10/3/11		
216	Project 2010-17	Project 2010-17 - Definition of Bulk Electric System: Detailed Information to Support BES Exceptions Request	Recirculation Ballot	11/10/2011	11/21/2011	Quorum: 93.02% Approval: 81.48%	Support 10/3/11		
217	Project 2007-12	Project 2007-12 - Frequency Response: BAL-003-1	Initial Ballot	11/30/2011	12/9/2011	Quorum: 93.92% Approval: 30.82%	Oppose 12/5/11		
218	Project 2007-12	Project 2007-12 - Frequency Response: BAL-003-1	Non-binding Poll	11/30/2011	12/9/2011	Quorum: 89.49% Approval: 36.00%			
219	Project 2009-01	Project 2009-01 - Disturbance and Sabotage Reporting: EOP-004-2	Initial Ballot	12/2/2011	12/12/2011	Quorum: 87.97% Approval: 36.21%	Oppose 12/5/11		
220	Project 2009-01	Project 2009-01 - Disturbance and Sabotage Reporting: EOP-004-2	Non-binding Poll	12/2/2011	12/12/2011	Quorum: 85.28% Approval: 45.00%			
221	Project 2008-10	Project 2008-10 - Interpretation of CIP-006-x R1 for Progress Energy	Recirculation Ballot	12/9/2011	12/19/2011	Quorum: 88.02% Approval: 96.04%	Support 11/14/11		
222	Project 2011-INT-01	Project 2011-INT-01 - Interpretation of MOD-028 for Florida Power & Light Company	Recirculation Ballot	12/12/2011	12/22/2011	Quorum: 90.10% Approval: 92.49%	Support 11/8/11		
223	Project 2009-22	Project 2009-22 - Interpretation of COM-002-2 R2 by the IRC	Recirculation Ballot	12/14/2011	12/23/2011	Quorum: 92.00% Approval: 94.58%	Support 11/8/11		
224	Project 2010-07	Project 2010-07 - Generator Requirements at the Transmission Interface: FAC-001-1	Recirculation Ballot	12/14/2011	12/23/2011	Quorum: 88.48% Approval: 90.10%	Support 11/10/11		
225	Project 2010-07	Project 2010-07 - Generator Requirements at the Transmission Interface: FAC-003-3	Recirculation Ballot	12/14/2011	12/23/2011	Quorum: 87.17% Approval: 85.38%	Support 11/10/11		
226	Project 2010-07	Project 2010-07 - Generator Requirements at the Transmission Interface: FAC-003-X	Recirculation Ballot	12/14/2011	12/23/2011	Quorum: 86.91% Approval: 85.03%	Support 11/10/11		
227	Project 2010-07	Project 2010-07 - Generator Requirements at the Transmission Interface: PRC-004-2.1a	Recirculation Ballot	12/14/2011	12/23/2011	Quorum: 86.65% Approval: 96.43%	Support 11/10/11		
228	Project 2007-03	Project 2007-03 - Real-time Operations: TOP-001-2	Successive Ballot	1/3/2012	1/12/2012	Quorum: 82.04% Approval: 59.93%	Oppose 1/9/12		
229	Project 2007-03	Project 2007-03 - Real-time Operations: TOP-002-3	Successive Ballot	1/3/2012	1/12/2012	Quorum: 82.04% Approval: 77.08 %	Support 1/9/12		
230	Project 2007-03	Project 2007-03 - Real-time Operations: TOP-003-2	Successive Ballot	1/3/2012	1/12/2012	Quorum: 82.04% Approval: 78.95%	Support 1/9/12		
231	Project 2010-07	Project 2010-07 - Generator Requirements at the Transmission Interface: FAC-001-1	Non-binding Poll	1/4/2012	1/13/2012	Quorum: 78.27% Approval: 93.00%			
232	Project 2007-03	Project 2007-03 - Real-time Operations: TOP-002-3	Non-binding Poll	1/9/2012	1/18/2012	Quorum: 76.41% Approval: 71.42%			
233	Project 2007-03	Project 2007-03 - Real-time Operations: TOP-001-2	Non-binding Poll	1/9/2012	1/19/2012	Quorum: 81.50% Approval: 67.61%			
234	Project 2007-03	Project 2007-03 - Real-time Operations: TOP-003-2	Non-binding Poll	1/9/2012	1/19/2012	Quorum: 81.50% Approval: 70.28%			
235	Project 2006-06	Project 2006-06 - Reliability Coordination - COM-001-2	Successive Ballot	1/30/2012	2/9/2012	Quorum: 81.82% Approval: 54.64%	Oppose 2/7/12		
236	Project 2006-06	Project 2006-06 - Reliability Coordination - COM-002-3	Successive Ballot	1/30/2012	2/9/2012	Quorum: 82.11% Approval: 80.62%	Support 2/7/12		
237	Project 2006-06	Project 2006-06 - Reliability Coordination - IRO-001-3	Successive Ballot	1/30/2012	2/9/2012	Quorum: 81.82% Approval: 80.21%	Support 2/7/12		
238	Project 2006-06	Project 2006-06 - Reliability Coordination - COM-001-2	Non-binding Poll	1/30/2012	2/9/2012	Quorum: 80.35% Approval: 71.35%			

Line	Project	Link to Ballot Results https://standards.nerc.net/Ballot.aspx (clicking in the column to the right of "Ballot Periods" column links to the Ballot Results)	Ballot Type	Start Date	End Date (Sorted Oldest to Newest)	Ballot Results	Recommendation / Date	How NPCC Voted	Comments
239	Project 2006-06	Project 2006-06 - Reliability Coordination - COM-002-3	Non-binding Poll	1/30/2012	2/9/2012	Quorum: 80.06% Approval: 90.86%			
240	Project 2006-06	Project 2006-06 - Reliability Coordination - IRO-001-3	Non-binding Poll	1/30/2012	2/9/2012	Quorum: 79.77% Approval: 84.69%			
241	Project 2009-26	Project 2009-26 - Interpretation of CIP-004-1 by WECC	Successive Ballot	3/14/2012	3/23/2012	Quorum: 88.55% Approval: 79.61%	Support 3/16/12		
242	Project 2010-INT-05	Interpretation 2010-INT-05 - Interpretation of CIP-002-1 R3 for Duke Energy	Initial Ballot	3/14/2012	3/23/2012	Quorum: 89.63% Approval: 94.71%	Support 3/16/12		
243	Project 2011-INT-02	Project 2011-INT-02 - Interpretation of VAR-002 for Constellation	Initial Ballot	3/14/2012	3/23/2012	Quorum: 86.92% Approval: 63.09%	Support 3/16/12		
244	Project 2007-09	Project 2007-09 Generator Verification: MOD-026-1	Successive Ballot	3/19/2012	3/29/2012	Quorum: 81.45% Approval: 61.21%			
245	Project 2007-09	Project 2007-09 Generator Verification: PRC-024-1	Successive Ballot	3/19/2012	3/29/2012	Quorum: 80.38% Approval: 41.09%			
246	Project 2007-17	Project 2007-17 Protection System Maintenance and Testing: PRC-005	Successive Ballot	3/19/2012	3/29/2012	Quorum: 84.32% Approval: 73.93%	Support 3/19/12		
247	Project 2007-17	Project 2007-17 Protection System Maintenance and Testing: PRC-005	Non-binding Poll	3/19/2012	3/29/2012	Quorum: 81.93% Approval: 66.12%			
248	Project 2010-07	Project 2010-07 - Generator Requirements at the Transmission Interface: FAC-003-3	Successive Ballot	3/30/2012	4/9/2012	Quorum: 80.37% Approval: 85.18%	Support 4/5/12		
249	Project 2010-07	Project 2010-07 - Generator Requirements at the Transmission Interface: FAC-003-X	Successive Ballot	3/30/2012	4/9/2012	Quorum: 80.10% Approval: 85.01%	Support 4/5/12		
250	Project 2007-09	Project 2007-09 Generator Verification: MOD-025-2	Initial Ballot	4/6/2012	4/16/2012	Quorum: 88.28% Approval: 41.09%	Oppose 4/16/12		
251	Project 2007-09	Project 2007-09 Generator Verification: MOD-027-1	Initial Ballot	4/6/2012	4/16/2012	Quorum: 88.04% Approval: 36.84%	Oppose 4/16/12		
252	Project 2007-09	Project 2007-09 Generator Verification: PRC-019-1	Initial Ballot	4/6/2012	4/16/2012	Quorum: 88.04% Approval: 48.70%%	Oppose 4/16/12		
253	Project 2007-09	Project 2007-09 Generator Verification: MOD-025-2	Non-binding Poll	4/6/2012	4/16/2012	Quorum: 86.82% Approval: 43.72%			
254	Project 2007-09	Project 2007-09 Generator Verification: MOD-027-1	Non-binding Poll	4/6/2012	4/16/2012	Quorum: 86.04% Approval: 38.56%			
255	Project 2007-09	Project 2007-09 Generator Verification: PRC-019-1	Non-binding Poll	4/6/2012	4/16/2012	Quorum: 86.53% Approval: 46.38%			
256	Project 2010-07	Project 2010-07 - Generator Requirements at the Transmission Interface: PRC-005-1.1a	Initial Ballot	4/6/2012	4/16/2012	Quorum: 88.95% Approval: 92.41%	Support 4/16/12		
257	Project 2007-03	Project 2007-03 - Real-time Operations: TOP-001-2	Successive Ballot	4/11/2012	4/20/2012	Quorum: 78.28%% Approval: 75.44%			
258	Project 2007-03	Project 2007-03 - Real-time Operations: TOP-002-3	Successive Ballot	4/11/2012	4/20/2012	Quorum: 78.02% Approval: 87.22%			
259	Project 2007-03	Project 2007-03 - Real-time Operations: TOP-003-2	Successive Ballot	4/11/2012	4/20/2012	Quorum: 78.28% Approval: 80.11%			
260	Project 2007-03	Project 2007-03 - Real-time Operations: TOP-001-2	Non-binding Poll	4/11/2012	4/23/2012	Quorum: 77.21% Approval: 69.84%			
261	Project 2007-03	Project 2007-03 - Real-time Operations: TOP-003-2	Non-binding Poll	4/11/2012	4/23/2012	Quorum: 77.48% Approval: 67.64%			
262	Project 2009-26	Project 2009-26 - Interpretation of CIP-004-1 by WECC	Recirculation Ballot	4/20/2012	4/30/2012	Quorum: 90.96% Approval: 80.08%	Support 3/16/12		
263	Project 2010-INT-05	Interpretation 2010-INT-05 - Interpretation of CIP-002-1 R3 for Duke Energy	Recirculation Ballot	4/20/2012	4/30/2012	Quorum: 92.68% Approval: 94.61%	Support 3/16/12		
264	Project 2010-07	Project 2010-07 - Generator Requirements at the Transmission Interface: FAC-003-3	Recirculation Ballot	4/24/2012	5/3/2012	Quorum: 81.72% Approval: 87.34%			
265	Project 2010-07	Project 2010-07 - Generator Requirements at the Transmission Interface: FAC-003-X	Recirculation Ballot	4/24/2012	5/3/2012	Quorum: 81.94% Approval: 87.32%			
266	Project 2010-07	Project 2010-07 - Generator Requirements at the Transmission Interface: PRC-005-1.1b	Recirculation Ballot	4/24/2012	5/3/2012	Quorum: 90.44% Approval: 93.23%			
267	Project 2007-03	Project 2007-03 - Real-time Operations: TOP-001-2	Recirculation Ballot	4/27/2012	5/6/2012	Quorum: 79.36% Approval: 76.84%	Abstain 4/19/12		
268	Project 2007-03	Project 2007-03 - Real-time Operations: TOP-002-3	Recirculation Ballot	4/27/2012	5/6/2012	Quorum: 79.36% Approval: 88.11%	Support 4/19/12		
269	Project 2007-03	Project 2007-03 - Real-time Operations: TOP-003-2	Recirculation Ballot	4/27/2012	5/6/2012	Quorum: 79.36% Approval: 80.79%	Support 4/19/12		
270	Project 2008-06	Project 2008-06 - Cyber Security - Order 706: CIP-002-5	Successive Ballot	5/11/2012	5/21/2012	Quorum: 86.63% Approval: 37.37%	Abstain 5/17/12		
271	Project 2008-06	Project 2008-06 - Cyber Security - Order 706: CIP-003-5	Successive Ballot	5/11/2012	5/21/2012	Quorum: 87.45% Approval: 60.55%	Abstain 5/17/12		
272	Project 2008-06	Project 2008-06 - Cyber Security - Order 706: CIP-004-5	Successive Ballot	5/11/2012	5/21/2012	Quorum: 87.40% Approval: 38.81%	Abstain 5/17/12		

Line	Project	Link to Ballot Results https://standards.nerc.net/Ballot.aspx (clicking in the column to the right of "Ballot Periods" column links to the Ballot Results)	Ballot Type	Start Date	End Date (Sorted Oldest to Newest)	Ballot Results	Recommendation / Date	How NPCC Voted	Comments
273	Project 2008-06	Project 2008-06 - Cyber Security - Order 706: CIP-005-5	Successive Ballot	5/11/2012	5/21/2012	Quorum: 86.98% Approval: 55.08%	Abstain 5/17/12		
274	Project 2008-06	Project 2008-06 - Cyber Security - Order 706: CIP-006-5	Successive Ballot	5/11/2012	5/21/2012	Quorum: 87.22% Approval: 38.50%	Abstain 5/17/12		
275	Project 2008-06	Project 2008-06 - Cyber Security - Order 706: CIP-007-5	Successive Ballot	5/11/2012	5/21/2012	Quorum: 87.01% Approval: 45.78%	Abstain 5/17/12		
276	Project 2008-06	Project 2008-06 - Cyber Security - Order 706: CIP-008-5	Successive Ballot	5/11/2012	5/21/2012	Quorum: 86.19% Approval: 67.19%	Abstain 5/17/12		
277	Project 2008-06	Project 2008-06 - Cyber Security - Order 706: CIP-009-5	Successive Ballot	5/11/2012	5/21/2012	Quorum: 87.01% Approval: 60.19%	Abstain 5/17/12		
278	Project 2008-06	Project 2008-06 - Cyber Security - Order 706: CIP-010-1	Successive Ballot	5/11/2012	5/21/2012	Quorum: 86.39% Approval: 47.92%	Abstain 5/17/12		
279	Project 2008-06	Project 2008-06 - Cyber Security - Order 706: CIP-011-1	Successive Ballot	5/11/2012	5/21/2012	Quorum: 86.39% Approval: 58.23%	Abstain 5/17/12		
280	Project 2008-06	Project 2008-06 - Cyber Security - Order 706: CIP V5 Implementation	Successive Ballot	5/11/2012	5/21/2012	Quorum: 85.12% Approval: 66.23%	Abstain 5/17/12		
281	Project 2008-06	Project 2008-06 - Cyber Security - Order 706: CIP V5 Definitions	Successive Ballot	5/11/2012	5/21/2012	Quorum: 84.09% Approval: 47.88%	Abstain 5/17/12		
282	Project 2009-01	Project 2009-01 - Disturbance and Sabotage Reporting: EOP-004-2	Successive Ballot	5/15/2012	5/24/2012	Quorum: 84.43% Approval: 46.18%			
283	Project 2009-01	Project 2009-01 - Disturbance and Sabotage Reporting: EOP-004-2	Non-binding Poll	5/15/2012	5/24/2012	Quorum: 79.95% Approval: 52.67%			
284	Project 2007-02	Project 2007-02 Operating Personnel Protocols: COM-003-1	Initial Ballot	6/11/2012	6/20/2012	Quorum: 84.14% Approval: 21.11%	Oppose 6/13/12		
285	Project 2007-02	Project 2007-02 Operating Personnel Protocols: COM-003-1	Non-binding Poll	6/11/2012	6/20/2012	Quorum: 81.01% Approval: 28.30%			
286	Project 2007-17	Project 2007-17 Protection System Maintenance and Testing: PRC-005	Successive Ballot	6/18/2012	6/27/2012	Quorum: 79.46% Approval: 79.00%			
287	Project 2007-17	Project 2007-17 Protection System Maintenance and Testing: PRC-005	Non-binding Poll	6/18/2012	6/27/2012	Quorum: 75.00% Approval: 70.21%			
288	Project 2011-INT-02	Project 2011-INT-02 - Interpretation of VAR -002 for Constellation	Successive Ballot	6/18/2012	6/27/2012	Quorum: 85.98% Approval: 68.22%	Support 6/26/12		
289	Project 2007-06	Project 2007-06 - System Protection Coordination: PRC-027-1	Initial Ballot	6/26/2012	7/5/2012	Quorum: 84.24% Approval: 23.82%	Oppose 6/27/12		
290	Project 2007-06	Project 2007-06 - System Protection Coordination: PRC-027-1	Non-binding Poll	6/26/2012	7/5/2012	Quorum: 82.26% Approval: 25.19%			
291	Project 2006-06	Project 2006-06 - Reliability Coordination - COM-002-3	Recirculation Ballot	6/27/2012	7/6/2012	Quorum: 85.34% Approval: 81.71%			
292	Project 2006-06	Project 2006-06 - Reliability Coordination - IRO-001-3	Recirculation Ballot	6/27/2012	7/6/2012	Quorum: 85.04% Approval: 81.72%			
293	Project 2006-06	Project 2006-06 - Reliability Coordination - COM-002-3	Non-binding Poll	6/27/2012	7/6/2012	Quorum: 84.16% Approval: 79.16%			
294	Project 2006-06	Project 2006-06 - Reliability Coordination - IRO-001-3	Non-binding Poll	6/27/2012	7/6/2012	Quorum: 83.87% Approval: 86.91%			
295	Project 2006-06	Project 2006-06 - Reliability Coordination - COM-001-2	Successive Ballot	6/27/2012	7/9/2012	Quorum: 75.37% Approval: 72.16%	No Consensus 7/5/12		
296	Project 2006-06	Project 2006-06 - Reliability Coordination - COM-001-2	Non-binding Poll	6/27/2012	7/11/2012	Quorum: 75.37% Approval: 73.71%			
297	Project 2011-INT-02	Project 2011-INT-02 - Rapid Revision of VAR-002 for Constellation	Recirculation Ballot	7/18/2012	7/27/2012	Quorum: 90.97% Approval: 69.81%	Support 6/26/12		
298	Project 2011-INT-02	Project 2011-INT-02 - Rapid Revision of VAR-002 for Constellation	Non-binding Poll	7/18/2012	7/27/2012	Quorum: 81.31% Approval: 60.93%			
299	Project 2010-INT-01	Project 2010-INT-01 - Rapid Revision of TOP-006 for FMPP	Initial Ballot	7/20/2012	7/30/2012	Quorum: 80.39% Approval: 79.28%	Oppose 7/20/12		
300	Project 2010-INT-01	Project 2010-INT-01 - Rapid Revision of TOP-006 for FMPP	Non-binding Poll	7/20/2012	7/30/2012	Quorum: 78.26% Approval: 76.07%			
301	Project 2012-08.1	Project 2012-08.1 - Phase 1 of Glossary Updates: Statutory Definitions	Initial Ballot	7/24/2012	8/2/2012	Quorum: 83.11% Approval: 54.16%	Oppose 7/20/12		
302	Project 2007-17	Project 2007-17 Protection System Maintenance and Testing: PRC-005	Successive Ballot	8/17/2012	8/27/2012	Quorum: 78.11% Approval: 80.31%	Support 6/22/12		
303	Project 2009-19	Project 2009-19 – Interpretation of BAL-002 by NWPP Reserve Sharing Group	Successive Ballot	8/23/2012	9/4/2012	Quorum: 79.21% Approval: 87.78%	Support 2/22/10		
304	Project 2010-05.1	Project 2010-05.1 –Protection Systems: Phase 1 (Misoperations): PRC-004-3	Initial Ballot	8/29/2012	9/7/2012	Quorum: 86.71% Approval: 37.68%	Support 9/5/12		
305	Project 2010-05.1	Project 2010-05.1 –Protection Systems: Phase 1 (Misoperations): PRC-004-3	Non-binding Poll	8/29/2012	9/7/2012	Quorum: 84.17% Approval: 37.36%			
306	Project 2006-06	Project 2006-06 - Reliability Coordination - COM-001-2	Recirculation Ballot	9/6/2012	9/17/2012	Quorum: 80.35% Approval: 75.01%			

Line	Project	Link to Ballot Results https://standards.nerc.net/Ballot.aspx (clicking in the column to the right of "Ballot Periods" column links to the Ballot Results)	Ballot Type	Start Date	End Date (Sorted Oldest to Newest)	Ballot Results	Recommendation / Date	How NPCC Voted	Comments
307	Project 2007-02	Project 2007-02 - Operating Personnel Communication Protocols	Successive Ballot	9/11/2012	9/20/2012	Quorum: 77.70% Approval: 50.57%	Support 9/15/12		
308	Project 2007-02	Project 2007-02 Operating Personnel Protocols: COM-003-1	Non-binding Poll	9/11/2012	9/20/2012	Quorum: 84.05% Approval: 54.07%			
309	Project 2010-INT-01	Project 2010-INT-01 - Rapid Revision of TOP-006 for FMPP	Recirculation Ballot	9/12/2012	9/21/2012	Quorum: 85.36% Approval: 87.34%			
310	Project 2009-01	Project 2009-01 - Disturbance and Sabotage Reporting: EOP-004-2	Successive Ballot	9/18/2012	9/27/2012	Quorum: 78.54% Approval: 63.40%	No Consensus 9/27/12		
311	Project 2009-01	Project 2009-01 - Disturbance and Sabotage Reporting: EOP-004-2	Non-binding Poll	9/18/2012	9/27/2012	Quorum: 78.93% Approval: 71.04%			
312	Project 2009-19	Project 2009-19 - Interpretation of BAL-002-0 NWPP Reserve Sharing Group	Recirculation Ballot	9/28/2012	10/8/2012	Quorum: 85.11% Approval: 90.34%	Support 2/22/10		
313	Project 2008-06	Project 2008-06 - Cyber Security - Order 706: CIP-002-5	Successive Ballot	10/1/2012	10/10/2012	Quorum: 80.58% Approval: 74.85%	Support 10/4/12		
314	Project 2008-06	Project 2008-06 - Cyber Security - Order 706: CIP-003-5	Successive Ballot	10/1/2012	10/10/2012	Quorum: 80.37% Approval: 89.50%	Support 10/4/12		
315	Project 2008-06	Project 2008-06 - Cyber Security - Order 706: CIP-004-5	Successive Ballot	10/1/2012	10/10/2012	Quorum: 80.58% Approval: 85.58%	Support 10/4/12		
316	Project 2008-06	Project 2008-06 - Cyber Security - Order 706: CIP-005-5	Successive Ballot	10/1/2012	10/10/2012	Quorum: 80.58% Approval: 89.46%	Support 10/4/12		
317	Project 2008-06	Project 2008-06 - Cyber Security - Order 706: CIP-006-5	Successive Ballot	10/1/2012	10/10/2012	Quorum: 80.58% Approval: 92.11%	Support 10/4/12		
318	Project 2008-06	Project 2008-06 - Cyber Security - Order 706: CIP-007-5	Successive Ballot	10/1/2012	10/10/2012	Quorum: 80.58% Approval: 87.73%	Support 10/4/12		
319	Project 2008-06	Project 2008-06 - Cyber Security - Order 706: CIP-008-5	Successive Ballot	10/1/2012	10/10/2012	Quorum: 80.58% Approval: 91.74%	Support 10/4/12		
320	Project 2008-06	Project 2008-06 - Cyber Security - Order 706: CIP-009-5	Successive Ballot	10/1/2012	10/10/2012	Quorum: 80.58% Approval: 91.73%	Support 10/4/12		
321	Project 2008-06	Project 2008-06 - Cyber Security - Order 706: CIP-010-1	Successive Ballot	10/1/2012	10/10/2012	Quorum: 80.58% Approval: 84.60%	Support 10/4/12		
322	Project 2008-06	Project 2008-06 - Cyber Security - Order 706: CIP-011-1	Successive Ballot	10/1/2012	10/10/2012	Quorum: 80.58% Approval: 92.90%	Support 10/4/12		
323	Project 2008-06	Project 2008-06 - Cyber Security - Order 706: CIP V5 Implementation	Successive Ballot	10/1/2012	10/10/2012	Quorum: 78.93% Approval: 94.00%	Support 10/4/12		
324	Project 2008-06	Project 2008-06 - Cyber Security - Order 706: CIP V5 Definitions	Successive Ballot	10/1/2012	10/10/2012	Quorum: 79.13% Approval: 91.59%	Support 10/4/12		
325	SPM-SPIG	Standard Processes Manual Revisions to Implement SPIG Recommendations	Initial Ballot	10/3/2012	10/12/2012	Quorum: 87.50% Approval: 63.25%	Support 10/4/12		
326	VRFs and VSLs	Revisions to Outstanding VRFs and VSLs	Non-binding Poll	10/10/2012	10/23/2012	Quorum: 78.57% Approval: 73.02%			
327	Project 2007-17	Project 2007-17 Protection System Maintenance and Testing: PRC-005	Recirculation Ballot	10/15/2012	10/24/2012	Quorum: 81.08% Approval: 80.51%	Support 6/22/12		
328	Project 2007-09	Project 2007-09 Generator Verification: MOD-026-1	Successive Ballot	10/19/2012	10/31/2012	Quorum: 75.55% Approval: 76.50%			
329	Project 2007-09	Project 2007-09 Generator Verification: PRC-024-1	Successive Ballot	10/19/2012	10/31/2012	Quorum: 75.00% Approval: 57.24%			
330	Project 2007-09	Project 2007-09 Generator Verification: MOD-025-2	Successive Ballot	10/19/2012	10/31/2012	Quorum: 83.61% Approval: 68.31%			
331	Project 2007-09	Project 2007-09 Generator Verification: MOD-027-1	Successive Ballot	10/19/2012	10/31/2012	Quorum: 82.34% Approval: 71.53%			
332	Project 2007-09	Project 2007-09 Generator Verification: PRC-019-1	Successive Ballot	10/19/2012	10/31/2012	Quorum: 82.07% Approval: 70.64%			
333	Project 2007-09	Project 2007-09 Generator Verification: MOD-026-1	Non-binding Poll	10/19/2012	10/31/2012	Quorum: 75.88% Approval: 77.10%			
334	Project 2007-09	Project 2007-09 Generator Verification: PRC-024-1	Non-binding Poll	10/19/2012	10/31/2012	Quorum: 75.40% Approval: 52.72%			
335	Project 2007-09	Project 2007-09 Generator Verification: MOD-025-2	Non-binding Poll	10/19/2012	10/31/2012	Quorum: 77.94% Approval: 64.24%			
336	Project 2007-09	Project 2007-09 Generator Verification: MOD-027-1	Non-binding Poll	10/19/2012	10/31/2012	Quorum: 78.06% Approval: 68.93%			
337	Project 2007-09	Project 2007-09 Generator Verification: PRC-019-1	Non-binding Poll	10/19/2012	10/31/2012	Quorum: 78.51% Approval: 63.63%			
338	Project 2008-06	Project 2008-06 - Cyber Security - Order 706: CIP-002-5	Recirculation Ballot	10/26/2012	11/5/2012	Quorum: 85.33% Approval: 78.59%	Support 10/4/12		
339	Project 2008-06	Project 2008-06 - Cyber Security - Order 706: CIP-003-5	Recirculation Ballot	10/26/2012	11/5/2012	Quorum: 85.33% Approval: 92.75%	Support 10/4/12		
340	Project 2008-06	Project 2008-06 - Cyber Security - Order 706: CIP-004-5	Recirculation Ballot	10/26/2012	11/5/2012	Quorum: 85.54% Approval: 89.73%	Support 10/4/12		

Line	Project	Link to Ballot Results https://standards.nerc.net/Ballot.aspx (clicking in the column to the right of "Ballot Periods" column links to the Ballot Results)	Ballot Type	Start Date	End Date (Sorted Oldest to Newest)	Ballot Results	Recommendation / Date	How NPCC Voted	Comments
341	Project 2008-06	Project 2008-06 - Cyber Security - Order 706: CIP-005-5	Recirculation Ballot	10/26/2012	11/5/2012	Quorum: 85.54% Approval: 93.73%	Support 10/4/12		
342	Project 2008-06	Project 2008-06 - Cyber Security - Order 706: CIP-006-5	Recirculation Ballot	10/26/2012	11/5/2012	Quorum: 85.54% Approval: 95.53%	Support 10/4/12		
343	Project 2008-06	Project 2008-06 - Cyber Security - Order 706: CIP-007-5	Recirculation Ballot	10/26/2012	11/5/2012	Quorum: 85.54% Approval: 91.79%	Support 10/4/12		
344	Project 2008-06	Project 2008-06 - Cyber Security - Order 706: CIP-008-5	Recirculation Ballot	10/26/2012	11/5/2012	Quorum: 85.54% Approval: 95.47%	Support 10/4/12		
345	Project 2008-06	Project 2008-06 - Cyber Security - Order 706: CIP-009-5	Recirculation Ballot	10/26/2012	11/5/2012	Quorum: 85.33% Approval: 94.60%	Support 10/4/12		
346	Project 2008-06	Project 2008-06 - Cyber Security - Order 706: CIP-010-1	Recirculation Ballot	10/26/2012	11/5/2012	Quorum: 85.54% Approval: 88.99%	Support 10/4/12		
347	Project 2008-06	Project 2008-06 - Cyber Security - Order 706: CIP-011-1	Recirculation Ballot	10/26/2012	11/5/2012	Quorum: 85.54% Approval: 95.67%	Support 10/4/12		
348	Project 2008-06	Project 2008-06 - Cyber Security - Order 706: CIP V5 Implementation Plan	Recirculation Ballot	10/26/2012	11/5/2012	Quorum: 83.47% Approval: 94.91%	Support 10/4/12		
349	Project 2008-06	Project 2008-06 - Cyber Security - Order 706: CIP V5 Definitions	Recirculation Ballot	10/26/2012	11/5/2012	Quorum: 83.47% Approval: 93.23%	Support 10/4/12		
350	Project 2009-01	Project 2009-01 - Disturbance and Sabotage Reporting: EOP-004-2	Recirculation Ballot	10/24/2012	11/5/2012	Quorum: 85.14% Approval: 71.39%			
351	Project 2009-01	Project 2009-01 - Disturbance and Sabotage Reporting: EOP-004-2	Non-binding Poll	10/24/2012	11/5/2012	Quorum: 78.93% Approval: 71.04%			
352	Project 2007-12	Project 2007-12 - Frequency Response: BAL-003-1	Successive Ballot	10/26/2012	11/6/2012	Quorum: 82.04% Approval: 76.08%	Support 11/5/12		
353	Project 2010-11	Project 2010-11 TPL footnote b Initial Ballot October 2012 in	Initial Ballot	11/9/2012	11/19/2012	Quorum: 80.45% Approval: 56.18%			
354	Project 2012-INT-02	Interpretation 2012-INT-02 - Interpretation of TPL-003-0a and TPL-004-0 for SPCS	Initial Ballot	11/26/2012	12/5/2012	Quorum: 84.81% Approval: 72.57%	Oppose 12/5/12		
355	Project 2013-02	Project 2013-02 - Paragraph 81	Initial Ballot	11/30/2012	12/10/2012	Quorum: 75.77% Approval: 96.45%	Support 12/10/12		
356	Project 2007-02	Project 2007-02 Operating Personnel Protocols: COM-003-1	Successive Ballot	12/4/2012	12/13/2012	Quorum: 76.78% Approval: 53.57%	No Consensus 12/13/12		
357	Project 2007-02	Project 2007-02 Operating Personnel Protocols: COM-003-1	Non-binding Poll	12/4/2012	12/13/2012	Quorum: 77.22% Approval: 57.91%			
358	Project 2007-06	Project 2007-06 - System Protection Coordination: PRC-027-1	Successive Ballot	12/7/2012	12/17/2012	Quorum: 76.47% Approval: 33.23%	Oppose 12/17/12		
359	Project 2007-06	Project 2007-06 - System Protection Coordination: PRC-027-1	Non-binding Poll	12/7/2012	12/17/2012	Quorum: 75.58% Approval: 34.80%			
360	Project 2012-INT-05	Interpretation 2012-INT-05: CIP-002-3 for OGE	Initial Ballot	12/11/2012	12/20/2012	Quorum: 84.50% Approval: 95.60%	Support 12/19/12		
361	SPM-SPIG	Standard Processes Manual Revisions to Implement SPIG Recommendations	Successive Ballot	12/11/2012	12/20/2012	Quorum: 83.24% Approval: 84.48%	Support 12/19/12		
362	Project 2007-09	Project 2007-09 Generator Verification: MOD-025-2	Recirculation Ballot	12/12/2012	12/21/2012	Quorum: 86.89% Approval: 73.06%			
363	Project 2007-09	Project 2007-09 Generator Verification: MOD-026-1	Recirculation Ballot	12/12/2012	12/21/2012	Quorum: 79.00% Approval: 79.36%			
364	Project 2007-09	Project 2007-09 Generator Verification: MOD-027-1	Recirculation Ballot	12/12/2012	12/21/2012	Quorum: 86.68% Approval: 74.27%			
365	Project 2007-09	Project 2007-09 Generator Verification: PRC-019-1	Recirculation Ballot	12/12/2012	12/21/2012	Quorum: 85.87% Approval: 73.63%			
366	Project 2007-12	Project 2007-12 - Frequency Response: BAL-003-1	Recirculation Ballot	12/12/2012	12/21/2012	Quorum: 86.19% Approval: 76.53%			
367	Project 2007-09	Project 2007-09 - Generator Verification: PRC-024-1	Successive Ballot	1/2/2013	1/11/2013	Quorum: 78.16% Approval: 60.31%	Support 1/11/13		
368	Project 2007-09	Project 2007-09 - Generator Verification - PRC-024-1	Non-binding Poll	1/2/2013	1/11/2013	Quorum: 76.38% Approval: 55.68%			
369	Project 2010-11	Project 2010-11 Successive Ballot December 2012 in	Successive Ballot	1/2/2013	1/11/2013	Quorum: 85.47% Approval: 65.77%	No Consensus 1/11/13		
370	Project 2010-14.1	Project 2010-14.1 - Phase 1 of Balancing Authority Reliability-based Controls: Reserves: BAL-012-1	Initial Ballot	1/4/2013	1/14/2013	Quorum: 83.94% Approval: 21.80%	Oppose 1/11/13		
371	Project 2010-14.1	Project 2010-14.1 - Phase 1 of Balancing Authority Reliability-based Controls: Reserves: BAL-012-1	Non-binding Poll	1/4/2013	1/14/2013	Quorum: 82.23% Approval: 24.27%			
372	Project 2013-02	Project 2013-02 - Paragraph 81	Recirculation Ballot	1/8/2013	1/17/2013	Quorum: 84.60% Approval: 95.22%	Support 12/10/12		
373	Project 2012-INT-05	Interpretation 2012-INT-05: CIP-002-3 for OGE	Recirculation Ballot	1/14/2013	1/23/2013	Quorum: 87.13% Approval: 99.09%	Support 12/19/12		
374	SPM-SPIG	Standard Processes Manual Revisions to Implement SPIG Recommendations	Recirculation Ballot	1/18/2013	1/28/2013	Quorum: 85.90% Approval: 85.57%	Support 12/19/12		

Line	Project	Link to Ballot Results https://standards.nerc.net/Ballot.aspx (clicking in the column to the right of "Ballot Periods" column links to the Ballot Results)	Ballot Type	Start Date	End Date (Sorted Oldest to Newest)	Ballot Results	Recommendation / Date	How NPCC Voted	Comments
375	Project 2010-11	Project 2010-11 Recirculation Ballot Jan 2013 in	Recirculation Ballot	1/22/2013	1/31/2013	Quorum: 88.55% Approval: 69.63%	No Consensus 1/11/13		
376	Project 2012-INT-02	Interpretation 2012-INT-02 - Interpretation of TPL-003-0a and TPL-004-0 for SPCS	Recirculation Ballot	1/22/2013	1/31/2013	Quorum: 85.67% Approval: 77.61%	Oppose 12/5/12		
377	Project 2010-05.1	Project 2010-05.1 –Protection Systems: Phase 1 (Misoperations): PRC-004-3	Successive Ballot	2/11/2013	2/20/2013	Quorum: 77.62% Approval: 50.66%	Support 9/5/12		
378	Project 2010-05.1	Project 2010-05.1 –Protection Systems: Phase 1 (Misoperations): PRC-004-3	Non-binding Poll	2/11/2013	2/20/2013	Quorum: 75.38% Approval: 50.60%			
379	Project 2007-09	Project 2007-09 - Generator Verification: PRC-024-1	Successive Ballot	2/15/2013	2/28/2013	Quorum: 78.80% Approval: 89.01%	Support 1/11/13		
380	Project 2007-09	Project 2007-09 - Generator Verification: PRC-024-1	Non-binding Poll	2/15/2013	2/28/2013	Quorum: 76.38% Approval: 84.24%			
381	Project 2010-13.2	Project 2010-13.2 Phase 2 of Relay Loadability: Generation	Initial Ballot	3/1/2013	3/11/2013	Quorum: 76.36% Approval: 54.65%			
382	Project 2012-08.1	Project 2012-08.1 - Phase 1 of Glossary Updates: Statutory Definitions	Successive Ballot	3/13/2013	3/22/2013	Quorum: 77.48% Approval: 84.27%	No Consensus 3/22/13		NPCC to abstain - international nature of the ERO and BPS is not used in Reliability Standards
383	Project 2012-INT-04	Project 2012-INT-04 - Interpretation of CIP-007-3 for ITC	Initial Ballot	3/13/2013	3/22/2013	Quorum: 88.58% Approval: 97.18%	Support 3/14/13		
384	Project 2012-INT-06	Project 2012-INT-06 - Interpretation of CIP-003-3 for Consumers Energy	Initial Ballot	3/13/2013	3/22/2013	Quorum: 88.52% Approval: 98.89%	Support 3/14/13		
385	Project 2007-09	Project 2007-09 - Generator Verification: PRC-024-1	Recirculation Ballot	3/18/2013	3/27/2013	Quorum: 81.33% Approval: 89.44%	Support 1/11/13		
386	Project 2007-02	Project 2007-02 Operating Personnel Protocols: COM-003-1	Successive Ballot	3/27/2013	4/5/2013	Quorum: 78.39% Approval: 57.50%	No Consensus 4/4/13		The RSC did not reach a full consensus however the majority of respondents had indicated they will support the standard - see comment form for further details. Some believe the standard is not necessary and that existing whitepapers alleviate the need for it. In recognition of the NERC BOT's expectations that COM-003 will be approved by the industry and brought before them for approval, NPCC has voted affirmatively and will supply comments for the record outlining our concerns.
387	Project 2007-02	Project 2007-02 Operating Personnel Protocols: COM-003-1	Non-binding Poll	3/27/2013	4/5/2013	Quorum: 77.97% Approval: 54.28%			

Line	Project	Link to Ballot Results https://standards.nerc.net/Ballot.aspx (clicking in the column to the right of "Ballot Periods" column links to the Ballot Results)	Ballot Type	Start Date	End Date (Sorted Oldest to Newest)	Ballot Results	Recommendation / Date	How NPCC Voted	Comments
388	Project 2010-14.1	Project 2010-14.1 - Phase 1 of Balancing Authority Reliability-based Controls: Reserves: BAL-001-2	Initial Ballot	4/16/2013	4/25/2013	Quorum: 88.60% Approval: 66.98%	No Consensus 4/23/13		The majority of NPCC's Balancing Authorities have indicated support for the standard, however NPCC as the Regional Entity has concerns based on results of the field trials that were conducted. These field trials have indicated the potential for an increased number of SOL violations as well as potential for increased ACE due to large inadvertent flows with the proposed BAAL limits based on frequency triggers. To be respectful of the positions of the NPCC BAs who will have to implement this new methodology and the support expressed, NPCC as the Regional Entity will cast an Abstention
389	Project 2010-14.1	Project 2010-14.1 - Phase 1 of Balancing Authority Reliability-based Controls: Reserves: BAL-002-2	Initial Ballot	4/16/2013	4/25/2013	Quorum: 88.51% Approval: 42.75%	Oppose 4/23/13		There is a lack of technical justification for the 500 MW threshold within the standard- NPCC will submit suggested improvements
390	Project 2010-14.1	Project 2010-14.1 - Phase 1 of Balancing Authority Reliability-based Controls: Reserves: BAL-013-1	Initial Ballot	4/16/2013	4/25/2013	Quorum: 88.51% Approval: 23.84%	Oppose 4/23/13		Losses of large blocks of load are typically caused by coincident transmission contingencies. Excessive and uninformed adjustments made to generation in order to bring the ACE to zero may well lead to further transmission issues. NPCC will submit suggested improvements
391	Project 2010-14.1	Project 2010-14.1 - Phase 1 of Balancing Authority Reliability-based Controls: Reserves: BAL-001-2	Non-binding Poll	4/16/2013	4/25/2013	Quorum: % Approval: %			
392	Project 2010-14.1	Project 2010-14.1 - Phase 1 of Balancing Authority Reliability-based Controls: Reserves: BAL-002-2	Non-binding Poll	4/16/2013	4/25/2013	Quorum: % Approval: %			
393	Project 2010-14.1	Project 2010-14.1 - Phase 1 of Balancing Authority Reliability-based Controls: Reserves: BAL-013-1	Non-binding Poll	4/16/2013	4/25/2013	Quorum: % Approval: %			
394	Project 2012-08.1	Project 2012-08.1 - Phase 1 of Glossary Updates: Statutory Definitions	Recirculation Ballot	4/18/2013	4/29/2013	Quorum: 80.70% Approval: 88.15%	No Consensus 3/22/13		
395	Project 2010-13.2	Project 2010-13.2 Phase 2 of Relay Loadability: Generation	Successive ballot	5/15/2013	5/24/2013	Quorum: 81.25% Approval: 69.23%	Support 5/23/13		The Regional Standard Committee has not expressed any concerns of significance that would warrant a ballot to reject, therefore the RSC recommends a yes vote, "Affirmative", to accept the standard
396	Project 2010-13.2	Project 2010-13.2 Phase 2 of Relay Loadability: Generation	Non-binding Poll	5/15/2013	5/24/2013	Quorum: 80.17% Approval: 61.11%			
397	Project 2007-06	Project 2007-06 - System Protection Coordination - PRC-001 and PRC-027	Successive Ballot	6/24/2013	7/3/2013	Quorum: 77.65% Approval: 52.71%			
398	Project 2007-06	Project 2007-06 - System Protection Coordination - PRC-001 and PRC-027	Non-binding Poll	6/24/2013	7/3/2013	Quorum: 77.12% Approval: 52.48%			

Line	Project	Link to Ballot Results https://standards.nerc.net/Ballot.aspx (clicking in the column to the right of "Ballot Periods" column links to the Ballot Results)	Ballot Type	Start Date	End Date (Sorted Oldest to Newest)	Ballot Results	Recommendation / Date	How NPCC Voted	Comments
399	Project 2010-17	Project 2010-17 - Definition of Bulk Electric System (Phase 2)	Initial Ballot	7/3/2013	7/12/2013	Quorum: 85.53% Approval: 49.73%			
400	Project 2007-02	Project 2007-02 - Operating Personnel Communications Protocols - COM-003	Successive Ballot	7/10/2013	7/19/2013	Quorum: 76.32% Approval: 58.36%	No Consensus 7/19/13 [Due to the concerns expressed over the potential actions by the NERC BOT and FERC as well as the incremental improvement of the standard over the previous versions, NPCC as the Regional Entity will support the standard and submit comments.]		organizations support the standard as written however some members expressed concern that in order to measure compliance with R1 and R2, the standard will require all Reliability Directives to be investigated to determine if RC approved and documented communication protocols have been violated. Also it was identified that TO, BA communication protocols would have to approved by the RC potentially causing some legal issues if protocols aren't approved and casts question on the enforcement of those protocols. NPCC will be submitting some helpful comments should the standard pass and some non-substantive revision be performed prior to the "final" (previously named recirculation) ballot.
401	Project 2007-02	Project 2007-02 - Operating Personnel Communications Protocols - COM-003	Non-binding Poll	7/10/2013	7/19/2013	Quorum: 76.20% Approval: 55.37%			
402	Project 2010-13.2	Project 2010-13.2 - Phase 2 of Relay Loadability: Generation - PRC-025	Successive Ballot	7/10/2013	7/19/2013	Quorum: 85.05% Approval: 72.43%	Support 7/19/13		
403	Project 2010-13.2	Project 2010-13.2 - Phase 2 of Relay Loadability: Generation - PRC-025	Non-binding Poll	7/10/2013	7/19/2013	Quorum: 82.51% Approval: 64.59%			
404	Project 2010-14.1	Project 2010-14.1 - Phase 1 of Balancing Authority Reliability-based Controls: Reserves: BAL-001-2	Final Ballot	7/16/2013	7/25/2013	Quorum: 92.31% Approval: 74.54%	No Consensus 7/22/13		The RSC has not reached a full consensus however the majority are in support. Issues outstanding for those not in support are concern over "hitting limits" more frequently and potential issues with BA's potentially "dragging" on the interconnection. NPCC will be voting affirmative on the standard.
405	Project 2010-13.2	Project 2010-13.2 - Phase 2 of Relay Loadability: Generation - PRC-023-3	Initial Ballot	7/26/2013	8/5/2013	Quorum: 80.05% Approval: 93.00%	Support 8/5/13		
408	Project 2010-13.2	Project 2010-13.2 - Phase 2 of Relay Loadability: Generation - PRC-025-1	Final Ballot	8/2/2013	8/12/2013	Quorum: 89.13% Approval: 76.52%	Support 8/12/13		
406	Project 2013-03	Project 2013-03 Geomagnetic Disturbance Mitigation - EOP-010-1	Initial Ballot	8/2/2013	8/12/2013	Quorum: 76.32% Approval: 62.74%	Support 8/9/13		
407	Project 2013-03	Project 2013-03 Geomagnetic Disturbance Mitigation - EOP-010-1	Non-binding Poll	8/2/2013	8/12/2013	Quorum: 75.89% Approval: 55.45%			
409	Project 2007-17.2	Project 2007-17.2 - Protection System Maintenance and Testing - Phase 2 (Reclosing Relays) - PRC-005-3	Initial Ballot	8/14/2013	8/23/2013	Quorum: 78.33% Approval: 79.42%	Support 8/23/13		
410	Project 2007-17.2	Project 2007-17.2 - Protection System Maintenance and Testing - Phase 2 (Reclosing Relays) - PRC-005-3	Non-binding Poll	8/14/2013	8/23/2013	Quorum: 77.45% Approval: 81.37%			
411	Project 2012-05	Project 2012-05 ATC Revisions (MOD A) - MOD-001-2	Ballot	8/16/2013	8/26/2013	Quorum: 76.14% Approval: 51.10%	No Consensus 8/26/13		NPCC to support with comments
412	Project 2012-05	Project 2012-05 ATC Revisions (MOD A) - MOD-001-2	Non-binding Poll	8/16/2013	8/26/2013	Quorum: 75.98% Approval: 53.29%			

Line	Project	Link to Ballot Results https://standards.nerc.net/Ballot.aspx (clicking in the column to the right of "Ballot Periods" column links to the Ballot Results)	Ballot Type	Start Date	End Date (Sorted Oldest to Newest)	Ballot Results	Recommendation / Date	How NPCC Voted	Comments
413	Project 2010-01	Project 2010-01 - Training - PER-005-2	Ballot	8/23/2013	9/3/2013	Quorum: 75.25% Approval: 34.46%	No Consensus 8/31/13		NPCC to support with comments The most contentious issues raised by RSC members was surrounding the Control Center definition and the potential to vastly expand those needing training subject to the standard and compliance and that there was no need for a standard, rather, the FERC Directives should be addressed through other means.
414	Project 2010-01	Project 2010-01 - Training - PER-005-2	Non-binding Poll	8/23/2013	9/3/2013	Quorum: 80.45% Approval: 34.24%			
415	Project 2013-04	Project 2013-04 Voltage and Reactive Control - VAR-001-4, VAR-002-3	Ballot	8/23/2013	9/3/2013	Quorum: 81.89% Approval: 43.79%	Oppose 8/31/13		The standard, in the view of the group, has extensive issues including but not limited to, applicability issues, lacks clarity, missing measures, quality, and other substantive issues. NPCC will be submitting detailed comments to address these issues. The RSC does not believe it would be beneficial to support the standard at this point as the next step, if it fails the initial ballot, would still require an additional ballot prior to moving to recirculation due to the substantive changes that are needed for the next revision. NPCC will be submitting helpful comments to NERC and supporting the drafting team effort.
416	Project 2013-04	Project 2013-04 Voltage and Reactive Control - VAR-001-4, VAR-002-3	Non-binding Poll	8/23/2013	9/3/2013	Quorum: 79.95% Approval: 44.23%			
417	Project 2010-03	Project 2010-03 - Modeling Data (MOD B) - MOD-032-1, MOD-033-1	Ballot	8/26/2013	9/4/2013	Quorum: 82.29% Approval: 41.24%	Support 8/31/13		
418	Project 2010-03	Project 2010-03 - Modeling Data (MOD B) - MOD-032-1, MOD-033-1	Non-binding Poll	8/26/2013	9/4/2013	Quorum: 79.66% Approval: 40.00%			
419	Project 2010-04	Project 2010-04 - Demand Data (MOD C) - MOD-031-1	Ballot	8/26/2013	9/4/2013	Quorum: 81.96% Approval: 55.76%	Support 8/31/13		
420	Project 2010-04	Project 2010-04 - Demand Data (MOD C) - MOD-031-1	Non-binding Poll	8/26/2013	9/4/2013	Quorum: 80.35% Approval: 58.97%			
421	Project 2010-17	Project 2010-17 - Definition of Bulk Electric System (Phase 2)	Additional Ballot	8/26/2013	9/4/2013	Quorum: 78.68% Approval: 66.11%	Support 8/31/13		
426	Project 2010-13.2	Project 2010-13.2 - Phase 2 of Relay Loadability: Generation - PRC-023-3	Final Ballot	9/4/2013	9/13/2013	Quorum: 85.93% Approval: 90.83%	Support 8/5/13		
422	Project 2010-14.1	Project 2010-14.1 - Phase 1 of Balancing Authority Reliability-based Controls: Reserves - BAL-002-2, BAL-013-1	Ballot	9/6/2013	9/16/2013	Quorum: 76.15% Approval: 58.23%	No Consensus 9/12/13		
423	Project 2010-14.1	Project 2010-14.1 - Phase 1 of Balancing Authority Reliability-based Controls: Reserves - BAL-002-2, BAL-013-1	Non-binding Poll	9/6/2013	9/16/2013	Quorum: 75.69% Approval: 59.66%			
424	Project 2012-INT-04	Project 2012-INT-04 - Interpretation of CIP-007-3 for ITC	Final Ballot	9/11/2013	9/20/2013	Quorum: 91.64% Approval: 98.61%	Support 3/14/13		

Line	Project	Link to Ballot Results https://standards.nerc.net/Ballot.aspx (clicking in the column to the right of "Ballot Periods" column links to the Ballot Results)	Ballot Type	Start Date	End Date (Sorted Oldest to Newest)	Ballot Results	Recommendation / Date	How NPCC Voted	Comments
425	Project 2012-INT-06	Project 2012-INT-06 - Interpretation of CIP-003-3 for Consumers Energy	Final Ballot	9/11/2013	9/20/2013	Quorum: 90.98% Approval: 98.92%	Support 3/14/13		
427	Project 2013-03	Project 2013-03 Geomagnetic Disturbance Mitigation - EOP-010-1	Additional Ballot	10/9/2013	10/21/2013	Quorum: 77.58% Approval: 88.75%	Support 10/16/13		
428	Project 2013-03	Project 2013-03 Geomagnetic Disturbance Mitigation - EOP-010-1	Non-binding Poll	10/9/2013	10/21/2013	Quorum: 75.89% Approval: 90.04%			
429	Project 2007-17.2	Project 2007-17.2 - Protection System Maintenance and Testing - Phase 2 (Reclosing Relays) - PRC-005-3	Final Ballot	10/16/2013	10/25/2013	Quorum: 85.71% Approval: 85.38%			
430	Project 2010-17	Project 2010-17 - Definition of Bulk Electric System (Phase 2)	Additional Ballot	10/18/2013	10/29/2013	Quorum: 75.83% Approval: 72.55%	Support 10/21/13		
431	Project 2013-03	Project 2013-03 Geomagnetic Disturbance Mitigation - EOP-010-1	Final Ballot	10/25/2013	11/4/2013	Quorum: 86.90% Approval: 91.95%			
432	Project 2007-02	Project 2007-02 - Operating Personnel Communications Protocols - COM-002-4	Additional Ballot	10/25/2013	11/7/2013	Quorum: 76.67% Approval: 58.24%	No Consensus 11/1/13		
433	Project 2010-01	Project 2010-01 - Training - PER-005-2	Additional Ballot	11/1/2013	11/12/2013	Quorum: 76.23% Approval: 56.48%	Support 11/11/13		
434	Project 2008-12	Project 2008-12 - Coordinate Interchange Standards - Various INT standards - INT-004-3	Initial Ballot	11/4/2013	11/13/2013	Quorum: 76.12% Approval: 67.35%	Support 11/5/13		
435	Project 2008-12	Project 2008-12 - Coordinate Interchange Standards - Various INT standards - INT-006-4	Initial Ballot	11/4/2013	11/13/2013	Quorum: 75.82% Approval: 75.58%	Support 11/5/13		
436	Project 2008-12	Project 2008-12 - Coordinate Interchange Standards - Various INT standards - INT-009-2	Initial Ballot	11/4/2013	11/13/2013	Quorum: 75.82% Approval: 68.40%	Support 11/5/13		
437	Project 2008-12	Project 2008-12 - Coordinate Interchange Standards - Various INT standards - INT-010-2	Initial Ballot	11/4/2013	11/13/2013	Quorum: 75.82% Approval: 58.03%	Support 11/5/13		
438	Project 2008-12	Project 2008-12 - Coordinate Interchange Standards - Various INT standards - INT-011-1	Initial Ballot	11/4/2013	11/13/2013	Quorum: 75.52% Approval: 71.35%	Support 11/5/13		
439	Project 2008-12	Project 2008-12 - Coordinate Interchange Standards - Various INT standards - Definition	Initial Ballot	11/4/2013	11/15/2013	Quorum: 76.42% Approval: 77.82%	Support 11/5/13		
440	Project 2010-17	Project 2010-17 - Definition of Bulk Electric System (Phase 2)	Final Ballot	11/8/2013	11/18/2013	Quorum: 81.68% Approval: 74.34%	Support 10/21/13		
441	Project 2012-05	Project 2012-05 ATC Revisions (MOD A) - MOD-001-2	Additional Ballot	11/8/2013	11/20/2013	Quorum: 81.69% Approval: 82.97%	No Consensus 8/26/13		
442	Project 2010-03	Project 2010-03 - Modeling Data (MOD B) - MOD-032-1	Additional Ballot	11/8/2013	11/20/2013	Quorum: 79.05% Approval: 73.46%	Support 8/31/13		
443	Project 2010-03	Project 2010-03 - Modeling Data (MOD B) - MOD-033-1	Additional Ballot	11/8/2013	11/20/2013	Quorum: 79.84% Approval: 69.42%	Support 8/31/13		
444	Project 2010-04	Project 2010-04 - Demand Data (MOD C) - MOD-031-1	Additional Ballot	11/13/2013	11/22/2013	Quorum: 80.54% Approval: 57.59%	Support 8/31/13		
445	Project 2013-04	Project 2013-04 Voltage and Reactive Control - VAR-001-4	Additional Ballot	11/15/2013	11/25/2013	Quorum: 80.81% Approval: 69.43%			
446	Project 2013-04	Project 2013-04 Voltage and Reactive Control - VAR-002-3	Additional Ballot	11/15/2013	11/25/2013	Quorum: 81.06% Approval: 66.09%			
447	Project 2010-14.1	Project 2010-14.1 - Phase 1 of Balancing Authority Reliability-based Controls: Reserves - BAL-002-2	Additional Ballot	12/2/2013	12/12/2013	Quorum: 75.29% Approval: 64.24%	No Consensus 12/9/13	Affirmative	
448	Project 2007-11	Project 2007-11 Disturbance Monitoring - PRC-002-2	Initial Ballot	12/6/2013	12/16/2013	Quorum: 82.25% Approval: 43.29%	No Consensus 12/15/13	Affirmative	Highlights of comments received expressed: • Agreement with the methodology to determine BES locations for which data had to be captured • Use of the term "locations" • DDR for Flowgates, IROLs • Clarification needed for some data that is to be captured • Editorial suggestions
449	Project 2010-03	Project 2010-03 - Modeling Data (MOD B) - MOD-032-1	Final Ballot	12/6/2013	12/16/2013	Quorum: 87.53% Approval: 77.49%	Support 8/31/13	Affirmative	
450	Project 2008-12	Project 2008-12 Coordinate Interchange Standards - INT-006-4	Final Ballot	12/10/2013	12/20/2013	Quorum: 85.07% Approval: 80.77%	Support 11/5/13	Affirmative	
451	Project 2008-12	Project 2008-12 Coordinate Interchange Standards - INT-009-2	Final Ballot	12/10/2013	12/20/2013	Quorum: 85.07% Approval: 72.86%	Support 11/5/13	Affirmative	
452	Project 2008-12	Project 2008-12 Coordinate Interchange Standards - INT-011-1	Final Ballot	12/10/2013	12/20/2013	Quorum: 84.78% Approval: 72.91%	Support 11/5/13	Affirmative	

Line	Project	Link to Ballot Results https://standards.nerc.net/Ballot.aspx (clicking in the column to the right of "Ballot Periods" column links to the Ballot Results)	Ballot Type	Start Date	End Date (Sorted Oldest to Newest)	Ballot Results	Recommendation / Date	How NPCC Voted	Comments	
453	Project 2012-05	Project 2012-05 ATC Revisions (MOD A) - MOD-001-2	Final Ballot	12/11/2013	12/20/2013	Quorum: 87.16% Approval: 86.40%	No Consensus 8/26/13	Affirmative		
454	Project 2013-04	Project 2013-04 Voltage and Reactive Control - VAR-001-4	Final Ballot	12/13/2013	12/23/2013	Quorum: 84.34% Approval: 75.35%		Affirmative		
455	Project 2007-06	Project 2007-06 - System Protection Coordination - PRC-027-1	Additional Ballot	12/9/2013	12/31/2013	Quorum: 76.60% Approval: 65.71%	No Consensus 12/27/13	Affirmative		
456	Project 2010-03	Project 2010-03 - Modeling Data (MOD B) - MOD-033-1	Additional Ballot	1/10/2014	1/21/2014	Quorum: 76.92% Approval: 81.41%	Support 8/31/13	Affirmative		
457	Project 2010-01	Project 2010-01 - Training - PER-005-2	Additional Ballot	1/8/2014	1/22/2014	Quorum: 7912% Approval: 74.63%	Support 11/11/13	Affirmative		
458	Project 2008-12	Project 2008-12 - Coordinate Interchange Standards - Various INT standards - INT-004-3	Additional Ballot	1/10/2014	1/22/2014	Quorum: 75.22% Approval: 81.19%	Support 11/5/13	Affirmative		
459	Project 2008-12	Project 2008-12 - Coordinate Interchange Standards - Various INT standards - INT-010-2	Additional Ballot	1/10/2014	1/22/2014	Quorum: 75.22% Approval: 90.23%	Support 11/5/13	Affirmative		
460	Project 2008-12	Project 2008-12 - Coordinate Interchange Standards - Various INT standards - Definition	Additional Ballot	1/16/2014	1/29/2014	Quorum: 76.12% Approval: 92.17%	Support 11/5/13	Affirmative		
461	Project 2007-02	Project 2007-02 - Operating Personnel Communications Protocols - COM-002-4	Additional Ballot	1/22/2014	1/31/2014	Quorum: 76.03% Approval: 71.86%	No Consensus 11/1/13	Affirmative	Ballot Period Extended to 2/4/14	
462	Project 2008-12	Project 2008-12 - Coordinate Interchange Standards - Various INT standards - INT-004-3	Final Ballot	1/27/2014	2/5/2014	Quorum: 83.88% Approval: 83.44%	Support 11/5/13	Affirmative		
463	Project 2008-12	Project 2008-12 - Coordinate Interchange Standards - Various INT standards - INT-010-2	Final Ballot	1/27/2014	2/5/2014	Quorum: 83.58% Approval: 91.51%	Support 11/5/13	Affirmative		
464	Project 2010-03	Project 2010-03 - Modeling Data (MOD B) - MOD-033-1	Final Ballot	1/27/2014	2/5/2014	Quorum: 82.49% Approval: 82.45%	Support 8/31/13	Affirmative		
465	Project 2010-01	Project 2010-01 - Training - PER-005-2	Final Ballot	1/27/2014	2/5/2014	Quorum: 84.02% Approval: 77.06%	Support 11/11/13	Affirmative		
466	Project 2008-12	Project 2008-12 - Coordinate Interchange Standards - Various INT standards - Definition	Final Ballot	1/31/2014	2/10/2014	Quorum: 81.79% Approval: 90.12%	Support 11/5/13	Affirmative		
467	Project 2010-05.1	Project 2010-05.1 –Protection Systems: Phase 1 (Misoperations): PRC-004-3	Additional Ballot	2/21/2014	3/3/2014	Quorum: 75.06% Approval: 62.63%	Support 9/5/12	Affirmative	Ballot Period Extended to 3/11/14	
468	Project 2007-02	Project 2007-02 - Operating Personnel Communications Protocols - COM-002-4	Final Ballot	3/28/2014	4/7/2014	Quorum: 78.21% Approval: 77.62%	Support 3/28/14	Affirmative		
469	Project 2010-04	Project 2010-04 - Demand Data (MOD C) - MOD-031-1	Additional Ballot	4/1/2014	4/10/2014	Quorum: 76.92% Approval: 83.40%	Support 8/31/13	Affirmative		
470	Project 2013-04	Project 2013-04 Voltage and Reactive Control - VAR-002-3	Additional Ballot	4/4/2014	4/14/2014	Quorum: 78.03% Approval: 82.40%		--		
471	Project 2014-04	Project 2014-04 Physical Security - CIP-014-1	Initial Ballot	4/20/2014	4/24/2014	Quorum: 88.60% Approval: 82.07%	Support 4/23/14	Abstain		
472	Project 2010-04	Project 2010-04 - Demand Data (MOD C) - MOD-031-1	Final Ballot	4/25/2014	5/5/2014	Quorum: 80.37% Approval: 90.00%	Support--4/25/14	Affirmative		
473	Project 2013-04	Project 2013-04 - Voltage and Reactive Control - VAR-001-4, VAR-002-3	Final Ballot	4/23/2014	5/5/2014	Quorum: 83.84% Approval: 88.26%	Support--4/10/14	Affirmative		
474	Project 2014-04	Project 2014-04 - Physical Security - CIP-014-1	Final Ballot	5/1/2014	5/5/2014	Quorum: 92.53% Approval: 85.61%	Support--4/23/14	Abstain		
475	Project 2010-02	Project 2010-02 - Connecting Facilities to the Grid - FAC-001-2 and FAC-002-2	Initial Ballot	5/6/2014	5/15/2014	Quorum: 85.79%/79.08% Approval: 86.28%/78.81%	No Consensus--5/15/14	Reject		
476	Project 2012-13	Project 2012-13 - NUC - Nuclear Plant Interface Coordination	Initial Ballot	5/13/2014	5/22/2014	Quorum: 80.60% Approval: 97.36%	Support--5/20/14	Affirmative		
477	Project 2007-17.3	Project 2007-17.3 - Protection System Maintenance and Testing - Phase 3 (Sudden Pressure Relays) - PRC-005-X	Initial Ballot	5/23/2014	6/2/2014	Quorum: 85.42% Approval: 47.89%	Support	Affirmative		
478	Project 2010-13.3	Project 2010-13.3 - Phase 3 of Relay Loadability: Stable Power Swings	Initial Ballot	5/30/2014	6/9/2014	Quorum: 79.06% Approval: 17.02%	Does not Support--6/6/14	Negative		
475	Project 2010-02	Project 2010-02 - Connecting Facilities to the Grid - FAC-001-2 and FAC-002-2	Final Ballot	6/12/2014	6/23/2014	Quorum: Approval: 89.03%/83.46%	Support	Affirmative		
479	Project 2007-11	Project 2007-11 - Disturbance Monitoring - PRC-002-2	Additional Ballot	6/13/2014	6/23/2014	Quorum: 77.69% Approval: 52.29%	Support	Affirmative	Extended to achieve a quorum.	
480	Project 2010-05.1	Project 2010-05.1 - Protection System: Phase 1 (Misoperations) - PRC-004	Additional Ballot	6/20/2014	7/9/2014	Quorum: 76.98% Approval: 74.53%	Support	Affirmative	Extended to achieve a quorum.	Last RSC Meeting
481	Project 2014-03	Project 2014-03 - Revisions to TOP/IRO Reliability Standards	Ballot	6/23/2014	7/2/2014	Quorum: 82.32%/82.59%/82.59%/82.85%/82.85%/82.06%/82.59%/82.85%/82.85%/81.00%/80.74%	No Consensus--6/24/14	Affirmative Negative Affirmative Affirmative Affirmative		

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[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Approval: 68.57%/36.94%/47.87%/60.26%/61.67%/57.94%/30.99%/62.18%/63.07%/62.64%/64.70%	[illegible]	Affirmative Negative Affirmative Affirmative	
482	Project 2012-13	Project 2012-13 NUC - Nuclear Plant Interface Coordination	Final Ballot	6/24/2014	7/3/2014	Quorum: 88.63% Approval: 97.23%	Support--6/23/14	Affirmative	
483	Project 2014-02	Project 2014-02 Critical Infrastructure Protection Standards Version 5 Revisions Rich HTML Content 1 http://www.nerc.com/pa/Stand/Pages/Project-2014-XX-Critical-Infrastructure-Protection-Version-5-Revisions.aspx	Final Ballot	7/7/2014	7/16/2014	Quorum: 80.73%/80.49%/80.00%/80.24%/80.24%/80.49%/80.24%/78.29% Approval: 35.67%/80.76%/76.24%/78.41%/85.32%/49.42%/82.55%/78.58%	CIP-003 No CIP-004 Yes CIP-006 Yes CIP-007 Yes CIP-009 Yes CIP-010 Yes CIP-011 Yes Definitions Yes Support--7/14/14		
484	Project 2010-05.2	Project 2010-05.2 – Special Protection Systems (Phase 2 of Protection Systems)	Final Ballot	7/16/2014	7/25/2014	Quorum: 78.92% Approval: 58.88%	Support--7/23/14		
485	Project 2014-01	Project 2014-01 Standards Applicability for Dispersed Generation Resources	Final Ballot	7/18/2014	7/28/2014	Quorum: 79.49%/80.15%/80.00%/80.83%/80.36% Approval: 91.38%/92.20%/89.51%/90.58%/87.09%	Support--7/24/14	Affirmative	
486	Project 2012-13	Project 2013-03 Geomagnetic Disturbance Mitigation	Final Ballot	7/21/2014	7/30/2014	Quorum: 82.67% Approval: 55.77%		Affirmative	
487	Project 2012-13	Project 2008-02 Undervoltage Load Shedding (UVLS) & Underfrequency Load Shedding (UFLS)	Initial Ballot	7/29/2014	8/7/2014	Quorum: 76.37% Approval: 76.91%		Affirmative	
488	Project 2012-13	Project 2009-03 Emergency Operations	Initial Ballot	8/6/2014	8/15/2014	Quorum: 77.66% Approval: 42.27%	Negative--8/14/14	Negative	
489	Project 2014-01	Project 2010-05.1 - Protection System: Phase 1 (Misoperations) - PRC-004	Final Ballot	7/29/2014	8/7/2014	Quorum: 77.94% Approval: 79.75%	Support	Affirmative	
490	Project 2014-01	Project 2014-01 Standards Applicability for Dispersed Generation Resources	Final Ballot	8/27/2014	9/5/2014	Quorum: 85.32%/86.01% Approval: 95.35%/95.86%	Support	Affirmative	
491	Project 2007-17.3	Project 2007-17.3 - Protection System Maintenance and Testing -	Additional Ballot	9/3/2014	9/12/2014	Quorum: 84.33% Approval: 76.03%	Support--9/4/14	Affirmative	
492	Project 2014-03	Project 2014-03 - Revisions to TOP/IRO Reliability Standards	Additional Ballot	9/10/2014	9/19/2014	Quorum: 85.75%/84.96%/84.96%/85.22%/84.96%/85.22%/85.49%/85.22%/86.28%/83.11%/83.91% Approval: 76.12%/74.23%/75.67%/85.49%/75.96%/78.67%/48.73%/78.87%/87.03%/93.34%/90.13%	TOP-001-3: Negative TOP-002-4: Affirmative TOP-003-3: Affirmative IRO-001-4: No consensus however the majority indicated an Affirmative vote IRO-002-4: Negative IRO-008-2: No consensus, a majority indicated a Negative and the others indicated abstention IRO-010-2: Affirmative IRO-014-3: Negative IRO-017-1: Affirmative Implementation Plan and Definitions: Affirmative		
493	Project 2010-14.1	Project 2010-14.1 Phase 1 of Balancing Authority Reliability-based Controls: Reserves	Additional Ballot	9/23/2014	10/2/2014	Quorum: 79.94% Approval: 46.73%	Negative--10/1/14		
494	Project 2010-13.3	Project 2010-13.3 - Phase 3 of Relay Loadability: Stable Power Swings	Additional Ballot	9/26/2014	10/6/2014	Quorum: 79.01% Approval: 53.02%	Affirmative--10/1/14		
495	Project 2012-13	Project 2008-02 Undervoltage Load Shedding (UVLS) & Underfrequency Load Shedding (UFLS)	Additional Ballot	9/29/2014	10/8/2014	Quorum: 83.24%/84.82% Approval: 80.69%/84.05%	Affirmative--10/7/14	Affirmative	

Line	Project	Link to Ballot Results https://standards.nerc.net/Ballot.aspx (clicking in the column to the right of "Ballot Periods" column links to the Ballot Results)	Ballot Type	Start Date	End Date (Sorted Oldest to Newest)	Ballot Results	Recommendation / Date	How NPCC Voted	Comments
496	Project 2012-13	Project 2013-03 Geomagnetic Disturbance Mitigation	Additional Ballot	10/1/2014	10/10/2014	Quorum: 82.93% Approval: 57.95%	Affirmative--10/7/14		
497	Project 2010-05.2	Project 2010-05.2 – Special Protection Systems (Phase 2 of Protection Systems)	Additional Ballot	10/3/2014	10/14/2014	Quorum: 80.54% Approval: 75.79% Approval:	Affirmative--10/7/14		

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Line	Project#	Description	Document	Comment Type	Start Date	End Date	NPCC Submitted
1.	N/A	Standards Project Prioritization Reference Document and Tool	Project Prioritization Tool		1/21/11	2/10/11	Yes 2/10/11
2.	Project 2007-23	Project 2007-23 - Violation Severity Levels	VSLs		1/20/11	2/18/11	Yes 2/18/11
3.	N/A	CAN-0015--Draft CAN-0015 Unavailability of NERC Tools	CAN-0015 Unavailability of NERC Tools		2/4/11	2/18/11	Yes 2/18/11
4	N/A	CAN-0016--Draft CAN-0016 CIP-001-1 R1 - Applicability to Non-BES	CAN-0016 CIP-001-1, R1		2/4/11	2/18/11	Yes 2/18/11
5.	N/A	CAN-0018--Draft CAN-0018 FAC-008 R.1.2.1 - Terminal Equipment	CAN-0018 FAC-008, R.1.2.1		2/4/11	2/18/11	Yes 2/18/11
6.	Regional Standard	Regional Reliability Standards - PRC-006-NPCC-1 - Automatic Underfrequency Load Shedding	PRC-006-NPCC-1		1/10/11	2/24/11	
7.	Project 2007-07	Project 2007-07 - Vegetation Management - FAC-003	FAC-003-2		1/27/11	2/28/11	Yes 2/28/11
8.	N/A	CAN-0017--Draft CAN-0017 CIP-007 R5 System Access and Password Controls	CAN-0017 CIP-007, R5		2/11/11	3/4/11	Yes 3/4/11
9.	Project 2007-12	Project 2007-12 - Frequency Response	BAL-003-1		2/4/11	3/7/11	Yes 3/7/11
10.	Project 2006-06	Project 2006-06 - Reliability Coordination - COM-001, COM-002, IRO-001, and IRO-014	COM-001 COM-002 IRO-001 IRO-014		1/18/11	3/7/11	Yes 3/7/11
11.	NERC RoP	Proposed Changes to Rules of Procedure to Add Section 1700 - Challenges to Determinations	RoP Section 1700		2/14/11	3/7/11	Yes 3/7/11
12.	Project 2009-02	Project 2009-02 - Real-time Reliability Monitoring and Analysis Capabilities	Concept White Paper		2/16/11	4/4/11	Yes 4/4/11

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Line	Project#	Description	Document	Comment Type	Start Date	End Date	NPCC Submitted
13.	Project 2010-07	Project 2010-07 - Generator Requirements at the Transmission Interface	Various BAL, CIP, EOP, FAC, IRO, MOD, PER, PRC, TOP, and VAR Standards		3/4/11	4/4/11	Yes 4/4/11
14.	Project 2009-01	Project 2009-01 - Disturbance and Sabotage Reporting	EOP-004-2		3/9/11	4/8/11	Yes 4/8/11
15.	RFC RoP	Notice of Proposed Changes to RFC Rules of Procedure and Request for Comments			3/1/11	4/15/11	
16.	NERC RoP	Proposed Amendments to NERC Rules of Procedure Appendices 3B and 3D	Appendices 3B and 3D		3/1/11	4/15/11	Yes 4/15/11
17.	Project 2010-15	Project 2010-15 - Urgent Action Revisions to CIP-005-3 - CIP-005	CIP-005		3/29/11	4/28/11	Yes 4/27/11
18.	Project 2009-06	Project 2009-06 - Facility Ratings - FAC-008 and FAC-009	FAC-008-3		3/17/11	5/2/11	Yes 5/2/11
19.	Project 2007-17	Project 2007-17 - Protection System Maintenance and Testing - PRC-005	PRC-005-2		4/13/11	5/12/11	Yes 5/9/11
20.	Project 2010-17	Project 2010-17 - Definition of Bulk Electric System	BES Definition		4/28/11	5/27/11	Yes 5/27/11
21.	Project 2006-02	Project 2006-02 - Assess Transmission and Future Needs	TPL-001-2		4/18/11	5/31/11	Yes 5/31/11
22.	Project 2007-03	Project 2007-03 - Real-time Operations - TOP-001 through TOP-008 and PER-001	TOP-001 through TOP-008 and PER-001		4/26/11	6/9/11	Yes 6/9/11
23.	Project 2010-17	Project 2010-17 - Definition of Bulk Electric System	BES Definition		5/11/11	6/10/11	Yes 6/10/11
24.	NERC RoP	Rules of Procedure Development Team: BES Definition Exception Process	BES Definition Exception Process		5/11/11	6/10/11	Yes 6/10/11
25.	N/A	CAN-0024--Draft CAN-0024 CIP-002 through CIP-009 Routable Protocols and Data Diodes	CAN-0024 CIP-002 through CIP-009		5/20/11	6/10/11	

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Line	Project#	Description	Document	Comment Type	Start Date	End Date	NPCC Submitted
26.	N/A	CAN-0029--Draft CAN-0029 PRC-004-1 R1, R2 and R3 Misoperations	CAN-0029 PRC-004-1 R1, R2 and R3		5/20/11	6/10/11	
27.	N/A	CAN-0030--Draft CAN-0030 Attestations	CAN-0030 Attestations		5/20/11	6/10/11	
28.	N/A	CAN-0039--Draft CAN-0039 DOE Form 407	CAN-0039 DOE Form 407		5/20/11	6/10/11	
29.	Project 2010-05.1	Project 2010-05.1 – Protection Systems: Phase 1 (Misoperations)			6/10/11	7/11/11	
30.	Project 2007-09	Project 2007-09 – Generator Verification – MOD-025-2, MOD-027-1, PRC-019-1	MOD-025-2 MOD-027-1 PRC-019-1		6/15/11	7/15/11	Yes 7/15/11
31.	Project 2010-07	Project 2010-07 – Generator Requirements at the Transmission Interface – Various BAL, CIP, EOP, FAC, IRO, MOD, PER, PRC, TOP, and VAR standards	Various BAL, CIP, EOP, FAC, IRO, MOD, PER, PRC, TOP, and VAR standards		6/17/11	7/17/11	Yes 7/15/11
32.	Project 2007-09	Project 2007-09 – Generator Verification – MOD-026-1 and PRC-024-1	MOD-026-1 and PRC-024-1		6/15/11	8/1/11	Yes 8/1/11
33.	NERC RoP	Proposed Changes to NERC Rules of Procedure and associated Appendices (Appendix 4B – Sanction Guidelines; and Appendix 4C – Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program)	Appendices 4B and 4C		6/30/11	8/15/11	
34.	N/A	Compliance Application Notice (CAN) Process	CAN Process		8/15/11	9/6/11	Yes 9/6/11
35..	N/A	CAN-0016 CIP-001 R1 - Sabotage Reporting Procedure	CAN-0016 CIP-001, R1		8/15/11	9/6/11	Yes 9/6/11
36.	N/A	DRAFT CANs Posted for Comment and Retirement of CAN-0001 through 0004	CAN-0001 through 0004 Retirement		8/31/11	9/21/11	

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37.	NERC RSDP	NERC 2012-2014 Reliability Standards Development Plan	2012-2014 RSDP		9/12/11	9/26/11	Yes 9/26/11
38.	Project 2007-17	Project 2007-17 - Protection System Maintenance and Testing - PRC-005	PRC-005-2		8/15/11	9/28/11	Yes 9/28/11
39.	Project 2010-17	Project 2010-17 - Definition of Bulk Electric System - Initial Ballot of Definition of BES	BES Definition		8/26/11	10/10/11	Yes 10/10/11
40.	Project 2010-17	Project 2010-17 - Bulk Electric System (BES) Definition - Technical Principles for Demonstrating BES Exceptions	Technical Principles for Demonstrating BES Exceptions		8/26/11	10/10/11	Yes 10/10/11
41.	N/A	New CAN Template, five DRAFT CANs for Industry review and CANs Status posted to NERC Compliance's Web site.	CANs		9/23/11	10/14/11	Yes 10/14/11
42.	RoP	Proposed Changes to NERC Rules of Procedure and All Appendices			9/2/11	10/17/11	
43.	Project 2010-17	Project 2010-17 - Bulk Electric System (BES) Definition - Rules of procedure Modifications to Support BES Exception Requests	RoP Section 509, Section 1703 and Appendix 5C		9/13/11	10/27/11	Yes 10/27/11
44.	N/A	CAN-0010--Definition of "Annual" and Implementation of Annual Requirements	CAN-0010 Definition of Annual		10/10/11	10/31/11	Yes 10/31/11
45.	N/A	CAN-0011--PRC-005-1 R2: New Equipment	CAN-0011 PRC-005-1 R2		10/10/11	10/31/11	Yes 10/31/11
46.	N/A	CAN-0012--Completion of Periodic Activity Requirements During Implementation Plan	CAN-0012 Completion of Periodic Activity Requirements		10/10/11	10/31/11	Yes 10/31/11
47	N/A	CAN-0013--PRC-023 R1 and R2 Effective Dates for Switch-on-to-Fault Schemes	CAN-0013 PRC-023 R1 and R2		10/10/11	10/31/11	
48.	N/A	CAN-0015--Unavailability of NERC Software Tools	CAN-0015 NERC Tools		10/10/11	10/31/11	Yes 10/31/11

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49.	N/A	CAN-0022--VAR-002-1.1b R1 and R3 Generator Operation in Manual Mode	CAN-0022 VAR-002-1.1b R1 and R3		10/10/11	10/31/11	
50.	N/A	CAN-0024--CIP-002 R3 Routable Protocols and Data Diode Devices	CAN-0024 CIP-002, R3		10/10/11	10/31/11	Yes 10/31/11
51.	N/A	CAN-0026--TOP-006 R3 Protection Relays	CAN-0026 TOP-006, R3		10/10/11	10/31/11	Yes 10/31/11
52.	N/A	CAN-0028--TOP-006-1 R1.2 Reporting Responsibilities	CAN-0028 TOP-006-1, R1.2		10/10/11	10/31/11	
53.	N/A	CAN-0020--TPL-002, TPL-003, TPL-004 and TOP-002 Equipment Maintenance Outages	CAN-0020 TPL-002, TPL-003, TPL-004 and TOP-002		10/19/11	11/9/11	
54.	N/A	CAN-0030--Attestations	CAN-0030		10/19/11	11/9/11	
55.	Project 2011-INT-01	Project 2011-INT-01 - Interpretation of MOD-028 for Florida Power & Light Company	MOD-028, R3.1		10/3/11	11/16/11	Yes 11/16/11
56.	Project 2009-22	Project 2009-22 - Interpretation of COM-002-2 R2 by the IRC	Interpretation of COM-002-2, R2		10/4/11	11/18/11	Yes 11/18/11
57.	Project 2010-07	Project 2010-07 - Generator Requirements at the Transmission Interface	Various BAL, CIP, EOP, FAC, IRO, MOD, PER, PRC, TOP, and VAR Standards		10/5/11	11/18/11	Yes 11/18/11
58.	N/A	Draft Directive Regarding Generator Transmission Leads	Draft Directive #2011 CAG-001		10/17/11	11/18/11	Yes 11/18/11
59.	Project 2008-10	Project 2008-10 - Interpretation of CIP-006-1 R1.1 by Progress Energy	Interpretation of CIP-006-1, R1.1		10/12/11	11/21/11	Yes 11/21/11
60.	N/A	CAN-0040 - BAL-003 Frequency Bias Calculation			11/2/11	11/23/11	
61.	N/A	CAN-0043 - PRC-005 Protection System Maintenance and Testing Evidence	PRC-005 Evidence		11/2/11	11/23/11	Yes 11/22/11
62.	Project 2007-12	Project 2007-12 - Frequency Response	BAL-003-1			12/8/11	Yes 12/8/11
63.	Project 2009-01	Project 2009-01 - Disturbance and Sabotage Reporting	EOP-004-2			12/12/11	Yes 12/12/11

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64.	N/A	Draft CAN-0027: TOP-003 R2 Coordination of Scheduled Outages	CAN-0027 TOP-003, R2		11/22/11	12/14/11	
65.	NERC RoP	Proposed Changes to the NERC Rules of Procedure and Associated Appendices			11/7/11	12/22/11	
66.	NERC RoP	Notice of Revisions to Proposed New Sections 1.1.24 and 5.11 of Appendix 4C of the NERC Rules of Procedure, as Originally Posted for Comment on November 7, 2011			11/22/11	12/22/11	
67.	Regional Standard	Regional Reliability Standard PRC-006-NPCC-1 — Automatic Underfrequency Load Shedding	PRC-006-NPCC-1		11/22/11	12/22/11	
68.	Project 2008-06	Project 2008-06 - Cyber Security - Order 706 - CIP-002-5 through CIP-009-5, CIP-010-1, and CIP-011-1 (Version 5 CIP Standards)	Version 5 CIP Standards		11/7/11	1/6/12	Yes 1/6/12
69.	Project 2007-03	Project 2007-03 - Real-time Transmission Operations - TOP-001-2, TOP-002-3 and TOP-003-2	TOP-001-2 TOP-002-3 TOP-003-2		12/14/11	1/12/12	Yes 1/12/12
70.	Project 2010-17	Project 2010-17 - Definition of Bulk Electric System (Phase 2)	BES Definition, Phase 2		1/4/12	2/3/12	Yes 2/3/12
71.	N/A	Order 754 - Request for Data or Information	Data Request		12/22/11	2/6/12	Yes 2/6/12
72.	Project 2006-06	Project 2006-06 - Reliability Coordination - COM-001, COM-002 and IRO-001-3	COM-001 COM-002 IRO-001-3		1/9/12	2/9/12	Yes 2/8/12
73.	WECC Regional Standard	Regional Reliability Standard BAL-004-WECC-02 - Automatic Time Error Correction	BAL-004-WECC-02		1/23/12	3/9/12	

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74.	WECC Regional Standard	Regional Reliability Standard BAL-001-0.1a - Real Power Balancing Control Performance - WECC Variance	BAL-001-0.1a		1/23/12	3/9/12	
75.	N/A	NERC Functional Model Demand Response Functions and Entities	NERC Functional Model		2/13/12	3/14/12	
76.	Project 2009-26	Project 2009-26 - Interpretation of CIP-004-1 for WECC	Interpretation of CIP-004-1		2/8/12	3/23/12	Yes 3/23/12
77.	Project 2010-INT-05	Interpretation 2010-INT-05 - Interpretation of CIP-002-1 R3 for Duke Energy	Interpretation of CIP-002-1, R3		2/8/12	3/23/12	Yes 3/23/12
78.	Project 2011-INT-02	Project 2011-INT-02 - Interpretation of VAR -002 for Constellation	Interpretation of VAR -002		2/8/12	3/23/12	Yes 3/23/12
79.	Project 2007-17	Project 2007-17 Protection System Maintenance and Testing - PRC-005	PRC-005-2		2/28/12	3/28/12	Yes 3/28/12
80.	Project 2007-09	Project 2007-09 Generator Verification - MOD-026-1 and PRC-024-1	MOD-026-1 and PRC-024-1		2/29/12	3/29/12	Yes 3/29/12
81.	Project 2010-07	Project 2010-07 - Generator Requirements at the Transmission Interface - FAC-003-X, FAC-003-3	FAC-003-X FAC-003-3		3/9/12	4/9/12	Yes 4/9/12
82.	Project 2007-09	Project 2007-09 Generator Verification - MOD-025-2, MOD-027-1, and PRC-019-1	MOD-025-2 MOD-027-1 PRC-019-1		2/29/12	4/16/12	Yes 4/16/12
83.	Project 2010-07	Project 2010-07 - Generator Requirements at the Transmission Interface - PRC-005-1.1a	PRC-005-1.1a		3/2/12	4/16/12	Yes 4/16/12
84.	Project 2007-03	Project 2007-03 - Real-time Transmission Operations	TOP-001 through TOP-008 and PER-001		3/22/12	4/20/12	Yes 4/20/12
85.	Project 2012-INT-02	Request for Interpretation - Project 2012-INT-02 TPL-003-0a and TPL-004-0 for SPCS	Interpretation of TPL-003-0a and TPL-004-0		4/24/12	5/4/12	

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86.	Project 2008-06	Project 2008-06 - Cyber Security Order 706 Version 5 CIP	CIP-002 and CIP-003 - Comment Form A		4/12/12	5/21/12	Yes 5/20/12
			CIP-004 thru CIP-007 - Comment Form B		4/12/12	5/21/12	Yes 5/20/12
			CIP-008 thru CIP-011 - Comment Form C		4/12/12	5/21/12	Yes 5/20/12
			Definitions and Implementation Plan - Comment Form D		4/12/12	5/21/12	Yes 5/20/12
87.	Project 2009-01	Project 2009-01 - Disturbance and Sabotage Reporting	EOP-004-2		4/25/12	5/24/12	Yes 5/24/12
88.	Project 2007-12	Project 2007-12 Frequency Response Technical Conferences			5/30/12	6/15/12	
89.	Project 2007-02	Project 2007-02 - Operating Personnel Communications Protocols - COM-003	COM-003		5/7/12	6/20/12	Yes 6/20/12
90.	N/A	Adequate Level of Reliability Revised Definition and Associated Documents	Adequate Level of Reliability (ALR)		4/25/12	6/25/12	Yes 6/25/12
91.	N/A	Order 754 - Request for Data or Information	Data Request		5/11/12	6/25/12	Yes 6/25/12
92.	Project 2011-INT-02	Project 2011-INT-02 - Interpretation of VAR - 002 for Constellation	Interpretation of VAR -002		5/22/12	6/27/12	Yes 6/27/12
93.	Project 2007-17	Project 2007-17 - Protection System Maintenance and Testing - PRC-005	PRC-005-2		5/29/12	6/27/12	Yes 6/27/12
94.	Project 2010-14.1	Project 2010-14.1 - Phase 1 of Balancing Authority Reliability-based Controls: Reserve	BAL-001-1		6/4/12	7/3/12	Yes 7/3/12
			BAL-002-2		6/4/12	7/3/12	Yes 7/3/12
			BAL-012-1		6/4/12	7/3/12	Yes 7/3/12
			BAL-013-1		6/4/12	7/3/12	Yes 7/3/12
95.	Project 2007-06	Project 2007-06 - System Protection Coordination	PRC-001 and PRC-027		5/21/12	7/5/12	Yes 7/5/12

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96.	N/A	Cost Effective Analysis Process (CEAP) for NERC ERO Standards	CEAP		5/7/12	7/6/12	Yes 7/6/12
97.	Project 2006-06	Project 2006-06 - Reliability Coordination - COM-001, COM-002 and IRO-001-3	COM-001, COM-002 and IRO-001-3		6/7/12	7/6/12	Yes 7/6/12
98.	Project 2006-02	Project 2006-02 – Assess Transmission Future Needs and Develop Transmission Plans	TPL-002-1b, footnote 'b' and TPL-001-3, footnote 12		6/19/12	7/9/12	Yes 7/9/12
99.	N/A	Standard Processes Manual Revisions to Implement SPIG Recommendations	SPIG Reco		6/20/12	7/19/12	Yes 7/19/12
100.	Project 2012-INT-02	Project 2012-INT-02 - Interpretation of TPL-003-0a and TPL-004-0 for System Protection and Control Subcommittee	- Interpretation of TPL-003-0a and TPL-004-0		6/20/12	7/20/12	Yes 7/19/12
101.	Project 2012-INT-05	Interpretation of 2012-INT-05 - Interpretation of CIP-002-3 for OGE	Interpretation of CIP-002-3		6/27/12	7/27/12	Yes 7/27/12
102.	Project 2011-INT-02	Project 2011-INT-02 - Rapid Revision to Address Interpretation of VAR-002 for Constellation	Rapid Revision to VAR-002		7/18/12	7/27/12	Yes 7/26/12
103.	Project 2010-INT-01	Project 2010-INT-01 - Rapid Revision of TOP-006 for FMPP	Rapid Revision of TOP-006		6/14/12	7/30/12	Yes 7/27/12
104.	Project 2012-08.1	Project 2012-08.1 - Phase 1 of Glossary Updates: Statutory Definitions	Glossary of Terms		6/19/12	8/2/12	Yes 8/2/12
105.	N/A	Reliability Guideline: System Operator Verbal Communications – Current Industry Practices	System Operator Verbal Communications		6/26/12	8/10/12	Yes 8/9/12
106.	Project 2007-17	Project 2007-17 - Protection System Maintenance and Testing - PRC-005	PRC-005-2		7/27/12	8/27/12	Yes 8/27/12

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107.	Project 2010-11	Project 2010-11 - TPL Table 1 Order TPL-002-1b, footnote 'b' and TPL-001-3, footnote 12	TPL-002-1b, footnote 'b' and TPL-001-3, footnote 12		7/31/12	8/29/12	Yes 8/29/12
108.	Project 2006-02	Project 2006-02 - Assess Transmission and Future Needs			7/31/12	8/30/12	
109.	Project 2009-19	Project 2009-19 – Interpretation of BAL-002 by NWPP Reserve Sharing Group			7/25/12	9/4/12	
110.	Project 2013-02	Project 2013-02 - Paragraph 81	Paragraph 81		8/3/12	9/4/12	Yes 9/4/12
111.	Project 2010-05.1	Project 2010-05.1 - Protection Systems: Phase 1 (Misoperations)			7/25/12	9/7/12	Yes 9/7/12
112.	N/A	Definition of Adequate Level of Reliability	Adequate Level of Reliability (ALR)		8/15/12	9/13/12	Yes 9/13/12
113.	N/A	2013-2015 Reliability Standards Development Plan	2013-2015 RSDP		8/17/12	9/18/12	Yes 9/18/12
114.	Project 2007-02	Project 2007-02 - Operating Personnel Communications Protocols	COM-003-1		8/22/12	9/20/12	Yes 9/20/12
115.	Project 2009-01	Project 2009-01 - Disturbance and Sabotage Reporting	EOP-004-2		8/29/12	9/27/12	
116.	SPP Regional Standard	Regional Reliability Standard PRC-006-SPP-01 Automatic Underfrequency Load Shedding	PRC-006-SPP-01		8/15/12	9/28/12	
117.	Project 2008-06 Project 2008-06	Project 2008-06 - Cyber Security - Order 706 - CIP-002-5 through CIP-009-5, CIP-010-1, and CIP-011-1	Version 5 CIP Standards		9/11/12	10/10/12	Yes 10/10/12
			RSAW		9/11/12	10/10/12	Yes 10/10/12
118.	MRO SPM	Regional Reliability Standards - MRO Standards Process Manual			8/28/12	10/11/12	
119.	N/A	Standard Process Manual Revisions to Implement SPIG Recommendations	SPIG Reco		8/29/12	10/12/12	Yes 10/10/12
120.		Revisions to Outstanding VRFs and VSLs			9/5/12	10/19/12	

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121.	Project 2013-01	Project 2013-01 - Cold Weather Preparedness			9/25/12	10/24/12	
122.	Project 2007-09	Project 2007-09 - Generator Verification			9/28/12	10/29/12	
123.	Project 2010-17	Project 2010-17 - Definition of Bulk Electric System			10/4/12	11/5/12	
124.	2007-12	Project 2007-12 - Frequency Response			10/5/12	11/7/12	
125.	Project 2008-06	Project 2008-06 - Cyber Security - Order 706 - CIP-002-5 through CIP-009-5, CIP-010-1, and CIP-011-1	Version 5 CIP Standards		10/26/12	11/7/12	
126.	Project 2010-13.2	Project 2010-13.2 - Phase 2 of Relay Loadability: Generation - PRC-025	PRC-025		10/5/12	11/7/12	
127.	N/A	IRO-006-WECC-2			10/3/12	11/16/12	
128.	Project 2010-11	Project 2010-11 - TPL Table 1, Footnote B			10/5/12	11/19/12	
129.	Project 2012-INT-02	Interpretation 2012-INT-02 - Interpretation of TPL-003-0a and TPL-004-0 for SPCS	Interpretation of TPL-003-0a and TPL-004-0		10/22/12	12/5/12	Yes 12/5/12
130.	Project 2013-02	Project 2013-02 - Paragraph 81	Paragraph 81		10/25/12	12/10/12	Yes 12/10/12
131.	Project 2012-INT-06	Project 2012-INT-06 - Interpretation of CIP-003-3 for Consumers Energy	- Interpretation of CIP-003-3		11/9/12	12/10/12	Yes 12/10/12
132.	Project 2012-INT-04	Project 2012-INT-04 - Interpretation of CIP-007-3 for ITC	- Interpretation of CIP-007-3		11/9/12	12/10/12	Yes 12/10/12
133.	Project 2007-02	Project 2007-02 - Operating Personnel Communication Protocols - RSAW	COM-003-1		11/14/12	12/13/12	Yes 12/13/12
			COM-003-1 RSAW		11/14/12	12/13/12	Yes 12/13/12
134.	Project 2007-06	Project 2007-06 - System Protection Coordination	PRC-001 and PRC-027		11/16/12	12/17/12	Yes 12/17/12
135.	Project 2012-INT-05	Project 2012-INT-05 - Interpretation of CIP-002-3 for OGE	Interpretation of CIP-002-3		11/6/12	12/20/12	Yes 12/20/12
136.	N/A	Standard Processes Manual to Implement SPIG Revisions	SPIG Reco		11/21/12	12/20/12	Yes 12/20/12
137.	Project 2010-11	Project 2010-11 - TPL Table 1, Footnote B	TPL-002-1b, footnote 'b' and TPL-001-3, footnote 12		12/10/12	1/11/13	Yes 1/11/13

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138.	Project 2007-09	Project 2007-09 - Generator Verification - PRC-024-1	PRC-024-1		12/12/12	1/11/13	Yes 1/11/13
139.	Project 2010-14.1	Project 2010-14.1 - Phase 1 of Balancing Authority Reliability-based Controls: Reserves - BAL-012-1	BAL-012-1		11/30/12	1/14/13	Yes 1/14/13
140.	N/A	Reliability Guideline--Draft Generating Unit Winter Weather Readiness - Current Industry Practices			12/20/12	2/4/13	Yes 2/4/13
141.	Project 2010-05-1	Project 2010-05-1 Protection System Misoperations					Yes 2/20/13
142.	Project 2007-09	Project 2007-09 Generator Verification - PRC-024-1	PRC-024-1	Formal	1/25/13	2/25/13	Yes 2/25/13
143.	N/A	Rapid Revision Procedure		Informal	2/25/13	3/6/13	Yes 3/6/13
144.	Project 2010-13-2	Project 2010-13-2 - Phase 2 of Relay Loadability - Generation - PRC-025-1	PRC-025-1	Formal	1/25/13	3/11/13	Yes 3/11/13
			Supplemental SAR	Informal	1/25/13	3/11/13	Yes 3/11/13
			Cost Effectiveness	CEAP Pilot	1/25/13	3/11/13	Yes 3/11/13
			RSAW	Feedback	1/25/13	3/11/13	Yes 3/11/13
145.	Project 2012-INT-04	Interpretation 2012-INT-04 - Interpretation of CIP-007 for ITC	Interpretation of CIP-007	Formal	2/6/13	3/22/13	Yes 3/22/13
146.	Project 2012-INT-06	Interpretation 2012-INT-06 - Interpretation of CIP-003 for Consumers Energy	Interpretation of CIP-003	Formal	2/6/13	3/22/13	Yes 3/22/13
147.	Project 2012-08-1	Project 2012-08-1 - Phase 1 of Glossary Updates--Statutory Definitions	Glossary of Terms	Formal	2/21/13	3/22/13	Yes 3/22/13
148.	Project 2007-02	Project 2007-02 - Operating Personnel Communications Protocols - COM-003-1	COM-003-1	Formal	3/7/13	4/5/13	Yes 4/5/13
			RSAW	Feedback	3/7/13	4/5/13	Yes 4/5/13
149.	Project 2010-14.1	Project 2010-14.1 - Phase 1 of Balancing Authority Reliability-based Controls: Reserves	BAL-001-2	Formal	3/12/13	4/25/13	Yes 4/25/13
			BAL-002-2	Formal	3/12/13	4/25/13	Yes 4/25/13
			BAL-013-1	Formal	3/12/13	4/25/13	Yes 4/25/13

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150.	Project 2007-17.2	Project 2007-17.2 - Protection System Maintenance and Testing - Phase 2 (Reclosing Relays)	Draft SAR	Informal	4/5/13	5/6/13	Yes 5/6/13
			PRC-005-3	Formal	4/5/13	5/6/13	Yes 5/613
151.	Project 2010-13.2	Project 2010-13.2 - Phase 2 of Relay Loadability: Generation	PRC-023-3 PRC-025-1	Formal	4/25/13	5/24/13	Yes 5/24/13
152.	Project 2007-11	Project 2007-11 - Disturbance Monitoring — PRC-002 and PRC-018	SAR	Informal	5/03/13	6/03/13	Yes 6/3/13
153.	Project 2007-11	Project 2007-11 - Disturbance Monitoring PRC-002 and PRC-018	Request for Information	Informal	6/05/13	7/05/13	
154.	Project 2007-06	Project 2007-06 - System Protection Coordination - PRC-001 and PRC-027	PRC-001 and PRC-027		6/04/13	7/03/13	Yes 7/03/13
155.	Project 2010-17	Project 2010-17 - Definition of Bulk Electric System (Phase 2)	BES Definition		5/29/13	7/12/13	Yes 7/12/13
156.	TRE Regional Standard	Regional Reliability Standard - BAL-001-TRE-01	BAL-001-TRE-01		5/31/13	7/15/13	
157.	N/A	NPCC Regional Standards Process Manual	NPCC RSPM		6/06/13	7/22/13	
158.	Project 2007-02	Project 2007-02 - Operating Personnel Communications Protocols - COM-003	COM-003-1		6/20/13	7/19/13	Yes 7/19/13
159.	Project 2010-13.2	Project 2010-13.2 - Phase 2 of Relay Loadability: Generation - PRC-025	PRC-025-1		6/20/13	7/19/13	Yes 7/19/13
160.	Project 2010-13.2	Project 2010-13.2 - Phase 2 of Relay Loadability: Generation - PRC-023	PRC-023-3	Formal	6/20/13	8/05/13	Yes 8/5/13
161.	N/A	SPP RE Regional Standards Process Manual	SPP RSPM		6/26/13	8/09/13	
162.	Project 2013-03	Project 2013-03 - Geomagnetic Disturbance Mitigation	EOP-010-1	Formal	6/27/13	8/12/13	Yes 8/12/13

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Line	Project#	Description	Document	Comment Type	Start Date	End Date	NPCC Submitted
163.	Project 2007-17.2	Project 2007-17.2 - Protection System Maintenance and Testing - Phase 2 (Reclosing Relays) - PRC-005	PRC-005-3	Formal	7/10/13	8/23/13	Yes 8/23/13
164.	Project 2008-12	Project 2008-12 - Coordinate Interchange Standards - Various INT standards	INT-004-3 INT-006-4 INT-009-2 INT-010-2 INT-011-1	Informal	7/25/13	8/23/13	Yes 8/23/13
165.	Project 2012-05	Project 2012-05 ATC Revisions (MOD A) - MOD-001-2	MOD-001-2	Formal	7/11/13	8/26/13	Yes 8/26/13
166.	Project 2010-01	Project 2010-01 - Training - PER-005-2	PER-005-2	Formal	7/19/13	9/03/13	Yes 9/3/13
167.	Project 2013-04	Project 2013-04 Voltage and Reactive Control - VAR-001-4, VAR-002-3	VAR-001-4 VAR-002-3	Formal	7/19/13	9/03/13	Yes 9/3/13
168	Project 2010-03	Project 2010-03 - Modeling Data (MOD B) - MOD-032-1, MOD-033-1	MOD-032-1 MOD-033-1	Formal	7/22/13	9/04/13	Yes 9/4/13
169.	Project 2010-04	Project 2010-04 - Demand Data (MOD C) - MOD-031-1	MOD-031-1	Formal	7/22/13	9/04/13	Yes 9/4/13
170	Project 2010-17	Project 2010-17 - Definition of Bulk Electric System – Phase 2	BES Definition Phase 2	Formal	8/6/13	9/4/13	Yes 9/4/13
171	Project 2012-13	Project 2012-13 - NUC Five-Year Review	NUC-001-2	5-year review	7/26/13	9/9/13	Yes 9/9/13
172	2014-2016 RSDP	2014-2016 Reliability Standards Development Plan	Reliability Standards Development Plan	Annual Review	8/30/13	9/13/13	Yes 9/13/13
173	Project 2010-02	Project 2010-02 Five-Year Review of FAC Standards	FAC-001-1 FAC-002-1	5-year review	8/1/13	9/16/13	Yes 9/16/13
174	Project 2010-02	Project 2010-02 Five-Year Review of FAC Standards	FAC-003-3 FAC-008-3 FAC-010-2.1 FAC-011-2 FAC-013-2 FAC-014-2	5-year review	8/1/13	9/16/13	Yes 9/16/13
175	Project 2010-14.1	Project 2010-14.1 - Phase 1 of Balancing Authority Reliability-based Controls: Reserves - BAL-002-2, BAL-013-1	BAL-002-2	Formal	8/2/13	9/16/13	Yes 9/16/13

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Line	Project#	Description	Document	Comment Type	Start Date	End Date	NPCC Submitted
176	Project 2009-03	Project 2009-03 — Five-Year Review of Emergency Operations EOP-001, EOP-002, EOP-003, and IRO-001	EOP-001-2.1b EOP-002-3.1 EOP-003-2	5-year review	8/6/13	9/19/13	Yes 9/19/13
177	Project 2012-09	Project 2012-09 IRO Five-Year Review	IRO-003-2 IRO-004-2 IRO-005-4 IRO-006-5 IRO-006-East IRO-008-1 IRO-009-1 IRO-010-1a	5-year review	8/7/13	9/20/13	Yes 9/20/13
178	Project 2008-02	Project 2008-02 Undervoltage Load Shedding	Revised SAR	Informal	9/10/13	10/9/13	Yes 10/9/13
179	Project 2013-03	Project 2013-03 Geomagnetic Disturbance Mitigation	EOP-010-1	Formal	9/4/13	10/18/13	Yes 10/18/13
180	Project 2010-17	Project 2010-17 - Definition of Bulk Electric System	BES Definition	Formal	9/27/13	10/28/13	Yes 10/28/13
181	Project 2007-02	Project 2007-02 Operating Personnel Communications Protocols	COM-002-4	Formal	10/21/13	11/7/13	Yes 11/4/13
182	Project 2010-01	Project 2010-01 Training	PER-005-2	Formal	9/27/13	11/12/13	Yes 11/12/13
183	Project 2008-12	Project 2008-12 Coordinate Interchange Standards	Various INT Standards	Formal	9/30/13	11/13/13	Yes 11/13/13
184	Project 2012-05	Project 2012-05 ATC Revisions (MOD A)	MOD-001-2	Formal	10/4/13	11/20/13	Yes 11/18/13
185	Project 2010-03	Project 2010-03 Modeling Data (MOD B)	MOD-032-1, MOD-033-1	Formal	10/07/13	11/20/13	
186	Project 2010-04	Project 2010-04 Demand Data (MOD C)	MOD-031-1	Formal	10/09/13	11/22/13	Yes 11/22/13
187	Project 2013-04	Project 2013-04 Voltage and Reactive Control	VAR-001-4, VAR-002-3	Formal	10/11/13	11/25/13	Yes 11/25/13
188	Project 2009-03	Project 2009-03 Emergency Operations	SAR	Informal	11/06/13	12/05/13	Yes 12/5/13
189	Project 2010-14.1	Project 2010-14.1 - Phase 1 of Balancing Authority Reliability-based Controls: Reserves	BAL-002-2	Formal	10/28/13	12/11/13	Yes 12/11/13
190	Project 2007-11	Project 2007-11 - Disturbance Monitoring	PRC-002-2	Formal	11/01/13	12/16/13	Yes 12/16/13

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Line	Project#	Description	Document	Comment Type	Start Date	End Date	NPCC Submitted
191	Project 2007-06	Project 2007-06 - System Protection Coordination	PRC-027	Formal	11/04/13	12/18/13	Yes 12/18/13
192	Project 2014-01	Project 2014-01 - Standards Applicability for Dispersed Generation Resources	SAR	Formal	11/20/13	12/19/13	Yes 12/19/13
193	Project 2010-01	Project 2010-01 Training - PER-005-2	PER-005-2	Formal	12/4/13	1/22/14	Yes 1/17/14
194	Project 2010-03	Project 2010-03 Modeling Date - MOD B	MOD-033-1	Formal	12/6/13	1/22/14	Yes 1/21/14
195	Project 2008-12	Project 2008-12 Coordinate Interchange Standards	INT-004-3 INT-010-2	Formal	1/10/14	1/24/14	Yes 1/22/14
196	Project 2007-02	Project 2007-02 Operating Personnel	COM-002-4	Formal	1/22/14	1/31/14	Yes 1/31/14
197	Project 2014-02	Project 2014-02 Standard Authorization Request – Cyber Security Standards	CIP SAR	Informal	1/17/14	2/18/14	Yes 2/18/14
198	2014 Work Plan	2014 Work Plan for NERC Reliability Standards Development	2014 Work plan			2/21/13	Yes 2/21/14
199	Project 2010-17	Project 2010-17 Definition of Bulk Electric System - Phase 2	BES	Informal	1/29/14	2/27/14	Yes 2/27/14
200	Project 2010-05.1	Project 2010-05.1 Protection System: Phase 1 (Misoperations) - PRC-004-3	PRC-004-3	Formal	1/17/14	3/11/14	Yes 3/2/14
201	Project 2012-13	Project 2012-13 NUC-Nuclear Plant Interface Coordination Standard Authorization Request	NUC-001-2.1 SAR	Informal	2/12/14	3/13/14	Yes 3/13/14
202	Project 2010-05.2	Project 2010-05.2 Special Protection Systems (Phase 2 of Protection Systems) - SAR	SAR	Informal	2/18/14	3/19/14	Yes 3/19/14
203	Project 2014-03	Project 2014-03 - Revisions to TOP/IRO Reliability Standards	SAR	Formal	02/21/14	03/24/14	Yes 3/24/14
204	Project 2014-03	Technical Conferences on Revisions to TOP/IRO Reliability Standards	Technical Conference Topics	Informal	03/11/14	03/24/14	
205	Project 2014-04	Project 2014-04 - Physical Security	SAR	Informal	03/21/14	03/28/14	Yes 3/28/14

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Line	Project#	Description	Document	Comment Type	Start Date	End Date	NPCC Submitted
206	Project 2010-14.2	Project 2010-14.2 - Periodic Review of BAL Standards	Reco to Revise BAL-005 and BAL-006	Formal	02/21/14	04/07/14	
207	2010-05.2	Project 2010-05.2 - Phase 2 of Protection Systems - Revised Definition of Special Protection System	SPS Definition	Informal	03/11/14	04/09/14	Yes 4/9/14
208	Project 2010-04	Project 2010-04 - Demand Data (MOD C) - MOD-031-1	MOD-031-1	Formal	02/25/14	04/10/14	Yes 4/10/14
209	Project 2013-04	Project 2013-04 Voltage and Reactive Control - VAR-001-4, VAR-002-3	VAR-002-3	Formal	02/27/14	04/14/14	Yes 4/14/14
210	Project 2008-02	Project 2008-02 - Undervoltage Load Shedding - PRC-010, PRC-020, PRC-021 and PRC-022	PRC-010-1	Informal	03/17/14	04/16/14	Yes 4/16/14
211	Project 2014-04	Project 2014-04 Physical Security - CIP-014-1	CIP-014-1	Formal	04/10/14	04/24/14	Yes 4/24/14
212	Project 2009-03	Project 2009-03 Emergency Operations – EOP-011-1	EOP-011-1	Informal	03/28/14	04/28/14	Yes 4/28/14
213	Project 2014-01	Project 2014-01 Standards Applicability for Dispersed Generation Resources	PRC-005-2(X) PRC-005-3(X) PRC-005-X(X) VAR-002-2b(X) VAR-002-4	Formal	04/17/14	05/05/14	Yes 5/5/14
214	Project 2010-02	Project 2010-02 – Connecting New Facilities to the Grid	FAC-001-1 FAC-002-1	Formal	04/01/14	05/15/14	Yes 5/15/14
215	Project 2013-03	Project 2013-03 Geomagnetic Disturbance Mitigation	TPL-007-1	Informal	04/22/14	05/21/14	Yes 5/21/14
216	Project 2012-13	Project 2012-13 Nuclear Plant Interface Coordination	NUC-001-3	Formal	04/08/14	05/22/14	Yes 5/22/14
217	Project 2007-17.3	Project 2007-17.3 Protection System Maintenance and Testing – Phase 3 (Sudden Pressure Relays)	PRC-005-X	Formal	04/17/14	06/03/14	Yes 6/3/14
218	Project 2010-13.3	Project 2010-13.3 Relay Loadability: Stable Power Swings	PRC-026-1	Formal	04/25/14	06/09/14	Yes 6/9/14
219	Project 2007-11	Project 2007-11 Disturbance Monitoring	PRC-002-2	Formal	05/09/14	06/25/14	Yes 6/25/14

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Line	Project#	Description	Document	Comment Type	Start Date	End Date	NPCC Submitted
221	Project 2008-02	Project 2008-02 Undervoltage Load Shedding and Underfrequency Load Shedding	PRC-010 PRC-020 PRC-021 PRC-022	Informal	05/23/14	06/23/14	Yes 6/23/14
222	Project 2010-05-1	Project 2010-05-1 Protection System – Phase 1 – Misoperations	PRC-004	Formal	05/16/14	07/09/14	Yes 7/9/14
223	Project 2014-03	Project 2014-03 Revisions to TOP-IRO Reliability Standards	TOP-001-3 TOP-002-4 TOP-003-3 IRO-001-4 IRO-002-4 IRO-008-2 IRO-010-2 IRO-014-3 IRO-017-1	Formal	05/19/14	07/02/14	Yes 7/2/14
224	Project 2014-02	Project 2014-02 CIP Version 5 Revisions – Cyber Security Standards	CIP-002 to CIP-011	Formal	06/02/14	07/17/14	Yes 7/16/14
225	Project 2015-2017	Project 2015-2017 Reliability Standard Development Plan		Informal		7/21/14	Yes 7/21/14
226	2010-05.2	Project 2010-05.2 - Phase 2 of Protection Systems - Revised Definition of Special Protection System	SPS Definition	Formal	7/16/14	7/25/14	Yes 7/25/14
227	Project 2014-01	Project 2014-01 Standards Applicability for Dispersed Generation Resources	PRC-005-2(X) PRC-005-3(X) PRC-005-X(X) VAR-002-2b(X) VAR-002-4	Formal	06/12/14	7/29/14	Yes 7/29/14
228	Project 2013-03	Project 2013-03 Geomagnetic Disturbance Mitigation	TPL-007-1	Formal	06/13/14	07/30/14	Yes 7/30/14
229	Project 2008-02	Project 2008-02 Undervoltage Load Shedding and Underfrequency Load Shedding	PRC-010 PRC-020 PRC-021 PRC-022	Formal	06/23/14	08/8/14	Yes 8/6/14
230	Project 2010-14-2	Project 2010-14-2 Balancing Authority Reliability-based Control Standard Authorization Request	BAL-005 BAL-006	Informal	07/16/14	08/14/14	Yes 8/12/14

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Line	Project#	Description	Document	Comment Type	Start Date	End Date	NPCC Submitted
		for BAL-005 and BAL-006					
231	Project 2009-03	Project 2009-03 Emergency Operations – EOP-011-1	EOP-011-1	Formal	07/2/14	08/15/14	Yes 8/13/14
232	Project 2014-01	Project 2014-01 Standards Applicability for Dispersed Generation Resources	PRC-004-2.1a(X) PRC-004-3(X)	Formal	07/10/14	08/26/14	Yes 8/25/14
233	Project 2007-17.3	Project 2007-17.3 Protection System Maintenance and Testing – Phase 3 (Sudden Pressure Relays) – PRC-005-X	PRC-005-X	Formal	07/30/14	09/12/14	Yes 9/12/14
234	Project 2014-03	Project 2014-03 Revisions to TOP-IRO Reliability Standards	TOP-001-3 TOP-002-4 TOP-003-3 IRO-001-4 IRO-002-4 IRO-008-2 IRO-010-2 IRO-014-3 IRO-017-1	Formal	08/6/14	09/19/14	Yes 9/22/14
235	Project 2010-14.1	Project 2010-14.1 Balancing Authority Reliability-based Control	BAL-002-2	Formal	08/19/14	10/03/14	Yes 10/2/14
236	Project 2010-13.3	Project 2010-13.3 – Relay Loadability: Stable Power Swings	PRC-026-1	Formal	09/26/14	10/06/14	Yes 10/6/14
237	Project 2008-02	Project 2008-02: Underfrequency Load Shedding (UFLS)	PRC-006-2	Formal	08/21/14	10/08/14	Yes 10/7/14
238	Project 2013-03	Project 2013-03: Geomagnetic Disturbance Mitigation	TPL-007-1	Formal	08/27/14	10/10/14	Yes 10/10/14
239	NERC Rules of Procedure	NERC Rules of Procedure	NERC Rules of Procedure	Formal	08/26/14	10/10/14	Yes 10/14/14
240	Project 2010-05.2	Project 2010-05.2 – Special Protection Systems Phase 2 of Protection Systems	RAS Definition	Formal	08/29/14	10/14/14	Yes 10/14/14
241	Project 2014-01	Project 2014-01 Standards Applicability for Dispersed Generation Resources	VAR-002-2b(X) VAR-002-4	Formal	08/27/14	10/16/14	Yes 10/16/14
242	Project 2014-02	Project 2014-02 CIP Version 5 Revisions – Cyber Security Standards	CIP-003-6 CIP-010-2 CIP-003-X CIP-004-X	Formal	09/03/14	10/17/14	Yes 10/17/14

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Line	Project#	Description	Document	Comment Type	Start Date	End Date	NPCC Submitted
			CIP-007-X CIP-010-X CIP-011-X				
243	Project 2009-03	Project 2009-03 Emergency Operations	EOP-011-1	Formal	09/05/14	10/20/14	Yes 10/20/14
244	Project 2007-06	Project 2007-06 System Protection Coordination PRC-027-1 (Preliminary Draft 5)	PRC-027-1	Informal	10/01/14	10/21/14	Yes 10/21/14
245	Project 2007-11	Project 2007-11 Disturbance Monitoring	PRC-002-2	Formal	09/05/14	10/21/14	Yes 10/21/14
246	Project 2014-01	Project 2014-01 Applicability for Dispersed Generation	PRC-004-2.1a(X) PRC-004-4	Formal	09/05/14	10/22/14	Yes 10/22/14
247	Project 2014-03	Project 2014-03 Revisions to TOP/IRO Reliability Standards TOP-001-3	TOP-001-3	Formal	10/10/14	11/10/14	Yes 11/10/14
248	Project 2013-03	Project 2013-03 Geomagnetic Disturbance Mitigation TPL-007-1	TPL-007-1	Formal	10/28/14	11/21/14	Yes 11/24/14
249	Project 2010-13.3	Project 2010-13.3 – Relay Loadability: Stable Power Swings	PRC-026-1	Formal	11/04/14	11/24/14	Yes 11/25/14
250	Project 2014-01	Project 2014-01 – Standards Applicability for Dispersed Generation Resources	PRC-001-1.1 PRC-019-2 PRC-024-1	Formal	11/05/14	12/23/14	Yes 12/22/14
251	Project 2014-03	Project 2014-03 Revisions to TOP/IRO Reliability Standards TOP-001-3	TOP-001-3	Formal	12/29/14	1/7/15	Yes 1/6/15
252	Project 2014-02	Project 2014-02 CIP Version 5 Revisions	CIP-003-7 CIP-004-7 CIP-007-7 CIP-010-3 CIP-011-3 CIP-003-7 CIP-010-3 Implementation Plan	Formal	12/30/14	1/9/15	Yes 1/9/15
253	Project 2014-04	Project 2014-04 Physical Security SAR	SAR	Informal	12/15/14	1/13/15	Yes 1/12/15
254	Project 2014-01	Project 2014-01 Standards Applicability for Dispersed Generation Resources	White Paper Appendix A Appendix B	Informal	12/22/14	1/20/15	Yes 1/20/15

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Line	Project#	Description	Document	Comment Type	Start Date	End Date	NPCC Submitted
255	Project 2014-01	Project 2014-01 Standards Applicability for Dispersed Generation Resources	PRC-005-5	Informal	12/22/14	1/20/15	Yes 1/22/15
256							

Note: RSC past comment forms are posted on the NPCC Website under "Standards - Regional Standards Comments."

Information in a Regional Standard Authorization Request (RSAR)

The tables below identify information to be submitted in a Regional Standard Authorization Request to the NPCC Regional Standards Process Manager, NPCCstandard@npcc.org . The NPCC Regional Standards Process Manager shall be responsible for implementing and maintaining this form as needed to support the information requirements of the standards process.

Regional Standard Authorization Request Form

Title of Proposed Standard:	PRC-002-NPCC-02 – Disturbance Monitoring
Request Date:	Nov. 26, 2012

RSAR Requester Information

		RSAR Type (Check box for one of these selections.)	
Name:	**Daren Verner**		
Company:	Task Force on System Protection	☐	New Standard
Telephone:	506-458-3361	☒	Revision to Existing Standard
Fax:		☐	Withdrawal of Existing Standard
Email:	dverner@nbpower.com	☐	Urgent Action

Purpose (Describe the purpose of the proposed standard – what the standard will achieve in support of reliability.**) To effectively measure disturbances on the proposed BES.**
Industry Need (Provide a detailed statement justifying the need for the proposed standard, along with any supporting documentation**.)** **In order to support the NERC Event Analysis Program and to facilitate comprehensive review of disturbances on the BES, a robust Disturbance Monitoring standard is necessary. Review of the existing PRC-002-NPCC-01 is necessary to ensure the existing requirements are adequate to accommodate the FERC approved BES definition with its expanded applicability.**
Brief Description (Describe the proposed standard in sufficient detail to clearly define the scope in a manner that can be easily understood by others.**)** **Review PRC-002-NPCC-01 as necessary with due consideration to the revised BES definition as filed with FERC and revise PRC-002-NPCC-01 accordingly to ensure that sufficient DM equipment is installed to measure and record disturbances on the BES. In addition all NPCC BOD approved interpretations as applicable to the standard will be incorporated into the revised standard. Consideration to all applicable NPCC Compliance Guidance Statements regarding applicability will be reflected in the revision as well as review and potential revision to the Implementation Plan.**

Reliability Functions

The Standard will Apply to the Following Functions (Check all applicable boxes.)		
☒	Reliability Coordinator	The entity that is the highest level of authority who is responsible for the reliable operation of the Bulk Electric System, has the Wide Area view of the Bulk Electric System, and has the operating tools, processes and procedures, including the authority to prevent or mitigate emergency operating situations in both next-day analysis and real-time operations. The Reliability Coordinator has the purview that is broad enough to enable the calculation of Interconnection Reliability Operating Limits, which may be based on the operating parameters of transmission systems beyond any Transmission Operator's vision.
☐	Balancing Authority	The responsible entity that integrates resource plans ahead of time, maintains load-interchange-generation balance within a Balancing

		Authority Area, and supports Interconnection frequency in real time.
☐	Interchange Authority	Authorizes valid and balanced Interchange Schedules.
☐	Planning Authority	The responsible entity that coordinates and integrates transmission facility and service plans, resource plans, and protection systems.
☐	Transmission Service Provider	The entity that administers the transmission tariff and provides Transmission Service to Transmission Customers under applicable transmission service agreements.
☒	Transmission Owner	The entity that owns and maintains transmission facilities.
☐	Transmission Operator	The entity responsible for the reliability of its "local" transmission system, and that operates or directs the operations of the transmission facilities.
☐	Transmission Planner	The entity that develops a long-term (generally one year and beyond) plan for the reliability (adequacy) of the interconnected bulk electric transmission systems within its portion of the Planning Authority Area.
☐	Resource Planner	The entity that develops a long-term (generally one year and beyond) plan for the resource adequacy of specific loads (customer demand and energy requirements) within a Planning Authority Area.
☐	Generator Operator	The entity that operates generating unit(s) and performs the functions of supplying energy and Interconnected Operations Services.
☒	Generator Owner	Entity that owns and maintains generating units.
☐	Purchasing-Selling Entity	The entity that purchases or sells, and takes title to, energy, capacity, and Interconnected Operations Services. Purchasing-Selling Entities may be affiliated or unaffiliated merchants and may or may not own generating facilities.
☐	Distribution Provider	Provides and operates the "wires" between the transmission system and the customer.
☐	Load-Serving Entity	Secures energy and transmission service (and related Interconnected Operations Services) to serve the electrical demand and energy requirements of its end-use customers.

Reliability and Market Interface Principles

Applicable Reliability Principles *(Check all boxes that apply.)*	
☐	1. Interconnected bulk power systems shall be planned and operated in a coordinated manner to perform reliably under normal and abnormal conditions as defined in the NERC Standards.

☐	2. The frequency and voltage of interconnected bulk power systems shall be controlled within defined limits through the balancing of real and reactive power supply and demand.
☐	3. Information necessary for the planning and operation of interconnected bulk power systems shall be made available to those entities responsible for planning and operating the systems reliably.
☐	4. Plans for emergency operation and system restoration of interconnected bulk power systems shall be developed, coordinated, maintained, and implemented.
☐	5. Facilities for communication, monitoring, and control shall be provided, used, and maintained for the reliability of interconnected bulk power systems.
☐	6. Personnel responsible for planning and operating interconnected bulk power systems shall be trained, qualified, and have the responsibility and authority to implement actions.
☐	7. The security of the interconnected bulk power systems shall be assessed, monitored, and maintained on a wide-area basis.
Does the proposed Standard comply with all of the following Market Interface Principles? *(Select 'yes' or 'no' from the drop-down box.)*	
Recognizing that reliability is an Common Attribute of a robust North American economy:	
1. A reliability standard shall not give any market participant an unfair competitive advantage.Yes	
2. A reliability standard shall neither mandate nor prohibit any specific market structure. Yes	
3. A reliability standard shall not preclude market solutions to achieving compliance with that standard. Yes	
4. A reliability standard shall not require the public disclosure of commercially sensitive information. All market participants shall have equal opportunity to access commercially non-sensitive information that is required for compliance with reliability standards. Yes	

Detailed Description (Provide enough detail so that an independent entity familiar with the industry could draft a standard based on this description.)

The standard is based on the current BES definition and will be reviewed and revised as necessary to reflect the new FERC approved BES definition.

Related Standards

Standard No.	Explanation

Related SARs or RSARs

SAR ID	Explanation

Information in a Regional Standard Authorization Request (RSAR)

The tables below identify information to be submitted in a Regional Standard Authorization Request to the NPCC Regional Standards Process Manager, NPCCstandard@npcc.org . The NPCC Regional Standards Process Manager shall be responsible for implementing and maintaining this form as needed to support the information requirements of the standards process.

Regional Standard Authorization Request Form

Title of Proposed Standard:	PRC-002-NPCC-02
Request Date:	XX-XX-2015

RSAR Requester Information

Name:		**RSAR Type (Check box for one of these selections.)**	
Company:	NPCC	☐	New Standard
Telephone:	212-840-1070	☒	Revision to Existing Standard
Fax:	212-302-2782	☐	Withdrawal of Existing Standard
Email:	lpedowicz@npcc.org	☐	Urgent Action

Purpose (Describe the purpose of the proposed standard – what the standard will achieve in support of reliability.**)**

The purpose of the proposed standard is to review for potential revision made necessary by industry's adoption of a new NERC BES definition, Paragraph 81, and the development of NERC's PRC-002-2 Disturbance Monitoring and Reporting Requirements standard. Retiring PRC-002-NPCC-01 is to be considered if it is determined that it can be retired without sacrificing the ability to capture post-disturbance data.

Industry Need (Provide a detailed statement justifying the need for the proposed standard, along with any supporting documentation**.)**

To enhance efficiencies and cost effectiveness, it must be determined if PRC-002-NPCC-01requirements can be revised or retired to address the new NERC BES definition, Paragraph 81, and eliminate redundancy leading to double jeopardy with PRC-002-2 requirements without sacrificing the ability to capture post-disturbance data.

Brief Description (Describe the proposed standard in sufficient detail to clearly define the scope in a manner that can be easily understood by others.**)**

The requirements in PRC-002-NPCC-01 will be reviewed individually for revision or deletion with respect to the new NERC BES definition, and Paragraph 81. In addition, PRC-002-NPCC-01 will be reviewed against NERC's PRC-002-2. PRC-002-2 mandates the capturing of adequate data to facilitate the analysis of BES disturbances. This "umbrella" encompasses the relevant requirements in PRC-002-NPCC-01. However, the relevant requirements in each of the standards are to be compared and the requirements of PRC-002-NPCC-01, if so determined, be revised or deleted to eliminate redundancy and the concomitant double jeopardy. The review will also ensure that NERC Rules of Procedure, Section 312. Regional Reliability Standards, bullet 1that reads "Regional Entities may propose Regional Reliability Standards that set more stringent reliability requirements than the NERC Reliability Standard or cover matters not covered by an existing NERC Reliability Standard." will govern.

After this review is completed, it will be determined if PRC-002-NPCC-01 should be revised, or retired.

Reliability Functions

The Standard will Apply to the Following Functions (Check all applicable boxes.)		
☒	Reliability Coordinator	The entity that is the highest level of authority who is responsible for the reliable operation of the Bulk Electric System, has the Wide Area view of the Bulk Electric System, and has the operating tools, processes and procedures, including the authority to prevent or mitigate emergency operating situations in both next-day analysis and real-time operations. The Reliability Coordinator has the purview that is broad enough to enable the calculation of Interconnection Reliability Operating Limits, which may be based on the operating parameters of transmission systems beyond any Transmission Operator's vision.
☐	Balancing Authority	The responsible entity that integrates resource plans ahead of time, maintains load-interchange-generation balance within a Balancing Authority Area, and supports Interconnection frequency in real time.
☐	Interchange Authority	Authorizes valid and balanced Interchange Schedules.
☐	Planning Authority	The responsible entity that coordinates and integrates transmission facility and service plans, resource plans, and protection systems.
☐	Transmission Service Provider	The entity that administers the transmission tariff and provides Transmission Service to Transmission Customers under applicable transmission service agreements.
☒	Transmission Owner	The entity that owns and maintains transmission facilities.
☐	Transmission Operator	The entity responsible for the reliability of its "local" transmission system, and that operates or directs the operations of the transmission facilities.
☐	Transmission Planner	The entity that develops a long-term (generally one year and beyond) plan for the reliability (adequacy) of the interconnected bulk electric transmission systems within its portion of the Planning Authority Area.
☐	Resource Planner	The entity that develops a long-term (generally one year and beyond) plan for the resource adequacy of specific loads (customer demand and energy requirements) within a Planning Authority Area.

☐	Generator Operator	The entity that operates generating unit(s) and performs the functions of supplying energy and Interconnected Operations Services.
☒	Generator Owner	Entity that owns and maintains generating units.
☐	Purchasing-Selling Entity	The entity that purchases or sells, and takes title to, energy, capacity, and Interconnected Operations Services. Purchasing-Selling Entities may be affiliated or unaffiliated merchants and may or may not own generating facilities.
☐	Distribution Provider	Provides and operates the "wires" between the transmission system and the customer.
☐	Load-Serving Entity	Secures energy and transmission service (and related Interconnected Operations Services) to serve the electrical demand and energy requirements of its end-use customers.

Reliability and Market Interface Principles

Applicable Reliability Principles *(Check all boxes that apply.)*	
☒	1. Interconnected bulk power systems shall be planned and operated in a coordinated manner to perform reliably under normal and abnormal conditions as defined in the NERC Standards.
☒	2. The frequency and voltage of interconnected bulk power systems shall be controlled within defined limits through the balancing of real and reactive power supply and demand.
☒	3. Information necessary for the planning and operation of interconnected bulk power systems shall be made available to those entities responsible for planning and operating the systems reliably.
☒	4. Plans for emergency operation and system restoration of interconnected bulk power systems shall be developed, coordinated, maintained, and implemented.
☒	5. Facilities for communication, monitoring, and control shall be provided, used, and maintained for the reliability of interconnected bulk power systems.
☐	6. Personnel responsible for planning and operating interconnected bulk power systems shall be trained, qualified, and have the responsibility and authority to implement actions.
☒	7. The security of the interconnected bulk power systems shall be assessed, monitored, and maintained on a wide-area basis.
Does the proposed Standard comply with all of the following Market Interface Principles? *(Select 'yes' or 'no' from the drop-down box.)*	
Recognizing that reliability is an Common Attribute of a robust North American economy:	
1. A reliability standard shall not give any market participant an unfair competitive advantage.Yes	

2. A reliability standard shall neither mandate nor prohibit any specific market structure. Yes
3. A reliability standard shall not preclude market solutions to achieving compliance with that standard. Yes
4. A reliability standard shall not require the public disclosure of commercially sensitive information. All market participants shall have equal opportunity to access commercially non-sensitive information that is required for compliance with reliability standards. Yes

Detailed Description (Provide enough detail so that an independent entity familiar with the industry could draft a standard based on this description.)

Review PRC-002-NPCC-01against PRC-002-2 to determine if revisions are necessary, or retirement of PRC-002-NPCC-01 possible.

Related Standards

Standard No.	Explanation
PRC-002-2	NERC Disturbance Monitoring and Reporting Requirements standard

Related SARs or RSARs

SAR ID	Explanation
RSAR--11/26/12	RSAR for PRC-002-NPCC-01 to be reviewed with respect to the revised BES definition (withdrawn).

NPCC, Inc.

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Northeast Power Coordinating Council, Inc.

Regional Standard Processes Manual (RSPM)



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1	3/11/14	8/14/14	12/23/14

NPCC REGIONAL RELIABILITY STANDARDS PROCESS MANUAL

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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The NPCC Bylaws state "NPCC shall develop a Regional Reliability Standards Development Procedure that provides the design-basis approach to a consensus building process by which NPCC may develop Regional Reliability Standards and Regional Variances to be proposed to the ERO for adoption, under delegated authority by the FERC and the Canadian Provincial regulatory and/or governmental authorities."

The NPCC Regional Reliability Standards Development Procedure was originally adopted by the NPCC Board of Directors on September 19, 2007. The NPCC Reliability Standards Staff in concert with the NPCC Regional Standards Committee (RSC) has completed a revision to the NPCC Regional Reliability Standards Process Manual to incorporate process improvements, provide greater clarity and reflect the new NPCC Cost Effectiveness Analysis Procedure (CEAP).

Key changes addressed in this revision include:

- Replacing interpretation with clarification and expanding the Clarification Section narrative into process steps and including an associated flowchart
- Creating separate sections for: 1) Withdrawal of a Regional Standard Pending Approval; 2) Retirement of an Approved NPCC Regional Standard; and 3) Approval of Process Waiver; 4) Process for Correcting Errata
- Recognizing the new NPCC Cost Effectiveness Analysis Procedure (CEAP)
- Identifying the Reliability Standard Audit Worksheet (RSAW) as a companion document to a regional standard that needs to be collaboratively developed by the drafting team and NPCC Compliance Staff
- Creating three new appendices: 1) Appendix A: Regional Standard Authorization Request (RSAR) Completion Guidelines and Form; 2) Appendix B: Selection of drafting team Members and Nomination Form; and 3) Appendix C: Maintenance of Regional Standards and Process

In addressing areas for improvement in the NPCC Regional Reliability Standards Development Procedure, recent improvements made to the NERC Standards Process Manual (e.g., Standards Process Input Group (SPIG) recommendations) as well as the manuals of other Regional Entities were benchmarked to identify best practices for inclusion in this manual.

The process improvements and clarity captured in this revision to the NPCC Regional Reliability Standards Development Procedure, will result in a more timely and efficient manner to address the development of regional standards to ensure the reliability of the Bulk Electric System within the NPCC geographical area.

II. INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE

This manual defines the characteristics of a Northeast Power Coordinating Council, Inc. (NPCC) regional Reliability Standard (hereinafter referred to as "regional standard") and establishes the process by which NPCC regional standards are developed, approved, revised, clarified and retired. The NPCC regional standards process is a stakeholder process that is approved by the NPCC members to ensure a transparent standard development process that is "open, fair, and inclusive."

NPCC regional standards address the reliability of the international and interconnected Bulk Electric System in Northeast North America. NPCC regional standards shall enable or support one or more NERC/ERO reliability principles[1] and will, in all cases, not be inconsistent with or less stringent than any requirements of the North American Electric Reliability Council/Electric Reliability Organization (NERC/ERO) continent-wide Reliability Standards.

The development of NPCC regional standards is performed according to the following principles using the process contained in this manual:

- Developed in a fair and open process that provides an opportunity for all interested parties to participate;
- Does not have an adverse impact on commerce that is not necessary for reliability;
- Provides a level of Bulk Electric System reliability that is adequate to protect public health, safety, welfare, and national security and would not have a significant adverse impact on reliability; and
- Based on a justifiable difference between Regions or between sub-Regions within the Regional geographic area.

Following industry approval, NPCC regional standards process and NPCC regional standards require approval by the NPCC Board of Directors, NERC as the Electric Reliability Organization (ERO) and the applicable regulatory authorities in the United States (FERC) and Canada.

BACKGROUND

Northeast Power Coordinating Council, Inc. (NPCC) is responsible for promoting and improving the reliability of the international, interconnected Bulk Electric System in Northeastern North America. NPCC carries out its mission through (i) the development of regional standards and compliance assessment and enforcement of continent-wide and regional standards, coordination of system planning, design and operations, and assessment of reliability, (collectively, "Regional Entity activities"), and (ii) the establishment of regionally-specific criteria, and monitoring and enforcement of compliance with such criteria (collectively, "criteria services activities").

The Energy Policy Act (EPA) of 2005 (Section 1211) amended the Federal Power Act (FPA) by adding Section 215, Electric Reliability. Specifically regarding standards development and pursuant with Section 215(e)(4) of the FPA, NPCC as a Regional Entity with delegated authority from NERC may propose regional standards to NERC for eventual enforcement within the NPCC region.

[1] Reliability Principles are available on the NERC website as amended from time to time

As a condition of NPCC membership, NPCC General and Full Members[2] agree to adhere to NERC Reliability Standards. NERC Reliability Standards are comprised of both continent-wide and regional standards. The NPCC regional standards apply only to that part of the Eastern Interconnection within the NPCC geographical area.

III. REGIONAL STANDARD CHARACTERISTICS AND ELEMENTS

1. CHARACTERISTIC ATTRIBUTES

The NPCC regional standards development process has the following key characteristics:

- **Fair due process** — The NPCC regional standards development process provides for reasonable notice and opportunity for public comment. At a minimum, the procedure shall include public notice of the intent to develop a standard, a public comment period on the proposed standard, due consideration of those public comments, and a ballot of interested stakeholders. Upon approval by the NPCC Members, the NPCC Board of Directors then votes to approve submittal of the regional standard to NERC for ERO approval, followed by submission to FERC and Canadian Authorities for their approvals.
- **Openness** — Participation in the NPCC regional standards development process is open to all persons and organizations that are directly and materially affected by the reliability of the NPCC's Bulk Electric System. There is no undue financial burden to participation. Participation shall not be conditioned upon membership in the ERO, NPCC or any organization, and shall not be unreasonably restricted on the basis of technical qualifications or other such requirements.
- **Inclusive** — Any entity (person, organization, company, government agency, individual, etc.) with a direct and material interest in the reliability of NPCC's Bulk Electric System has the right to participate by: (a) expressing an opinion and its basis; (b) having their position considered, and (c) having the right to appeal a response through an established appeal process.
- **Balanced** — The NPCC regional standards development process strives to have an appropriate balance of interest and shall not be dominated by any two interest categories and no single interest category shall be able to defeat a matter. Pursuant with the NPCC By-Laws[3] there are seven (7) stakeholder voting sectors and the votes for each sector are weighted to achieve an appropriate balance.
- **Transparent** — All actions material to the development of NPCC regional standards are transparent and information regarding the progress of a standard's development action is made available to the public through postings on the NPCC website as well as through E-mail lists.
- **Without undue delay** — The NPCC regional standards development process shall be performed within a reasonable time.

In as much as NPCC is one of six Regional Entities within the Eastern Interconnection of North America, there will be no presumption of validity by the ERO for any NPCC regional standard.

[2] As defined in the NPCC By-Laws – available on the NPCC website
[3] NPCC By-Laws are available on the NPCC website

In order to receive the approval of the ERO, the NPCC regional standards development process must also achieve the following objectives:

- **No Adverse Impact on Reliability of the Interconnection** — A NPCC regional standard provides an Adequate Level of Reliability[4] as defined by NERC.
- **Justifiable Difference** — A NPCC regional standard addresses a justifiable difference within the NPCC geographical area that results from a physical difference[5] or operating difference in the Northeast's Bulk Electric System. Although a justifiable difference allows for a unique regional standard, a NPCC regional standard shall be no less stringent than a continent-wide standard.
- **Uniformity** — To the extent possible, the NPCC regional standards provides uniformity with Reliability Standards across the interconnected Bulk Electric System of North America.
- **No Undue Adverse Impact on Commerce** — A NPCC regional standard will not cause any undue adverse impact on business activities that are not necessary for reliability of the Region and its interconnected Regions. All regional standards shall be consistent with NERC's market principles[6].

2. ELEMENTS OF A REGIONAL STANDARD

To ensure uniformity of regional standards and avoid inconsistency with NERC continent-wide standards, a NPCC regional standard shall be consistent with the elements identified in this section of the procedure. These elements are intended to apply a systematic discipline in the development and revision of regional standards. The application of a systematic discipline is necessary for achieving regional standards that are measurable, enforceable, and consistent as well as results oriented[7], i.e.:

- Performance-based,
- Risk-based, and
- Capability-based.

TYPES OF RELIABILITY REQUIREMENTS

Regional reliability standards should be viewed as a portfolio of requirements designed to achieve an effective defense-in-depth strategy. Each requirement should identify a clear and measurable expected outcome, such as: a) a stated level of reliability performance, b) a reduction in a specified reliability risk, or c) a necessary competency.

a) **Performance-based** - defines a specific reliability objective or outcome that has a direct, observable effect on the reliability of the Bulk Electric System, i.e. an effect that can be measured using power system data or trends.

[4] Adequate Level of Reliability is available on the NERC website as amended from time to time

[5] The meaning of the phrase "physical difference" will be 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.

[6] Market Principles are available on the NERC website as amended from time to time

[7] Results-based Standards see http://www.nerc.com/pa/Stand/Resources/Documents/ResultsBasedStandardGuidance.pdf

b) **Risk-based** - defines actions of entities that reduce a stated risk to the reliability of the Bulk Electric System and can be measured by evaluating a particular product or outcome resulting from the required actions.

c) **Capability-based** - defines capabilities needed to perform reliability functions and can be measured by demonstrating that the capability exists as required.

Each regional standard shall enable or support one or more of the reliability principles[8] as identified in the most recent set posted on the NERC website. Each regional standard shall also be consistent with all of the reliability principles. The intent of the set of NPCC regional standards is to deliver an Adequate Level of Reliability[9] as defined by NERC.

Recognizing that Bulk Electric System reliability and electricity markets are inseparable and mutually interdependent, all regional standards shall be consistent with the most recent set of Market Principles[10] as posted on the NERC website. Consideration of the Market Principles is intended to ensure that regional standards are written such that they achieve their reliability objective without placing undue restrictions or causing adverse impacts on competitive electricity markets.

ELEMENTS OF A REGIONAL STANDARD

A regional standard includes several components designed to work collectively to identify what entities must do to meet their reliability-related obligations as an owner, operator or user of the Bulk Electric System. The components of a NPCC regional standard identified below are based on the NERC Standard Processes Manual (SPM) that was approved by the NERC Board of Trustees at its February 2013 meeting. Future revisions of the NERC SPM will be used at the time of development of a NPCC regional standard if different from the elements listed below.

The only mandatory and enforceable components of a regional standard are the: (1) Applicability, (2) Requirements, and (3) the Effective Dates. The additional components are included in the regional standard for informational purposes, to establish the relevant scope and technical paradigm, and to provide guidance to functional entities concerning how compliance will be assessed by the Compliance Enforcement Authority.

The components of a regional standard may include the following:

Title:	A brief, descriptive phrase identifying the topic of the regional standard.
Number:	A unique identification number assigned in accordance with a published classification system to facilitate tracking and reference to the regional standards.
Purpose:	The reliability outcome achieved through compliance with the requirements of the regional standard.
Applicability:	Identifies which entities are assigned reliability requirements; i.e., the specific functional entities and facilities to which the regional standard applies.
Effective Dates:	Identification of the date or pre-conditions determining when each Requirement becomes effective in each jurisdiction.

[8] Reliability Principles are available on the NERC website as amended from time to time
[9] Adequate Level of Reliability is available on the NERC website as amended from time to time
[10] Market Principles are available on the NERC website as amended from time to time

Requirement: An explicit statement that identifies the functional entity responsible, the action or outcome that must be achieved, any conditions achieving the action or outcome, and the reliability-related benefit of the action or outcome. Each requirement shall be a statement for which compliance is mandatory.

Compliance Elements: Elements to aid in the administration of compliance monitoring and enforcement responsibilities.

Measure: Provides identification of the evidence or types of evidence that may demonstrate compliance with the associated requirement.

Violation Risk Factors and Violation Severity Levels: Violation risk factors (VRFs) and violation severity levels (VSLs) are used as factors when determining the size of a penalty or sanction associated with the violation of a requirement in an approved Reliability Standard. Each requirement in each Reliability Standard has an associated VRF and a set of VSLs. VRFs and VSLs are developed by the drafting team, working with NPCC Standards Staff and Compliance Staff, at the same time as the associated Reliability Standard, but are not part of the Reliability Standard. The Board of Directors is responsible for approving VRFs and VSLs.

- Violation Risk Factors
  VRFs identify the potential reliability significance of noncompliance with each requirement. Each requirement is assigned a VRF in accordance with the latest approved set of VRF criteria.
- Violation Severity Levels
  VSLs define the degree to which compliance with a requirement was not achieved. Each requirement shall have at least one VSL. While it is preferable to have four VSLs for each requirement, some requirements do not have multiple "degrees" of noncompliant performance and may have only one, two, or three VSLs. Each requirement is assigned one or more VSLs in accordance with the latest approved set of VSL criteria.

Version History: The version history is provided for informational purposes and lists information regarding prior versions of the regional standard.

Variance: As applied to a NPCC regional standard is a Requirement (to be applied in the place of the NPCC region-wide Requirement) that is applicable to a specific geographic area or to a specific set of Registered Entities.

Compliance Enforcement Authority (CEA): The entity that is responsible for assessing performance or outcomes to determine if an entity is compliant with the associated regional standard. The Compliance Enforcement Authority will be NERC or the Regional Entity in their respective roles of monitoring and enforcing compliance with the ERO regional standards.

Reliability Standard Audit Worksheets (RSAWs)[11] Reliability Standard Audit Worksheets (RSAWs) are developed as companion documents to regional and continent-wide Reliability Standards to facilitate the CEA assessment of a registered entity's compliance with a standard.

[11] While RSAWs are not part of the regional standard, they are developed through collaboration of the drafting team and NPCC Compliance Staff.

Informational Elements: Elements to aid in the implementation of the regional standard.

Application Guidelines:	Guidelines or reference documents to support the implementation of the associated regional standard.
Procedures:	Procedures to support implementation of the associated regional standard.

IV. REGIONAL STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

1. ROLES IN THE NPCC REGIONAL STANDARD PROCESS

NOMINATION, REVISION, CLARIFICATION, OR RETIREMENT OF A STANDARD:

Any member of NPCC or group within the NPCC region shall be allowed to request that a NPCC regional standard be developed, modified, clarified, or retired. Additionally, any person (organization, company, government agency, individual, etc.) who is directly and materially affected by the reliability of the NPCC Bulk Electric System shall be allowed to request that a NPCC regional standard be developed, modified, clarified, or retired. The following section identifies the process roles in the NPCC regional standards process. Refer to Step 2 STANDARD DEVELOPMENT PROCESS STEPS and FIGURE 1: FLOWCHART OF REGIONAL STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT PROCESS OVERVIEW for the regional standards development process steps and associated flowchart. Refer to Step 3 STANDARD CLARIFICATION PROCESS STEPS and FIGURE 2: FLOWCHART OF REGIONAL STANDARDS CLARIFICATION PROCESS OVERVIEW for the regional standards clarification process steps and associated flowchart.

PROCESS ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The NPCC Board of Directors (Board) shall consider for adoption regional standards, definitions, variances and clarifications and associated implementation plans that have been processed according to the processes identified in this manual.

DRAFTING TEAM

The drafting team (DT) should strive to achieve a portfolio of performance, risk, and capability-based mandatory reliability requirements that support an effective defense-in-depth strategy. The drafting team develops standards-related regional products as directed by the NPCC RSC and within the scope of an approved Regional Standard Authorization Request (RSAR) or a Clarification Request (CR). The product that is developed is typically a new or revised regional standard, but could also be a definition, a reference document, a set of Violation Risk Factors, a set of Violation Severity levels, or the team could be appointed to assist an author in refining a Regional Standard Authorization Request (RSAR). The drafting team also works collaboratively with NPCC Compliance Staff to develop Reliability Standard Audit Worksheets (RSAWs) at the same time regional standards are developed. The drafting team shall remain in place until such time as the NERC Board of Trustees adopts the regional standard.

MANAGER OF RELIABILITY STANDARDS

The NPCC Manager of Reliability Standards has the overall responsibility for managing the NPCC regional standards processes in accordance with this manual. As used herein, the NPCC Manager of Reliability Standards will be the NPCC Manager of Reliability Standards or his/her designee.

NPCC MEMBERS

NPCC members may participate in the comment and ballot periods associated with the development and industry approval of regional standards. The ballot body is comprised of all

entities or individuals that qualify for one of the stakeholder sectors within NPCC as stated in the most recently approved NPCC Bylaws. All General and Full Members of NPCC can participate in the balloting of regional standards. Any entity or person, including non-NPCC members, may submit comments during the open process comment periods for standards.

NON-NPCC MEMBERS

Any entity or person that is neither a General nor Full Member of NPCC is not eligible to participate in the ballot body voting on a regional standard. However, any entity or person, including non-NPCC members, may submit comments during the open process comment periods for standards. Subject Matter Experts (SMEs), regardless of NPCC membership status, are encouraged to participate in comment periods for regional standards.

NPCC STANDARDS STAFF

The Standards Staff is responsible for assisting the NPCC Manager of Reliability Standards and the RSC in administering the NPCC regional standards processes in accordance with this manual.

NPCC COMMITTEES, TASK FORCES AND WORKING GROUPS

The Committees, Task Forces and Working Groups within NPCC serve an active role in the standards process. Activities performed by these groups include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Identify the need for new or modified regional standards
- Initiate NPCC Standards actions by developing Regional Standard Authorization Requests (RSARs)
- Develop comments (views and objections) to standards actions
- Participate in NPCC Standard drafting
- Dispensation of Clarification Requests (CRs)
- Provide technical oversight in response to changing industry conditions and ERO Requirements
- Conduct Field Tests, as required

REGIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE (RSC)

The NPCC Regional Standards Committee (RSC), a committee of the NPCC Board of Directors, is charged with oversight of all drafting team activities and managing the NPCC regional standards development process in accordance with this manual.

The RSC is responsible for maintenance of the Regional Standard Processes Manual (RSPM), including the endorsement of RSPM revisions for NPCC Board review and approval.

RELIABILITY COORDINATING COMMITTEE (RCC)

The Reliability Coordinating Committee (RCC) supports the standards development process through the assignment of NPCC Task Forces to serve as technical resources for: (1) staffing drafting teams, and (2) performing a technical advisory role in the regional standards process through comments, recommendations and technical justifications.

REQUESTER

Any individual representing an organization (entity, company, government agency, etc.) that is directly and materially affected by the reliability of the Bulk Electric System within the NPCC

geographical area may request a regional standard be developed or an existing regional standard be modified, clarified, or deleted.

QUALITY REVIEW TEAM

The NPCC Standards Staff shall coordinate a quality review of the "final draft" of the regional standard, implementation plan, VRFs and VSLs to assess whether the documents are within the scope of the associated RSAR, whether the regional standard is clear and enforceable as written and the VRFs and VSLs are developed according to NERC and FERC guidelines. The Quality Review Team may be comprised of legal and compliance representatives, a technical writer, and NPCC Standards Staff. It will not involve individuals who participated on the drafting team of the standard undergoing the Quality Review.

2. STANDARD DEVELOPMENT PROCESS STEPS

STEP 2.1: REGIONAL STANDARDS AUTHORIZATION REQUEST TO DEVELOP, MODIFY OR RETIRE

A Regional Standard Authorization Request[12] (RSAR) is the form used to document the scope and reliability benefit of a proposed project for one or more new or modified regional standards or the benefit of retiring one or more approved regional standards.

A RSAR shall be used to seek approval and initiate the development, modification or retirement of a NPCC regional standard. A RSAR is not used to seek a Clarification Request (CR) of a NPCC regional standard. The initiation and handling of a CR is covered in Step 3 STANDARD CLARIFICATION PROCESS STEPS, of this manual.

Any individual representing an organization which is directly or materially impacted by the operation of the Bulk Electric System within the geographical footprint of NPCC may request, via a submittal of a RSAR to the NPCC Manager of Reliability Standards, the development, modification, or deletion of a NPCC regional standard. The individual completing the form is referred to herein as the Requester.

STEP 2.1.A. REQUESTER ACTIONS

> *Note: The NPCC Manager of Reliability Standards will assist the Requester, as necessary, to ensure all required information is submitted on the RSAR.*

The Requester shall complete a RSAR form in accordance with the guidance provided in APPENDIX A: RSAR COMPLETION GUIDELINES.

The Requester shall submit the completed RSAR to the NPCC Manager of Reliability Standards, via npccstandard@npcc.org, for processing.

STEP 2.1.B. NPCC MANAGER OF RELIABILITY STANDARDS ACTIONS

The NPCC Manager of Reliability Standards shall review the submitted RSAR and verify that the submitted form has been adequately completed. Within fifteen (15) calendar days[13] of receipt of the submitted RSAR, the NPCC Manager of Reliability Standards will electronically acknowledge

[12] The RSAR is located on the NPCC website under Standards – Regional Standards General

[13] Time periods specified in this manual may be extended as deemed appropriate by NPCC Staff. When business days are specified, this provision could be used to take into account differing Canadian and US holiday schedules. When calendar days are specified, this provision could be used to take into account due dates that fall on a weekend.

receipt of the RSAR. If, at that time, the NPCC Manager of Reliability Standards finds the RSAR to be deficient, the Requester will be contacted to determine how to proceed.

Within ten (10) calendar days of the receipt of an adequately completed RSAR, the NPCC Manager of Reliability Standards shall forward the properly completed RSAR to the NPCC Regional Standards Committee (RSC) for its review and processing. Included in the transmittal of the RSAR to the RSC, the NPCC Manager of Reliability Standards shall include a statement indicating the applicability of the NPCC Cost Effectiveness Analysis Procedure (CEAP) for the proposed change.

STEP 2.1.C. NPCC REGIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE (RSC) ACTIONS

Note:	*The RSC shall meet to review all pending RSARs. The frequency of this review process will depend on workload, but in no case shall a properly completed RSAR wait for RSC action more than 60 calendar days from the date of receipt by the RSC.*

The RSC shall review the RSAR and take one of the following actions:

- Remand the RSAR back to the NPCC Manager of Reliability Standards for additional work. In this case, the NPCC Manager of Reliability Standards shall work with the Requester to provide additional information or clarification for the RSAR as specified by the RSC.
- Reject the RSAR. In this case, the RSC will provide its determination to the NPCC Manager of Reliability Standards, who will then provide a written explanation for rejection to the Requester within ten (10) calendar days of the rejection decision.

Note:	*Before the RSC can accept a RSAR for a new or modified standard the applicable CEAP process steps shall be completed.*

- Accept the RSAR.
  - If a new or modified standard has been authorized, within ten (10) calendar days of the authorization the NPCC Manager of Reliability Standards shall: 1) post notification on the NPCC website of the intent to develop or modify a regional standard; 2) notify the ERO for processing in accordance with its process, as applicable; and 3) notify the Requester of the acceptance of the RSAR.
  - If the retirement of an existing regional standard has been authorized, within ten (10) calendar days of the authorization the NPCC Manager of Reliability Standards shall: 1) post notification on the NPCC website of the intent to retire an existing regional standard; 2) notify the ERO for processing in accordance with its process, as applicable; and 3) notify the Requester of the acceptance of the RSAR. The process to retire an existing regional standard is included in Step 6 RETIREMENT OF AN APPROVED NPCC REGIONAL STANDARD.

STEP 2.2: FORMATION OF DRAFTING TEAM FOR NEW OR MODIFIED STANDARD

A RSAR that has been accepted by the RSC shall, within ten (10) calendar days of the acceptance of the RSAR, be submitted by the NPCC Manager of Reliability Standards to the NPCC Reliability Coordinating Committee (RCC). The RCC shall, within sixty (60) calendar days, assign the development of the regional standard to a NPCC Task Force, and notify the NPCC Manager of Reliability Standards of its decision within ten (10) calendar days.

After receipt of the notification of drafting team assignment, the NPCC Manager of Reliability Standards shall oversee solicitation and recommendation of a list of additional qualified [14] candidates over and above the appropriate NPCC Task Force members, for appointment to the drafting team. The Requester and a NPCC Compliance Staff person will be included on the drafting team. Within sixty (60) calendar days of the drafting team assignment notification from the RCC, the NPCC Manager of Reliability Standards shall submit the list of the entire drafting team membership to the RSC for acceptance. The RSC may accept the recommendations of the NPCC Manager of Reliability Standards as presented or revise the recommendations as necessary.

Upon acceptance of the drafting team slate, the RSC shall provide a target date on which the drafting team is expected to have ready a completed draft regional standard and associated supporting documentation available for consideration by the NPCC membership. Additionally, the RSC shall provide the drafting team with any preliminary development products including, but not limited to, a draft standard, comments, and related white papers.

The RSC shall designate one of its members to actively monitor and assist NPCC staff in the oversight of drafting team milestones and deadlines, and extend or expedite milestones and deadlines, as appropriate, acting as a liaison between the drafting team and the RSC to help resolving any issues.

STEP 2.3: DEVELOPMENT OF A REGIONAL STANDARD AND ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

Prior to beginning work on the development of a new or revised regional standard and the associated supporting documentation, the drafting team should develop a work plan for completing the regional standard development work, including the establishment of milestones for completing critical elements of the work in sufficient detail to ensure that the drafting team will meet the target date established by the RSC, or the drafting team shall propose an alternative date. This work plan must be submitted to the RSC for its concurrence. When a drafting team begins its work, it shall regularly (at least quarterly) report progress against that aforementioned work plan to the NPCC Manager of Reliability Standards for presentation to the RSC.

> *Note: During the regional standards development, the drafting team will deliberate on whether the requirements in the regional standard are developed enough to begin the Cost Effectiveness Analysis (CEA) of the NPCC Cost Effectiveness Analysis Procedure (CEAP). When appropriate, the drafting team shall request that the RSC initiate the second phase (CEA) of the CEAP process.*

The drafting team shall create and manage its work structure (e.g., sub-teams) and meeting schedule (face-to-face as well as electronic meetings), as necessary, to meet the milestone dates and project deliverables outlined in the work plan.

The work products of the drafting team should consist of the following

- A draft regional standard consistent with the RSAR on which it was based
- An implementation plan, including the nature, extent and duration of field-testing, if any
- Identification of any existing regional standard and NPCC criteria that will be deleted, in part or whole, or otherwise impacted by the implementation of the draft regional standard

[14] Refer to Appendix B: Selection of Drafting Team Members

- Technical reports, white papers and/or work papers that provide technical justification for the draft regional standard under consideration
- Reliability Standard Audit Worksheet (RSAW) collaboratively developed by the drafting team and NPCC Compliance Staff

Any proposed changes to definitions in existing regional standards should be sent to the appropriate Task Force (TF) for consideration of the impact to the standard. If necessary, the TF can produce a RSAR.

NPCC Standards Staff can assist in the drafting of the regional standard including compliance measures, process and elements. The drafting of measures and compliance administration aspects of the standard will be coordinated with the NPCC Compliance Staff.

The drafting team shall submit the initial and subsequent interim drafts of the regional standard and associated documents to the NPCC Manager of Reliability Standards to obtain RSC concurrence to post documents for comment.

STEP 2.4: POSTING FOR COMMENT PERIOD AND RESOLUTION OF COMMENTS

Note:	*There are no limits to the number of public comment periods and ballots that can be conducted to result in a regional standard that is clear and enforceable, and achieves a quorum and sufficient affirmative votes for approval.*

STEP 2.4.A. COMMENT PERIOD

Note:	*For Final Comment Period skip this step and proceed to* STEP 2.4.B. FINAL COMMENT PERIOD.

As authorized by the RSC, the NPCC Manager of Reliability Standards shall post the draft of the regional standard on the NPCC website, along with a draft implementation plan and available supporting documents, for a forty-five (45) calendar day comment period. The NPCC Manager of Reliability Standards shall also notify NERC to process the draft document in accordance with NERC's regional standards review procedure, as applicable.

Following the conclusion of the NPCC comment period, the NPCC Manager of Reliability Standards will assemble the comments on the draft regional standard and associated documents and provide all comments to the drafting team for consideration.

Within thirty (30) calendar days of the conclusion of the comment period the drafting team shall convene and consider changes to the draft Standard, the implementation plan and/or supporting technical documents based upon comments received. All submitted comments shall be addressed, and each commenter shall be advised of the disposition, with reasons, of their comments. The NPCC Manager of Reliability Standards shall publicly post all of the drafting team's responses to stakeholder comments on the NPCC website.

Based on the comments received, the drafting team may elect to:

- Return to STEP 2.3: DEVELOPMENT OF A REGIONAL STANDARD AND ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS to revise the draft regional standard, the implementation plan and/or supporting technical documents.
- Recommend that the RSC authorize Field Testing of the draft regional standard. Upon completion of the Field Test, return to STEP 2.3: DEVELOPMENT OF A REGIONAL STANDARD

AND ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS to revise the draft regional standard based on insights learned during the Field Test.

- Obtain RSC concurrence to post documents for Final Comment Period and request that the RSC initiate the second phase (CEA) of the CEAP process

STEP 2.4.B. FINAL COMMENT PERIOD

The NPCC Standards Staff shall coordinate a Quality Review of "final draft" of the regional standard, implementation plan, VRFs and VSLs to assess whether the documents are within the scope of the associated RSAR, whether the regional standard is clear and enforceable as written and the VRFs and VSLs are developed according to NERC and FERC guidelines. Upon Completion of the Quality Review, including resolution of comments, the drafting team shall submit the regional standard to the NPCC Manager of Reliability Standards to obtain RSC concurrence to post these documents for comment.

As authorized by the RSC, the NPCC Standards Staff shall post the "final draft" of the regional standard on the NPCC website, along with the implementation plan, supporting documents and the Cost Effectiveness Analysis (CEA) survey[15] for a forty-five (45) calendar day comment period. NPCC Standards Staff shall also notify NERC to process the proposed final document in accordance with NERC's regional standards review procedure, as applicable.

Following the conclusion of the NPCC comment period, the NPCC Manager of Reliability Standards will assemble the comments on the posted regional standard and associated documents and provide all comments to the drafting team for consideration.

In addition, the RSC, pursuant with the requirements of the Cost Effectiveness Analysis Procedure (CEAP), will use the responses to the posted CEA survey to develop a recommendation based on the cost effectiveness of the proposed regional standard.

The NPCC Task Forces (TFs) or Working Groups (WGs) may develop recommendations for submittal to the RSC. Following the RSC deliberations to determine a course of action, the RSC will communicate to the drafting team to:

- Return to STEP 2.3: DEVELOPMENT OF A REGIONAL STANDARD AND ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS to revise the Standard to address the results of the CEAP
- Accept the Standard "as is" to move forward through the remainder of the process
- Hold the Standard in abeyance until such time as additional guidance can be provided regarding whether or how to continue
- Decide not to pursue the development of certain requirements or the entire Standard due to cost effectiveness considerations

Upon Completion of the final comment period the drafting team shall submit the proposed regional standard, along with any supporting materials, consideration of comments and field test results, to the NPCC Manager of Reliability Standards to obtain RSC concurrence to post the regional standard for ballot and concurrently provide an information copy to the RCC.

[15] In accordance to the Cost Effectiveness Analysis Procedure (CEAP) the Cost Effectiveness Analysis (CEA) survey may be assigned directly to NPCC Task Forces (TFs) or Working Groups (WGs) in addition to the posting process.

The NPCC Manager of Reliability Standards shall also publicly post all of the drafting team's responses to stakeholder comments on the NPCC website.

STEP 2.5: POSTING FOR BALLOT PERIOD IN THE OPEN PROCESS

Note:	*There are no limits to the number of public comment periods and ballots that can be conducted to result in a regional standard that is clear and enforceable, and achieves a quorum and sufficient affirmative votes for approval.*

As authorized by the RSC, the NPCC Manager of Reliability Standards shall post the proposed regional standard on the NPCC website, along with supporting documentation [16] (e.g., implementation plan, consideration of comments, technical reports, white papers and any field test results), for a thirty (30) day pre-ballot review period and a subsequent ten (10) day ballot period. The ten (10) day ballot period will commence immediately following the pre-ballot review period. In the event that a quorum exists for purposes of an electronic vote but the ballot purpose has not been resolved, NPCC may continue to solicit additional responses in order to resolve the matter by electronic voting. In the event that quorum has not been achieved for purposes of an electronic vote, NPCC may continue to solicit electronic ballots, including abstentions, to obtain quorum and resolve the matter.

At the time the regional standard is posted for ballot, the NPCC Manager of Reliability Standards shall also notify NERC to process the proposed regional standard in accordance with NERC's regional standards review procedure, as applicable.

During the ballot period, the NPCC Members of the ballot body can cast their vote as follows:

- Affirmative, with or without comments
- Negative with comments
- Abstain

In accordance with the NPCC Bylaws, a quorum and receipt of a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative majority of the weighted sector votes is required for a ballot to pass.

The NPCC Manager of Reliability Standards shall post the final outcome of the ballot process on the NPCC website.

STEP 2.5.A. BALLOT DOES NOT RECEIVE 2/3 AFFIRMATIVE VOTE

If a ballot fails to achieve the 2/3 majority vote the NPCC Manager of Reliability Standards may:

- Direct the drafting team to respond to ballot comments and return to STEP 2.5: POSTING FOR BALLOT PERIOD IN THE OPEN PROCESS to re-ballot the regional standard. The consideration of comments from prior ballot will be included with the re-posting.
- Return to STEP 2.3: DEVELOPMENT OF A REGIONAL STANDARD AND ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS to revise the regional standard to address the comments received.
- Pursue the discontinuance of the regional standard development by soliciting the Requester to withdraw the RSAR or by soliciting the RSC to reject the RSAR pursuant with STEP 2.1.C. NPCC REGIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE (RSC) ACTIONS. The NPCC Manager of

[16] The ballot posting is for the regional standard, definition, variance or clarification. Supporting documentation is included for information only and is not balloted.

Reliability Standards, in the event of a discontinuance of the development of a regional standard, shall post a notice of the discontinuance and will post and archive all comments submitted during the process for future consideration, if required. The NPCC Manager of Reliability Standards will also notify NERC to process the proposed regional standard in accordance with NERC's regional standards review procedure, as applicable.

STEP 2.5.B. BALLOT RECEIVES ≥ TWO-THIRDS (2/3) AFFIRMATIVE VOTE

A ballot that achieved two-thirds or greater affirmative vote has successfully passed. However, negative votes with comments should still be reconciled. If there is at least one negative vote with comments proceed to STEP 2.5.B.1 APPROVED BALLOT WITH "NEGATIVE VOTE WITH COMMENT". If there was not any negative vote with comments proceed to STEP 2.5.B.2 APPROVED BALLOT WITHOUT "NEGATIVE VOTE WITH COMMENT".

STEP 2.5.B.1 APPROVED BALLOT WITH "NEGATIVE VOTE WITH COMMENT"

Following the conclusion of the NPCC ballot period, the NPCC Manager of Reliability Standards will assemble the comments on the posted regional standard and provide all comments to the drafting team for consideration. The drafting team shall review all negative votes with comments and elect to:

- Recommend to the RSC to accept the regional standard "as is" and seek RSC endorsement to move forward through the remainder of the process. Upon receiving RSC endorsement to proceed, the regional standard and associated documents, approved by the NPCC ballot body, shall be forwarded by the Assistant Vice President Standards to the NPCC Board of Directors for final Regional approval. If comments that were received during balloting should be considered in future revisions to the regional standard then the NPCC Manager of Reliability Standards should log comments in an issues database.
- Return to STEP 2.3: DEVELOPMENT OF A REGIONAL STANDARD AND ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS to revise the regional standard to address the comments received.
- Respond to ballot comments and recommend to the RSC endorse the return to STEP 2.5: POSTING FOR BALLOT PERIOD IN THE OPEN PROCESS to re-ballot the regional standard. The NPCC Manager of Reliability Standards should include the consideration of comments from the prior ballot with the re-posting.

STEP 2.5.B.2 APPROVED BALLOT WITHOUT "NEGATIVE VOTE WITH COMMENT"

Regional standard and associated documents, approved by the NPCC ballot body, shall be forwarded by the Assistant Vice President Standards to the NPCC Board of Directors for final Regional approval.

STEP 2.6: NPCC BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVAL

Following approval by the NPCC Members, regional standards require review and approval by the NPCC Board of Directors. The NPCC Board of Directors may take the following actions:

- Approve the regional standard as presented.
- Approve the regional standard with comments to incorporate non-substantive revisions. [The NPCC Board of Directors may not make substantive revisions to the standard.]
- Remand the regional standard back to the RSC and the drafting team to address their concerns. The RSC / drafting team can address the BOD comments and re-submit for BOD

approval or return to STEP 2.3: DEVELOPMENT OF A REGIONAL STANDARD AND ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS to revise the regional standard to address the comments received.

STEP 2.7: NERC BOARD OF TRUSTEES SUBMITTAL

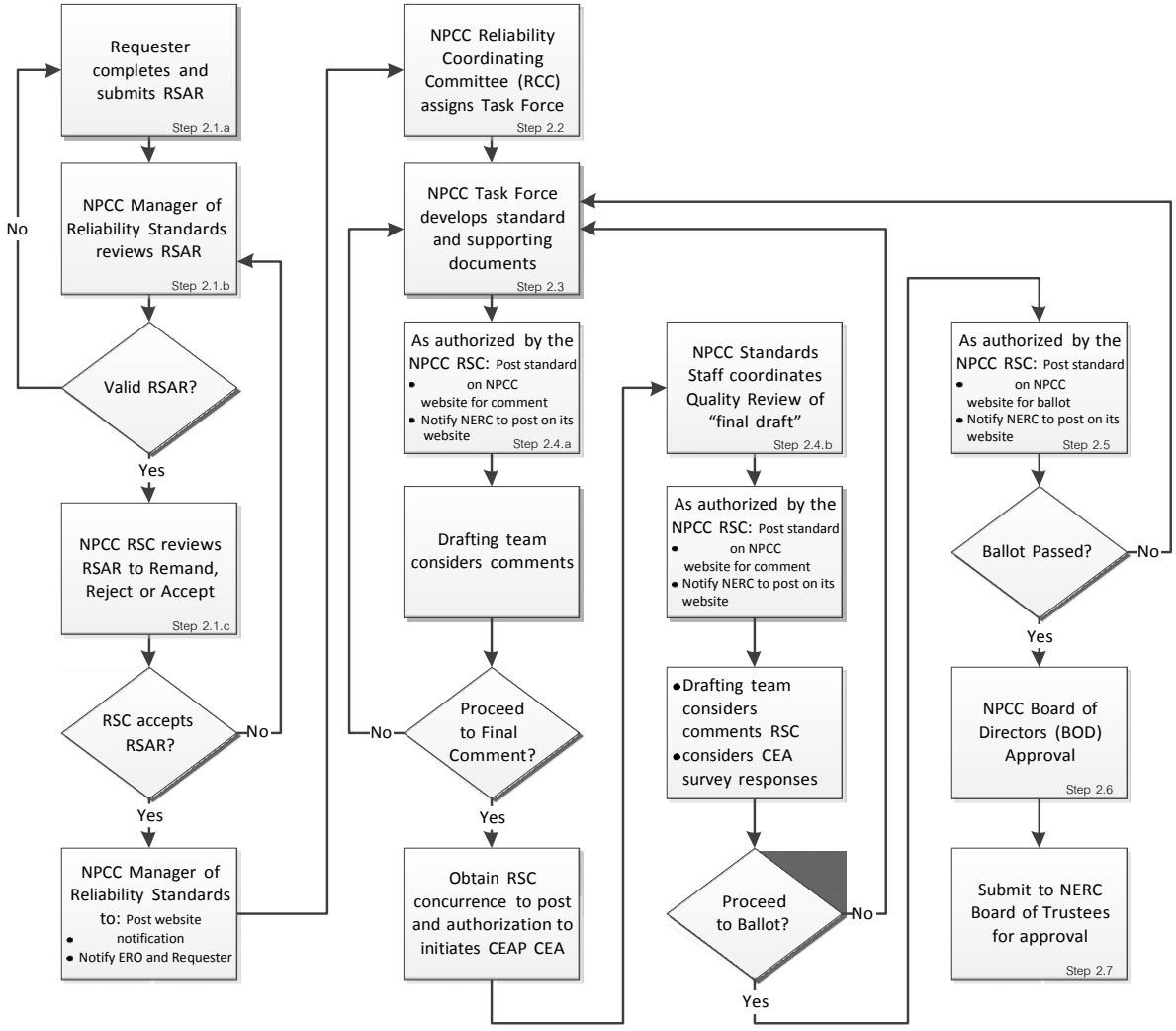
Upon approval by the NPCC Board of Directors, the NPCC Manager of Reliability Standards shall submit the regional standard to NERC, as the Electric Reliability Organization, for approval and subsequent filing with FERC and the applicable Canadian Provincial regulatory and/or governmental authorities for adoption.

STEP 2.8: IMPLEMENTATION OF A NPCC REGIONAL STANDARD

Following the approval of a NPCC regional standard by FERC and the applicable Canadian Provincial regulatory and/or governmental authorities, all users, owners, and operators of the Bulk Electric System in the NPCC geographic area are required to comply with the standard as of its enforcement date.

ERO approved Reliability Standards (both continent-wide and regional) are included in both the NERC and NPCC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Programs (CMEPs).

FIGURE 1: FLOWCHART OF REGIONAL STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT PROCESS OVERVIEW



3. STANDARD CLARIFICATION PROCESS STEPS

This section applies to NPCC regional standards that have been approved[17] and are currently enforceable or have a future enforcement date. A clarification request is not permitted for regional standards under development. For regional standards under development, an explanation of a requirement or its meaning can be sought during a comment period. Refer to Step 2, STANDARD DEVELOPMENT PROCESS STEPS of this manual for details on the comment process for a standard under development.

STEP 3.1: REGIONAL STANDARDS CLARIFICATION REQUEST (CR)

Any member of NPCC or group within the NPCC region shall be allowed to submit a Clarification Request (CR) for a NPCC regional standard.

Additionally, any person (organization, company, government agency, individual, etc.) who is directly and materially affected by the reliability of the NPCC Bulk Electric System shall be allowed to submit a Clarification Request (CR) for a NPCC regional standard.

> *Note: A valid Clarification Request is one that seeks additional clarity about one or more requirements in an approved regional standard, but does not request approval as to how to comply with any requirements of the standard.*

The Requester should submit a Clarification Request[18] (CR) for a NPCC regional standard directly to the NPCC Manager of Reliability Standards, via npccstandard@npcc.org, for processing. Alternatively, the Requester can submit a Request for Interpretation (RFI) of a NPCC regional standard under the NERC process for developing an interpretation[19] to the NERC Reliability Standards Staff explaining the clarification required, the specific circumstances surrounding the request, and the impact of not having the clarification provided. A copy of the completed RFI form should also be sent to the NPCC Manager of Reliability Standards.

NERC Reliability Standards Staff will refer the RFI to NPCC and delegate its resolution to NPCC. NPCC will process the NERC delegation pursuant with the NPCC Clarification Request (CR) process described herein.

STEP 3.2: REVIEW AND VALIDATION OF CLARIFICATION REQUEST (CR)

Upon receipt of a Clarification Request (CR) for a NPCC regional standard, the NPCC Manager of Reliability Standards shall review the CR to determine whether:

- It meets the requirements for a valid Clarification Request
- A compliance process or approach could be used in lieu of a clarification

The NPCC Manager of Reliability Standards will utilize, as necessary, the NPCC Standards Staff, NPCC Compliance and Legal Staffs when determining the validity of the CR. Based on this review, the NPCC Manager of Reliability Standards will recommend to the RSC whether to accept or reject the CR. The recommendation to the RSC should be made within thirty (30) calendar days of the receipt of the CR.

[17] Approval is granted by FERC and the Canadian Provincial regulatory and/or governmental authorities, as applicable.
[18] The NPCC Clarification Request form is included as Appendix D
[19] The *Request for Interpretation* form is posted under Resource Documents on the NERC Standards webpage.

The following examples identify situations that may warrant a recommendation from the NPCC Manager of Reliability Standards to reject the CR:

- Requests approval of a particular compliance approach
- Identifies a gap or perceived weakness in the approved regional standard (Requester should be redirected to initiate a RSAR rather than a CR)
- Where an issue can be addressed by an active (regional or continent-wide) standard drafting team
- Where an issue can be better addressed by a compliance process or approach
- Where it requests clarification of any element of a regional standard other than a requirement
- Where a question has already been addressed in the record
- Where the clarification identifies an issue and proposes the development of a new or modified regional or continent-wide standard (such issues should be addressed via submission of a RSAR or SAR)
- Where a clarification seeks to expand the scope of a regional standard
- Where the requirement of the regional standard is clear

STEP 3.3: NPCC REGIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE (RSC) ACTIONS

The RSC shall review the CR along with the recommendation from the NPCC Manager of Reliability Standards and take one of the following actions:

- Reject the CR. In this case, the RSC will provide its determination to the NPCC Manager of Reliability Standards, who will then provide a written explanation for rejection to the CR to the entity requesting the clarification within ten (10) calendar days of the decision to reject.
- Accept the CR. In this case, the RSC will provide its determination to the NPCC Manager of Reliability Standards, who will then: 1) post notification on the NPCC website of the intent to develop a clarification; 2) notify the NPCC Reliability Coordinating Committee (RCC) of the need to assign the resolution of the CR to one or more Task Forces (if more than one Task Force is assigned, one of them shall be assigned the lead role); and 3) notify the Requester of the acceptance of the CR. The notifications shall be made within ten (10) calendar days of the acceptance of the CR.

STEP 3.4: FORMATION OF DRAFTING TEAM FOR RESPONSE TO CR

A CR that has been accepted by the RSC shall be assigned by the RCC to the responsible NPCC Task Force to make up the clarification drafting team (CDT) and develop the CR response.

STEP 3.5: DEVELOPMENT OF RESPONSE TO CR

> *Note: A valid clarification response provides additional clarity about one or more requirements, but does not expand on any requirement and does not explain how to comply with any requirement.*

Within sixty (60) calendar days from the receipt of being assigned to respond to a CR, the CDT shall submit a proposed clarification response to the NPCC Manager of Reliability Standards. Upon receipt of the proposed clarification response from the CDT, the NPCC Manager of

Reliability Standards shall present the response to the RSC to obtain concurrence to post the proposed response for comment.

Along with the proposed clarification response, the drafting team shall also develop and submit a set of questions to be included in the comment form, for approval by the RSC.

If the RSC concurrence is not received, the drafting team will continue to refine the clarification response.

Note: There are no limits to the number of public comment periods that can be conducted to result in a clear and concise clarification of a regional standard requirement.

STEP 3.6: POSTING CR FOR COMMENT PERIOD AND RESOLUTION OF COMMENTS

As authorized by the RSC, the NPCC Manager of Reliability Standards shall post the proposed clarification response on the NPCC website for a forty-five (45) calendar day comment period.

Following the conclusion of the NPCC comment period, the NPCC Manager of Reliability Standards will assemble the comments on the proposed clarification response and provide all comments to the drafting team for consideration.

Within thirty (30) calendar days of the conclusion of the comment period the drafting team shall convene and consider changes to the proposed clarification response based upon comments received. All submitted comments shall be addressed, which may be in the form of a summary response addressing each of the issues raised in comments received. The NPCC Manager of Reliability Standards shall publicly post all of the drafting team's responses to stakeholder comments on the NPCC website.

Based on the comments received, the drafting team may elect to:

- Return to STEP 3.5: DEVELOPMENT OF RESPONSE TO CR to revise the proposed clarification response.
- Accept the proposed clarification response "as is" to move forward through the remainder of the process.

Upon acceptance of the proposed clarification response "as is," the drafting team shall submit the proposed clarification response to the NPCC Manager of Reliability Standards to obtain RSC endorsement to the submitted CR response.

STEP 3.7: REGIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE APPROVAL OF CR

Upon receipt of the CR response from the NPCC Manager of Reliability Standards, the RSC shall elect to:

- Endorse the proposed clarification response and direct the NPCC Assistant Vice President Standards to forward the CR to the NPCC Board of Directors for final Regional approval; or
- Direct the drafting team to return to STEP 3.5: DEVELOPMENT OF RESPONSE TO CR to revise the proposed clarification response

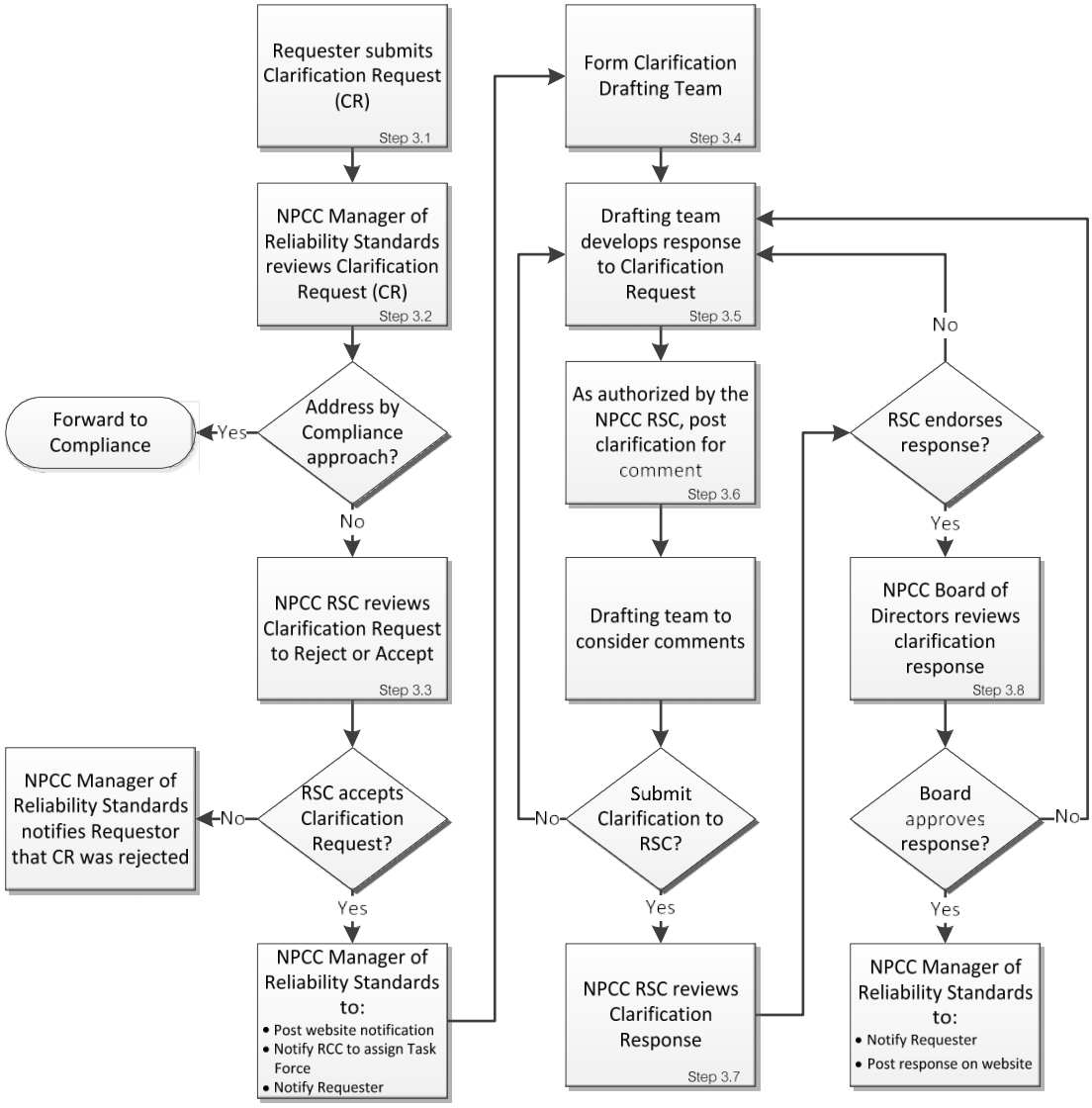
STEP 3.8: NPCC BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVAL OF CR

Following endorsement by the RSC, clarification responses require review and approval by the NPCC Board of Directors. The NPCC Board of Directors may take the following actions:

- Approve the clarification response as presented
- Approve the clarification response with comments to incorporate non-substantive revisions. [The NPCC Board of Directors may not make substantive revisions to the clarification response.]
- Remand the clarification response back to the RSC and the drafting team to address their concerns

Upon receipt of Board approval, the NPCC Manager of Reliability Standards shall notify the Requestor and post the approved clarification on the NPCC website.

FIGURE 2: FLOWCHART OF REGIONAL STANDARDS CLARIFICATION PROCESS OVERVIEW



4. DISCONTINUANCE OF REGIONAL STANDARD DEVELOPMENT

The term "discontinuance" as used herein refers to terminating the standard development process after RSAR approval but prior to posting a regional standard for industry ballot. From time to time the need or rationale for a regional standard may change thereby necessitating the curtailment

of the regional standard development. Upon notification or determination that a regional standard under development should be considered for discontinuance due to a perceived change in the need for the standard, the NPCC Manager of Reliability Standards will submit the recommendation for discontinuance to the RSC for approval.

5. WITHDRAWAL OF A REGIONAL STANDARD PENDING APPROVAL

The term "withdrawal" as used herein, refers to the revocation of a request for approval of a regional standard, variance, clarification or definition that has been approved by the NPCC Board of Directors and has not been filed with Applicable Governmental Authorities or has been filed but not yet approved by Applicable Governmental Authorities. The RSC may withdraw a regional standard, variance, clarification or definition for good cause subject to approval by the NPCC Board of Directors. Upon approval by the NPCC Board of Directors, the NPCC Manager of Reliability Standards will notify NERC Staff to petition the Applicable Governmental Authorities, as necessary, to allow for withdrawal in the case that the regional standard has been filed.

6. RETIREMENT OF AN APPROVED NPCC REGIONAL STANDARD

The term "retirement" refers to the discontinuation of a regional standard in whole, certain requirements within a regional standard, a variance, clarification or definition that: 1) has been approved by Applicable Governmental Authorities and 2) is not being superseded by or merged into a new or revised regional standard, clarification or definition.

Upon identification of a need for retirement, a RSAR containing the proposal of the retirement will be handled in accordance with the STEP 2.1: REGIONAL STANDARDS AUTHORIZATION REQUEST TO DEVELOP, MODIFY OR RETIRE. The proposal shall include the rationale for the retirement and a statement regarding the impact of retirement on the reliability of the Bulk Electric System. Upon approval by the NPCC Members and the NPCC Board of Directors, the NPCC Manager of Reliability Standards shall submit the request for retirement to NERC, as the Electric Reliability Organization, for approval and to subsequently petition the Applicable Governmental Authorities to allow for retirement.

7. APPROVAL OF PROCESS WAIVER

While it is NPCC's intent to adhere to this manual under normal circumstances, NPCC may need to develop a new or modified regional standard, implementation plan, variance, clarification or definition under extenuating circumstances. Extenuating circumstances may include, but not be limited to, specific time constraint imposed by a regulatory body and urgent reliability issue that requires expedited handling outside of the normal regional Reliability Standards process.

The RSC, by two-thirds (2/3) majority vote, may waive any of the provisions contained in this manual for good cause shown, but limited to the following circumstances:

- Where necessary to meet regulatory deadlines
- Where necessary to address an urgent reliability issue identified by regulatory and/or governmental authorities, including response to national emergency declared by the United States or Canadian government that involves the reliability of the Bulk Electric System or cyber-attack on the Bulk Electric System
- Where necessary to meet deadlines imposed by the NPCC Board of Directors

- Where the RSC determines that a revision to a proposed regional standard, implementation plan, variance, clarification or definition has already been vetted by the industry through the standards development process or is so insubstantial that developing the revision through the processes contained in this manual will add significant time delay without any corresponding benefit.

In no circumstances shall this provision be used to modify the requirements for achieving quorum or the voting requirements for approval of a standard.

A waiver request may be submitted to the RSC by any entity or individual, including NPCC committees or subgroups and NPCC Standards Staff. Prior to consideration of any waiver request, the NPCC Manager of Reliability Standards must provide notification to stakeholders at least five (5) business days prior to RSC consideration and action. Posting the waiver request on the NPCC website satisfies the notification provision.

Action on the waiver request will be included in the minutes of the RSC. Following the approval of the RSC to waive any provision of the regional Reliability Standards process, the Assistant Vice President Standards shall report the exercise of this waiver provision to the NPCC Board of Directors prior to adoption of the related Reliability Standard, clarification, definition or variance. Actions taken pursuant to an approved waiver request will be posted on the NPCC Standards webpage.

8. PROCESS FOR CORRECTING ERRATA

From time to time, an error may be discovered in a regional standard after it has received final ballot approval by the NPCC ballot body. Such errors may be corrected by the RSC without re-balloting if the RSC agrees that the correction of the error does not change the scope or intent of the associated regional standard, and agrees that the correction has no material impact on the end users of the regional standard.

If the regional standard containing errata is pending approval by the NPCC Board of Directors, the corrected regional standard shall be presented to the NPCC Board for approval in lieu of the regional standard approved by the NPCC ballot body.

If a regional standard containing errata had received prior approval by the NPCC Board of Directors, the corrected regional standard shall be presented to the NPCC Board for approval. Upon approval by the Board, the corrected regional standard will be filed for approval by NERC.

The NPCC Board of Directors has resolved to concurrently approve any errata approved by the RSC associated with a regional standard that has received prior approval by the NPCC Board.

9. APPEALS

Persons who have directly and materially affected interests and who have been or will be adversely affected by any substantive or procedural action or inaction related to the approval, revision, reaffirmation, or withdrawal of a regional standard (appellant) shall have the right to appeal. This appeals process applies only to the regional standards process as defined in this manual.

The burden of proof to show adverse effect shall be on the appellant. Appeals shall be made within thirty (30) calendar days of the date of the action purported to cause the adverse effect, except appeals for inaction, which may be made at any time. In all cases, the request for appeal must be made prior to the next step in the process.

The final decisions of any appeal shall be documented in writing and made public.

The appeals process provides two levels, with the goal of expeditiously resolving the issue to the satisfaction of the participants:

LEVEL 1 APPEAL

Level 1 is the required first step in the appeals process. The appellant submits a complaint in writing to the NPCC Manager of Reliability Standards that describes the substantive or procedural action or inaction associated with a Reliability Standard or the standards process. The appellant describes in the complaint the actual or potential adverse impact to the appellant. Assisted by any necessary NPCC Standards Staff and Committee resources, the NPCC Manager of Reliability Standards shall prepare a written response addressed to the appellant as soon as practical, but not more than forty-five (45) calendar days after receipt of the complaint. If the appellant accepts the response as a satisfactory resolution of the issue, both the complaint and response will be made a part of the public record associated with the standard and posted with the standard.

LEVEL 2 APPEAL

If after the Level 1 Appeal the appellant remains unsatisfied with the resolution, as indicated by the appellant in writing to the NPCC Manager of Reliability Standards, the NPCC Board of Directors shall appoint a five member panel to serve as a Level 2 Appeals Panel.

In all cases, Level 2 Appeals Panel members shall have no direct affiliation with the participants in the appeal.

The NPCC Manager of Reliability Standards shall post the complaint and other relevant materials and provide at least a thirty (30) calendar day notice of the meeting of the Level 2 Appeals Panel.

In addition to the appellant, any person that is directly and materially affected by the substantive or procedural action or inaction referenced in the complaint shall be heard by the panel. The panel shall not consider any expansion of the scope of the appeal that was not presented in the Level 1 Appeal. The panel may in its decision find for the appellant and remand the issue to the RSC with a statement of the issues and facts in regard to which unfair and/or inequitable action was taken, or which fair and/or equitable action was not taken. The panel may find for or against the appellant with a specific statement of the facts that demonstrate fair and equitable treatment of the appellant and the appellant's objections. The panel may not, however, revise, approve, disapprove, or adopt a Reliability Standard. The actions of the Level 2 Appeals Panel shall be publicly posted.

In addition to the foregoing, a procedural objection that has not been resolved may be submitted to the NPCC Board of Directors for consideration at the time the Board decides whether to adopt a particular Reliability Standard. The objection must be in writing, signed by an officer of the objecting entity, and contain a concise statement of the relief requested and a clear demonstration of the facts that justify that relief. The objection must be filed no later than thirty (30) calendar days after the announcement of the vote on the standard in question.

APPENDIX A: RSAR COMPLETION GUIDELINES

The Requester shall complete a RSAR form in accordance with the guidance provided below.

The RSAR, at a minimum, shall contain information in the required fields in order to be qualified for consideration. The NPCC Manager of Reliability Standards will assist the Requester to ensure all required information is submitted on the RSAR.

Information in a Regional Standard Authorization Request (RSAR)

The tables below identify information to be submitted in a Regional Standard Authorization Request to the NPCC Manager of Reliability Standards, at npccstandard@npcc.org. The NPCC Manager of Reliability Standards shall be responsible for implementing and maintaining this form as needed to support the information requirements of the standards process.

Regional Standard Authorization Request Form

Title of Proposed Standard:	***[Required Field]***
Request Date:	***[Required Field]***

RSAR Requester Information

Name:	***[Required Field]***	**RSAR Type (Check box for one of these selections.)**	
Company:	***[Required Field]***	☐	New Standard
Telephone:	***[Required Field]***	☐	Revision to Existing Standard
Fax:		☐	Withdrawal of Existing Standard
Email:	***[Required Field]***	☐	Urgent Action

Purpose: (Describe the purpose of the proposed standard – what the standard will achieve in support of reliability.) ***[Required Field]***
Industry Need: (Provide a detailed statement justifying the need for the proposed standard, along with a technical justification and any supporting documentation.) ***[Required Field -- must include technical justification (relevant studies, documentation, etc.) for a new standard or revision to an existing standard.]***

Brief Description: (Describe the proposed standard in sufficient detail to clearly define the scope in a manner that can be easily understood by others.)

[Required Field]

Reliability Functions *[Required Field]*

The Standard will Apply to the Following Functions (Check all applicable boxes.)		
☐	Reliability Coordinator	The entity that is the highest level of authority who is responsible for the reliable operation of the Bulk Electric System, has the Wide Area view of the Bulk Electric System, and has the operating tools, processes and procedures, including the authority to prevent or mitigate emergency operating situations in both next-day analysis and real-time operations. The Reliability Coordinator has the purview that is broad enough to enable the calculation of Interconnection Reliability Operating Limits, which may be based on the operating parameters of transmission systems beyond any Transmission Operator's vision.
☐	Balancing Authority	The responsible entity that integrates resource plans ahead of time, maintains load-interchange-generation balance within a Balancing Authority Area, and supports Interconnection frequency in real time.
☐	Interchange Authority	Authorizes valid and balanced Interchange Schedules.
☐	Planning Authority	The responsible entity that coordinates and integrates transmission facility and service plans, resource plans, and protection systems.
☐	Transmission Service Provider	The entity that administers the transmission tariff and provides Transmission Service to Transmission Customers under applicable transmission service agreements.
☐	Transmission Owner	The entity that owns and maintains transmission facilities.
☐	Transmission Operator	The entity responsible for the reliability of its "local" transmission system, and that operates or directs the operations of the transmission facilities.
☐	Transmission Planner	The entity that develops a long-term (generally one year and beyond) plan for the reliability (adequacy) of the interconnected bulk electric transmission systems within its portion of the Planning Authority Area.
☐	Resource Planner	The entity that develops a long-term (generally one year and beyond) plan for the resource adequacy of specific loads (customer demand and energy requirements) within a Planning Authority Area.
☐	Generator Operator	The entity that operates generating unit(s) and performs the functions of supplying energy and Interconnected Operations Services.
☐	Generator Owner	Entity that owns and maintains generating units.

☐	Purchasing-Selling Entity	The entity that purchases or sells, and takes title to, energy, capacity, and Interconnected Operations Services. Purchasing-Selling Entities may be affiliated or unaffiliated merchants and may or may not own generating facilities.
☐	Distribution Provider	Provides and operates the "wires" between the transmission system and the customer.
☐	Load-Serving Entity	Secures energy and transmission service (and related Interconnected Operations Services) to serve the electrical demand and energy requirements of its end-use customers.

Reliability and Market Interface Principles

Applicable Reliability Principles *(Check all boxes that apply.)*	
☐	1. Interconnected Bulk Electric System shall be planned and operated in a coordinated manner to perform reliably under normal and abnormal conditions as defined in the NERC Standards.
☐	2. The frequency and voltage of interconnected Bulk Electric System shall be controlled within defined limits through the balancing of real and reactive power supply and demand.
☐	3. Information necessary for the planning and operation of interconnected Bulk Electric System shall be made available to those entities responsible for planning and operating the systems reliably.
☐	4. Plans for emergency operation and system restoration of interconnected Bulk Electric System shall be developed, coordinated, maintained, and implemented.
☐	5. Facilities for communication, monitoring, and control shall be provided, used, and maintained for the reliability of interconnected Bulk Electric System.
☐	6. Personnel responsible for planning and operating interconnected Bulk Electric System shall be trained, qualified, and have the responsibility and authority to implement actions.
☐	7. The security of the interconnected Bulk Electric System shall be assessed, monitored, and maintained on a wide-area basis.
Does the proposed Standard comply with all of the following Market Interface Principles? *(Select 'yes' or 'no' from the drop-down box.)*	
Recognizing that reliability is an Common Attribute of a robust North American economy:	
1. A reliability standard shall not give any market participant an unfair competitive advantage. Yes	
2. A reliability standard shall neither mandate nor prohibit any specific market structure. Yes	
3. A reliability standard shall not preclude market solutions to achieving compliance with that standard. Yes	

4. A reliability standard shall not require the public disclosure of commercially sensitive information. All market participants shall have equal opportunity to access commercially non-sensitive information that is required for compliance with reliability standards. Yes

Detailed Description: (Provide enough detail so that an independent entity familiar with the industry could draft a standard based on this description.)

[Required Field – Provide: 1) Necessary information to assist the drafting team (which is to include relevant study results and documentation), to the extent feasible, to allow them to draft the standard, 2) Any existing known cross references to NPCC or NERC documents and 3) Technical background for the RSAR to properly address the need for the standard.]

Related Standards *[Required Field, to extent known]*

Standard No.	Explanation

Related SARs or RSARs *[Required Field, to extent known]*

SAR ID	Explanation

APPENDIX B: SELECTION OF DRAFTING TEAM MEMBERS

A regional standard drafting team shall be comprised of Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) from NPCC Task Forces and Working Groups as determined by the RCC, and from industry. The guidelines provided herein primarily address overall team requirements and more specifically those of a SME.

Formal membership on a drafting team should be reserved only for those individuals who intend to work consistently, diligently, and professionally on what is required to be done for a regional standard. Drafting team members are expected to contribute meaningfully to the ongoing development of the standard.

Drafting Team members must be:

- Committed to participating in scheduled drafting team meetings, teleconferences, as well as industry outreach (e.g., workshops and webinars)
- Willing to lead teams / sub-teams, as necessary
- Champions for standard development and promoters of the approval of the standard
- Open to consider the comments of others and provide constructive feedback

Subject Matter Experts should possess the necessary expertise and knowledge regarding the topic of the standard. The SMEs should represent a cross section of the registered entities applicable to the standard under development as well as geographical areas within the NPCC footprint.

Industry stakeholders may nominate themselves for consideration by the NPCC Regional Standards Committee (RSC) for the specific drafting team vacancies by completing the following drafting team Self Nomination form and submitting it to NPCC Manager of Reliability Standards, at npccstandard@npcc.org.

Nomination Form for NPCC [Name of drafting team] Drafting Team

Please return this form as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please contact the NPCC Standards Staff at npccstandard@npcc.org.

By submitting the following information you are indicating your willingness and agreement to actively participate in the drafting team meetings if appointed to the drafting team by the NPCC Regional Standards Committee (RSC). This means that if you are appointed to the DT you are expected to attend all (or at least the vast majority) of the face-to-face DT meetings as well as participate in all the DT meetings held via conference calls. Failure to do so shall result in your removal from the DT.

Name:	
Organization:	
Address:	
Telephone:	

E-mail:	

Please briefly describe your experience and qualifications to serve on the requested drafting team.

If you are currently a member of any NERC or Regional drafting teams, please list each team here.

☐ Not currently on any active SAR or standard drafting team.

☐ Currently a member of the following SAR or standard drafting team(s):

If you previously worked on any drafting team please identify the team(s).

☐ No prior NERC or Regional SAR or standard drafting team experience.

☐ Prior experience on the following team(s):

Select each NERC Region that you represent:	Select each Industry Segment that you represent:
☐ ERCOT ☐ FRCC ☐ MRO ☐ NPCC ☐ RFC ☐ SERC ☐ SPP ☐ WECC ☐ NA – Not Applicable	☐ 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, and Provincial Regulatory or other Government Entities ☐ 10 — Regional Reliability Organizations and Regional Entities ☐ NA – Not Applicable

Select each Function[20] in which you have current or prior expertise:

☐ Balancing Authority	☐ Transmission Operator
☐ Compliance Enforcement Authority	☐ Transmission Owner
☐ Distribution Provider	☐ Transmission Planner
☐ Generator Operator	☐ Transmission Service Provider
☐ Generator Owner	☐ Purchasing-selling Entity
☐ Interchange Authority	☐ Reliability Coordinator
☐ Load-serving Entity	☐ Reliability Assurer
☐ Market Operator	☐ Resource Planner
☐ Planning Coordinator	

[20] These functions are defined in the NERC Functional Model, which is downloadable from the NERC website.

Provide the names and contact information for two references who could attest to your technical qualifications and your ability to work well in a group.			
Name:		Telephone:	
Organization:		E-mail:	
Name:		Telephone:	
Organization:		E-mail:	

APPENDIX C: MAINTENANCE OF REGIONAL STANDARDS AND PROCESS

NPCC regional standards and the Regional Standard Processes Manual are living documents that will be updated periodically to remain current and viable (e.g., respond to changing conditions, as well as to incorporate lessons learned and process improvements).

MAINTENANCE OF REGIONAL STANDARDS

NPCC regional standards will be posted for open process review by the RSC for possible revision at least once every five (5) years[21] after the first regulatory approval and follow the same process as in the case of a new standard. If no changes are warranted, the Regional Standards Committee (RSC) shall recommend to the NPCC Board that the standard be reaffirmed. If the review indicates a need to revise or retire a regional standard, a Regional Standard Authorization Request shall be prepared by the RSC and submitted in accordance with the NPCC regional standards process. The existing, approved standard subject to revision will remain in effect until such time as the revised version has received FERC or applicable Provincial Governmental Authorities approvals, as appropriate, at which time it will be retired in accordance with any applicable implementation plan associated with the newly approved regional standard.

MAINTENANCE OF THE REGIONAL STANDARDS PROCESS

This NPCC Regional Standards Process will be reviewed for possible revision at least once every five (5) years, or more frequently if needed, and subject to the same procedure as applies to the development of a Regional Standard. All such revisions shall be subject to approval by the NPCC Board of Directors, NERC Board of Trustees, FERC, and may be subject to approval, if required, by Applicable Governmental Authorities in Canada.

[21] More frequent reviews of NPCC regional standards may be required to promptly evaluate new or revised NERC reliability standards to ensure NPCC regional standards remain consistent and more stringent than continent-wide reliability standards.

APPENDIX D: NPCC CLARIFICATION REQUEST

NORTHEAST POWER COORDINATING COUNCIL, INC.
1040 AVE. OF THE AMERICAS, NEW YORK, NY 10018 (212) 840-1070 FAX (212) 302-2782

Note: A valid clarification request is one that requests additional clarity about one or more requirements in approved NPCC regional standards, but does not request approval as to how to comply with one or more requirements.

When completed, email this form to:
npccstandard@npcc.org
For questions about this form or for assistance in completing the form, call Lee Pedowicz at 212-840-1070.

Request for an Clarification of a Regional Standard	
Date submitted:	
Contact information for person requesting the clarification:	
Name:	
Organization:	
Telephone:	E-mail:
Identify the standard that needs clarification:	
Standard Number (include version number, e.g. PRC-006-NPCC-1):	
Standard Title:	
Identify specifically what requirement needs clarification:	
Requirement Number and Text of Requirement:	
Identify the nature of clarification that is requested: (Check as many as applicable)	
☐ Clarify the required performance ☐ Clarify the conditions under which the performance is required ☐ Clarify which functional entity is responsible for performing an action in a requirement ☐ Clarify the reliability outcome the requirement is intended to produce Please explain the clarification needed:	
Identify the material impact associated with this clarification:	

Identify the material impact to your organization or others, if known, caused by the lack of clarity or an incorrect clarification of this standard.

NORTHEAST POWER COORDINATING COUNCIL, INC.
1040 AVE. OF THE AMERICAS, NEW YORK, NY 10018 (212) 840-1070 FAX (212) 302-2782

Directory#1 Design and Operation of the BPS

Response to Comments Received in 2nd Open Process
May 22nd, 2014 to July 07, 2014

(As drafted by the CO7/CP11Working Group)

Comment from – NPCC:

~~*Comment : 28*~~

NPCC respectively submits comments on the draft of Directory 1 which was posted on May 22nd, 2014 for review and comment.

CO7/CP11 has recommended removing the list of ERO Standards associated with Directory#1 since regulatory approval processes can lead to different versions of the same ERO Standard in effect and concern that such a list does not belong in a document applicable to only the BPS. CO7/CP11 has also recommended removing these lists from all other NPCC Directories.

However, the NPCC Directory Development and Revision Manual states that each Directory identifies the list of NERC ERO Reliability Standards that are associated with a specific Directory in order to insure that the criteria is not inconsistent with the ERO Standards as required by the NERC Rules of Procedure.

NPCC Directories in addition to consolidating related information for NPCC Criteria, Guidelines and Procedures also serve as the mechanism for insuring that the regional criteria remain consistent with the ERO Standards.

As the NERC ERO Standards are revised and evolve NPCC Staff is required to review the standard requirements in order to insure that the criteria remains more stringent or specific than the associated NERC Standards and the list of ERO Standards contained in each Directory is an important tool in this effort.

Therefore, NPCC is recommending that these lists of ERO standards should remain in Directory#1 as well as all other Directories, unless an equally efficient alternative is proposed to compare the associated ERO standard requirements with the criteria contained within NPCC Directories.

CO7/CP11 Response:
9/17/2014

Thank you for the comment.
Comment not accepted.

CO7/CP11 Members restated their concern that since the Directory contains criteria applicable only to the 'BPS' a list of 'BES' ERO standards should not be included in the document

NPCC noted that the Regional Standards Committee (RSC) was responsible for the overall Directory project and that if a decision is made to remove the list of ERO standards it should be made by the RSC and applied globally to all NPCC Directories.

CO7/CP11 Members agreed to identify this issue with their RSC representatives and Mr. Dunbar took an action item to have the issue placed on the RSC meeting of December 4th and 5th in Halifax.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
BEFORE THE
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

North American Electric Reliability Corporation	**)** **)**	**Docket Nos. RM05-17-000** **RM05-25-000** **RM06-16-000**

NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY CORPORATION INFORMATIONAL FILING OF RELIABILITY STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2015-2017

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December 31, 2014

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Attachment A *Reliability Standards Development Plan: 2015-2017*

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
BEFORE THE
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

North American Electric Reliability Corporation	**)** **)**	**Docket Nos. RM05-17-000** **RM05-25-000** **RM06-16-000**

NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY CORPORATION INFORMATIONAL FILING OF RELIABILITY STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2015-2017

The North American Electric Reliability Corporation ("NERC") hereby submits its 2015-2017 Reliability Standards Development Plan ("2015 Development Plan") in accordance with Section 310 of the NERC *Rules of Procedure*.[1] The 2015 Development Plan, provided as Attachment A, provides an update on the status of projects and a high-level forecast of future work to be undertaken by NERC and industry participants throughout the upcoming year, and it is submitted for informational purposes only. The NERC Board of Trustees approved the 2015 Development Plan on November 13, 2014.

[1] Section 310 of NERC's *Rules of Procedure* require NERC to develop and provide an annual Reliability Standards Development Plan for development of Reliability Standards to the Applicable Governmental Authorities. *See* NERC's Rules of Procedure, accessible online at: http://www.nerc.com/AboutNERC/Pages/Rules-of-Procedure.aspx.

I. NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS

Notices and communications regarding this filing may be addressed to the following:[2]

Charles A. Berardesco*
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Holly A. Hawkins*
Associate General Counsel
Andrew C. Wills
Associate Counsel
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II. BACKGROUND

In 2006, NERC developed an initial version of a plan for Reliability Standards development entitled the *Reliability Standards Development Plan: 2007–2009*. NERC has since updated the plan annually, and the 2015–2017 version of the plan is presented in this filing. Consistent with previous versions, the 2015 Development Plan is filed for informational purposes, and no specific action is requested.

The 2015 Development Plan is intended to:

1. Serve as a management tool to guide and coordinate the development of Reliability Standards and provide benchmarks for assessing progress;

2. Serve as a communications tool for coordinating standards development work with applicable governmental agencies in the United States and Canada and for engaging stakeholders in Reliability Standards development activities; and

[2] Persons to be included on the Commission's service list are identified by an asterisk. NERC respectfully requests a waiver of Rule 203 of the Commission's regulations, 18 C.F.R. § 385.203 (2014), to allow the inclusion of more than two persons on the service list in this proceeding.

3. Provide a basis for developing annual plans and budgets for the NERC Reliability Standards Program.

As with each prior Reliability Standards Development Plan ("RSDP"), NERC obtained industry input on the 2015 Development Plan, including input on potential future Reliability Standards development projects and development and use of an Enhanced Periodic Review Template. The Enhanced Periodic Review Template will provide a consistent basis from which to develop a metric that reflects the quality and content of the NERC Reliability Standards during periodic reviews of Reliability Standards.[3] Overall, the 2015 Development Plan accounts for the majority of the work necessary to bring the NERC Reliability Standards to "steady-state."[4] To this end, the 2015 Development Plan addresses Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("FERC") directives, Paragraph 81[5] criteria adjustments, and the Independent Experts Review Panel ("IERP") recommendations for retirement,[6] and it takes into consideration other initiatives such as the development and implementation of results-based standards.

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[3] The creation of the Enhanced Periodic Review Template fulfills a February 6, 2014 request from the NERC Board of Trustees for NERC management and the leadership of the Standards Committee to develop a mutually-acceptable metric for 2015-2017, including a content and quality grading system for the Reliability Standards. The concept of creating the template was discussed by the Corporate Governance and Human Resources Committee on March 20, 2014. The minutes for the March 20, 2014 meeting, where the creation of the template was discussed, is available at: http://www.nerc.com/gov/bot/GOV/Board%20of%20Trustees%20Governance%202013/Minutes%20-%20CGHRC%20Open%20Call%20-%20March%2020,%202014.pdf.

[4] For purposes of the 2015 Development Plan, "steady-state" means a stable set of clear, concise, high quality, and technically sound Reliability Standards that are results-based.

[5] "Paragraph 81" refers to Paragraph 81 of FERC's March 15, 2012 Order issued on NERC's Find, Fix and Track process. *N. Am. Elec. Reliability Corp.*, 138 FERC ¶ 61,193, at P 81, *order on reh'g and clarification*, 139 FERC ¶ 61,168 (2012) ("The Commission is interested in obtaining views on whether such requirements could be removed from the Reliability Standards with little effect on reliability and an increase in efficiency of the ERO compliance program. If NERC believes that specific Reliability Standards or specific requirements within certain Standards should be revised or removed, we invite NERC to make specific proposals to the Commission identifying the Standards or requirements and setting forth in detail the technical basis for its belief...").

[6] NERC retained a group of industry experts, referred to as the IERP, to independently review NERC Reliability Standards and produce a report, setting a foundation for a plan that will result in a set of clear, concise, and sustainable body of Reliability Standards ("IERP Report"). In this report, the IERP provides various recommendations, including suggestions for retirement of certain requirements in various Reliability Standards. The IERP report can be accessed online at: http://www.nerc.com/pa/Stand/Standards%20Development%20Plan%20Library/Standards_Independent_Experts_Review_Project_Report.pdf.

NERC submits this filing to inform FERC and other interested parties of various changes to the content of the 2014-2016 Reliability Standards Development Plan ("2014 Development Plan"), including changes in project timelines and completion dates originally outlined in the 2014 Development Plan that are now included in the 2015 Development Plan.

III. 2015 DEVELOPMENT PLAN

A. Summary of 2015 Development Plan

The 2015 Development Plan continues to incorporate the foundational elements of NERC development as established by previous development plans, identifying the current strategies and priorities for development and modification of NERC Reliability Standards in the immediate three-year time horizon. The 2015 Development Plan also includes several significant incremental improvements to NERC Reliability Standards that will assist in facilitating the transformation of NERC Reliability Standards to "steady-state." Ultimately, this transition will produce a set of clear, concise, high quality, and technically sound standards and will allow more time and resources for thorough periodic reviews to continuously improve the quality of existing Reliability Standards.

The 2015 Development Plan continues to emphasize addressing outstanding regulatory directives, the application of Paragraph 81 criteria, and results-based concepts to all existing and future Reliability Standard projects. In an improvement to prior versions, the 2015 Development Plan provides an overview of each Reliability Standard family with respect to its status on the path to "steady-state." The 2015 Development Plan also prioritizes future projects with

consideration of, among other things, the rankings of NERC's Reliability Issues Steering Committee ("RISC"), regulatory directives and deadlines, and the 2013 IERP report.[7]

Because much of the work towards "steady-state" has been completed, the 2015 Development Plan is focused on a smaller number of total Projects compared to the 2014 Development Plan. The 2014 Development Plan identified 26 projects for completion in 2014, and an additional four projects were added in response to FERC directives (address potential impacts of Geomagnetic Disturbances, revise certain cyber security standards, revise certain TOP/IRO Reliability Standards, and address physical security concerns). Twenty (20) of the projects anticipated for completion in 2014 were completed in 2014 and ten (10) will continue into 2015. The 2015 Development Plan also identifies four new projects, notwithstanding any new FERC directives or additional work that was not completed in 2014.

Finally, completion of the work to transform the standards to "steady-state" provides an opportunity for an overall strategic review of existing NERC Reliability Standards. This process will be guided in part by the IERP report analysis and the use of the Enhanced Periodic Review Template. This process of strategic review will allow for greater industry stakeholder interaction into the work initiated by the IERP, as it asks critical questions such as whether the standards are addressing the critical risks to reliability of the Bulk-Power System through either prevention or remediation of the issues, whether the standards are being effective, and whether the standards are clear.

[7] In 2013, NERC retained five industry experts to independently review the NERC Reliability Standards, setting the foundation for a plan that will result in a set of clear, concise and sustainable body of Reliability Standards. The IERP Report is available at: http://www.nerc.com/pa/Stand/Standards%20Development%20Plan%20Library/Standards_Independent_Experts_Review_Project_Report.pdf.

B. Project Schedule and Timeline Updates

1. 2014 Progress Report

Below is an update on the status of projects identified in the 2014 Development Plan. The 2014 Development Plan identified a total of thirteen (13) active issues[8] to be addressed over a three-year period, and of these thirteen, the following eleven (11) projects were listed in the 2014 Development Plan:

- Project 2008-02 Undervoltage Load Shedding and Underfrequency Load Shedding
- Project 2007-11 Disturbance Monitoring
- Project 2009-02 Real-Time Reliability Monitoring and Analysis Capabilities[9]
- Project 2009-03 Emergency Operations
- Project 2010-02 Connecting New Facilities to the Grid
- Project 2010-05.2 Phase 2 of Protection System Misoperations: SPS/RAS
- Project 2010-08 Functional Model Glossary Revisions[10]
- Project 2010-14.2 Periodic Review and Revisions of BAL-004, BAL-005 and BAL-006
- Project 2012-09 Implementation of IRO Five-year Review Recommendations
- Project 2012-13 NUC Review and Implementation
  Project 2013-03 Geomagnetic Disturbance Mitigation Measures (Stage 2)

In addition to the projects listed in the 2014 Development Plan, the following projects address issues that were included in the 2014 Development Plan as "pending technical committee input":

- Project 2007-17.3 Protection System Maintenance and Testing Auxiliary Relays[11]
- Project 2010-13.3 Generator Relay Loadability Stable Power Swings[12]

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[8] The thirteen active issues identified by the 2014 Development Plan include eleven (11) projects that were listed as current projects in the 2014 Development Plan and two (2) projects that were listed as "pending technical committee input." *See* 2014 Development Plan at 7.

[9] In the 2015 Development Plan, NERC noted that Project 2009-02 (Real-Time Reliability Monitoring and Analysis Capabilities) was being "consolidated into Project 2014-03 (Revisions to TOP/IRO Reliability Standards)" with a filing deadline of January 31, 2015. Since approval of the 2015 Development Plan, NERC has decided to proceed with the separate Real-Time Reliability Monitoring and Analysis Capabilities.

[10] Since final approval of the 2015 Development Plan, NERC has withdrawn Project 2010-08 (Functional Model Glossary Revisions) from formal development.

[11] Work is ongoing in connection with the technical committee input.

[12] The technical committee input is complete and was utilized in the development of Reliability Standard PRC-026-1. This proposed Reliability Standard was adopted by the NERC Board of Trustees on December 17, 2014.

The 2014 Development Plan also identified several projects that were listed in the 2013-2015 RSDP but that were carried over to the current plan for continued development.[13] The 2014 Development Plan projected that all of these projects, with the exception of one, are complete or would be complete by the end of 2014, including the following:

- Project 2007-02 Operating Personnel Communications Protocol
- Project 2007-06 System Protection Coordination
- Project 2008-12 Coordinate Interchange Standards
- Project 2010-01 Operations Personnel Training
- Project 2010-03 Modeling Data – MOD B
- Project 2010-04 Demand Data – MOD C
- Project 2010-05.1 Phase 1 of Protection Systems: Misoperations
- Project 2010-14.1 Phase 1 of Balancing Authority Reliability-Based Control: Reserves
- Project 2012-05 ATC Revisions – MOD A
- Project 2013-04 Voltage and Reactive Control

Finally, the following projects were in progress in 2014 but were not included in the 2014 Development Plan because they were initiated during 2014 as a result of a reliability need or to respond to a FERC directive in an Order or concerns raised in a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking:

- Project 2014-01 Standards Applicability for Dispersed Generation Resources
- Project 2014-02 CIP Version 5 Revisions
- Project 2014-03 Revisions to TOP/IRO Standards
- Project 2014-04 Physical Security

Of the projects listed above, development of the following eleven projects that were in progress in 2014 will continue into 2015:

- Project 2008-02 Undervoltage Load Shedding and Underfrequency Load Shedding
- Project 2009-02 Real-Time Reliability Monitoring and Analysis Capabilities[14]
- Project 2010-05.2 Phase 2 of Protection System Misoperations: SPS/RAS
- Project 2010-14.1 Phase 1 of Balancing Authority Reliability-based Controls: Reserves
- Project 2010-14.2 Periodic Review and Revisions of BAL-004, BAL-005 and BAL-006

[13] These projects were also included in the 2014-2016 RSDP in the 2013-2015 Progress Report section.

[14] As noted in footnote 9 above, NERC suggested in the 2015 Development Plan that Project 2009-02 (Real-Time Reliability Monitoring and Analysis Capabilities) was being "consolidated into Project 2014-03 (Revisions to TOP/IRO Reliability Standards)" with a filing deadline of January 31, 2015. However, the projects will remain separate projects. Project 2009-02 (Real-Time Reliability Monitoring and Analysis Capabilities) is currently in informal development.

- Project 2012-09 Implementation of IRO Five-year Review Recommendations
- Project 2007-06 System Protection Coordination
- Project 2007-06.2 PRC-001
- Project 2014-01 Standards Applicability for Dispersed Generation Resources (Medium Priority)
- Project 2014-02 CIP Version 5 Revisions
- Project 2014-03 Revisions to TOP/IRO Standards[15]
- Project 2014-04 Physical Security Directives

2. New 2015 Projects and Prioritization

For each new Reliability Standard project listed in the 2015 Development Plan, the Standards Committee has assigned a priority of High, Medium, Low, or pending technical committee input.[16] The prioritizations included in the 2015 Development Plan are made in addition to the priority assignments assigned in previous plans, and they are based on, among other things, RISC Category Rankings, regulatory directives, regulatory deadlines, and recommendations from the IERP Report.

There are currently no projects that have been identified as High priority. One project, Project 2015-04 Alignment of Glossary of Terms used in NERC Reliability Standards and the Definitions used in the Rules of Procedure (Rules of Procedure Appendix 2), has been identified as Low priority. The remaining new projects added to the 2015 Development Plan have been identified as Medium priority projects, and these include:

- Project 2015-01 TPL Directives;
- Project 2015-02 Periodic Review of EOP-004, EOP-005, EOP-006, and EOP-008; and

[15] On November 13, 2014, 10 of the 11 Reliability Standards (TOP-002-4, TOP-003-3, IRO-001-3, IRO-002-4, IRO-008-2, IRO-010-2, IRO-014-3, and IRO-017-1) were presented to the NERC Board of Trustees for adoption, and development of the one remaining standard, Reliability Standard TOP-001-3, will continue into 2015.

[16] As noted on page 10 of the 2015 Development Plan (included as Attachment A hereto), the prioritization does not include projects in progress at year-end 2014 and does not include any new projects initiated consistent with the Standard Processes Manual (SPM), including those developed in response to FERC directives issued after August 2014 or those which implement recommendations from the Risk-Based Registration initiative.

- Project 2015-03 Periodic Review of System Operating Limit Standards (FAC-010, FAC-011, and FAC-014).

IV. CONCLUSION

As discussed above, the 2015 Development Plan was developed in accordance with Section 310 of the NERC Rules of Procedure and identifies the current plans and priorities for development and modification of NERC Reliability Standards in the immediate three-year time horizon.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: December 31, 2014

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have served a copy of the foregoing document upon all parties listed on the official service list compiled by the Secretary in this proceeding. Dated at Washington, D.C. this 31st day of December, 2014.

/s/ Andrew C. Wills

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ATTACHMENT A

RELIABILITY STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT PLAN

2015-2017

NERC
NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY CORPORATION

Reliability Standards Development Plan

2015–2017

December 16, 2014

RELIABILITY | ACCOUNTABILITY






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Executive Summary

The 2015-2017 Reliability Standards Development Plan (2015-2017 RSDP) is another bold step towards transforming the NERC Reliability Standards to "steady-state" (for purposes of this Plan, that term means a stable set of clear, concise, high-quality and technically sound Reliability Standards that are results-based, including retirement of requirements that do little to promote reliability). During 2015, the NERC Reliability Standards will reach steady-state[1] and the number of active projects will dramatically decrease.

By the end of 2015, almost all or all of the Paragraph 81 (P81) candidates[2], the Independent Expert Review Panel's (IERP) recommendations for requirement retirement, and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) directives issued prior to December 2012 will have been addressed. Projects that were languishing for years, as well as periodic reviews, will have been completed. The industry will also have completed large projects to respond to FERC orders including, for example, Geomagnetic Disturbances, Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP) Version 5 Revisions, and CIP-014 Physical Security; and revised the Transmission Operations (TOP) and Interconnection Reliability Operations and Coordination (IRO) standards to address concerns identified in FERC's proposed remand. This is a significant achievement – the Standards Committee (SC) worked diligently with NERC to determine project schedules and manage industry workload. Stakeholders engaged throughout North America to provide expertise during standard development ensuring that all projects were of high quality and adhered to timely schedules.

Now, in the 2015-2017 RSDP, the number of projects necessary to reach steady-state by 2015 is reduced and the pace of the work will likely become more deliberate. Eleven projects that began during 2014 will be completed in 2015,[3] while four new projects will be initiated in 2015, with one focused on aligning the Glossary of Terms used in NERC Reliability Standards with the Definitions used in the Rules of Procedure (Rules of Procedure, Appendix 2). This reduction in planned Standards projects provides a bandwidth to: 1) respond to emerging risks, if any, to reliability, 2) establish a quality- and content-enhanced periodic review, and 3) address any new FERC orders or directives. Also, given the increased focus on quality during the standard development process, as well as active engagement of the FERC Office of Electric Reliability staff during the standards development process, FERC directives and orders on existing standards are expected to trend lower.

Following the completion of the work to achieve steady-state, the Reliability Standards will continue to be assessed for quality, content or alignment with other standards through enhanced periodic reviews, building on the foundation established by the IERP[4]. These enhanced periodic reviews will also provide an opportunity to incorporate lessons learned from understanding the characteristics of quality, content and results-based standards; further target applicability based on risk; and clarify compliance assessment so the Reliability Standards achieve the intended reliability benefit without creating undue burden on industry. The NERC model is unique in the realm of regulation; and, with the participation by stakeholders, the SC and applicable regulatory authorities, we are demonstrating that this is a viable regulatory model.

---

[1] As stated in the 2014-2016 RSDP and 2014-2016 Standards Committee Strategic Work Plan, Steady-State means a set of clear, concise, high quality and technically sound Reliability Standards that are results-based, while retiring requirements that do little to promote reliability.

[2] There are 7 P81 candidates that will be addressed during the enhanced periodic reviews.

[3] Three of these projects are scheduled to be completed in February 2015. Project 2014-04 Physical Security Directives, was initiated in November 2014 to address FERC's directives in Order No. 802 (final order on CIP-014-1 – Physical Security).

[4] The North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) retained five industry experts to independently review the NERC Reliability Standards, setting the foundation for a plan that will result in a set of clear, concise and sustainable body of Reliability Standards. The primary scope was an assessment of the content and quality of the Reliability Standards, including identification of potential Bulk-Power System (BPS) risks that were not adequately mitigated.

Steady-State

The NERC Reliability Standards will reach steady-state in 2015.

This section provides information on the status of FERC directives, Paragraph 81 candidates and the IERP's recommendations for retirement. Completion of projects is discussed in the next section, "2014 Status Report."

Directives

In 2013, NERC set out to address the 191 FERC directives that were issued and unaddressed prior to December 2012:

	2012 Directives	2013/2014 Directives	Total
Issued prior to year-end 2012*	191		
Issued in 2013/2014*		55	
Resolved as of December 15, 2014	168	29	
Remaining	**23**	**26**	49
Projected to be resolved in 2014	3	15	18
Projected to be remaining at year-end 2014	20	11	31

*Does not include non-standards' related directives

Table 1. Completion of Directives

While this is one benchmark, it is also imperative to address the FERC directives issued post-December 2012 in a timely fashion. As noted in the footnote to the chart above, FERC issued some directives that require work from groups outside of standards, such as the NERC technical committees, or another internal NERC department, such as Reliability Assessment and Performance Analysis (RAPA). These directives, as they cannot be resolved through a Standards process, are not included in the above numbers.

As depicted in Table 1, the majority of the 191 Directives (115 or 60 percent) were addressed in 2013. Depending upon project completion, 171 will be addressed at year-end 2014.

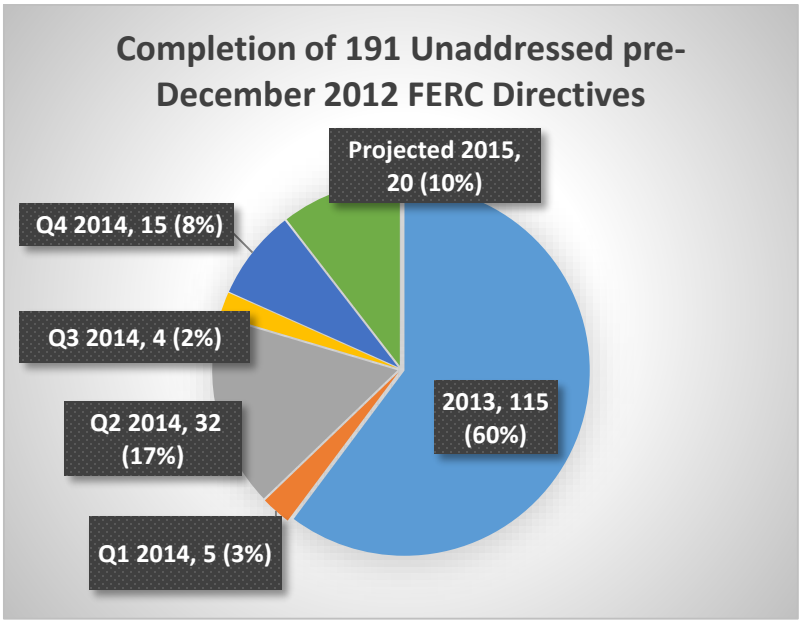


Chart 1. Completion of 191 Directives

FERC has issued 64 directives since December 2012. Nine of those pertain to areas outside of standards. Twenty-nine have been addressed. Of the remaining 26, 15 are projected to be addressed in 2014 and 11 in 2015. Completion of the total number of directives is shown in Chart 2.

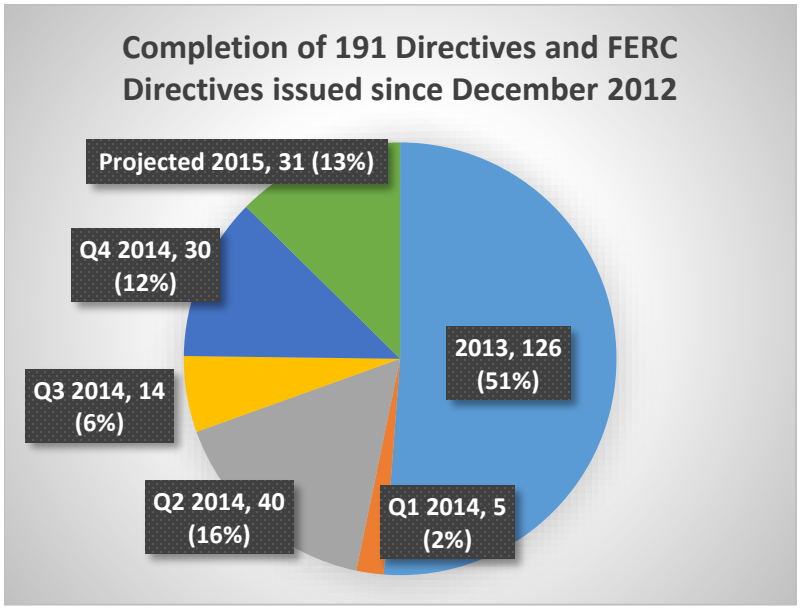


Chart 2. Completion of Remaining Directives

Paragraph 81 Candidates and IERP Recommendations for Retirement

The P81 project was initiated in response to Paragraph 81 of FERC's March 15, 2012 Order.[5,6] Candidate requirements for retirement filed in a Phase 1 of the project were approved by FERC in Order 788, issued on November 21, 2013.[7] In addition to candidate requirements filed in Phase 1, stakeholders identified 217 candidates for consideration. These candidates were addressed through standard development projects for each standard, rather than in one project for efficiency. Further, the IERP recommended 147 candidates for retirement.[8]

There was some overlap in the requirements recommended for retirement. When combined, a total of 281 unique requirements were identified and are projected for standard development team consideration as follows:

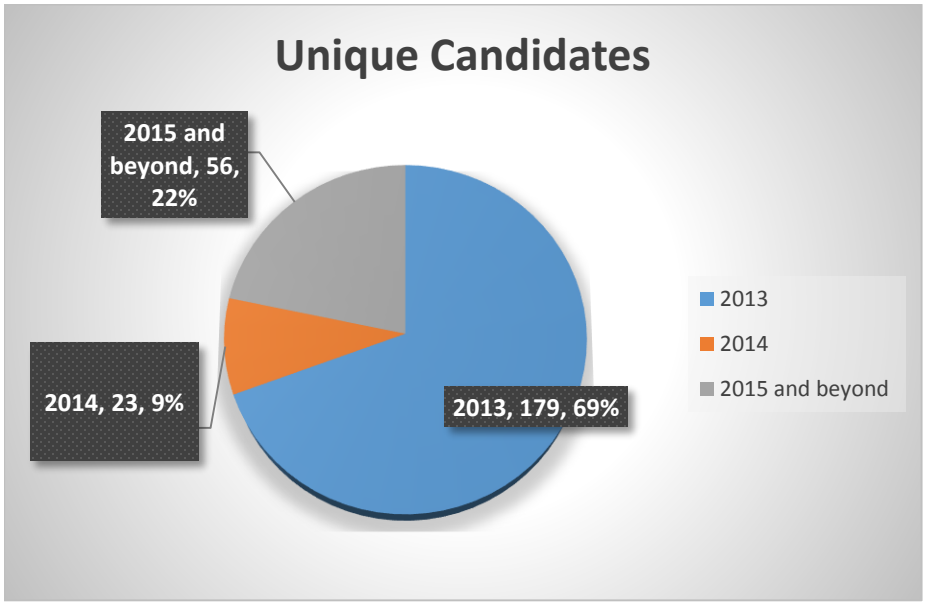


Chart 3. Candidates Unique for P81 and IERP

[5] 138 FERC 61,193, Order Accepting with Conditions the Electric Reliability Organization's Petition Requesting Approval of New Enforcement Mechanisms and Requiring Compliance Filing, March 15, 2012.

[6] Id., p. 81: …The Commission is interested in obtaining views on whether such requirements could be removed from the Reliability Standards with little effect on reliability and an increase in efficiency of the ERO compliance program. If NERC believes that specific Reliability Standards or specific requirements within certain Standards should be revised or removed, we invite NERC to make specific proposals to the Commission identifying the Standards or requirements and setting forth in detail the technical basis for its belief. In addition, or in the alternative, we invite NERC, the Regional Entities and other interested entities to propose appropriate mechanisms to identify and remove from the Commission-approved Reliability Standards unnecessary or redundant requirements. We will not impose a deadline on when these comments should be submitted, but ask that to the extent such comments are submitted NERC, the Regional Entities, and interested entities coordinate to submit their respective comments concurrently.

[7] FERC Order No. 788, 145 FERC 61,147, Electric Reliability Organization Proposal to Retire Requirements in Reliability Standards, November 21, 2013.

[8] See Appendix E of the Independent Experts Review Project.

Resolution

Recommendations for retirement are tracked at the requirement level. If the entire requirement was recommended for retirement, drafting teams may have considered one action (or part of a requirement) suitable for retirement, but determined that another action within a requirement should be retained. In conducting the analysis to determine whether the drafting team followed a recommendation for retirement, if the intent of the recommendation was met or if the majority of the requirement was retired, this analysis considers the recommendation addressed. With those considerations, the status of the resolution for 179 candidates addressed as of the second quarter of 2014 is:

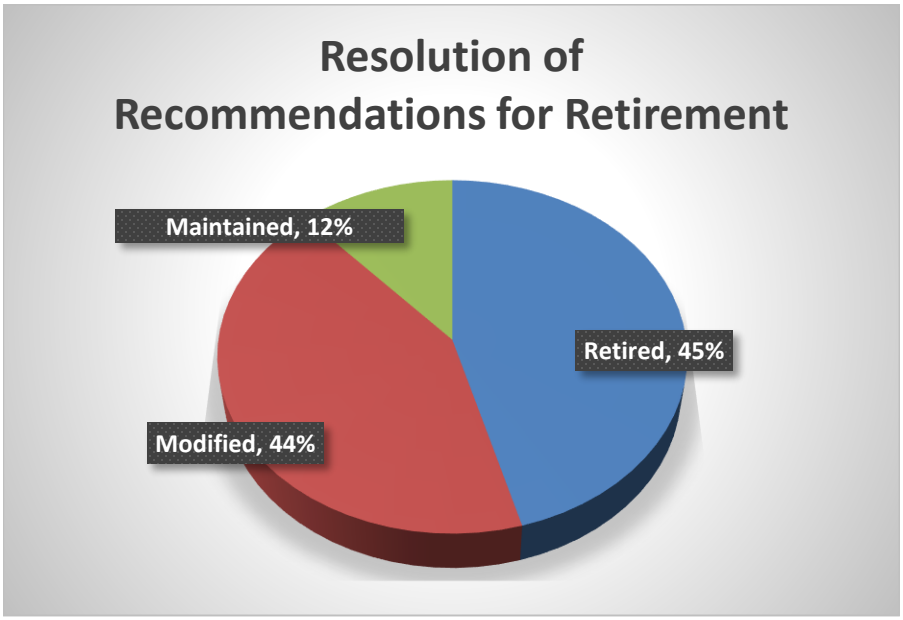


Chart 4. Resolution of Recommendation for Retirement

2014 Progress Report

The 2014–2016 RSDP identified thirteen active projects to be conducted over the three-year period, of which eight are projected to be completed by year-end 2014. There are ten additional projects that have continued development from the 2013-2015 RSDP, all of which are scheduled to be completed in 2014. Finally, there are four projects that were initiated in 2014 as a result of a reliability need or to respond to a FERC order or directive.

An "*" next to a project indicates that the SC has not yet accepted a Standards Authorization Request (SAR) for posting.

Projects that were listed in the 2014–2016 RSDP:

- Project 2008-02 Undervoltage Load Shedding and Underfrequency Load Shedding
- Project 2007-11 Disturbance Monitoring
- Project 2009-02 Real-Time Reliability Monitoring and Analysis Capabilities (consolidated into Project 2014-03 TOP/IRO Revisions)
- Project 2009-03 Emergency Operations
- Project 2010-02 Connecting New Facilities to the Grid
- Project 2010-05.2 Phase 2 of Protection System Misoperations: SPS/RAS
- Project 2010-08 Functional Model Glossary Revisions (withdrawn)
- Project 2010-14.2 Periodic Review and Revisions of BAL-004, BAL-005 and BAL-006
- Project 2012-09 Implementation of IRO Five-year Review Recommendations
- Project 2012-13 NUC Review and Implementation
- Project 2013-03 Geomagnetic Disturbance Mitigation Measures (Stage 2)

Two projects were listed as pending technical committee input and initiated in the first quarter of 2014:

- Project 2007-17.3 Protection System Maintenance and Testing Auxiliary Relays
- Project 2010-13.3 Generator Relay Loadability Stable Power Swings

The following projects were listed in the 2013-2015 RSDP:[9]

- Project 2007-02 Operating Personnel Communications Protocol
- Project 2007-06 System Protection Coordination
- Project 2008-12 Coordinate Interchange Standards
- Project 2010-01 Operations Personnel Training
- Project 2010-03 Modeling Data – MOD B
- Project 2010-04 Demand Data – MOD C
- Project 2010-05.1 Phase 1 of Protection Systems: Misoperations
- Project 2010-14.1 Phase 1 of Balancing Authority Reliability-Based Control: Reserves

[9] These projects were also included in the 2014-2016 RSDP in the 203-2015 Progress Report section.

- Project 2012-05 ATC Revisions – MOD A
- Project 2013-04 Voltage and Reactive Control

The following projects were identified as either an emerging issue or developed in response to a FERC order or directive:

- Project 2014-02 CIP Version 5 Revisions
- Project 2014-01 Standards Applicability for Dispersed Generation Resources
- Project 2014-03 Revisions to TOP/IRO Standards
- Project 2014-04 Physical Security

2015 Projects

As discussed in the prior section, there are eleven projects that were in process in 2014 that are projected to continue into 2015. Four of these projects, Project 2008-02 Undervoltage Load Shedding, Project 2008-02.5 Underfrequency Load Shedding, Project 2009-03 Emergency Operations and Project 2010-14.2 Revisions of BAL-004, BAL-005 and BAL-006 may complete in 2014, reducing the number of projects carrying over into 2015 to two (2).

Two of the projects that are identified below as being initiated in 2013 are directly related to resolving remaining FERC Directives, one is to complete the review of the FAC standards from the 2013 periodic reviews, and the remaining project is being conducted to align the Glossary of Terms used in the NERC Reliability Standards and the Definitions used in the Rules of Procedure. The project to complete the FAC standards review may be included with the 2015 Periodic Review.

Additionally, the IERP identified three high-level gaps that were reviewed by the NERC Operating Committee in 2014. It is anticipated that two of the issues, Outage Coordination and Situational Awareness, will be addressed by the TOP/IRO Revisions project. Depending upon the outcome of that project, additional work may be necessary. The third issue, Governor Frequency Response, was determined by the Operating Committee as a potential area of concern, but one that is being monitored. Depending upon the findings of the Operating Committee on this issue, more work may be necessary for this concern, as well.

An "*" next to a project indicates that the SC has not yet accepted a Standards Authorization Request (SAR) for posting.

Projects continuing from 2014 into 2015

As stated above, the following projects will continue from 2014:

- Project 2007-06 System Protection Coordination
- Project 2007-06.2 PRC-001 (Separating PRC-001 from Project 2014-03 Revisions to TOP/IRO Standards and Project 2007-06 System Protection Coordination)
- Project 2008-02 PRC-004-X Undervoltage Load Shedding
- Project 2009-02 Real-Time Reliability Monitoring and Analysis Capabilities (consolidated into Project 2014-03 TOP/IRO Revisions)
- Project 2010-05.2 Phase 2 of Protection System Misoperations: SPS/RAS
- Project 2010-14.2 Phase 2 of BAL-004, BAL-005 and BAL-006
- Project 2012-09 Implementation of IRO Review (on hold pending completion of the TOP/IRO Revisions)
- Project 2014-01 Standards Applicability for Dispersed Generation Resources (Medium Priority Standards)[10]
- Project 2014-02 CIP Version 5 Revisions[11]
- Project 2014-03 Revisions to TOP/IRO Standards – TOP-001-3[12]
- Project 2014-04 Physical Security Directives

[10] Scheduled for February and May completions.
[11] Scheduled for February completion.
[12] Scheduled for February completion.

Projects to be initiated in 2015[13]

To achieve steady-state, the following projects will be initiated in 2015. The EOP and FAC periodic review projects planned for initiation in 2015 complete reviews that were deferred by Review Teams in 2013, either due to interdependencies with standards that were pending regulatory approval, or to gain compliance experience prior to conducting the review.

Consistent with the approach applied to prioritize projects in the 2014-2016 RSDP and used by the SC for new projects, such as Project 2014-01 Standards Applicability for Dispersed Generation Resources, new projects for 2015 have been assigned a prioritization of High, Medium, Low or Pending Technical Committee input. Specific elements considered in prioritization include: (1) Reliability Issues Steering Committee (RISC) Category Rankings, (2) regulatory directives, (3) regulatory deadlines, (4) Reliability Standard requirement candidates for retirement, (5) the IERP content and quality assessments, and (6) additional considerations (fill-in-the-blank status and five-year assessment commitments). The prioritization gave primary consideration to RISC Category Rankings, regulatory directives and regulatory deadlines, which was further informed by the other prioritization elements. Based on the application of these elements, this section prioritizes each Reliability Standard project as High, Medium, Low or Pending Technical Committee input.

The prioritization in this RSDP does not include projects in progress at year-end 2014, since those projects have been previously prioritized. Additionally, this plan does not include any new projects that may need to be initiated consistent with the Standard Processes Manual (SPM), in response to FERC directives issued after August 2014, or to implement the recommendations from the Risk-Based Registration initiative. Any such projects initiated by the SC will be added to the Project Tracking Spreadsheet posted on the SC's webpage for a real-time tracking, and to the next RSDP.

Prioritization Considerations for 2015 Projects:

Medium Priority

- Project 2015-01 TPL Directives (prioritized by SC in 2014)*
  - Two FERC directives
  - RISC: medium priority area (Operational Modeling and Model Inputs)
  - IERP considerations: minor quality and content
- Project 2015-02 Periodic Review of EOP-004, EOP-005, EOP-006 and EOP-008*
  - No FERC directives
  - RISC: medium priority area (Operational Modeling and Model Inputs)
  - IERP considerations: some content and some quality
  - Three P81 Candidates
- Project 2015-03 Periodic Review of System Operating Limit Standards (FAC-010, FAC-011, and FAC-014)*
  - RISC: medium priority area (Operational Modeling and Model Inputs)
  - IERP: content and quality issues
  - Two P81 candidates

[13] See Appendix 1 for 2015 project detail.

Low Priority

- Project 2015-04 Alignment of Glossary of Terms used in NERC Reliability Standards and the Definitions used in the Rules of Procedure (Rules of Procedure Appendix 2)*

Sustainable Approach to Periodic Reviews[14]

At the February 6, 2014 Board of Trustees (Board) meeting, the Board requested that NERC management and the leadership of the SC work together to develop a mutually acceptable metric for 2015-2017, including a content and quality grading system for the Reliability Standards as part of the metric. Jointly, the following approach was developed, which was endorsed by the SC on March 12, 2014, and, in summary form, adopted by Corporate Governance and Human Resources Subcommittee of the Board on March 20, 2014.

2014 and 2015 Metric

The metric for 2014 and 2015 focuses on ensuring certain Reliability Standard projects are completed in a timely manner. For 2014, the standard projects are all high priority standard projects, many with regulatory deadlines.

2016 and 2017 Metric

The implementation of an enhanced Reliability Standard periodic review for quality and content takes into consideration the following issues: (1) folding the enhanced quality and content periodic review into the period review required by Section 13 of the SPM; (2) a quality and content review of the steady-state Standards developed, considering the use of, or adaptation of, the 2013 Independent Expert Review Team's quality and content scoring system; (3) the formation of a cross-functional task force to conduct periodic reviews of steady-state Reliability Standards, potentially consisting of Committee chairs, NERC management, and NERC and stakeholder subject matter experts (with all task force meetings open to the public); (4) the task force's use of the quality and content system developed in response to (2), above, to identify needed enhancements to steady-state standards for inclusion in a Standards Authorization Request (SAR) processed through the standards development process and completed within a year from the date of posting of the SAR, unless technical review and study is needed (to the extent possible, the inclusion of identified enhancements in a SAR shall be limited focusing enhancements rather than re-opening an entire standard(s); and (5) the development of an annual task force review timeline starting with the cross-functional task force being operational no later than mid-2015, so it can identify which standards will undergo the enhanced period review for inclusion in the 2016-2018 Reliability Standards Development Plan.

The above summary of the metric approach shows a focus on the completion of transforming NERC's Reliability Standards to a steady-state by the end of 2015, and, thereafter, the initiation of an enhanced periodic review to address quality and content issues related to the steady-state Reliability Standards. It is contemplated that approximately 25 percent of the steady-state Reliability Standards could begin the enhanced periodic review in 2015.

At its March 2014 meeting, the SC appointed a periodic review development team (consisting of the SC Executive Committee and the Project Management and Oversight and Process Subcommittees chairs) to work with NERC staff and legal to develop the attributes of the enhanced quality and content periodic review. This team developed an approach to address the Board's direction, as summarized below.

[14] During 2014 this framework is being presented for stakeholder comment, and then Board approval, so the final framework may differ in some respects from the approach outlined here.

Summary of draft enhanced periodic review approach

- The enhanced periodic review approach will satisfy NERC's obligations under Section 13 of the *Standard Processes Manual*, and will be conducted in accordance with that section.
- The SC shall appoint a standing cross-functional team including NERC staff and the NERC standing committee representatives to work with the Section 13 *"review team of subject matter experts."* This team will be appointed by the SC, who will adopt the results of the team's deliberations.
- The cross-functional team shall be operational no later than the beginning of 2015 so it may make recommendations to the SC on the Reliability Standards that should undergo the enhanced periodic review in 2016-2018, and so these projects may be included in the 2016-2018 Reliability Standards Development Plan.
- NERC's five-year periodic review template that was successfully employed for a number of standards in 2013 and 2014 has been revised and adapted to include those quality and content questions developed by the Independent Expert Review Panel that were not already included. The template was further adapted to eliminate duplicative questions, and to provide the cross-functional Review Team with a clear framework to conduct the periodic reviews. A new question was added to consider whether the applicability section or requirements can be revised for smaller entities, provided that there is technical justification to support tailoring the applicability.
- A dashboard will be developed for each reviewed standard indicating whether it has a score of Green, Yellow or Red, according to the following grading system:
  - Green = no quality and content changes needed – standard confirmed as steady-state;
  - Yellow = the standard is sufficient to protect reliability and meet the reliability objective of the standard; however, there may be future opportunity to improve a non-substantive or insignificant quality and content issue – i.e., continue to monitor; and
  - Red = the standard needs to be retired or revised to address identified quality and content issues.
- Standards graded as "Red" by the cross-functional Review Team will be revised in a manner consistent with applicable sections of the SPM.

In 2015, the cross-functional Review Team appointed by the SC will prioritize families or groups of standards for review starting in 2016 and going forward. As resources permit, reviews of standards may begin in 2015.

Appendix 1 – Projects for 2015

Project 2015-01 TPL Directives

This project will address two directives and consider other improvements to TPL-001-4 — Transmission System Planning Performance Requirements.

Order 678:

- Para 40 - Direct NERC to modify Reliability Standard TPL-001-4 to address the concern that the six month threshold could exclude planned maintenance outages of significant facilities from future planning assessments.
- Para 89 - Directs NERC to consider a similar spare equipment strategy for stability analysis upon the next review cycle of Reliability Standard TPL-001-4.

Project 2015-02 Periodic Review of EOP-004, EOP-005, EOP-006 and EOP-008

This periodic review project will review four (4) EOP standards for which the review was delayed to allow the Electric Reliability Organization (ERO) and industry to gain compliance experience with revisions to the standards that became enforceable in 2013 and early 2014. The review team will also consider one directive and, as part of its recommendation on EOP-006, recommend whether a guideline should be developed.

Order 749:

- Para 24 - (EOP-006) …Once the standard is effective, if industry determines that ambiguity with the term [unique tasks] arises, it would be appropriate for NERC to consider its proposal to develop a guideline to aid entities in their compliance obligations.

Project 2015-03 Periodic Review of System Operating Limit Standards (FAC-010, FAC-011, and FAC-014)

The three NERC Reliability Standards in this periodic review project concern methodologies for determining and communicating System Operating Limits. In 2013, a five-year review team (FYRT) assigned to review the FAC family of standards recommended review of these three standards be delayed until shortly after approval of the TPL, TOP, and IRO standards which were pending regulatory approval at the time of the FAC five-year review. TPL-001-4 was approved by FERC in October 2013; the TOP and IRO standards are being revised in 2014 for filing with applicable regulators in early 2015.

Project 2015-04 Alignment of Definitions in *Glossary of Terms used in NERC Reliability Standards* and NERC *Rules of Procedure*, Appendix 2

This project will review the NERC *Glossary of Terms Used in Reliability Standards* (Glossary) to determine what changes are necessary to align the Glossary definitions with definitions of the same terms used in the NERC *Rules of Procedure,* Appendix 2.

January 26, 2015

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

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Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20426

Re: North American Electric Reliability Corporation

Docket No. RR15-4-000

Motion to File Limited Answer of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation to Comments of the PSEG Companies and the Motion to Intervene and Protest of the Cogeneration Association of California and the Energy Producers and Users Coalition

Dear Secretary Bose:

The North American Electric Reliability Corporation ("NERC") hereby submits a motion to file a limited answer to: (i) the Comments of the PSEG Companies; and (ii) the Motion to Intervene and Protest of the Cogeneration Association of California and the Energy Producers and Users Coalition ("QF Parties"), in Docket No. RR15-4-000.

NERC's filing consists of: (i) this transmittal letter and (ii) NERC's limited answer, which are being transmitted in a single PDF file.

Please contact the undersigned if you have any questions concerning this filing.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Nina H. Jenkins-Johnston

Counsel for the North American Electric Reliability Corporation

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
BEFORE THE
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY CORPORATION	**)** **)** **)**	**Docket No. RR15-4-000**

MOTION TO FILE LIMITED ANSWER OF THE NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY CORPORATION TO THE COMMENTS OF THE PSEG COMPANIES AND THE MOTION TO INTERVENE AND PROTEST OF THE COGENERATION ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA AND THE ENERGY PRODUCERS AND USERS COALITION

Pursuant to Rules 212 and 213 of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's ("FERC" or "Commission") Rules of Practice and Procedure, 18 C.F.R. §§ 385.212 and 385.213 (2014), the North American Electric Reliability Corporation ("NERC") moves for leave to file this answer and hereby submits an answer to two protests submitted in response to the NERC Petition.[1] The two protests were filed by: (1) the Comments of the PSEG Companies;[2] and (2) the Motion to Intervene and Protest of the Cogeneration Association of California and the Energy Producers and Users Coalition ("QF Parties"),[3] in Docket No. RR15-4-000 on January 12, 2015.

[1] *North American Electric Reliability Corporation*, RR15-4-000, Petition of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation for Approval of Risk-Based Registration Initiative Rules of Procedure Revisions (December 11, 2014) ("NERC Petition").

[2] PSEG is presently engaged in, among other things, the transmission and distribution of electricity and the distribution of natural gas in New Jersey. PSEG owns transmission facilities in PJM Interconnection, L.L.C. ("PJM"). PSEG Power is a wholesale energy supply company that integrates its generation asset operations with its wholesale energy, fuel supply, energy trading and marketing, and risk management functions through three principal subsidiaries: (i) PSEG Nuclear LLC ("PSEG Nuclear"), which owns and operates nuclear generating stations; (ii) PSEG Fossil LLC ("PSEG Fossil"), which develops, owns, and operates domestic fossil-fuel fired and other non-nuclear generating stations; and (iii) PSEG ER&T, an indirect subsidiary of PSEG, sells power and energy and certain ancillary services at market-based rates. PSEG ER&T markets the capacity and production of PSEG Nuclear and PSEG Fossil's generating stations, manages the commodity price risks and market risks related to generation, and provides gas supply services. PSEG ER&T is engaged in extensive asset-based energy trading operations throughout the Northeast. *See* (doc-less) Motion to Intervene of the PSEG Companies ("PSEG Comments"), Docket No. RR15-4-000, at 1-2 (filed Jan. 8, 2015).

[3] Cogeneration Association of California ("CAC") is an ad hoc association representing the power generation, power marketing and cogeneration operation interests of its members. Energy Producers and Users Coalition ("EPUC") is

I. BACKGROUND AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On December 11, 2014, NERC filed for approval of amendments to the NERC Rules of Procedure, specifically Sections 302, 501 and Appendices 2, 5A and 5B, to implement the Risk-Based Registration Initiative. The proposed amendments reform the registration program to ensure that the right entities are subject to the right set of applicable Reliability Standards, using a consistent approach to risk assessment and registration. NERC's proposed amendments include: (1) modifications to the NERC Statement of Compliance Registry Criteria (Appendix 5B), including: (a) the removal of three functional registration categories (Purchasing-Selling Entities ("PSEs"), Interchange Authorities ("IAs"), and Load-Serving Entities ("LSEs")), (b) modifications to the threshold for registering entities as Distribution Providers, and (c) alignment of five functional registration categories to the definition of "Bulk Electric System" (Transmission Owners, Transmission Operators, Generator Owners, Generator Operators, and Distribution Providers); (2) the risk-based application of a sub-set of Reliability Standards for entities (including Underfrequency Load Shedding ("UFLS")-Only Distribution Providers); and (3) procedural improvements to the registration process.

The proposed amendments were developed with significant input from the Risk-Based Registration Advisory Group ("RBRAG") (comprised of NERC staff, the Regional Entities, FERC technical staff, and industry representatives from the United States and Canada) and from the RBRAG technical task force (comprised of subject matter experts from NERC, the Regional

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an ad hoc association representing the large industrial and commercial consumer and cogeneration interests of its members: Aera Energy LLC, Chevron U.S.A. Inc., Phillips 66 Company, Shell Oil Products US, Tesoro Refining & Marketing Company LLC, THUMS Long Beach Company, and Occidental Elk Hills, Inc. They operate generators and networks of distribution elements within industrial facilities. *See* Motion to Intervene and Protest of Cogeneration Association of California & Energy Producers and Users Coalition ("QF Protest"), Docket No. RR15-4-000, at 1, n1 (filed Jan. 12, 2015).

Entities, and industry).[4] NERC received additional input from industry survey responses, public comments during the meetings of the Board and its committees, as well as the Member Representatives Committee policy input comments. Finally, the proposed amendments reflect input from over fifty sets of comments on the design and implementation plan that were submitted in June 2014, as well as an additional forty sets of comments submitted in October 2014.

Eleven sets of interventions and/or comments were filed on January 12, 2015 in response to the NERC Petition. NERC's proposed amendments received significant support from U.S. and Canadian reliability stakeholders. Six sets of interventions supported some or all aspects of the NERC Petition. These interventions were filed by: (1) American Public Power Association ("APPA"),[5] National Rural Electric Cooperative Association ("NRECA")[6] and Transmission Access Policy Study Group ("TAPS");[7] (2) Electricity Consumers Resource Council ("ELCON");[8] (3) Electric Power Supply Association ("EPSA");[9] (4) California Municipal

[4] Both the RBRAG and the RBRAG technical task force were established by NERC to support this initiative.
[5] APPA is the national service organization representing the interests of not-for-profit, publicly owned electric utilities throughout the United States. More than 2,000 public power systems provide over 15% of all kilowatt-hour sales to ultimate customers and serve over 47 million people, doing business in every state except Hawaii. Public power systems own approximately 10.3% of the total installed generating capacity in the United States. *See* Motion to Intervene and Comments of American Public Power Association *et al.*, ("Joint Commenters"), Docket No. RR15-14-000, at 1-2 (filed Jan. 12, 2015).
[6] NRECA is the national service organization for more than 900 not-for-profit rural electric cooperatives and public power districts providing retail electric service to more than 42 million customers in 47 states. NRECA's members include consumer-owned local distribution systems and 65 generation and transmission cooperatives that supply wholesale power to their distribution cooperative owner-members. Joint Commenters at 2 (filed Jan. 12, 2015).
[7] TAPS is an association of transmission-dependent utilities ("TDUs") in more than 35 states, promoting open and non-discriminatory transmission access. As TDUs, TAPS members are users of the BPS, highly reliant on the reliability of facilities owned and operated by others for the transmission service required to meet TAPS members' loads. Joint Commenters at 2.
[8] ELCON is the national association representing large industrial consumers of electricity. ELCON member companies produce a wide range of products from virtually every segment of the manufacturing community. ELCON members operate hundreds of major facilities and are consumers of electricity in the footprints of all organized markets and other regions throughout the United States. *See* Comments of Electricity Consumers Resource Council, Docket No. RR15-14-000, at 1 (filed Jan. 12, 2015).
[9] EPSA is the national trade association representing leading competitive power suppliers, including generators and marketers, which collectively account for over 40 percent of the installed generating capacity in the United States. *See* Motion to Intervene and Comment of the Electric Power Supply Association, Docket No. RR15-4-000, at 1, n.1 (filed Jan. 12, 2015).

Utilities Association ("CMUA");[10] (5) Golden Spread Electric Cooperative, Inc.;[11] and (6) Canadian Electricity Association ("CEA").[12] Despite their protests of the implementation of the proposed amendments and the application of the materiality test, the PSEG Companies[13] and the QF Parties[14] did express support for aspects of the RBR Initiative. Their protests focus on narrow concerns.

NERC addresses the narrow concerns of the two protests in these comments. While answers to comments are not prohibited by the Commission's rules, answers to protests are generally prohibited.[15] However, the Commission may waive that prohibition for good cause.[16] The Commission has found good cause to permit answers where they are otherwise prohibited in various circumstances, including where a protestor has provided an inaccurate interpretation of the contents of a filing,[17] and where the answer would assure a complete record in the

[10] CMUA is a statewide organization of local public agencies in California that provide water, gas, and electricity service to California consumers. CMUA members provide electricity to approximately 25-30 percent of the population in California. *See* Motion to Intervene and Comments of California Municipal Utilities Association, Docket No. RR15-4-000, at 2 (filed Jan. 12, 2015).

[11] Golden Spread Electric Cooperative, Inc. is a non-profit electric generation and transmission cooperative organized under the Texas Electric Cooperative Corporation Act and provides electric service to about 223,000 retail electric meters serving consumers located in the Panhandle, South Plains, and Edward Plateau regions of Texas, an area covering 24 percent of the state, and in the Panhandle of Oklahoma and in portions of Kansas and Southeastern Colorado. *See* Motion to Intervene and Comments in Support of Golden Spread Electric Cooperative, Inc., Docket No. RR15-4-000 at 2 (filed Jan. 12, 2015).

[12] CEA members generate, transmit, distribute and market electrical energy to industrial, commercial and residential customers across Canada and into the United States. CEA members include Generator Owners and Operators, Transmission Owners and Operators, PSEs, Distribution Providers, LSEs and other entities that are subject to Reliability Standards developed by NERC. *See* Motion to Intervene and Comments of Canadian Electricity Association, Docket No. RR15-4-000 at 2 (filed Jan. 12, 2015).

[13] *See* PSEG Comments at 2 and 12, respectively ("PSEG Companies support the goals of the RBR Initiative," and "The PSEG Companies do not object to creating a limited set of Reliability Standards applicable to certain Distribution Providers.").

[14] QF Parties Protest at 3 ("The QF Parties generally support the application, particularly the proposals to allow identification of a sub-set of requirements for compliance, and to better define the criteria for assessing material impact.").

[15] *See* 18 C.F.R. § 385.213(a)(2) (2014).

[16] *See* 18 C.F.R. § 385.213(a)(2) (2014).

[17] *See*, e.g., Alliance Cos., *et al.*, 91 FERC ¶ 61,152 at 61,577-78 (2000).

proceeding,[18] lead to a better understanding of the issues in the proceeding,[19] permit the issues to be narrowed or clarified,[20] aid in the disposition of the issues raised by the protests,[21] or otherwise assist the Commission in its decision-making process.[22]

For the reasons stated herein, NERC asserts that good cause exists to accept this answer. In this answer, NERC will help to clarify the very narrow issues raised by the PSEG Companies and the QF Parties, resulting in a complete and accurate record upon which the Commission may issue an order. NERC respectfully requests that the Commission act promptly to approve the NERC Petition, which will drive registration to a mature end-state.

II. ANSWER

A. It is Appropriate to Initiate the Proposed Changes through the Registration Process Rather than through the Reliability Standard Development Process.

The PSEG Companies raise the following two arguments in their protest: (1) in order to deactivate PSE, IA, and LSE functions, NERC must first remove those functions in all applicable Reliability Standards and in the NERC Glossary through the NERC Reliability Standard Development Process; and (2) NERC must align Functional Entity definitions (namely the "Generator Operator" and "Generator Owner" definitions) in the NERC Statement of Compliance Registry Criteria with the NERC Glossary. NERC disagrees with both assertions and addresses each in turn.

[18] *See*, e.g., High Island Offshore System, L.L.C., 113 FERC ¶ 61,202 at P 8 (2005).
[19] *See*, e.g., Mississippi River Transmission, LLC, 141 FERC ¶ 61,080 at P 4 (2012); N.Y. Indep. Sys. Operator, Inc., 91 FERC ¶ 61,218, at 61,797(2000) (allowing an answer deemed "useful in addressing the issues arising in these proceedings").
[20] *See*, e.g., TransColorado Gas Transmission Co., 111 FERC ¶ 61,208 at P 4 (2005); PJM Interconnection, LLC, 84 FERC ¶ 61,224, at 62,078 (1998); Cent. Hudson Gas & Elec. Corp., 88 FERC ¶ 61,138, at 61,381 (1999) (accepting otherwise prohibited pleadings because they helped to clarify complex issues).
[21] *See*, e.g., Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Co., LLC, 140 FERC ¶ 61,251 at n. 6 (2012).
[22] *See*, e.g., Southern California Edison Co., 141 FERC ¶ 61,100 at P 6 (2012); ISO New England Inc. and New England Power Pool, 140 FERC ¶ 61,177 at P 6 (2012).

Only those entities that are registered for a given function and included in the NERC Compliance Registry are responsible for, and may be held accountable to, the requirements of a Reliability Standard.[23] Therefore, as a result of deactivation of the PSE, IA and LSE registration functions, any Reliability Standard that include those deleted functions as applicable entities will be moot as to those entities. Once the Commission approves the proposed deactivation of the PSE, IA and LSE registration functions, any needed changes to the NERC Glossary and corresponding Reliability Standards will be considered through the Reliability Standard Development Process. NERC further notes that there is no basis in Commission precedent for the PSEG Companies' argument that definitions in the NERC Glossary and the NERC Statement of Compliance Registry Criteria and Appendix 2 must be identical. In fact, the Commission has approved amendments to the Rules of Procedure with those sections retaining their respective terms. There is no need for the Commission to address or resolve this matter in the instant docket.[24]

Finally, NERC's proposed changes to the definitions of "Generator Owner" and "Generator Operator" which include replacing the undefined term "generating units" with the term "Facilities," are appropriate. The term "Facilities" is defined in the NERC Glossary as a Bulk Electric System element, which ties in directly to the new BES definition. Use of the term

[23] Order No. 693, *Mandatory Reliability Standards for the Bulk-Power System*, 118 FERC ¶ 61,218 (2007) at PP 39, 75, 97 "[W]e approve NERC's current compliance registry to provide certainty and stability in identifying which entities must comply with particular Reliability Standards[;]…the Commission will rely on the NERC definition of bulk electric system and NERC's registration process to provide as much certainty as possible regarding the applicability to and the responsibility of specific entities to comply with the Reliability Standards in the start-up phase of a mandatory Reliability Standard regime. . . the Commission. . .will use the NERC compliance registry to determine those users, owners and operators of the Bulk-Power System that must comply with the Reliability Standards. Each individual Reliability Standard will then identify the set of users, owners and operators of the Bulk-Power System that must comply with that standard . . . the Commission will not assess penalties against an entity that has not previously been put on notice, through the registration process, that it must comply with particular Reliability Standards."

[24] *See e.g.*, Project 2015-04 Alignment of NERC Glossary of Terms and Definitions Used in the Rules of Procedure (Appendix 2 of the Rules of Procedure).

"Facilities" has allowed NERC to eliminate the Part III threshold criteria and use the new Bulk Electric System core definition, inclusions and exclusions to identify Bulk Electric System generator assets. PSEG Companies' objection should be rejected.

B. Proposed Amendments for UFLS-Only Distribution Provider Are Appropriate.

PSEG Companies raise the following two objections to the UFLS-Only Distribution Provider references and provisions: (1) they contend that all references to "UFLS-Only Distribution Providers" should be removed because this new term is not defined in the NERC Glossary;[25] and (2) they contend that the NERC Statement of Compliance Registry Criteria should not include a list of Reliability Standards applicable to UFLS-Only Distribution Providers.[26] Instead, they maintain that a more appropriate vehicle through which to address this issue is to require Distribution Providers registered solely because they own, control, or operate UFLS Protection System(s) needed to implement a required UFLS Program to apply to the panel to limit themselves to a sub-set of Reliability Standards.[27]

As noted above, there is no requirement that terms used in the NERC Statement of Compliance Registry Criteria mirror those in the NERC Glossary. Any changes that need to be made to the NERC Glossary as a result of the Commission's approval of the NERC Petition will go through the Reliability Standard Development Process. Entities that qualify as "UFLS-Only Distribution Providers" are a sub-category of a Distribution Provider. Until a Reliability Standard is submitted limiting its applicability to certain functional entities or characteristics, the Commission has long recognized the registration process is "the preferred method of determining

[25] PSEG Companies Comments at 11-13.
[26] PSEG Comments at 12.
[27] PSEG Comments at 13.

the applicability of Reliability Standards on an entity-by-entity basis."[28]

Going forward, NERC will continue to evaluate sub-set lists of Reliability Standards for appropriate entities as it has done for "UFLS-Only Distribution Providers." However, NERC does not intend to retain all sub-set lists in the NERC Rules of Procedure (including the NERC Statement of Compliance Registry Criteria), rather they will be denoted in the NERC Compliance Registry as to applicable entities. While the NERC Statement of Compliance Registry Criteria include an initial list for UFLS-Only Distribution Providers,[29] any changes to that initial list will be reflected in the entity's NERC Compliance Registry listing. This recognizes the ability for future applicable Reliability Standards to be addressed through the Reliability Standard Development Process. The PSEG Companies' assertion that each and every Distribution Provider must first proceed through the NERC-led panel to be granted the already determined initial UFLS-Only Distribution Provider sub-set list introduces a significant unjustified administrative burden.[30]

C. The Materiality Test is Comprised of Non-Exclusive Factors, and Factors Used Will be Identified in Publicly Posted Panel Decisions.

The PSEG Companies and the QF Parties raise various questions about the materiality test and its applicable factors, namely: (1) whether the materiality test applies to reactivation (Appendix 5A, Section III.C) of deactivated entities[31] and (2) whether the materiality test, as proposed in the NERC Petition, is complete.[32] These concerns are unwarranted, as discussed

[28] Order No. 693 at P 98 (emphasis added); *see also* Revisions to Electric Reliability Organization Definition of Bulk Electric System and Rules of Procedure, Order No. 773 at P 52, 141 FERC ¶ 61,236 (2012), order on reh'g, Order No. 773-A, 143 FERC ¶ 61,053 (2013); Order Approving Revised Definition, 146 FERC ¶ 61,199 (2014); Order No. 773-A at P 52; Generator Requirements at the Transmission Interface, 144 FERC ¶ 61,221 (2013) ("Order No. 785").

[29] *See* Appendix 5B at III(b).

[30] *See* Appendix 5A, III.A.13 for a description of the process required of an entity seeking UFLS-Only DP treatment.

[31] PSEG Comments at 8.

[32] PSEG Comments at 9-11; QF Protest at 3-4. Both the PSEG Companies and the QF Parties propose various changes to the materiality test elements.

herein.

Reactivation of any entity occurs when there is a change in circumstances or where there is a new risk to reliability identified after an entity has been deactivated. The language in Section III.C states that "Reactivation shall be governed by the procedures in the NERC [Rules of Procedure] Section 500 and Section III.A and, *as applicable, Section III.D of this Appendix 5A*." (emphasis added). The reference to Section III.D is in fact a reference to the materiality test as being applicable to reactivation decisions as well.

The Risk-Based Registration Initiative contemplated that the materiality test would be comprised of non-exclusive factors whose application would vary depending on facts and circumstances of a given matter, taking into account risk-based considerations in reaching a decision. In all applications of the materiality test, the NERC-led review panel will issue a decision that will be made publicly available and will identify all factors that were applied and considered for that matter. The panel will analyze individual and aggregate issues as warranted by soliciting input from host or neighboring entities. Factors examined by the panel will be identified in the panel's decisions which will be posted publicly on the NERC website, with confidential information redacted in accordance with Section 1500 of the NERC Rules of Procedure. Therefore, there is no need to mandate that the panel examine any particular factor at the outset.

III. CONCLUSION

WHEREFORE, for the foregoing reasons, NERC respectfully requests that the Commission accept these comments and issue an order consistent with the comments herein.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Nina H. Jenkins-Johnston

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Counsel for the North American Electric Reliability Corporation

Dated: January 26, 2015

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have served a copy of the foregoing document upon all parties listed on the official service list compiled by the Secretary in this proceeding.

Dated at Washington, D.C., this 26th day of January, 2015.

/s/ Nina H. Jenkins-Johnston

Counsel for the North American Electric Reliability Corporation

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Monitoring System Conditions - Transmission Operations Reliability Standard	**Docket No. RM13-12-000**
Transmission Operations Reliability Standards	**Docket No. RM13-14-000**
Interconnection Reliability Operations and Coordination Reliability Standards	**Docket No. RM13-15-000**

QUARTERLY STATUS REPORT OF THE NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY CORPORATION, FOURTH QUARTER 2014

On December 20, 2013, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation ("NERC") filed a motion requesting that the Commission defer action, until January 31, 2015, to allow NERC time to consider the reliability concerns raised by the Commission in the November 21, 2013, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking ("NOPR") in connection with the revisions to the Transmission Operations ("TOP") and Interconnection Reliability Operations and Coordination ("IRO") Reliability Standards in the above-referenced dockets.[1] NERC committed to providing the Commission with quarterly reports regarding the status of revisions, and the instant filing is submitted consistent with that commitment. On January 14, 2014, the Commission granted NERC's motion to defer action until January 31, 2015.[2] On April 1, 2014, NERC filed a quarterly status report regarding standard development activities in the first quarter of 2014 and on July 1, 2014 NERC filed a quarterly status report for the second quarter of 2014. On October 1, 2014, NERC filed a quarterly status report for the third quarter of 2014. The following quarterly report addresses standard development activities in the fourth quarter of 2014, (*i.e.*,

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[1] *Monitoring System Conditions - Transmission Operations Reliability Standard, Transmission Operations Reliability Standards, Interconnection Reliability Operations and Coordination Reliability Standards*, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 145 FERC ¶ 61,158 (2013).

[2] *Monitoring System Conditions - Transmission Operations Reliability Standard, Transmission Operations Reliability Standards, Interconnection Reliability Operations and Coordination Reliability Standards*, Order on Motion to Defer Action on Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 146 FERC ¶ 61,023 (2014).

October 1, 2014 – December 31, 2014), and notes that additional time will be required in order to obtain approval by the NERC Board of Trustees for proposed Reliability Standard TOP-001-3.

I. Notices and Communication

Notices and communications with respect to this filing may be addressed to the following:[3]

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II. Status of Revisions – Project 2014-03

A. First Quarter 2014, January 1 – March 31, 2014

A Standards Authorization Request ("SAR") was submitted on February 12, 2014 to address the concerns identified by the Commission in the NOPR. A standard drafting team was appointed by the NERC Standards Committee on February 12, 2014. This project has been designated as Project 2014-03.[4]

Two technical conferences were held by NERC in March 2014 to facilitate discussion of the issues identified by the Commission in the NOPR.[5] An informal comment period was held

[3] Persons to be included on FERC's service list are indicated with an asterisk. NERC requests waiver of 18 C.F.R. § 385.203(b) to permit the inclusion of more than two people on the service list.

[4] The project page is *available here*: http://www.nerc.com/pa/Stand/Pages/Project-2014-03-Revisions-to-TOP-and-IRO-Standards.aspx.

[5] The slides from the conferences are *available here*: http://www.nerc.com/pa/Stand/Prjct201403RvsnstoTOPandIROStndrds/top_iro_technical_conference_presentation_20140306.pdf.

from March 11, 2014 through March 24, 2014 to allow for industry comments on the topics discussed during the conferences, or suggestions for further consideration of issues identified in the NOPR. These comments are posted on the project webpage as part of the development record and have been considered by the standard drafting team for Project 2014-03.[6]

B. Second Quarter 2014, April 1, 2014 – June 30, 2014

A standard drafting team meeting was held from April 8-10, 2014,[7] followed by a meeting from April 22-24, 2014.[8] A webinar was held on June 17, 2014. Revisions to the IRO and TOP Reliability Standards were posted for a 45-day formal comment period from June 23, 2014 through July 2, 2014. Revisions to the defined terms "Operational Planning Analysis" and "Real-time Assessment" were also proposed and posted for comment. Initial ballots of the standards, definitions, and proposed implementation plan were conducted during the last ten days of the comment period, with the following results:

Reliability Standard	Approval
TOP-001-3 – Transmission Operations	30.99%
TOP-002-4 - Operations Planning	62.18%
TOP-003-3 – Operational Reliability Data	63.07%
IRO-001-4 – Reliability Coordination – Responsibilities	68.57%
IRO-002-4 – Reliability Coordination	36.94%
IRO-008-2—Reliability Coordinator Operational Analyses and Real-time Assessments	47.87%
IRO-010-2—Reliability Coordinator Data Specification and Collection	60.26%
IRO-014-3—Coordination Among Reliability Coordinators	61.67%
IRO-017-1 – Outage Coordination	57.94%

[6] *Available here*: http://www.nerc.com/pa/Stand/Prjct201403RvsnstoTOPandIROStndrds/Comments%20Received%20-%20Tech%20Conferences%20TOP_IRO%20Mar%202014.pdf.

[7] This information is publicly posted on the NERC calendar, *available here*: http://www.nerc.net/meetings/details.asp?id=3979.

[8] This information is publicly posted on the NERC calendar, *available here*: http://www.nerc.net/meetings/details.asp?id=3992.

The definitions received an approval of 62.64% and the implementation plan received an approval of 64.70%.

The Project 2014-03 standard drafting team has written a whitepaper on System Operating Limits ("SOLs") in order to clarify how to establish SOLs and mitigate an exceedance of an SOL.[9] In addition, consistent with the NOPR, the team has reviewed the recommendations of the 2011 Southwest Outage Blackout Report[10] and has addressed how the proposed Reliability Standards fulfill many of these recommendations.[11]

C. Third Quarter 2014, July 1, 2014 – September 30, 2014

A drafting team meeting was held on July 22, 2014 – July 24, 2014. A technical conference was held on August 12, 2014 in order to discuss proposed revisions to the standards. Revisions to the TOP and IRO Reliability Standards were posted for a 45-day formal comment period from August 6, 2014 – September 19, 2014. Webinars regarding the proposed revisions were conducted on August 12, 2014[12] and on September 9, 2014.[13] Revisions to the defined terms "Operational Planning Analysis" and "Real-time Assessment," as well as the implementation plan for these new and revised standards and definitions, were also proposed and posted for comment. Additional ballots of the standards, definitions, and proposed

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[9] *Available here*: http://www.nerc.com/pa/Stand/Prjct201403RvsnstoTOPandIROStndrds/2014_03_first_posting_white_paper_sol_exceedance_20140509.pdf.

[10] *Available here*: https://www.ferc.gov/legal/staff-reports/04-27-2012-ferc-nerc-report.pdf.

[11] *Available here*: http://www.nerc.com/pa/Stand/Prjct201403RvsnstoTOPandIROStndrds/2014_03_first_posting_sw_outage_recommendations_201405012.pdf. In addition, the standard drafting team has also considered issues raised in the NOPR, in the following document, *available here*: http://www.nerc.com/pa/Stand/Prjct201403RvsnstoTOPandIROStndrds/2014_03_first_posting_nopr_issues_20140509.pdf.

[12] *See* http://www.nerc.com/pa/Stand/Prjct201403RvsnstoTOPandIROStndrdsRF/2014_03_technical_conference_20140812_presentation.pdf.

[13] *See* http://www.nerc.com/pa/Stand/Prjct201403RvsnstoTOPandIROStndrdsRF/2014_03_second_posting_webinar_20140909_draft.pdf.

implementation plan were conducted during the last ten days of the comment period, with the following results:

Reliability Standard	Approval
TOP-001-3 – Transmission Operations	48.73%
TOP-002-4 - Operations Planning	78.87%
TOP-003-3 – Operational Reliability Data	87.03%
IRO-001-4 – Reliability Coordination – Responsibilities	76.12%
IRO-002-4 – Reliability Coordination	74.23%
IRO-008-2—Reliability Coordinator Operational Analyses and Real-time Assessments	75.67%
IRO-010-2—Reliability Coordinator Data Specification and Collection	85.49%
IRO-014-3—Coordination Among Reliability Coordinators	75.96%
IRO-017-1 – Outage Coordination	78.67%

The definitions received an approval of 93.34% and the implementation plan received an approval of 90.13%.

D. Fourth Quarter 2014, October 1, 2014 – December 31, 2014

A drafting team meeting was held on September 30, 2014 – October 2, 2014. A final ballot of the following Reliability Standards was conducted from October 10, 2014 – October 22, 2014: TOP-002-4; TOP-003-3; IRO-001-4; IRO-002-4; IRO-008-2; IRO-010-2; IRO-014-3 and IRO-017-1, with the following results:

Reliability Standard	Approval
TOP-002-4 - Operations Planning	84.76%
TOP-003-3 – Operational Reliability Data	86.55%
IRO-001-4 – Reliability Coordination – Responsibilities	82.64%
IRO-002-4 – Reliability Coordination	85.96%
IRO-008-2—Reliability Coordinator Operational Analyses and Real-time Assessments	83.73%
IRO-010-2—Reliability Coordinator Data Specification and Collection	86.22%
IRO-014-3—Coordination Among Reliability Coordinators	89.88%
IRO-017-1 – Outage Coordination	82.58%

The definitions received an approval of 94.07% and the implementation plan received an approval of 91.84%. Reliability Standard TOP-001-3 was posted for an additional ballot from October 10, 2014—November 10, 2014 and received an approval of 60.21%.

On November 13, 2014, the NERC Board of Trustees approved the following Reliability Standards: TOP-002-4; TOP-003-3; IRO-001-4; IRO-002-4; IRO-008-2; IRO-010-2; IRO-014-3 and IRO-017-1. The Board also approved the definitions and implementation plan. Given the integrated nature of this body of Reliability Standards, it is not possible for NERC to file the approved Reliability Standards without Reliability Standard TOP-001-3.

On November 20, 2014, a standard drafting team conference call was held in order to discuss revisions to proposed Reliability Standard TOP-001-3. Reliability Standard TOP-001-3 is currently posted for an additional ballot, which will conclude on January 7, 2015. The NERC Standards Committee authorized a waiver to shorten the comment period and additional ballot and non-binding poll for TOP-001-3, and then in a separate action, extended this period from 30 days to 35 days and the ballot was extended from 7 days to 9 days.

As noted herein, NERC requested that the Commission defer action until January 31, 2015. NERC anticipates that additional time will be required in order to present the standard to

the Board of Trustees for approval, given that the next regularly scheduled NERC Board of Trustees meeting is set for February 12, 2015. In the event that Reliability Standard TOP-001-3 is not approved by industry stakeholders as anticipated in January, NERC will determine a proposed path forward and submit additional information in this proceeding.

III. Conclusion

The North American Electric Reliability Corporation respectfully requests that the Commission accept this quarterly report for informational purposes.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Stacey Tyrewala

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Counsel for North American Electric Reliability Corporation

Dated: January 2, 2015

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
BEFORE THE
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Real Power Balancing Control Standards	**)**	**Docket No. RM14-10-000**
Performance Reliability Standard	**)**	

COMMENTS OF THE NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY CORPORATION IN RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING

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January 26, 2015

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
BEFORE THE
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Real Power Balancing Control Standards	**)**	**Docket No. RM14-10-000**
Performance Reliability Standard	**)**	

COMMENTS OF THE NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY CORPORATION IN RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING

The North American Electric Reliability Corporation ("NERC")[1] hereby provides these comments in response to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's ("FERC" or the "Commission") November 20, 2014, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking ("NOPR")[2] proposing to approve Reliability Standard BAL-001-2 (Real Power Balancing Control Performance) and four proposed definitions ("Regulation Reserve Sharing Group," "Reserve Sharing Group ACE," "Reporting ACE" and "Interconnection").

I. Notices and Communications

Notices and communications with respect to this filing may be addressed to the following:[3]

[1] The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission certified NERC as the electric reliability organization ("ERO") in its order issued on July 20, 2006, in Docket No. RR06-1-000. *N. Am. Elec. Reliability Corp*, 116 FERC ¶ 61,062 (2006).

[2] *Real Power Balancing Control Performance Reliability Standard*, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 149 FERC ¶ 61,139 (2014).

[3] Persons to be included on the Commission's service list are identified by an asterisk. NERC respectfully requests a waiver of Rule 203 of the Commission's regulations, 18 C.F.R. § 385.203 (2014), to allow the inclusion of more than two persons on the service list in this proceeding.

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II. Background on Petition

On April 2, 2014, NERC submitted a petition for approval of proposed Reliability Standard BAL-001-2 and four proposed definitions. The purpose of proposed Reliability Standard BAL-001-2 is to maintain interconnection frequency within predefined frequency limits. The reliable operation of an electric power system depends on careful management of the balance between generation and load to ensure that system frequency is maintained within narrow limits around a scheduled value.

The proposed Reliability Standard consists of two Requirements. Requirement R1 (commonly referred to as Control Performance Standard 1 ("CPS1")) is intended to measure how well a Balancing Authority is able to control its generation and load management programs, as measured by its Area Control Error ("ACE"),[4] to support its interconnection's frequency over a rolling one-year period. Proposed Requirement R1 is largely a restatement of currently effective BAL-001-1 Requirement R1, but includes proposed revisions that are efficient and that clarify

[4] Area Control Error (ACE) is the instantaneous difference between a Balancing Authority's Net Actual and Scheduled Interchange, taking into account the effects of Frequency Bias, correction for meter error, and Automatic Time Error Correction (ATEC), if operating in the ATEC mode.

the intent of the Requirement. Proposed Requirement R2 is a new requirement intended to replace the currently effective BAL-001-1 Requirement R2, commonly referred to as Control Performance Standard 2 ("CPS2").

Requirement R2 is intended to enhance the reliability of each interconnection by maintaining ACE within predefined limits under all conditions. Under Requirement R2, a Balancing Authority is permitted to be outside its ACE limits for up to 10 percent of 10 minute periods over the course of a one-month period. While Requirement R2 mandates that a Balancing Authority correct its ACE to not exceed specific limits, it fails to recognize the positive or negative impact of that corrective action to maintain interconnection frequency. For example, a Balancing Authority may increase or decrease generation to meet CPS2 limits; however, this corrective move could have an unintended consequence of reducing reliability by moving interconnection frequency further away from its scheduled value.

Using Balancing Authority ACE Limits ("BAAL"), the proposed Requirement R2 is intended to enhance the reliability of each interconnection by maintaining frequency within predefined limits under all conditions. The BAAL limits are based on identified interconnection frequency limits to ensure that the interconnection returns to a reliable state when the ACE of one or more Balancing Authorities deviates into an area that contributes too much risk to reliability. The proposed Requirement R2 provides each Balancing Authority a dynamic ACE limit that is a function of interconnection frequency. In other words, it drives the Balancing Authority's corrective action in a direction that supports interconnection frequency. Compliance with the BAAL requires the Balancing Authority to balance its resources and demand in Real-Time so that the clock-minute average of its Reporting ACE does not exceed its clock-minute BAAL for more than 30 consecutive clock-minutes. When a Balancing Authority's operation is not supporting

interconnection frequency (i.e., as frequency moves away from 60 Hz), the BAAL gets tighter for the Balancing Authority. When a Balancing Authority's operation is supporting interconnection frequency (i.e., moving closer to 60 Hz), the BAAL relaxes for the Balancing Authority. A Balancing Authority that exceeds its BAAL is contributing more than its allowed share of risk in an interconnection.

A field trial was initiated in July 2005 which examines whether there is any relationship between BAAL (and its associated large ACE swings) and unscheduled power flows as well as between BAAL and accumulated Inadvertent Interchange. The effectiveness of the BAAL at the interconnection level was determined by assessing the duration during which frequency remains outside permissible limits. In its July 31, 2014 interim report on the field trial, NERC reported to the Commission that throughout the duration of the field trial in the Eastern Interconnection, no Balancing Authority, Reliability Coordinator or other reliability entity cited problems with unscheduled flows associated with the operation of the field trial. In the Western Interconnection, NERC observed no conclusive evidence that BAAL had any effect on congestion management / unscheduled flow within the Western Interconnection. Also in the Western Interconnection, WECC examined the possible effect of transmission flows as a direct result of stressing the limits of BAAL. Under this stressed condition in the Western Interconnection, WECC observed that accumulated Inadvertent Interchange reached high levels several times; however, WECC found no relationship between the field trial and accumulated Inadvertent Interchange. Overall, NERC found that the initial field trial results demonstrate that BAL-001-2 supports frequency and improves reliability.

III. Comments on Proposed Requirement R2

On November 20, 2014, the Commission issued a NOPR proposing to approve proposed Reliability Standard BAL-001-2 and the proposed new definitions submitted by NERC. The Commission did, however, note some concerns regarding the implementation of BAL-001-2:

- (1) allowing BAs to have "very large deviation[s] from an ACE of zero and [yet] still be compliant with the dynamic values of the BA ACE limits in the proposed [Requirement R2]";
- (2) the possibility that "an unintended consequence of (i) allowing significant amounts of unscheduled power flows, creating an undue burden for transmission operators and reliability coordinators to address power flows approaching or exceeding system operating limits or interconnection reliability operating limits, and (ii) significant increase in advertent interchange *could* result in an adverse reliability impact between real-time operations and day and/or hour-ahead analysis performed by reliability coordinators and transmission operators".[5]

These concerns stemmed from several commenters raising the *possibility* of (i) significant amounts of unscheduled power flows causing large ACE swings and thereby approaching or exceeding system operating limits or interconnection reliability operating limits ("SOL/IROL") which can be a burden to Transmission Operators and Reliability Coordinators and (ii) significant increases in Inadvertent Interchange resulting in an Adverse Reliability Impact between Real-Time operations and day and/or hour-ahead analysis performed by Reliability Coordinators and Transmission Operators.[6]

Given the *possibility* that large ACE swings are correlated with unscheduled power flow and Inadvertent Interchange causing SOL/IROL exceedances, a correlation which has not been established in the field trial, the Commission proposed a directive asking NERC to submit an informational filing following the implementation of the proposed Reliability Standard. The

[5] NOPR at PP 21-22.
[6] *See* NOPR at P 20.

purpose of this informational filing is to "monitor unscheduled power flows and Inadvertent Interchange in the Western and Eastern Interconnections" for a two-year period following implementation (i.e., the effective date) of the proposed Reliability Standard.[7] The Commission proposed that the informational filing include data regarding SOL/IROL violations, the date and time, location, the duration and magnitude, *due to unscheduled power flows and Inadvertent Interchange within the Western and Eastern Interconnections*.[8] The Commission maintains that this data on unscheduled power flows and Inadvertent Interchange will provide NERC, the Commission and other interested entities with the material to evaluate the effect of proposed Reliability Standards BAL-001-2 on unscheduled power flows and Inadvertent Interchange and the resulting consequences on the Bulk-Power System.[9] The Commission seeks comments on the proposed informational filing and specifically on (i) whether any additional data would support this analysis, and (ii) whether a regional variance would be necessary for those regions that experience adverse impacts during the field trial due to Inadvertent Interchange.[10]

IV. Comments

NERC does not support the Commission's proposed directive to submit an informational filing with the data outlined above following implementation of the proposed Reliability Standard because the data that the Commission is proposing NERC collect will not conclusively demonstrate that large ACE swings are correlated with unscheduled power flow and Inadvertent Interchange causing SOL/IROL exceedances. Additionally, NERC does not currently collect data, as proposed by the Commission, nor is it common practice of the industry to determine whether

7 NOPR at P 23.
8 NOPR at P 23 (emphasis added).
9 NOPR at P 23.
10 NOPR at P 24.

large ACE swings coincide with with unscheduled power flow or Inadvertent Interchange which might cause SOL/IROL exceedances. Furthermore, in order to demonstrate a correlation between BAAL and ACE swings, sub-hourly Inadvertent Interchange data, as well as data at the Balancing Authority and interconnection level, would have to be collected.

NERC established a metric, ALR3-5 Interconnection Reliability Operating Limit Exceedances, which tracks IROL exceedances (and SOL in exceedances in the Western Interconnection). The *State of Reliability 2014* report analyzed the data and found that in the Eastern Interconnection, most exceedances were due to planned transmission outages resulting in congestion and higher flows on the remaining paths.[11] Additionally, only two IROL exceedances were longer than 30 minutes. No exceedances were longer than 30 minutes in the Western Interconnection or the ERCOT interconnection. This data was collected during the time that the field trial was in place. Based on this analysis, NERC does not expect SOL/IROL exceedances to increase with the implementation of BAL-001-2.

It is also unclear how NERC would "monitor unscheduled power flows." Power flows on the system are a combination of network topology, generation dispatch to meet load, scheduled power transactions between Balancing Authorities, time error corrections, and ACE recoveries. Only scheduled power transactions between Balancing Authorities based on contract paths have defined schedules associated with them. All others are "unscheduled." An analysis of unscheduled power flows specifically associated with the implementation of BAL-001-2 would require all entities in North America to provide a snapshot of all load, generation dispatched, system topology, and scheduled transactions. That data would then be loaded into a power flow model to calculate line outage distribution factors and power transfer distribution factors for

[11] State of Reliability 2014, http://www.nerc.com/pa/RAPA/PA/Performance Analysis DL/2014_SOR_Final.pdf page 53

generation dispatch. That would allow for the calculation of the contribution of unscheduled power flows on the SOL/IROL transmission element. That would need to be repeated for each change in network topology that would occur.

The Commission's proposed directive is based on the speculative opinions of commenters, supported by no documented evidence that the proposed Reliability Standard contributes to unscheduled power flows and Inadvertent Interchange. The Commission is, in essence, asking NERC to disprove a negative. The work required to collect the data and perform the analysis for two years to disprove unsupported speculation is not an effective use of ERO and industry resources. As described above, NERC conducted a field trial that produced no conclusive results that large ACE swings are correlated with unscheduled power flow and Inadvertent Interchange causing SOL/IROL exceedances. That is, the field trial has not resulted in any positive evidence that implementing BAAL either (i) has a negative effect on frequency by resulting in high ACE swings or (ii) has any relationship with unscheduled power flows or accumulated Inadvertent Interchange resulting in SOL/IROL exceedances in either the Eastern or Western Interconnections. In fact, the only conclusive observation made during the field trial linking BAAL to Inadvertent Interchange was a result of deliberate stress testing in the Western Interconnection. Even if the field trial produced different results, high ACE swings are not necessarily determinative of overloading transmission or SOL/IROL exceedances because SOL/IROL exceedances can still occur when ACE is zero.

Accordingly, as a first step to addressing the Commission's concerns articulated in the NOPR, and in order to investigate a possible correlation between BAAL and SOL/IROL exceedances as attributed to Inadvertent Interchange and unscheduled power flows, NERC proposes that it first collect a set of baseline data. This baseline data would consist of tracking the

number of SOL/IROL exceedances occurring in each interconnection where a Balancing Authority's ACE was within BAAL. NERC would collect this data for the same time period proposed by the Commission in the NOPR – for a two-year period following implementation of the proposed Reliability Standard. Once this data is collected, NERC proposes to submit an informational filing to the Commission with the results of the data with a commitment to work with FERC's Office of Electric Reliability staff in analyzing the data to determine if there is a coincidence between Inadvertent Interchange and unscheduled power flows resulting in SOL/IROL exceedances. If NERC and OER staff determine a possible coincidence, NERC will do further analysis to determine whether a regional variance should be developed or modifications to the Reliability Standard may be necessary.

V. Conclusion

For the reasons set forth above, NERC respectfully requests that the Commission issue an order consistent with the comments herein.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Nina H. Jenkins-Johnston

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Counsel for the North American Electric Reliability Corporation

Date: January 26, 2015

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have served a copy of the foregoing document upon all parties listed on the official service list compiled by the Secretary in this proceeding.

Dated at Washington, D.C. this 26th day of January, 2015.

/s/ Nina H. Jenkins-Johnston

Nina H. Jenkins-Johnston
Counsel for the North American Electric Reliability Corporation

NERC
NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY CORPORATION

January 23, 2015

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Ms. Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20426

Re: North American Electric Reliability Corporation Petition for Approval of Amendments to Exhibit B to the Delegation Agreement with Southwest Power Pool, Inc. – Amendments to Southwest Power Pool, Inc.'s Bylaws
Docket No. RR15-___-000

Dear Ms. Bose:

The North American Electric Reliability Corporation ("NERC") hereby submits the "Petition of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation for Approval of Amendments to Exhibit B of the Delegation Agreement with Southwest Power Pool, Inc. – Amendments to Southwest Power Pool, Inc.'s Bylaws."

NERC is submitting amendments to Exhibit B to the Delegation Agreement with Southwest Power Pool, Inc. ("SPP"), on behalf of Southwest Power Pool Regional Entity ("SPP RE"). Specifically, the Bylaws of Southwest Power Pool, Inc. ("SPP Bylaws"), which are Exhibit B to the Delegation Agreement, have been revised. The amendments to the SPP Bylaws were filed at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("FERC") by SPP in FERC Docket Nos. ER13-2031-001 and ER14-2851-000, pursuant to Sections 205 and 206 of the Federal Power Act and Part 35 of the Regulations of the FERC.[1]

[1] These amendments were accepted by FERC in a Letter Order issued to SPP on May 14, 2014 and in the Order Conditionally Accepting in Part, Rejecting in Part, Accepting and Suspending Filings in Part, Establishing Hearing

These amendments to the Delegation Agreement make corrections and update procedures in various articles in the Bylaws. Specifically, the amendments to the SPP Bylaws: (1) clarify certain obligations of an SPP member that withdraws from SPP; (2) facilitate the decision of the Western Area Power Administration-Upper Great Plains Region ("Western-UGP"), a federal power marketing agency ("PMA"), Basin Electric Power Cooperative ("Basin Electric") and Heartland Consumers Power District ("Heartland") (collectively, the "IS Parties") to join SPP as Transmission Owning Members, to place their respective transmission facilities under the functional control of SPP, and begin taking transmission service under the Tariff; and (3) make ministerial corrections. The amendments to the SPP's Bylaws do not affect SPP's Regional Entity functions and there are no reliability-related issues that are raised by the amendments. The amended SPP Bylaws continue to satisfy the five governance criteria specified in Exhibit B of the SPP Regional Delegation Agreement.

This filing consists of: (1) this transmittal letter, (2) the narrative text of the Petition which follows this transmittal letter, and (3) Attachments 1 and 2 to the Petition which contain a clean version and a redline version of the proposed amendments to Exhibit B to the Delegation Agreement respectively. All of these documents are transmitted in a single PDF file.

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and Settlement Judge Procedures and Consolidating Proceedings and Directing Compliance Filing, 149 FERC ¶ 61,113 (2014) respectively.

Please contact the undersigned if you have any questions concerning this filing.

Respectfully submitted,

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Before the
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY CORPORATION	**)** **)**	**Docket No. RR14-___-000**

PETITION OF THE NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY CORPORATION FOR APPROVAL OF AMENDMENTS TO EXHIBIT B TO THE DELEGATION AGREEMENT WITH SOUTHWEST POWER POOL, INC. – AMENDMENTS TO SOUTHWEST POWER POOL, INC.'S BYLAWS

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January 23, 2015

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ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Amended Exhibit B to the Delegation Agreement Between North American Electric Reliability Corporation and Southwest Power Pool, Inc. – Clean version

Attachment 2: Amended Exhibit B to the Delegation Agreement Between North American Electric Reliability Corporation and Southwest Power Pool, Inc. – Redlined version

I. INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to § 215(e)(4) of the Federal Power Act[2] ("FPA") and 18 C.F.R. §§ 39.8 and 39.10 (2012), the North American Electric Reliability Corporation ("NERC") requests the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's ("Commission") approval of amendments to the Delegation Agreement between NERC and Southwest Power Pool, Inc. ("SPP"), on behalf of Southwest Power Pool Regional Entity ("SPP RE"), one of the NERC Regional Entities. Specifically, NERC is submitting revised Bylaws of Southwest Power Pool, Inc. (the "SPP Bylaws") which are Exhibit B to the Delegation Agreement. The amendments to the Bylaws were filed at FERC by SPP in FERC Docket Nos. ER13-2031-001 and ER14-2851-000 pursuant to Sections 205 and 206 of the Federal Power Act[3] and Part 35 of the Regulations of the Commission.[4]

SPP is a Regional Transmission Organization which also performs Regional Entity functions pursuant to its Delegation Agreement with NERC. The SPP Bylaws are Exhibit B to the Delegation Agreement. The instant amendments to the SPP's Bylaw do not affect SPP's Regional Entity functions, and this filing is being made to include the revised Bylaws in the Delegation Agreement. This filing contains amendments to the SPP Bylaws applicable to the following sections: Sections 1.0, 2.1, 3.15.4, 5.1, 5.1.1.1, 6.6, 8.7.3, 8.7.5, and 10.0. The NERC Board of Trustees approved the amended Delegation Agreement containing amendments to Section 8.73 by conference call on November 21, 2013. The NERC Board of Trustees approved

[2] 16 U.S.C. § 824o (2005).

[3] 16 U.S.C. §§ 824d and 824e.

[4] 18 C.F.R. 35.

the amended Delegation Agreement containing amendments to Sections 1.0, 2.1, 3.15.4, 5.1.1.1, 6.6, 8.7.5, and 10.0 at the November 14, 2014 Board Meeting.

The SPP Bylaws are "Regional Entity Rules" as defined in 18 C.F.R. § 39.10; thus, in accordance with 18 C.F.R. § 39.10, amendments to a Regional Entity Rule require Commission approval. These amendments to the Delegation Agreement: (1) make ministerial corrections; (2) update various procedures on membership withdrawal; and (3) facilitate the IS Parties joining SPP. Specifically, the amendments to the SPP Bylaws:

(a) Add the definition of the terms (1) "Federal Power Marketing Agency," ("FPMA"); (2) "Federal Power Marketing Agency Amendments," ("FPMAA"); and (3) "Western Area Power Administration-Upper Great Plains Region ("Western-UGP")" in *Section 1.0 Definitions*;

(b) Make ministerial changes to capitalize the terms "Federal Power Marketing Agency" in Sections 2.1 and "Federal" in Section 3.15.4;

(c) (i) Remove the word "and" from subsection (a) of Section 5.1, and add the word "and" to subsection (b) of Section 5.1; (ii) modify the number of Members of the Members Committee from 19 to 24, (iii) modify the number of investor owned utility representative Members from 4 to 6, (iv) modify the number of cooperatives Members from 4 to 5, (v) add one representative from a FPMA, and (vi) insert language to add one representative from "an independent transmission company Member, defined as having assets under the OATT and no Affiliate Relationships in other categories of Membership" in *Section 5.1.1.1 Composition*;

(d) (i) Modify the number of Members of the Corporate Governance Committee from 9 to 10; (ii) delete "federal" power agency Member representative to only include "state"

power agencies; and (iii) add "one representative shall be representative and selected by a FPMA Member(s)" in *Section 6.6 Corporate Governance Committee*.

(e) Insert clarifying language to state, "To the extent that Section 4.3.3A of this Membership Agreement is applicable, a…" at the beginning of Section 8.7.3 and delete language referencing, "Payments in fulfillment of any such obligations and allocated costs shall commence on the date that the costs of such transmission facilities are reflected in SPP's generally applicable rates, unless SPP and the Terminated Member agree to an alternate date. Rights, obligations, and payments applicable to time periods prior to the Termination Date shall be honored by SPP and the Terminated Member. Fulfillment and performance of such rights and obligations, and rights and obligations regarding the use of such transmission facilities, shall be negotiated between SPP and the Terminated Member, and any dispute involving such rights and obligations shall be resolved in accordance with the dispute resolution procedures in the Bylaws and Membership Agreement." in *Section 8.7.3 Financial Obligations for Transmission Facilities*;

(f) Insert a new section entitled "*Section 8.7.5 Limitation on Financial Penalty Obligations"*; and

(g) Insert additional clarify language that references the new Section 8.7.5 and the new language in Section 5.1.1. in *Section 10 Amendments To These Bylaws, The Articles Of Incorporation, And Membership Agreement*.

The revised Bylaws continue to satisfy the five governance criteria in the Delegation Agreement. SPP's additional terms "FPMA," "FPMAA," and "Western-UGP" within its Bylaws

do not conflict or impact any of NERC's definitions and there are no reliability-related issues that are raised by the amendments to the SPP Bylaws.

Attachments 1 and **2** to this Petition are clean and redlined versions, respectively, of the proposed amended Exhibit B to the Delegation Agreement. **Attachment 2** shows the proposed amendments to Exhibit B to the Delegation Agreement.

II. NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS

Notices and communications with respect to this filing may be addressed to the following:

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*Persons to be included on the Commission's official service list

III. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO EXHIBIT B TO THE DELEGATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN NERC AND SOUTHWEST POWER POOL, INC.

The proposed amendments to Section 8.73 of the Delegation Agreement amend the Bylaws to address a Commission directive related to clarifying the withdrawal obligation for costs of transmission facilities.[5] The proposed revisions to Sections 1.0, 2.1, 3.15.4, 5.1, 5.1.1.1, 6.6, 8.75 and 10.0, amend the Bylaws to: (1) facilitate the decision of the Western Area Power

[5] *Sw. Power Pool, Inc.*, 144 FERC ¶ 61,208 (2013) ("September 19 Order").

Administration-Upper Great Plains Region ("Western-UGP"), a federal power marketing agency ("PMA"), Basin Electric Power Cooperative ("Basin Electric") and Heartland Consumers Power District ("Heartland") (collectively, the "IS Parties") to join SPP as Transmission Owning Members, to place their respective transmission facilities under the functional control of SPP, and begin taking transmission service under the Tariff; and (2) make ministerial corrections. The following paragraphs describe the proposed amendments to the Delegation Agreement, specifically Exhibit B, on a section-by-section basis.

1. *Section 1.0 Definitions*

   a. *Section 1.0 Definitions*

      i. **Added** the following definition: "Federal Power Marketing Agency," which states, "This term shall include the term "Federal Power Marketing Administration" ("FPMA") and have the same definition that is set forth in the Federal Power Act at 16 U.S.C. § 796(19), which defines "Federal Power Marketing Agency" as "any agency or instrumentality of the United States (other than the Tennessee Valley Authority) which sells electric energy[.]"

      ii. **Added** the following definition: "Federal Power Marketing Agency Amendments," which states, "The amendments and revisions to the SPP Bylaws, the SPP Membership Agreement, or Section 39.3 of the OATT that are required by a Federal Power Marketing Agency for membership in SPP at the time of the Federal Power Marketing Agency's initial membership or as they may be revised in the future by mutual agreement between the Federal Power Marketing Agency and SPP."

      iii. **Added** the following definition: "Western Area Power Administration—Upper Great Plains Region ('Western-UGP")," which states, "A division of the Western Area Power Administration that markets and transmits Federal power from reservoir projects under the control of the Department of the Army or the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to Statutory Load Obligations, including preference power customers in Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota located in a defined marketing area. Western-UGP operates the WAUW Balancing Authority Area in the Western Interconnection, where certain of its transmission facilities are located."

2. *Section 2.1 Qualifications*
    i. **Capitalized** the term "Federal Power Marketing Agency."

3. *Section 3.15.4 Qualifications*
    i. **Capitalized** the word "Federal."

4. *Section 5.1 Members Committee*
    i. **Deleted** the word "and" from subsection (a).
    ii. **Added** the word "and" to subsection (b).

    b. *Section 5.1.1.1 Composition*
        i. **Deleted** "19" and **added** "24" so that the total Members of the Members Committee would state, "Provided that Membership is sufficient to accommodate these provisions, the Members Committee shall consist of up to ~~19~~24 persons."

        ii. **Deleted** "four" and **added** "six" so that the number of representatives for investor owned utilities would state, "~~Four~~Six representatives shall be investor owned utilities Members."

        iii. **Deleted** "four" and **added** "five" so that the number of representatives for cooperatives would state "~~four~~five representatives shall be cooperatives Members."

        iv. **Deleted** "federal" from the requirement that two representatives shall be from a state power agency so that it states, "two representatives shall be state~~/federal~~ power agencies Members."

        v. **Added** "one representative shall be from a Federal Power Marketing Agency." The language was added following the requirement that two representatives be from state power agencies.

        vi. **Added** "from an independent transmission company Member, defined as having assets under the OATT and no Affiliate Relationships in other categories of Membership; one representative shall be a." The language was added following the requirement that two representatives be from alternative power/public interest members.

5. *Section 6.0 Committees Reporting to the Board of Directors*

    a. *Section 6.6 Corporate Governance Committee*
        i. **Deleted** "nine" and **added** "ten" so that the number of representatives of the Committee would state "~~nine~~ten members."
        ii. **Deleted** "federal" so that the computation of Member's representing power agencies to read as, "one representative shall be representative

of and selected by state/~~federal~~ power agencies Members."

iii. **Deleted** "and" so that the computation of Member's representing large/small retail Members to read as, "~~and~~ one representative shall be representative of and selected by large/small retail Members."

iv. **Added** "and one representative shall be representative of and selected by a Federal Power Marketing Agency Member(s)." The language was added at the end of the second paragraph describing the Members of the Corporate Governance Committee.

6. *Section 8.0 Fiscal Administration*

a. *Section 8.7 Financial Obligation of Withdrawing Members*

i. **Added** "To the extent that Section 4.33A of the Membership Agreement is applicable" to the beginning of Section 8.7.3 to clarify the obligations of terminating members.

ii. **Added the following Section:** Section 8.7.5 Limitation on Financial and Penalty Obligations, which provides:

> (a) Notwithstanding the delineation of Members' financial obligations in section 8.7, a Federal Power Marketing Agency shall not be subject to the financial obligations listed in this Section 8.7 in the event FERC finds that SPP has not adhered to all of the Federal Power Marketing Agency Amendments as that term is defined in Section 1.0 of these Bylaws or if SPP files and FERC approves material changes to the Federal Power Marketing Agency Amendments.
>
> (b) Provided further, notwithstanding any language to the contrary in these Bylaws, a Federal Power Marketing Agency has not waived or conceded any defense it may have, including sovereign immunity, intergovernmental immunity, or lack of subject matter jurisdiction in any action against it by an Enforcement Authority, nor has it accepted any liability, responsibility, or obligation to pay any civil monetary penalties or fines imposed by an Enforcement Authority to which it would not have been subject in the absence of these Bylaws. SPP, in accepting Western-UGP as a member, does not thereby concede or accept responsibility for any portion of a penalty or fine attributable to the actions or omissions of Western-UGP. SPP will identify the amount of any penalty or fine that SPP allocates to Western-UGP or that SPP determines is attributable to Western-UGP and will identify that amount to FERC as uncollectable and not otherwise owed by

SPP. Enforcement Authority in these Bylaws means the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), Electric Reliability Organization (ERO), or Regional Entities with enforcement authority pursuant to a delegation from an ERO or FERC for the purpose of proposing and enforcing reliability standards.

7. *Section 10.0 Amendments To These Bylaws, The Articles Of Incorporation, And Membership Agreement*

   a. **Added** "Section 8.7.5 LIMITATION ON FINANCIAL AND PENALTY OBLIGATIONS, Section" immediately following the title Section 5.0 in the second line.

   b. **Added** "8.7.5" so that the third sentence states, "Sections 4.0, 5.0, 8.7.5, 9.0, and 10.0 of these Bylaws and the Articles of Incorporation may be amended, repealed, or added to only by approval of the Membership."

   c. **Added** "Provided, that all changes to Federal Power Marketing agency/administration representation in Section 5.1.1 and any change to Section 8.7.5 must be mutually agreed to by the Federal Power Marketing Agency Member and SPP." This sentence was added immediately following the modified sentence in (b) above.

IV. SOUTHWEST POWER POOL, INC. AND NERC APPROVALS OF THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO EXHIBIT B TO THE DELEGATION AGREEMENT

The amendments to Section 8.7.3 of the amended Delegation Agreement were approved by the SPP Board of Directors at a meeting on October 29, 2013. On November 1, 2013, SPP filed revisions to Section 8.7.3 of its Bylaws to address a directive issued by the Commission in its September 19, 2013 Order.[6] The revisions clarified that a Transmission Owner (as defined in the SPP Membership Agreement), will be responsible for financial obligations associated with transmission facilities if it withdraws from SPP. The NERC Board of Trustees approved the amended Delegation Agreement containing amendments to Section 8.7.3 by conference call on November 21, 2013. NERC determined that the amended Delegation Agreement continues to

[6] *Sw. Power Pool, Inc.*, 144 FERC ¶ 61,208 (2013).

satisfy the five Governance criteria stated in Exhibit B. The Commission approved SPP's November 1, 2013 filing containing the proposed amendments in a Letter Order on May 14, 2014.[7]

On September 11, 2014, SPP filed revisions to Sections 1.0, 2.1, 3.15.4, 5.1, 5.1.1.1, 6.6, 8.7.5 and 10.0 to (a) add the definitions "Federal Power Marketing Agency," "Federal Power Marketing Agency Amendments," and "Western Area Power Administration-Upper Great Plains Region ("Western-UGP");" (b) modify the Membership composition of the Members Committee and Corporate Governance Committee; and (c) limit SPP's financial obligations to the addition of the Western-UGP. The NERC Board of Trustees approved the above-referenced amendments to the amended Delegation Agreement during the Board Meeting on November 14, 2014. NERC determined that the amended Delegation Agreement continues to satisfy the five Governance criteria stated in Exhibit B. The Commission approved SPP's September 11, 2014 filing containing the proposed amendments by Order on November 10, 2014.[8]

[7] *See* Letter Order issued to SPP on May 14, 2014 in FERC Docket No. ER13-2013.

[8] *See* Order Conditionally Accepting in Part, Rejecting in Part, Accepting and Suspending Filings in Part, Establishing Hearing and Settlement Judge Procedures and Consolidating Proceedings and Directing Compliance Filing, 149 FERC ¶ 61,113 (2014).

V. CONCLUSION

NERC respectfully requests that the Commission approve the proposed amendments to the Delegation Agreement as shown in **Attachment 2** to this Petition as amendments to Regional Entity Rules.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Meredith M. Jolivert
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Counsel for North American Electric Reliability Corporation

Dated: January 23, 2015

ATTACHMENT 1

AMENDED EXHIBIT B

TO THE DELEGATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN

NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY CORPORATION

AND

SOUTHWEST POWER POOL, INC.

CLEAN VERSION

ERO

The Electric Reliability Organization under FERC jurisdiction that regulates reliability of the electric power grid.

Federal Power Marketing Agency

This term shall include the term “Federal Power Marketing Administration” and have the same definition that is set forth in the Federal Power Act at 16 U.S.C. § 796(19), which defines “Federal power marketing agency” as “any agency or instrumentality of the United States (other than the Tennessee Valley Authority) which sells electric energy[.]”

Federal Power Marketing Agency Amendments

The amendments and revisions to the SPP Bylaws, the SPP Membership Agreement, and Section 39.3 of the OATT that are required by a Federal Power Marketing Agency for membership in SPP at the time of the Federal Power Marketing Agency's initial membership or as they may be revised in the future by mutual agreement between the Federal Power Marketing Agency and SPP.

Member

An entity that has met the requirements of Section 2.2 of these Bylaws.

Membership

The collective Members of SPP.

Membership Agreement

The contract, that specifies the rights and obligations of the parties, executed between SPP and an entity seeking to become an SPP member.

NERC

The North American Electric Reliability Corporation or successor organizations.

Western Area Power Administration-Upper Great Plains Region ("Western-UGP")
A division of the Western Area Power Administration that markets and transmits Federal power from reservoir projects under the control of the Department of the Army or the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to Statutory Load Obligations, including preference power customers in Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota located in a defined marketing area. Western-UGP operates the WAUW Balancing Authority Area in the Western Interconnection, where certain of its transmission facilities are located.

2.1 Qualifications

Membership in SPP is voluntary and is open to any electric utility, Federal Power Marketing Agency, transmission service provider, any entity engaged in the business of producing, selling and/or purchasing electric energy for resale, and any entity willing to meet the membership requirements, including execution of the Membership Agreement. Membership also is open to any entity eligible to take service under the SPP Open Access Transmission Tariff (OATT). These entities desire the greater efficiency and service reliability gained through better coordination by voluntary association in SPP as constituted herein and in the SPP Articles of Incorporation. Members recognize that such association has a significant effect upon the availability and reliability of the bulk electric power supply of the region, and thereby affects the reliability of the nation's electric power supply.

proceeding. However, such director, Regional Entity Trustee, officer, agent, employee, or other representative shall have provided SPP with (i) a written affirmation under oath that the incumbent, in good faith, believes the conditions of indemnification herein have been met; and (ii) a written undertaking that the incumbent shall repay any amounts advanced, with interest accumulated at a reasonable rate, if it is ultimately determined that such conditions are not met.

3.15.4 Limitations

The provisions of this section 3.15 are subject to applicable state and Federal laws, if any, which limit the ability of a Member to waive liability or enter into agreements of indemnity. Any benefits under this Section 3.15 shall not extend to any Member so limited by state or Federal law in complying with the provisions thereof.

3.15.5 Modification of Rights by Agreement

Any provision of this Section 3.15.1 may be waived or modified by express written agreement between SPP and Member. Such express written agreement shall apply solely to the subject matter of the agreement and is not intended to be a general waiver or modification of the rights provided in Section 3.15.1.

3.15.6 Procedural Rights Not Affected

The limitations of liability provided in Section 3.15.1 shall not affect any procedural rights or obligation a Member may have at law or equity.

5.1 Members Committee

The Members Committee shall work with the Board of Directors to manage and direct the general business of SPP. Its duties shall include, but are not limited to the following:

(a) Provide individual and collective input to the Board of Directors, including but not limited to a straw vote from the Members Committee representatives as an indication of the level of consensus among Members, on all actions pending before the Board of Directors;

(b) Serve on committees reporting to the Board of Directors as appointed by the Board of Directors; and

(c) Provide input with the Board of Directors to the Regional Entity Trustees on SPP Regional Reliability Standards presented by the MOPC to the Trustees or otherwise developed under the auspices of the Trustees for submission to the ERO for its approval.

5.1.1 Composition and Qualifications

5.1.1.1 Composition

Provided that Membership is sufficient to accommodate these provisions, the Members Committee shall consist of up to 24 persons. Six representatives shall be investor owned utilities Members; five representatives shall be cooperatives Members; two representatives shall be municipals Members (including municipal joint action agencies); three representatives shall be independent power producers/marketers Members; two representatives shall be state power agencies Members; one representative shall be from a Federal Power Marketing Agency; two representatives shall be alternative power/public interest Members; one representative shall be from an independent transmission company Member, defined as having assets under the OATT and no Affiliate Relationships in other categories of Membership; one representative shall be a large retail customer Member, defined as non-residential end-use customers with individual or aggregated loads of 1-MW or more; and one representative shall be a small retail customer Member, defined as residential customers and other customers

6.6 Corporate Governance Committee

The Corporate Governance Committee is responsible for the overall governance structure, including nominations, for the company in accordance with its scope as approved by the Board of Directors.

To the extent that the membership allows, the CGC shall be comprised of ten members. One representative shall be the President of SPP who will serve as the Chair; one representative shall be the Chairman of the Board, unless his/her position is under consideration, in which case the Vice Chairman of the Board; one representative shall be representative of and selected by investor owned utilities Members; one representative shall be representative of and selected by co-operatives Members; one representative shall be representative of and selected by municipals Members; one representative shall be representative of and selected by independent power producers/marketers Members; one representative shall be representative of and selected by state power agencies Members; one representative shall be representative of and selected by alternative power/public interest Members; one representative shall be representative of and selected by large/small retail Members; and one representative shall be representative of and selected by a Federal Power Marketing Agency Member(s).

Where a vacancy occurs with respect to a representative of a sector, the representatives from the appropriate sector will fill the vacancy. For purposes of selecting or removing representatives only, each group of Members with Affiliate Relationships shall be considered a single Member.

The CGC shall meet at least once per calendar year, and additionally as needed, provided that a quorum, as defined in these Bylaws, is present. The CGC shall report to the Board of Directors following each CGC meeting with respect to its activities and with such recommendations, as the CGC deems necessary.

e. Member's share (computed in accordance with the Bylaws) of all interest that will become due for payment with respect to all interest bearing Financial Obligations after the Termination Date and until the maturity of all Financial Obligations in accordance with their respective terms ("Future Interest"). In the event that a Financial Obligation carries a variable interest rate, the interest rate in effect at the Termination Date shall be used to calculate the applicable Future Interest. In determining the Member's share of Future Interest, SPP shall take into account any reduction of Financial Obligations due to mitigation under this Section.

8.7.2 Computation of a Member's Existing Obligations

For purposes of computing the Existing Obligations of any withdrawing or terminated Member in accordance with the Membership Agreement, such "Member's share" is a percentage calculated as follows:

$$A = 100\,[0.25(1/N) + 0.75(B/C)]$$

Where: A = Member's share (expressed as a percentage)

N = Total number of Members

B = The Member's previous year Net Energy for Load

C = Total of factor B for all Members

The Finance Committee shall have the discretion to reduce the Existing Obligations of any withdrawing or Terminated Member, to reflect any SPP costs or expenses that may be mitigated in connection with such Member's withdrawal or termination. In the event of consolidation of affiliate memberships or the transfer of membership from one corporate entity to another, whereby one entity remains a member of SPP, the withdrawal obligation for the departing company(ies) may be waived at SPP's sole discretion.

8.7.3 Financial Obligations for Transmission Facilities

To the extent that Section 4.3.3A of the Membership Agreement is applicable, a Terminated Member shall remain financially responsible for all financial obligations incurred and costs allocated to its load for transmission facilities approved prior to the Termination Date.

8.7.4 Penalty Costs

A Terminated Member shall remain liable for its share of costs associated with penalties assessed against SPP by FERC, the FERC-approved Electric Reliability Organization, any Electric Reliability Organization-approved Regional Entity, or any other governmental or regulatory authority with jurisdiction over SPP that SPP incurs as a result of events that occurred prior to Member's Termination Date but that SPP is unable to recover under the SPP OATT.

8.7.5 Limitation on Financial and Penalty Obligations

(a) Notwithstanding the delineation of Members' financial obligations in Section 8.7, a Federal Power Marketing Agency shall not be subject to the financial obligations listed in this Section 8.7 in the event FERC finds that SPP has not adhered to all of the Federal Power Marketing Agency Amendments as that term is defined in Section 1.0 of these Bylaws or if SPP files and FERC approves material changes to the Federal Power Marketing Agency Amendments.

(b) Provided further, notwithstanding any language to the contrary in these Bylaws, a Federal Power Marketing Agency has not waived or conceded any defense it may have, including sovereign immunity, intergovernmental immunity, or lack of subject matter jurisdiction in any action against it by an Enforcement Authority, nor has it accepted any liability, responsibility, or obligation to pay any civil monetary penalties or fines imposed by an Enforcement Authority to which it would not have been subject in the absence of these Bylaws. SPP, in accepting Western-UGP as a member, does not thereby concede or accept responsibility for any portion of a penalty or fine attributable to the actions or omissions of Western-UGP. SPP will identify the amount of any penalty or fine that SPP allocates to Western-UGP or that SPP determines is attributable to Western-UGP and will identify that amount to FERC as uncollectable and not otherwise owed by SPP. Enforcement Authority in these Bylaws means the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), Electric Reliability Organization (ERO), or Regional Entities with enforcement

authority pursuant to a delegation from an ERO or FERC for the purpose of proposing and enforcing reliability standards.

10.0 Amendments To These Bylaws, The Articles Of Incorporation, And Membership Agreement

Except for modifications to Section 4.0 BOARD OF DIRECTORS, Section 5.0 COMMITTEES ADVISING THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, Section 8.7.5 LIMITATION ON FINANCIAL AND PENALTY OBLIGATIONS, Section 9.0 REGIONAL ENTITY FUNCTION, and Section 10.0 AMENDMENTS, these Bylaws may be amended, repealed, or added to by the Board of Directors only upon 30 days written notice to the Membership of the proposed modification(s). Approval of amendments to the Bylaws by the Board of Directors must be by an affirmative vote of at least five directors. Sections 4.0, 5.0, 8.7.5, 9.0, and 10.0 of these Bylaws and the Articles of Incorporation may be amended, repealed, or added to only by approval of the Membership. Provided, that all changes to Federal Power Marketing agency/administration representation in Section 5.1.1 and any change to Section 8.7.5 must be mutually agreed to by the Federal Power Marketing Agency Member and SPP. All amendments are subject to the requisite regulatory approval(s).

ATTACHMENT 2

AMENDED EXHIBIT B

TO THE DELEGATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN

NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY CORPORATION

AND

SOUTHWEST POWER POOL, INC.

REDLINED VERSION

ERO

The Electric Reliability Organization under FERC jurisdiction that regulates reliability of the electric power grid.

Federal Power Marketing Agency

This term shall include the term "Federal Power Marketing Administration" and have the same definition that is set forth in the Federal Power Act at 16 U.S.C. § 796(19), which defines "Federal power marketing agency" as "any agency or instrumentality of the United States (other than the Tennessee Valley Authority) which sells electric energy[.]"

Federal Power Marketing Agency Amendments

The amendments and revisions to the SPP Bylaws, the SPP Membership Agreement, and Section 39.3 of the OATT that are required by a Federal Power Marketing Agency for membership in SPP at the time of the Federal Power Marketing Agency's initial membership or as they may be revised in the future by mutual agreement between the Federal Power Marketing Agency and SPP.

Member

An entity that has met the requirements of Section 2.2 of these Bylaws.

Membership

The collective Members of SPP.

Membership Agreement

The contract, that specifies the rights and obligations of the parties, executed between SPP and an entity seeking to become an SPP member.

NERC

The North American Electric Reliability Corporation or successor organizations.

Western Area Power Administration-Upper Great Plains Region ("Western-UGP")

A division of the Western Area Power Administration that markets and transmits Federal power from reservoir projects under the control of the Department of the Army or the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to Statutory Load Obligations, including preference power customers in Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota located in a defined marketing area. Western-UGP operates the WAUW Balancing Authority Area in the Western Interconnection, where certain of its transmission facilities are located.

2.1 Qualifications

Membership in SPP is voluntary and is open to any electric utility, Federal Power Marketing Agency~~power marketing agency~~, transmission service provider, any entity engaged in the business of producing, selling and/or purchasing electric energy for resale, and any entity willing to meet the membership requirements, including execution of the Membership Agreement. Membership also is open to any entity eligible to take service under the SPP Open Access Transmission Tariff (OATT). These entities desire the greater efficiency and service reliability gained through better coordination by voluntary association in SPP as constituted herein and in the SPP Articles of Incorporation. Members recognize that such association has a significant effect upon the availability and reliability of the bulk electric power supply of the region, and thereby affects the reliability of the nation's electric power supply.

proceeding. However, such director, Regional Entity Trustee, officer, agent, employee, or other representative shall have provided SPP with (i) a written affirmation under oath that the incumbent, in good faith, believes the conditions of indemnification herein have been met; and (ii) a written undertaking that the incumbent shall repay any amounts advanced, with interest accumulated at a reasonable rate, if it is ultimately determined that such conditions are not met.

3.15.4 Limitations

The provisions of this section 3.15 are subject to applicable state and Federal~~federal~~ laws, if any, which limit the ability of a Member to waive liability or enter into agreements of indemnity. Any benefits under this Section 3.15 shall not extend to any Member so limited by state or Federal~~federal~~ law in complying with the provisions thereof.

3.15.5 Modification of Rights by Agreement

Any provision of this Section 3.15.1 may be waived or modified by express written agreement between SPP and Member. Such express written agreement shall apply solely to the subject matter of the agreement and is not intended to be a general waiver or modification of the rights provided in Section 3.15.1.

3.15.6 Procedural Rights Not Affected

The limitations of liability provided in Section 3.15.1 shall not affect any procedural rights or obligation a Member may have at law or equity.

5.1 Members Committee

The Members Committee shall work with the Board of Directors to manage and direct the general business of SPP. Its duties shall include, but are not limited to the following:

(a) Provide individual and collective input to the Board of Directors, including but not limited to a straw vote from the Members Committee representatives as an indication of the level of consensus among Members, on all actions pending before the Board of Directors; ~~and~~

(b) Serve on committees reporting to the Board of Directors as appointed by the Board of Directors; and~~.~~

(c) Provide input with the Board of Directors to the Regional Entity Trustees on SPP Regional Reliability Standards presented by the MOPC to the Trustees or otherwise developed under the auspices of the Trustees for submission to the ERO for its approval.

5.1.1 Composition and Qualifications

5.1.1.1 Composition

Provided that Membership is sufficient to accommodate these provisions, the Members Committee shall consist of up to 24~~19~~ persons. Six~~Four~~ representatives shall be investor owned utilities Members; five~~four~~ representatives shall be cooperatives Members; two representatives shall be municipals Members (including municipal joint action agencies); three representatives shall be independent power producers/marketers Members; two representatives shall be state~~/federal~~ power agencies Members; one representative shall be from a Federal Power Marketing Agency; two representatives shall be alternative power/public interest Members; one representative shall be from an independent transmission company Member, defined as having assets under the OATT and no Affiliate Relationships in other categories of Membership; one representative shall be a large retail customer Member,~~a large retail customer Member;~~ defined as non-residential end-use customers with individual or aggregated loads of 1-MW or more; and one representative shall be a small retail customer Member, defined as residential customers and other customers with individual or aggregated loads of

6.6 Corporate Governance Committee

The Corporate Governance Committee is responsible for the overall governance structure, including nominations, for the company in accordance with its scope as approved by the Board of Directors.

To the extent that the membership allows, the CGC shall be comprised of ten~~nine~~ members. One representative shall be the President of SPP who will serve as the Chair; one representative shall be the Chairman of the Board, unless his/her position is under consideration, in which case the Vice Chairman of the Board; one representative shall be representative of and selected by investor owned utilities Members; one representative shall be representative of and selected by co-operatives Members; one representative shall be representative of and selected by municipals Members; one representative shall be representative of and selected by independent power producers/marketers Members; one representative shall be representative of and selected by state~~/federal~~ power agencies Members; one representative shall be representative of and selected by alternative power/public interest Members; ~~and~~ one representative shall be representative of and selected by large/small retail Members; and one representative shall be representative of and selected by a Federal Power Marketing Agency Member(s).~~.~~

Where a vacancy occurs with respect to a representative of a sector, the representatives from the appropriate sector will fill the vacancy. For purposes of selecting or removing representatives only, each group of Members with Affiliate Relationships shall be considered a single Member.

The CGC shall meet at least once per calendar year, and additionally as needed, provided that a quorum, as defined in these Bylaws, is present. The CGC shall report to the Board of Directors following each CGC meeting with respect to its activities and with such recommendations, as the CGC deems necessary.

e. Member's share (computed in accordance with the Bylaws) of all interest that will become due for payment with respect to all interest bearing Financial Obligations after the Termination Date and until the maturity of all Financial Obligations in accordance with their respective terms ("Future Interest"). In the event that a Financial Obligation carries a variable interest rate, the interest rate in effect at the Termination Date shall be used to calculate the applicable Future Interest. In determining the Member's share of Future Interest, SPP shall take into account any reduction of Financial Obligations due to mitigation under this Section.

8.7.2 Computation of a Member's Existing Obligations

For purposes of computing the Existing Obligations of any withdrawing or terminated Member in accordance with the Membership Agreement, such "Member's share" is a percentage calculated as follows:

$$A = 100\,[0.25(1/N) + 0.75(B/C)]$$

Where: A = Member's share (expressed as a percentage)

N = Total number of Members

B = The Member's previous year Net Energy for Load

C = Total of factor B for all Members

The Finance Committee shall have the discretion to reduce the Existing Obligations of any withdrawing or Terminated Member, to reflect any SPP costs or expenses that may be mitigated in connection with such Member's withdrawal or termination. In the event of consolidation of affiliate memberships or the transfer of membership from one corporate entity to another, whereby one entity remains a member of SPP, the withdrawal obligation for the departing company(ies) may be waived at SPP's sole discretion.

8.7.3 Financial Obligations for Transmission Facilities

To the extent that Section 4.3.3A of the Membership Agreement is applicable, a ~~A~~ Terminated Member shall remain financially responsible for all financial obligations incurred and costs allocated to its load for transmission facilities approved prior to the Termination Date. ~~Payments in fulfillment of any~~

~~such obligations and allocated costs shall commence on the date that the costs of such transmission facilities are reflected in SPP's generally applicable rates, unless SPP and the Terminated Member agree to an alternate date. Rights, obligations, and payments applicable to time periods prior to the Termination Date shall be honored by SPP and the Terminated Member. Fulfillment and performance of such rights and obligations, and rights and obligations regarding the use of such transmission facilities, shall be negotiated between SPP and the Terminated Member, and any disputes involving such rights and obligations shall be resolved in accordance with the dispute resolution procedures in the Bylaws and Membership Agreement.~~

8.7.4 Penalty Costs

A Terminated Member shall remain liable for its share of costs associated with penalties assessed against SPP by FERC, the FERC-approved Electric Reliability Organization, any Electric Reliability Organization-approved Regional Entity, or any other governmental or regulatory authority with jurisdiction over SPP that SPP incurs as a result of events that occurred prior to Member's Termination Date but that SPP is unable to recover under the SPP OATT.

8.7.5 Limitation on Financial and Penalty Obligations

(a) Notwithstanding the delineation of Members' financial obligations in Section 8.7, a Federal Power Marketing Agency shall not be subject to the financial obligations listed in this Section 8.7 in the event FERC finds that SPP has not adhered to all of the Federal Power Marketing Agency Amendments as that term is defined in Section 1.0 of these Bylaws or if SPP files and FERC approves material changes to the Federal Power Marketing Agency Amendments.

(b) Provided further, notwithstanding any language to the contrary in these Bylaws, a Federal Power Marketing Agency has not waived or conceded any defense it may have, including sovereign immunity, intergovernmental immunity, or lack of subject matter jurisdiction in any action against it by an Enforcement Authority, nor has it accepted any liability, responsibility, or obligation to pay any civil monetary penalties

or fines imposed by an Enforcement Authority to which it would not have been subject in the absence of these Bylaws. SPP, in accepting Western-UGP as a member, does not thereby concede or accept responsibility for any portion of a penalty or fine attributable to the actions or omissions of Western-UGP. SPP will identify the amount of any penalty or fine that SPP allocates to Western-UGP or that SPP determines is attributable to Western-UGP and will identify that amount to FERC as uncollectable and not otherwise owed by SPP. Enforcement Authority in these Bylaws means the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), Electric Reliability Organization (ERO), or Regional Entities with enforcement authority pursuant to a delegation from an ERO or FERC for the purpose of proposing and enforcing reliability standards.

10.0 Amendments To These Bylaws, The Articles Of Incorporation, And Membership Agreement

Except for modifications to Section 4.0 BOARD OF DIRECTORS, Section 5.0 COMMITTEES ADVISING THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, Section 8.7.5 LIMITATION ON FINANCIAL AND PENALTY OBLIGATIONS, Section 9.0 REGIONAL ENTITY FUNCTION, and Section 10.0 AMENDMENTS, these Bylaws may be amended, repealed, or added to by the Board of Directors only upon 30 days written notice to the Membership of the proposed modification(s). Approval of amendments to the Bylaws by the Board of Directors must be by an affirmative vote of at least five directors. Sections 4.0, 5.0, 8.7.5, 9.0, and 10.0 of these Bylaws and the Articles of Incorporation may be amended, repealed, or added to only by approval of the Membership. Provided, that all changes to Federal Power Marketing agency/administration representation in Section 5.1.1 and any change to Section 8.7.5 must be mutually agreed to by the Federal Power Marketing Agency Member and SPP. All amendments are subject to the requisite regulatory approval(s).

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have served a copy of the foregoing document upon all parties listed on the official service list compiled by the Secretary in this proceeding.

Dated at Washington, D.C. this 23rd day of January, 2015.

/s/ Meredith M. Jolivert
Meredith M. Jolivert

Counsel for North American Electric Reliability Corporation

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
BEFORE THE
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Protection System Maintenance Reliability Standard	**)** **)**	**Docket No. RM13-7-000**

INFORMATIONAL FILING OF THE NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY CORPORATION REGARDING COMMISSIONING TESTING OF PROTECTION SYSTEMS

The North American Electric Reliability Corporation ("NERC")[1] hereby provides the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("FERC" or "Commission") a report for informational purposes as directed in this proceeding on December 19, 2013. As described below, in Order No. 793,[2] the Commission accepted NERC's commitment to keep the Commission informed on its progress on a variety of projects to examine the issue of commissioning testing of Protection Systems. NERC hereby provides the Commission with an accounting of NERC's activities in this area during the past year since the issuance of Order No. 793. NERC will continue to remain engaged in the actions noted herein. NERC staff will keep Commission staff apprised on the progress of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers ("IEEE") I25 working group, as noted below.

I. Notices and Communications

Notices and communications with respect to this filing may be addressed to the following:[3]

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[1] The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission certified NERC as the electric reliability organization ("ERO") in its order issued on July 20, 2006, in Docket No. RR06-1-000. *N. Am. Elec. Reliability Corp.*, 116 FERC ¶ 61,062 (2006).

[2] *Protection System Maintenance Reliability Standard*, Order No. 793, 145 FERC ¶ 61,253 at P 42 (2013).

[3] Persons to be included on the Commission's service list are identified by an asterisk. NERC respectfully requests a waiver of Rule 203 of the Commission's regulations, 18 C.F.R. § 385.203 (2014), to allow the inclusion of more than two persons on the service list in this proceeding.

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II. Proceeding History

A. Notice of Proposed Rulemaking ("NOPR") for Order No. 793

In the NOPR preceding Order No. 793, the Commission noted its concern that Reliability Standard PRC-005-2 does not include a requirement to verify that Protection System equipment and Components meet the same requirements specified for subsequent maintenance and testing in the PRC-005-2 Reliability Standard when those Components are first placed in service or are modified.[4] The Commission requested comment on whether the Reliability Standard should be modified to address this concern.

B. NERC Comments in Response to NOPR

In its comments in response to the NOPR, NERC asked the Commission to refrain from issuing a directive until NERC can complete the on-going work described below and determine whether the actions have been sufficient to address commissioning testing.[5] NERC also summarized its current activities to research whether a Reliability Standard governing commissioning testing programs should be developed. These actions, originally described in the NERC comments, are also included here for ease of reference.

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4 *Protection System Maintenance Reliability Standard*, NOPR, 144 FERC ¶ 61,055 at P 28 (2013).
5 NERC Sept. 23, 2013 Comments at 4.

C. NERC Activity on Commissioning Testing of Protection Systems

On July 13, 2011, NERC's Event Analysis and Investigations Group submitted a Reliability Standard Suggestions Form[6] to initiate a new standard development project to create a standard to address the testing of Protection System equipment before that equipment is placed into initial service.[7] NERC's Event Analysis and Investigations Group provided an example of an event where an entity did not perform in-service testing as part of commissioning a new Protection System, resulting in line relays placed in service with the incorrect current transformer ratio. The defect remained undetected until the occurrence of a severe system disturbance when the relaying operated incorrectly, increasing the magnitude and scope of the disturbance.

The NERC Standards Committee identified the Reliability Standard suggestion as a possible new development project, but determined additional research was needed prior to initiating the project. On December 27, 2011, the Standards Committee issued a request for research asking for concurrence that a problem exists and requesting suggestions for addressing the issue. The Standards Committee requested that the Planning Committee research the issue.[8] The Planning Committee assigned the System Protection and Control Subcommittee[9] ("SPCS") responsibility for conducting the analysis. The *SPCS Response to Standards Committee Request*

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[6] Reliability Standard Suggestions Forms are submitted to suggest topics for the Reliability Standards Development Plan.

[7] A copy of the Reliability Standard Suggestions Form is available in the materials posted for the March 6-7, 2012 NERC Planning Committee meeting. *See* Planning Committee Agenda, *available at* http://www.nerc.com/comm/PC/Agendas%20Highlights%20and%20Minutes%20DL/2012/1_March_2012_PC_Agenda_Finalv.pdf.

[8] A copy of the request for research is available in the materials posted for the March 6-7, 2012 NERC Planning Committee meeting. *See* Planning Committee Agenda, *available at* http://www.nerc.com/comm/PC/Agendas%20Highlights%20and%20Minutes%20DL/2012/1_March_2012_PC_Agenda_Finalv.pdf.

[9] The SPCS provides subject matter expertise related to Protection Systems and control. The purpose of the SPCS is purpose of the SPCS is to promote the reliable and efficient operation of the North American power system through technical excellence in Protection System and control system design, coordination, and practices A roster of current SPCS members is available at http://www.nerc.com/comm/PC/System%20Protection%20and%20Control%20Subcommittee%20SPCS%20DL/Roster_Updated-08-17-10.pdf.

for Research ("SPCS Report")[10] was approved by the NERC Planning Committee on March 5, 2013.[11] A copy of the Reliability Standard Suggestions Form, Request for Research and the SPCS Report are included in NERC's prior comments as Exhibit A.

In the SPCS Report, the SPCS recommends actions to reduce Protection System Misoperations through improved commissioning practices. The SPCS Report recommends, as an alternative to a standard, a series of reactive and proactive activities related to analysis of Misoperations, sharing of lessons learned, and development of an industry reference document on Protection System commissioning practices. The SPCS explained that inadequate or improper testing of Protection Systems during any time in the life cycle of a Protection System may lead to a future Misoperation. However, the SPCS noted that it considers Misoperations due to commissioning testing errors to be a relatively small subset of Misoperations overall, and often discovered upon initial energization. The SPCS also explained that the event cited in the Reliability Standard Suggestion Form is not typical because commissioning testing that includes in-service tests to verify current and potential circuits are properly connected is a common practice throughout the industry.

The SPCS Report noted that most entities have effective commissioning processes currently in place and that these processes are unlikely to be improved by a new reliability standard. The SPCS explained that a broad reliability standard with broad requirements to create and implement commissioning testing practices would introduce additional documentation burden without providing real guidance to entities for improving their processes. Conversely, a standard with detailed requirements prescribing how to commission Protection Systems would

[10] *SPCS Response to Standards Committee Request for Research* (Mar. 5, 2013), *available at* http://www.nerc.com/docs/pc/spctf/SPCS%20Commissioning%20Testing%20Response_Final.pdf.

[11] See NERC Planning Committee Meeting Minutes, *available at* http://www.nerc.com/comm/PC/Pages/AgendasHighlightsandMinutes-.aspx.

undermine the various methods that entities have developed specific to their circumstances and could have an unintended, negative impact on reliability.

Rather than developing a new reliability standard, the SPCS suggested improving commissioning practices through (1) analysis of Protection System Misoperations; (2) sharing of lessons learned; and (3) development of an industry reference document on Protection System commissioning practices. Each of these areas is summarized below and includes updates on activities since the issuance of Order No. 793.

In Order No. 793, the Commission stated that while it remained concerned about the continued possibility of Misoperations resulting from a failure to properly verify the operability or settings of Protection System equipment upon being placed in service or modified, it would not issue its proposed directive and instead await NERC's report on its activities as committed in its comments.[12]

D. Summary of NERC Activity on SPCS Report Recommendations

1. Analysis of Protection System Misoperations

On the first SPCS suggested method of improvement, analysis of Misoperations is an ongoing obligation pursuant to Reliability Standards PRC-004-2.1a (Analysis and Mitigation of Transmission and Generation Protection System Misoperations) and PRC-003-1 (Regional Procedure for Analysis of Misoperations of Transmission and Generation Protection Systems). Since Order No. 793, NERC has completed development work to revise and improve the PRC-004 Reliability Standard. Proposed PRC-004-3 (Protection System Misoperation Identification and Correction) identifies and corrects causes of Misoperations of Protection Systems, ensuring that transmission and generation Protection System Misoperations are analyzed and mitigated.

[12] Order No. 793 at P 41.

Proposed PRC-004-3 and a separate "Request for Data or Information"[13] prepared pursuant to Section 1600 of NERC's Rules of Procedure and approved by the NERC Board of Trustees ("NERC Board"), provide the means to accomplish the continued systematic analysis and correction of Misoperations. The NERC Board adopted proposed Reliability Standard PRC-004-3 on August 14, 2014, replacing PRC-004-2.1a. The proposed Reliability Standard is currently pending approval with the Commission.[14]

2. "Lessons Learned" Publication

With respect to the second SPCS suggested method of improvement, on March 11, 2014, the SPCS published its *Lesson Learned: Verification of Alternating Current Quantities during Protection System Commissioning* ("Lesson"). This Lesson is included as Exhibit A to this filing. The purpose of a "lessons learned" document is to provide industry with technical and understandable information that assists them with maintaining the reliability of the Bulk-Power System. The goal of this Lesson is to convey to Generator Operators, Generator Owners, Transmission Owners, and Transmission Operators the importance of including installation tests and effective in-service tests in commissioning testing practices. The Lesson is intended to emphasize the importance of commissioning testing, and not to be an exhaustive discussion of all available techniques. The Lesson highlights that failure to employ effective commissioning testing practices can lead to Protection System Misoperations, which impact the reliability of the Bulk-Power System. The Lesson details a case where effective commissioning and testing practices were not implemented during the installation of a new transformer. The Lesson uses this case to recommend specific advice on effective commissioning testing. Specifically, the

[13] This document is available at http://www.nerc.com/pa/RAPA/Pages/Protection-System-Misoperations-Section-1600-Data-Request.aspx.

[14] *See* NERC Sept. 15, 2014 Petition in Commission Docket No. RD14-14-000

Lesson explains that effective commissioning testing includes not only installation tests, but also effective primary current tests and in-service voltage and current tests. Each of these types of tests is detailed in the document. Collectively, the various tests uncover potential shortcomings by essentially comparing known, proper circuitry with newly installed circuitry.

NERC uses a number of different methods to follow-up on the issuance of a Lessons Learned document. NERC distributes Lessons Learned to industry, advertises them on social media, presents them at NERC technical committee meetings, discusses them during site visits with entities when appropriate, conducts quarterly webinars to discuss the documents, and also collects and analyzes feedback submitted by users through the instructions in the Lesson Learned. NERC has received very positive feedback on the use of Lesson Learned documents. This Lesson regarding commissioning testing has and will have similar treatment as NERC conducts follow-up activity following its issuance.

3. IEEE Working Group Report

With regard to the third recommended improvement, SPCS recommended that the IEEE Power System Relaying Committee ("PSRC") create the industry reference document on Protection System commissioning practices and proposed to submit a formal request upon approval of the SPCS report. The Chair of the SPCS issued this request to the IEEE Power System Relaying Committee on September 5, 2013.[15]

In May of 2013, the ITF25 task force reviewed the SPCS Report.[16] The task force determined that IEEE Guide C37.233 *Guide for Power System Protection Testing* should be

[15] A copy of the letter request is included as **Exhibit B**.

[16] *See* Power System Relaying Committee of the IEEE Power and Energy Society – Minutes of the Meeting, May 16, 2013, *available at* http://www.pes-psrc.org/minutes/2013_May_Baltimore_MD_draft_2.0.pdf.

reviewed prior to the next meeting since this guide has a section on commissioning.[17] It was also suggested that the group review proposed Reliability Standard PRC-005-2 before the next meeting. Several members volunteered to contribute outlines of commissioning practices at their companies and present for discussion at the group's next meeting in September of 2013.

A member of NERC staff and the SPCS vice chair attended the ITF25 meeting on September 11, 2013 and engaged the group in discussion. Phil Tatro and Phillip Winston representing the NERC System Protection and Control Subcommittee provided background information on the discussions at the SPCS that led to the request for IEEE/PSRC to create a document to provide guidance for the utility industry. The group also discussed IEEE Guide C37.333 *Guide for Power System Protection Testing*, which covers commissioning as well as other testing activities. There was a discussion of what should be included in commissioning and pitfalls that need to be addressed. Some attendees also presented outlines of what their respective companies review during commissioning. At the end of the discussions, it was the decision of the taskforce to request that a working group be created to more specifically address commissioning of Protection Systems. The ITF25 agreed that PSRC should form a working group to develop a report to the Relaying Practices Subcommittee specifically on Protection System commissioning.[18]

The task force developed a scope of work and purpose statement for the proposed working group – I25: Commissioning of Substation Protection and Control Devices. The I25 working group report will provide guidance in the commissioning of power system Protection

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[17] IEEE Guide for Power System Protection Testing, *IEEE Std C37.233-2009* , Dec. 11, 2009, *available at* http://ieeexplore.ieee.org/stamp/stamp.jsp?tp=&arnumber=5352213&isnumber=5352212 (sign in or purchase required for access).

[18] *See* Power System Relaying Committee of the IEEE Power and Energy Society – Minutes of the Meeting, Sept. 12, 2013, *available at* http://www.pes-psrc.org/minutes/2013_Sept_Albuquerque_NM_draft_3.0.pdf.

Systems. The report will cover overall system testing procedures for generators, line, line reactors, transformers, capacitors, and special protection schemes. This report is intended for power system protection professionals. It will include a reference list of type tests for protective devices as well as overall protection scheme performance tests applicable for commissioning testing for the various types of protection schemes.

The Relay Practices Subcommittee approved formation of the working group at its meeting on September 12, 2013. The group was formally established in January 2014. I25 met for the first time on January 16, 2014.[19] At this meeting, the assignment and the motivation for the assignment were reiterated. The group briefly reviewed those sections of C37.233 that specifically address commissioning tests. Assignments were made to review the entire guide and how it addresses commissioning testing of the five areas of a Protection System, identify gaps and address those gaps. I25 met for a second time on May 15, 2014.[20] At this meeting, the group continued its discussion of C37.233 and set a goal of creating an outline of the report at its next meeting.

The working group has set a tentative goal of a first draft of a report by its September 2015 meeting. NERC staff will remain engaged with the working group to follow-up on the SPCS Report recommendation. NERC staff will keep Commission staff apprised on the working group's progress.

[19] *See* Power System Relaying Committee of the IEEE Power and Energy Society – Minutes of the Meeting, Jan. 16, 2014, *available at* http://www.pes-psrc.org/minutes/2014_Jan_New_Orleans_LA_draft_3.1.pdf.

[20] *See* Power System Relaying Committee of the IEEE Power and Energy Society – Minutes of the Meeting, May 15, 2014, *available at* http://www.pes-psrc.org/minutes/IEEE_PSRC_May-2014_Meeting_Minutes-Draft-1.pdf.

III. Conclusion

For the reasons set forth above, NERC respectfully requests that the Commission accept this informational filing as compliant with the Commission's directive in Order No. 793.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ William H. Edwards

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Counsel for the North American Electric Reliability Corporation

Date: December 19, 2014

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have served a copy of the foregoing document upon all parties listed on the official service list compiled by the Secretary in this proceeding.

Dated at Washington, D.C. this 19th day of December, 2014.

/s/ William H. Edwards
William H. .H.Edwards

Counsel for the North American Electric Reliability Corporation

NERC
NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY CORPORATION

January 23, 2015

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Ms. Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20426

Re: North American Electric Reliability Corporation Petition for Approval of Amendments to Exhibit B to the Delegation Agreement with Southwest Power Pool, Inc. – Amendments to Southwest Power Pool, Inc.'s Bylaws
Docket No. RR15-___-000

Dear Ms. Bose:

The North American Electric Reliability Corporation ("NERC") hereby submits the "Petition of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation for Approval of Amendments to Exhibit B of the Delegation Agreement with Southwest Power Pool, Inc. – Amendments to Southwest Power Pool, Inc.'s Bylaws."

NERC is submitting amendments to Exhibit B to the Delegation Agreement with Southwest Power Pool, Inc. ("SPP"), on behalf of Southwest Power Pool Regional Entity ("SPP RE"). Specifically, the Bylaws of Southwest Power Pool, Inc. ("SPP Bylaws"), which are Exhibit B to the Delegation Agreement, have been revised. The amendments to the SPP Bylaws were filed at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("FERC") by SPP in FERC Docket Nos. ER13-2031-001 and ER14-2851-000, pursuant to Sections 205 and 206 of the Federal Power Act and Part 35 of the Regulations of the FERC.[1]

[1] These amendments were accepted by FERC in a Letter Order issued to SPP on May 14, 2014 and in the Order Conditionally Accepting in Part, Rejecting in Part, Accepting and Suspending Filings in Part, Establishing Hearing

These amendments to the Delegation Agreement make corrections and update procedures in various articles in the Bylaws. Specifically, the amendments to the SPP Bylaws: (1) clarify certain obligations of an SPP member that withdraws from SPP; (2) facilitate the decision of the Western Area Power Administration-Upper Great Plains Region ("Western-UGP"), a federal power marketing agency ("PMA"), Basin Electric Power Cooperative ("Basin Electric") and Heartland Consumers Power District ("Heartland") (collectively, the "IS Parties") to join SPP as Transmission Owning Members, to place their respective transmission facilities under the functional control of SPP, and begin taking transmission service under the Tariff; and (3) make ministerial corrections. The amendments to the SPP's Bylaws do not affect SPP's Regional Entity functions and there are no reliability-related issues that are raised by the amendments. The amended SPP Bylaws continue to satisfy the five governance criteria specified in Exhibit B of the SPP Regional Delegation Agreement.

This filing consists of: (1) this transmittal letter, (2) the narrative text of the Petition which follows this transmittal letter, and (3) Attachments 1 and 2 to the Petition which contain a clean version and a redline version of the proposed amendments to Exhibit B to the Delegation Agreement respectively. All of these documents are transmitted in a single PDF file.

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and Settlement Judge Procedures and Consolidating Proceedings and Directing Compliance Filing, 149 FERC ¶ 61,113 (2014) respectively.

Please contact the undersigned if you have any questions concerning this filing.

Respectfully submitted,

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Before the
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY CORPORATION	**)** **)**	**Docket No. RR14-___-000**

PETITION OF THE NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY CORPORATION FOR APPROVAL OF AMENDMENTS TO EXHIBIT B TO THE DELEGATION AGREEMENT WITH SOUTHWEST POWER POOL, INC. – AMENDMENTS TO SOUTHWEST POWER POOL, INC.'S BYLAWS

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January 23, 2015

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ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Amended Exhibit B to the Delegation Agreement Between North American Electric Reliability Corporation and Southwest Power Pool, Inc. – Clean version

Attachment 2: Amended Exhibit B to the Delegation Agreement Between North American Electric Reliability Corporation and Southwest Power Pool, Inc. – Redlined version

I. INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to § 215(e)(4) of the Federal Power Act[2] ("FPA") and 18 C.F.R. §§ 39.8 and 39.10 (2012), the North American Electric Reliability Corporation ("NERC") requests the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's ("Commission") approval of amendments to the Delegation Agreement between NERC and Southwest Power Pool, Inc. ("SPP"), on behalf of Southwest Power Pool Regional Entity ("SPP RE"), one of the NERC Regional Entities. Specifically, NERC is submitting revised Bylaws of Southwest Power Pool, Inc. (the "SPP Bylaws") which are Exhibit B to the Delegation Agreement. The amendments to the Bylaws were filed at FERC by SPP in FERC Docket Nos. ER13-2031-001 and ER14-2851-000 pursuant to Sections 205 and 206 of the Federal Power Act[3] and Part 35 of the Regulations of the Commission.[4]

SPP is a Regional Transmission Organization which also performs Regional Entity functions pursuant to its Delegation Agreement with NERC. The SPP Bylaws are Exhibit B to the Delegation Agreement. The instant amendments to the SPP's Bylaw do not affect SPP's Regional Entity functions, and this filing is being made to include the revised Bylaws in the Delegation Agreement. This filing contains amendments to the SPP Bylaws applicable to the following sections: Sections 1.0, 2.1, 3.15.4, 5.1, 5.1.1.1, 6.6, 8.7.3, 8.7.5, and 10.0. The NERC Board of Trustees approved the amended Delegation Agreement containing amendments to Section 8.73 by conference call on November 21, 2013. The NERC Board of Trustees approved

[2] 16 U.S.C. § 824o (2005).

[3] 16 U.S.C. §§ 824d and 824e.

[4] 18 C.F.R. 35.

the amended Delegation Agreement containing amendments to Sections 1.0, 2.1, 3.15.4, 5.1.1.1, 6.6, 8.7.5, and 10.0 at the November 14, 2014 Board Meeting.

The SPP Bylaws are "Regional Entity Rules" as defined in 18 C.F.R. § 39.10; thus, in accordance with 18 C.F.R. § 39.10, amendments to a Regional Entity Rule require Commission approval. These amendments to the Delegation Agreement: (1) make ministerial corrections; (2) update various procedures on membership withdrawal; and (3) facilitate the IS Parties joining SPP. Specifically, the amendments to the SPP Bylaws:

(a) Add the definition of the terms (1) "Federal Power Marketing Agency," ("FPMA"); (2) "Federal Power Marketing Agency Amendments," ("FPMAA"); and (3) "Western Area Power Administration-Upper Great Plains Region ("Western-UGP")" in *Section 1.0 Definitions*;

(b) Make ministerial changes to capitalize the terms "Federal Power Marketing Agency" in Sections 2.1 and "Federal" in Section 3.15.4;

(c) (i) Remove the word "and" from subsection (a) of Section 5.1, and add the word "and" to subsection (b) of Section 5.1; (ii) modify the number of Members of the Members Committee from 19 to 24, (iii) modify the number of investor owned utility representative Members from 4 to 6, (iv) modify the number of cooperatives Members from 4 to 5, (v) add one representative from a FPMA, and (vi) insert language to add one representative from "an independent transmission company Member, defined as having assets under the OATT and no Affiliate Relationships in other categories of Membership" in *Section 5.1.1.1 Composition*;

(d) (i) Modify the number of Members of the Corporate Governance Committee from 9 to 10; (ii) delete "federal" power agency Member representative to only include "state"

power agencies; and (iii) add "one representative shall be representative and selected by a FPMA Member(s)" in *Section 6.6 Corporate Governance Committee*.

(e) Insert clarifying language to state, "To the extent that Section 4.3.3A of this Membership Agreement is applicable, a…" at the beginning of Section 8.7.3 and delete language referencing, "Payments in fulfillment of any such obligations and allocated costs shall commence on the date that the costs of such transmission facilities are reflected in SPP's generally applicable rates, unless SPP and the Terminated Member agree to an alternate date. Rights, obligations, and payments applicable to time periods prior to the Termination Date shall be honored by SPP and the Terminated Member. Fulfillment and performance of such rights and obligations, and rights and obligations regarding the use of such transmission facilities, shall be negotiated between SPP and the Terminated Member, and any dispute involving such rights and obligations shall be resolved in accordance with the dispute resolution procedures in the Bylaws and Membership Agreement." in *Section 8.7.3 Financial Obligations for Transmission Facilities*;

(f) Insert a new section entitled "*Section 8.7.5 Limitation on Financial Penalty Obligations"*; and

(g) Insert additional clarify language that references the new Section 8.7.5 and the new language in Section 5.1.1. in *Section 10 Amendments To These Bylaws, The Articles Of Incorporation, And Membership Agreement*.

The revised Bylaws continue to satisfy the five governance criteria in the Delegation Agreement. SPP's additional terms "FPMA," "FPMAA," and "Western-UGP" within its Bylaws

do not conflict or impact any of NERC's definitions and there are no reliability-related issues that are raised by the amendments to the SPP Bylaws.

Attachments 1 and **2** to this Petition are clean and redlined versions, respectively, of the proposed amended Exhibit B to the Delegation Agreement. **Attachment 2** shows the proposed amendments to Exhibit B to the Delegation Agreement.

II. NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS

Notices and communications with respect to this filing may be addressed to the following:

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*Persons to be included on the Commission's official service list

III. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO EXHIBIT B TO THE DELEGATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN NERC AND SOUTHWEST POWER POOL, INC.

The proposed amendments to Section 8.73 of the Delegation Agreement amend the Bylaws to address a Commission directive related to clarifying the withdrawal obligation for costs of transmission facilities.[5] The proposed revisions to Sections 1.0, 2.1, 3.15.4, 5.1, 5.1.1.1, 6.6, 8.75 and 10.0, amend the Bylaws to: (1) facilitate the decision of the Western Area Power

[5] *Sw. Power Pool, Inc.*, 144 FERC ¶ 61,208 (2013) ("September 19 Order").

Administration-Upper Great Plains Region ("Western-UGP"), a federal power marketing agency ("PMA"), Basin Electric Power Cooperative ("Basin Electric") and Heartland Consumers Power District ("Heartland") (collectively, the "IS Parties") to join SPP as Transmission Owning Members, to place their respective transmission facilities under the functional control of SPP, and begin taking transmission service under the Tariff; and (2) make ministerial corrections. The following paragraphs describe the proposed amendments to the Delegation Agreement, specifically Exhibit B, on a section-by-section basis.

1. *Section 1.0 Definitions*

   a. *Section 1.0 Definitions*

      i. **Added** the following definition: "Federal Power Marketing Agency," which states, "This term shall include the term "Federal Power Marketing Administration" ("FPMA") and have the same definition that is set forth in the Federal Power Act at 16 U.S.C. § 796(19), which defines "Federal Power Marketing Agency" as "any agency or instrumentality of the United States (other than the Tennessee Valley Authority) which sells electric energy[.]"

      ii. **Added** the following definition: "Federal Power Marketing Agency Amendments," which states, "The amendments and revisions to the SPP Bylaws, the SPP Membership Agreement, or Section 39.3 of the OATT that are required by a Federal Power Marketing Agency for membership in SPP at the time of the Federal Power Marketing Agency's initial membership or as they may be revised in the future by mutual agreement between the Federal Power Marketing Agency and SPP."

      iii. **Added** the following definition: "Western Area Power Administration—Upper Great Plains Region ('Western-UGP")," which states, "A division of the Western Area Power Administration that markets and transmits Federal power from reservoir projects under the control of the Department of the Army or the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to Statutory Load Obligations, including preference power customers in Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota located in a defined marketing area. Western-UGP operates the WAUW Balancing Authority Area in the Western Interconnection, where certain of its transmission facilities are located."

2. *Section 2.1 Qualifications*
    i. **Capitalized** the term "Federal Power Marketing Agency."

3. *Section 3.15.4 Qualifications*
    i. **Capitalized** the word "Federal."

4. *Section 5.1 Members Committee*
    i. **Deleted** the word "and" from subsection (a).
    ii. **Added** the word "and" to subsection (b).

    b. *Section 5.1.1.1 Composition*
        i. **Deleted** "19" and **added** "24" so that the total Members of the Members Committee would state, "Provided that Membership is sufficient to accommodate these provisions, the Members Committee shall consist of up to ~~19~~24 persons."

        ii. **Deleted** "four" and **added** "six" so that the number of representatives for investor owned utilities would state, "~~Four~~Six representatives shall be investor owned utilities Members."

        iii. **Deleted** "four" and **added** "five" so that the number of representatives for cooperatives would state "~~four~~five representatives shall be cooperatives Members."

        iv. **Deleted** "federal" from the requirement that two representatives shall be from a state power agency so that it states, "two representatives shall be state~~/federal~~ power agencies Members."

        v. **Added** "one representative shall be from a Federal Power Marketing Agency." The language was added following the requirement that two representatives be from state power agencies.

        vi. **Added** "from an independent transmission company Member, defined as having assets under the OATT and no Affiliate Relationships in other categories of Membership; one representative shall be a." The language was added following the requirement that two representatives be from alternative power/public interest members.

5. *Section 6.0 Committees Reporting to the Board of Directors*

    a. *Section 6.6 Corporate Governance Committee*
        i. **Deleted** "nine" and **added** "ten" so that the number of representatives of the Committee would state "~~nine~~ten members."
        ii. **Deleted** "federal" so that the computation of Member's representing power agencies to read as, "one representative shall be representative

of and selected by state/~~federal~~ power agencies Members."

iii. **Deleted** "and" so that the computation of Member's representing large/small retail Members to read as, "~~and~~ one representative shall be representative of and selected by large/small retail Members."

iv. **Added** "and one representative shall be representative of and selected by a Federal Power Marketing Agency Member(s)." The language was added at the end of the second paragraph describing the Members of the Corporate Governance Committee.

6. *Section 8.0 Fiscal Administration*

a. *Section 8.7 Financial Obligation of Withdrawing Members*

i. **Added** "To the extent that Section 4.33A of the Membership Agreement is applicable" to the beginning of Section 8.7.3 to clarify the obligations of terminating members.

ii. **Added the following Section:** Section 8.7.5 Limitation on Financial and Penalty Obligations, which provides:

> (a) Notwithstanding the delineation of Members' financial obligations in section 8.7, a Federal Power Marketing Agency shall not be subject to the financial obligations listed in this Section 8.7 in the event FERC finds that SPP has not adhered to all of the Federal Power Marketing Agency Amendments as that term is defined in Section 1.0 of these Bylaws or if SPP files and FERC approves material changes to the Federal Power Marketing Agency Amendments.
>
> (b) Provided further, notwithstanding any language to the contrary in these Bylaws, a Federal Power Marketing Agency has not waived or conceded any defense it may have, including sovereign immunity, intergovernmental immunity, or lack of subject matter jurisdiction in any action against it by an Enforcement Authority, nor has it accepted any liability, responsibility, or obligation to pay any civil monetary penalties or fines imposed by an Enforcement Authority to which it would not have been subject in the absence of these Bylaws. SPP, in accepting Western-UGP as a member, does not thereby concede or accept responsibility for any portion of a penalty or fine attributable to the actions or omissions of Western-UGP. SPP will identify the amount of any penalty or fine that SPP allocates to Western-UGP or that SPP determines is attributable to Western-UGP and will identify that amount to FERC as uncollectable and not otherwise owed by

SPP. Enforcement Authority in these Bylaws means the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), Electric Reliability Organization (ERO), or Regional Entities with enforcement authority pursuant to a delegation from an ERO or FERC for the purpose of proposing and enforcing reliability standards.

7. *Section 10.0 Amendments To These Bylaws, The Articles Of Incorporation, And Membership Agreement*

   a. **Added** "Section 8.7.5 LIMITATION ON FINANCIAL AND PENALTY OBLIGATIONS, Section" immediately following the title Section 5.0 in the second line.

   b. **Added** "8.7.5" so that the third sentence states, "Sections 4.0, 5.0, 8.7.5, 9.0, and 10.0 of these Bylaws and the Articles of Incorporation may be amended, repealed, or added to only by approval of the Membership."

   c. **Added** "Provided, that all changes to Federal Power Marketing agency/administration representation in Section 5.1.1 and any change to Section 8.7.5 must be mutually agreed to by the Federal Power Marketing Agency Member and SPP." This sentence was added immediately following the modified sentence in (b) above.

IV. SOUTHWEST POWER POOL, INC. AND NERC APPROVALS OF THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO EXHIBIT B TO THE DELEGATION AGREEMENT

The amendments to Section 8.7.3 of the amended Delegation Agreement were approved by the SPP Board of Directors at a meeting on October 29, 2013. On November 1, 2013, SPP filed revisions to Section 8.7.3 of its Bylaws to address a directive issued by the Commission in its September 19, 2013 Order.[6] The revisions clarified that a Transmission Owner (as defined in the SPP Membership Agreement), will be responsible for financial obligations associated with transmission facilities if it withdraws from SPP. The NERC Board of Trustees approved the amended Delegation Agreement containing amendments to Section 8.7.3 by conference call on November 21, 2013. NERC determined that the amended Delegation Agreement continues to

[6] *Sw. Power Pool, Inc.*, 144 FERC ¶ 61,208 (2013).

satisfy the five Governance criteria stated in Exhibit B. The Commission approved SPP's November 1, 2013 filing containing the proposed amendments in a Letter Order on May 14, 2014.[7]

On September 11, 2014, SPP filed revisions to Sections 1.0, 2.1, 3.15.4, 5.1, 5.1.1.1, 6.6, 8.7.5 and 10.0 to (a) add the definitions "Federal Power Marketing Agency," "Federal Power Marketing Agency Amendments," and "Western Area Power Administration-Upper Great Plains Region ("Western-UGP");" (b) modify the Membership composition of the Members Committee and Corporate Governance Committee; and (c) limit SPP's financial obligations to the addition of the Western-UGP. The NERC Board of Trustees approved the above-referenced amendments to the amended Delegation Agreement during the Board Meeting on November 14, 2014. NERC determined that the amended Delegation Agreement continues to satisfy the five Governance criteria stated in Exhibit B. The Commission approved SPP's September 11, 2014 filing containing the proposed amendments by Order on November 10, 2014.[8]

[7] *See* Letter Order issued to SPP on May 14, 2014 in FERC Docket No. ER13-2013.

[8] *See* Order Conditionally Accepting in Part, Rejecting in Part, Accepting and Suspending Filings in Part, Establishing Hearing and Settlement Judge Procedures and Consolidating Proceedings and Directing Compliance Filing, 149 FERC ¶ 61,113 (2014).

V. CONCLUSION

NERC respectfully requests that the Commission approve the proposed amendments to the Delegation Agreement as shown in **Attachment 2** to this Petition as amendments to Regional Entity Rules.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Meredith M. Jolivert
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Counsel for North American Electric Reliability Corporation

Dated: January 23, 2015

ATTACHMENT 1

AMENDED EXHIBIT B

TO THE DELEGATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN

NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY CORPORATION

AND

SOUTHWEST POWER POOL, INC.

CLEAN VERSION

ERO

The Electric Reliability Organization under FERC jurisdiction that regulates reliability of the electric power grid.

Federal Power Marketing Agency

This term shall include the term “Federal Power Marketing Administration” and have the same definition that is set forth in the Federal Power Act at 16 U.S.C. § 796(19), which defines “Federal power marketing agency” as “any agency or instrumentality of the United States (other than the Tennessee Valley Authority) which sells electric energy[.]”

Federal Power Marketing Agency Amendments

The amendments and revisions to the SPP Bylaws, the SPP Membership Agreement, and Section 39.3 of the OATT that are required by a Federal Power Marketing Agency for membership in SPP at the time of the Federal Power Marketing Agency's initial membership or as they may be revised in the future by mutual agreement between the Federal Power Marketing Agency and SPP.

Member

An entity that has met the requirements of Section 2.2 of these Bylaws.

Membership

The collective Members of SPP.

Membership Agreement

The contract, that specifies the rights and obligations of the parties, executed between SPP and an entity seeking to become an SPP member.

NERC

The North American Electric Reliability Corporation or successor organizations.

Western Area Power Administration-Upper Great Plains Region ("Western-UGP")
A division of the Western Area Power Administration that markets and transmits Federal power from reservoir projects under the control of the Department of the Army or the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to Statutory Load Obligations, including preference power customers in Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota located in a defined marketing area. Western-UGP operates the WAUW Balancing Authority Area in the Western Interconnection, where certain of its transmission facilities are located.

2.1 Qualifications

Membership in SPP is voluntary and is open to any electric utility, Federal Power Marketing Agency, transmission service provider, any entity engaged in the business of producing, selling and/or purchasing electric energy for resale, and any entity willing to meet the membership requirements, including execution of the Membership Agreement. Membership also is open to any entity eligible to take service under the SPP Open Access Transmission Tariff (OATT). These entities desire the greater efficiency and service reliability gained through better coordination by voluntary association in SPP as constituted herein and in the SPP Articles of Incorporation. Members recognize that such association has a significant effect upon the availability and reliability of the bulk electric power supply of the region, and thereby affects the reliability of the nation's electric power supply.

proceeding. However, such director, Regional Entity Trustee, officer, agent, employee, or other representative shall have provided SPP with (i) a written affirmation under oath that the incumbent, in good faith, believes the conditions of indemnification herein have been met; and (ii) a written undertaking that the incumbent shall repay any amounts advanced, with interest accumulated at a reasonable rate, if it is ultimately determined that such conditions are not met.

3.15.4 Limitations

The provisions of this section 3.15 are subject to applicable state and Federal laws, if any, which limit the ability of a Member to waive liability or enter into agreements of indemnity. Any benefits under this Section 3.15 shall not extend to any Member so limited by state or Federal law in complying with the provisions thereof.

3.15.5 Modification of Rights by Agreement

Any provision of this Section 3.15.1 may be waived or modified by express written agreement between SPP and Member. Such express written agreement shall apply solely to the subject matter of the agreement and is not intended to be a general waiver or modification of the rights provided in Section 3.15.1.

3.15.6 Procedural Rights Not Affected

The limitations of liability provided in Section 3.15.1 shall not affect any procedural rights or obligation a Member may have at law or equity.

5.1 Members Committee

The Members Committee shall work with the Board of Directors to manage and direct the general business of SPP. Its duties shall include, but are not limited to the following:

(a) Provide individual and collective input to the Board of Directors, including but not limited to a straw vote from the Members Committee representatives as an indication of the level of consensus among Members, on all actions pending before the Board of Directors;

(b) Serve on committees reporting to the Board of Directors as appointed by the Board of Directors; and

(c) Provide input with the Board of Directors to the Regional Entity Trustees on SPP Regional Reliability Standards presented by the MOPC to the Trustees or otherwise developed under the auspices of the Trustees for submission to the ERO for its approval.

5.1.1 Composition and Qualifications

5.1.1.1 Composition

Provided that Membership is sufficient to accommodate these provisions, the Members Committee shall consist of up to 24 persons. Six representatives shall be investor owned utilities Members; five representatives shall be cooperatives Members; two representatives shall be municipals Members (including municipal joint action agencies); three representatives shall be independent power producers/marketers Members; two representatives shall be state power agencies Members; one representative shall be from a Federal Power Marketing Agency; two representatives shall be alternative power/public interest Members; one representative shall be from an independent transmission company Member, defined as having assets under the OATT and no Affiliate Relationships in other categories of Membership; one representative shall be a large retail customer Member, defined as non-residential end-use customers with individual or aggregated loads of 1-MW or more; and one representative shall be a small retail customer Member, defined as residential customers and other customers

6.6 Corporate Governance Committee

The Corporate Governance Committee is responsible for the overall governance structure, including nominations, for the company in accordance with its scope as approved by the Board of Directors.

To the extent that the membership allows, the CGC shall be comprised of ten members. One representative shall be the President of SPP who will serve as the Chair; one representative shall be the Chairman of the Board, unless his/her position is under consideration, in which case the Vice Chairman of the Board; one representative shall be representative of and selected by investor owned utilities Members; one representative shall be representative of and selected by co-operatives Members; one representative shall be representative of and selected by municipals Members; one representative shall be representative of and selected by independent power producers/marketers Members; one representative shall be representative of and selected by state power agencies Members; one representative shall be representative of and selected by alternative power/public interest Members; one representative shall be representative of and selected by large/small retail Members; and one representative shall be representative of and selected by a Federal Power Marketing Agency Member(s).

Where a vacancy occurs with respect to a representative of a sector, the representatives from the appropriate sector will fill the vacancy. For purposes of selecting or removing representatives only, each group of Members with Affiliate Relationships shall be considered a single Member.

The CGC shall meet at least once per calendar year, and additionally as needed, provided that a quorum, as defined in these Bylaws, is present. The CGC shall report to the Board of Directors following each CGC meeting with respect to its activities and with such recommendations, as the CGC deems necessary.

e. Member's share (computed in accordance with the Bylaws) of all interest that will become due for payment with respect to all interest bearing Financial Obligations after the Termination Date and until the maturity of all Financial Obligations in accordance with their respective terms ("Future Interest"). In the event that a Financial Obligation carries a variable interest rate, the interest rate in effect at the Termination Date shall be used to calculate the applicable Future Interest. In determining the Member's share of Future Interest, SPP shall take into account any reduction of Financial Obligations due to mitigation under this Section.

8.7.2 Computation of a Member's Existing Obligations

For purposes of computing the Existing Obligations of any withdrawing or terminated Member in accordance with the Membership Agreement, such "Member's share" is a percentage calculated as follows:

$$A = 100\,[0.25(1/N) + 0.75(B/C)]$$

Where: A = Member's share (expressed as a percentage)

N = Total number of Members

B = The Member's previous year Net Energy for Load

C = Total of factor B for all Members

The Finance Committee shall have the discretion to reduce the Existing Obligations of any withdrawing or Terminated Member, to reflect any SPP costs or expenses that may be mitigated in connection with such Member's withdrawal or termination. In the event of consolidation of affiliate memberships or the transfer of membership from one corporate entity to another, whereby one entity remains a member of SPP, the withdrawal obligation for the departing company(ies) may be waived at SPP's sole discretion.

8.7.3 Financial Obligations for Transmission Facilities

To the extent that Section 4.3.3A of the Membership Agreement is applicable, a Terminated Member shall remain financially responsible for all financial obligations incurred and costs allocated to its load for transmission facilities approved prior to the Termination Date.

8.7.4 Penalty Costs

A Terminated Member shall remain liable for its share of costs associated with penalties assessed against SPP by FERC, the FERC-approved Electric Reliability Organization, any Electric Reliability Organization-approved Regional Entity, or any other governmental or regulatory authority with jurisdiction over SPP that SPP incurs as a result of events that occurred prior to Member's Termination Date but that SPP is unable to recover under the SPP OATT.

8.7.5 Limitation on Financial and Penalty Obligations

(a) Notwithstanding the delineation of Members' financial obligations in Section 8.7, a Federal Power Marketing Agency shall not be subject to the financial obligations listed in this Section 8.7 in the event FERC finds that SPP has not adhered to all of the Federal Power Marketing Agency Amendments as that term is defined in Section 1.0 of these Bylaws or if SPP files and FERC approves material changes to the Federal Power Marketing Agency Amendments.

(b) Provided further, notwithstanding any language to the contrary in these Bylaws, a Federal Power Marketing Agency has not waived or conceded any defense it may have, including sovereign immunity, intergovernmental immunity, or lack of subject matter jurisdiction in any action against it by an Enforcement Authority, nor has it accepted any liability, responsibility, or obligation to pay any civil monetary penalties or fines imposed by an Enforcement Authority to which it would not have been subject in the absence of these Bylaws. SPP, in accepting Western-UGP as a member, does not thereby concede or accept responsibility for any portion of a penalty or fine attributable to the actions or omissions of Western-UGP. SPP will identify the amount of any penalty or fine that SPP allocates to Western-UGP or that SPP determines is attributable to Western-UGP and will identify that amount to FERC as uncollectable and not otherwise owed by SPP. Enforcement Authority in these Bylaws means the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), Electric Reliability Organization (ERO), or Regional Entities with enforcement

authority pursuant to a delegation from an ERO or FERC for the purpose of proposing and enforcing reliability standards.

10.0 Amendments To These Bylaws, The Articles Of Incorporation, And Membership Agreement

Except for modifications to Section 4.0 BOARD OF DIRECTORS, Section 5.0 COMMITTEES ADVISING THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, Section 8.7.5 LIMITATION ON FINANCIAL AND PENALTY OBLIGATIONS, Section 9.0 REGIONAL ENTITY FUNCTION, and Section 10.0 AMENDMENTS, these Bylaws may be amended, repealed, or added to by the Board of Directors only upon 30 days written notice to the Membership of the proposed modification(s). Approval of amendments to the Bylaws by the Board of Directors must be by an affirmative vote of at least five directors. Sections 4.0, 5.0, 8.7.5, 9.0, and 10.0 of these Bylaws and the Articles of Incorporation may be amended, repealed, or added to only by approval of the Membership. Provided, that all changes to Federal Power Marketing agency/administration representation in Section 5.1.1 and any change to Section 8.7.5 must be mutually agreed to by the Federal Power Marketing Agency Member and SPP. All amendments are subject to the requisite regulatory approval(s).

ATTACHMENT 2

AMENDED EXHIBIT B

TO THE DELEGATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN

NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY CORPORATION

AND

SOUTHWEST POWER POOL, INC.

REDLINED VERSION

ERO

The Electric Reliability Organization under FERC jurisdiction that regulates reliability of the electric power grid.

Federal Power Marketing Agency

This term shall include the term "Federal Power Marketing Administration" and have the same definition that is set forth in the Federal Power Act at 16 U.S.C. § 796(19), which defines "Federal power marketing agency" as "any agency or instrumentality of the United States (other than the Tennessee Valley Authority) which sells electric energy[.]"

Federal Power Marketing Agency Amendments

The amendments and revisions to the SPP Bylaws, the SPP Membership Agreement, and Section 39.3 of the OATT that are required by a Federal Power Marketing Agency for membership in SPP at the time of the Federal Power Marketing Agency's initial membership or as they may be revised in the future by mutual agreement between the Federal Power Marketing Agency and SPP.

Member

An entity that has met the requirements of Section 2.2 of these Bylaws.

Membership

The collective Members of SPP.

Membership Agreement

The contract, that specifies the rights and obligations of the parties, executed between SPP and an entity seeking to become an SPP member.

NERC

The North American Electric Reliability Corporation or successor organizations.

Western Area Power Administration-Upper Great Plains Region ("Western-UGP")

A division of the Western Area Power Administration that markets and transmits Federal power from reservoir projects under the control of the Department of the Army or the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to Statutory Load Obligations, including preference power customers in Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota located in a defined marketing area. Western-UGP operates the WAUW Balancing Authority Area in the Western Interconnection, where certain of its transmission facilities are located.

2.1 Qualifications

Membership in SPP is voluntary and is open to any electric utility, Federal Power Marketing Agency~~power marketing agency~~, transmission service provider, any entity engaged in the business of producing, selling and/or purchasing electric energy for resale, and any entity willing to meet the membership requirements, including execution of the Membership Agreement. Membership also is open to any entity eligible to take service under the SPP Open Access Transmission Tariff (OATT). These entities desire the greater efficiency and service reliability gained through better coordination by voluntary association in SPP as constituted herein and in the SPP Articles of Incorporation. Members recognize that such association has a significant effect upon the availability and reliability of the bulk electric power supply of the region, and thereby affects the reliability of the nation's electric power supply.

proceeding. However, such director, Regional Entity Trustee, officer, agent, employee, or other representative shall have provided SPP with (i) a written affirmation under oath that the incumbent, in good faith, believes the conditions of indemnification herein have been met; and (ii) a written undertaking that the incumbent shall repay any amounts advanced, with interest accumulated at a reasonable rate, if it is ultimately determined that such conditions are not met.

3.15.4 Limitations

The provisions of this section 3.15 are subject to applicable state and Federal~~federal~~ laws, if any, which limit the ability of a Member to waive liability or enter into agreements of indemnity. Any benefits under this Section 3.15 shall not extend to any Member so limited by state or Federal~~federal~~ law in complying with the provisions thereof.

3.15.5 Modification of Rights by Agreement

Any provision of this Section 3.15.1 may be waived or modified by express written agreement between SPP and Member. Such express written agreement shall apply solely to the subject matter of the agreement and is not intended to be a general waiver or modification of the rights provided in Section 3.15.1.

3.15.6 Procedural Rights Not Affected

The limitations of liability provided in Section 3.15.1 shall not affect any procedural rights or obligation a Member may have at law or equity.

5.1 Members Committee

The Members Committee shall work with the Board of Directors to manage and direct the general business of SPP. Its duties shall include, but are not limited to the following:

(a) Provide individual and collective input to the Board of Directors, including but not limited to a straw vote from the Members Committee representatives as an indication of the level of consensus among Members, on all actions pending before the Board of Directors; ~~and~~

(b) Serve on committees reporting to the Board of Directors as appointed by the Board of Directors; and~~.~~

(c) Provide input with the Board of Directors to the Regional Entity Trustees on SPP Regional Reliability Standards presented by the MOPC to the Trustees or otherwise developed under the auspices of the Trustees for submission to the ERO for its approval.

5.1.1 Composition and Qualifications

5.1.1.1 Composition

Provided that Membership is sufficient to accommodate these provisions, the Members Committee shall consist of up to 24~~19~~ persons. Six~~Four~~ representatives shall be investor owned utilities Members; five~~four~~ representatives shall be cooperatives Members; two representatives shall be municipals Members (including municipal joint action agencies); three representatives shall be independent power producers/marketers Members; two representatives shall be state~~/federal~~ power agencies Members; one representative shall be from a Federal Power Marketing Agency; two representatives shall be alternative power/public interest Members; one representative shall be from an independent transmission company Member, defined as having assets under the OATT and no Affiliate Relationships in other categories of Membership; one representative shall be a large retail customer Member,~~a large retail customer Member;~~ defined as non-residential end-use customers with individual or aggregated loads of 1-MW or more; and one representative shall be a small retail customer Member, defined as residential customers and other customers with individual or aggregated loads of

6.6 Corporate Governance Committee

The Corporate Governance Committee is responsible for the overall governance structure, including nominations, for the company in accordance with its scope as approved by the Board of Directors.

To the extent that the membership allows, the CGC shall be comprised of ten~~nine~~ members. One representative shall be the President of SPP who will serve as the Chair; one representative shall be the Chairman of the Board, unless his/her position is under consideration, in which case the Vice Chairman of the Board; one representative shall be representative of and selected by investor owned utilities Members; one representative shall be representative of and selected by co-operatives Members; one representative shall be representative of and selected by municipals Members; one representative shall be representative of and selected by independent power producers/marketers Members; one representative shall be representative of and selected by state~~/federal~~ power agencies Members; one representative shall be representative of and selected by alternative power/public interest Members; ~~and~~ one representative shall be representative of and selected by large/small retail Members; and one representative shall be representative of and selected by a Federal Power Marketing Agency Member(s).~~.~~

Where a vacancy occurs with respect to a representative of a sector, the representatives from the appropriate sector will fill the vacancy. For purposes of selecting or removing representatives only, each group of Members with Affiliate Relationships shall be considered a single Member.

The CGC shall meet at least once per calendar year, and additionally as needed, provided that a quorum, as defined in these Bylaws, is present. The CGC shall report to the Board of Directors following each CGC meeting with respect to its activities and with such recommendations, as the CGC deems necessary.

e. Member's share (computed in accordance with the Bylaws) of all interest that will become due for payment with respect to all interest bearing Financial Obligations after the Termination Date and until the maturity of all Financial Obligations in accordance with their respective terms ("Future Interest"). In the event that a Financial Obligation carries a variable interest rate, the interest rate in effect at the Termination Date shall be used to calculate the applicable Future Interest. In determining the Member's share of Future Interest, SPP shall take into account any reduction of Financial Obligations due to mitigation under this Section.

8.7.2 Computation of a Member's Existing Obligations

For purposes of computing the Existing Obligations of any withdrawing or terminated Member in accordance with the Membership Agreement, such "Member's share" is a percentage calculated as follows:

$$A = 100\,[0.25(1/N) + 0.75(B/C)]$$

Where: A = Member's share (expressed as a percentage)

N = Total number of Members

B = The Member's previous year Net Energy for Load

C = Total of factor B for all Members

The Finance Committee shall have the discretion to reduce the Existing Obligations of any withdrawing or Terminated Member, to reflect any SPP costs or expenses that may be mitigated in connection with such Member's withdrawal or termination. In the event of consolidation of affiliate memberships or the transfer of membership from one corporate entity to another, whereby one entity remains a member of SPP, the withdrawal obligation for the departing company(ies) may be waived at SPP's sole discretion.

8.7.3 Financial Obligations for Transmission Facilities

To the extent that Section 4.3.3A of the Membership Agreement is applicable, a ~~A~~ Terminated Member shall remain financially responsible for all financial obligations incurred and costs allocated to its load for transmission facilities approved prior to the Termination Date. ~~Payments in fulfillment of any~~

~~such obligations and allocated costs shall commence on the date that the costs of such transmission facilities are reflected in SPP's generally applicable rates, unless SPP and the Terminated Member agree to an alternate date. Rights, obligations, and payments applicable to time periods prior to the Termination Date shall be honored by SPP and the Terminated Member. Fulfillment and performance of such rights and obligations, and rights and obligations regarding the use of such transmission facilities, shall be negotiated between SPP and the Terminated Member, and any disputes involving such rights and obligations shall be resolved in accordance with the dispute resolution procedures in the Bylaws and Membership Agreement.~~

8.7.4 Penalty Costs

A Terminated Member shall remain liable for its share of costs associated with penalties assessed against SPP by FERC, the FERC-approved Electric Reliability Organization, any Electric Reliability Organization-approved Regional Entity, or any other governmental or regulatory authority with jurisdiction over SPP that SPP incurs as a result of events that occurred prior to Member's Termination Date but that SPP is unable to recover under the SPP OATT.

8.7.5 Limitation on Financial and Penalty Obligations

(a) Notwithstanding the delineation of Members' financial obligations in Section 8.7, a Federal Power Marketing Agency shall not be subject to the financial obligations listed in this Section 8.7 in the event FERC finds that SPP has not adhered to all of the Federal Power Marketing Agency Amendments as that term is defined in Section 1.0 of these Bylaws or if SPP files and FERC approves material changes to the Federal Power Marketing Agency Amendments.

(b) Provided further, notwithstanding any language to the contrary in these Bylaws, a Federal Power Marketing Agency has not waived or conceded any defense it may have, including sovereign immunity, intergovernmental immunity, or lack of subject matter jurisdiction in any action against it by an Enforcement Authority, nor has it accepted any liability, responsibility, or obligation to pay any civil monetary penalties

or fines imposed by an Enforcement Authority to which it would not have been subject in the absence of these Bylaws. SPP, in accepting Western-UGP as a member, does not thereby concede or accept responsibility for any portion of a penalty or fine attributable to the actions or omissions of Western-UGP. SPP will identify the amount of any penalty or fine that SPP allocates to Western-UGP or that SPP determines is attributable to Western-UGP and will identify that amount to FERC as uncollectable and not otherwise owed by SPP. Enforcement Authority in these Bylaws means the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), Electric Reliability Organization (ERO), or Regional Entities with enforcement authority pursuant to a delegation from an ERO or FERC for the purpose of proposing and enforcing reliability standards.

10.0 Amendments To These Bylaws, The Articles Of Incorporation, And Membership Agreement

Except for modifications to Section 4.0 BOARD OF DIRECTORS, Section 5.0 COMMITTEES ADVISING THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, Section 8.7.5 LIMITATION ON FINANCIAL AND PENALTY OBLIGATIONS, Section 9.0 REGIONAL ENTITY FUNCTION, and Section 10.0 AMENDMENTS, these Bylaws may be amended, repealed, or added to by the Board of Directors only upon 30 days written notice to the Membership of the proposed modification(s). Approval of amendments to the Bylaws by the Board of Directors must be by an affirmative vote of at least five directors. Sections 4.0, 5.0, 8.7.5, 9.0, and 10.0 of these Bylaws and the Articles of Incorporation may be amended, repealed, or added to only by approval of the Membership. Provided, that all changes to Federal Power Marketing agency/administration representation in Section 5.1.1 and any change to Section 8.7.5 must be mutually agreed to by the Federal Power Marketing Agency Member and SPP. All amendments are subject to the requisite regulatory approval(s).

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have served a copy of the foregoing document upon all parties listed on the official service list compiled by the Secretary in this proceeding.

Dated at Washington, D.C. this 23rd day of January, 2015.

/s/ Meredith M. Jolivert
Meredith M. Jolivert

Counsel for North American Electric Reliability Corporation

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
BEFORE THE
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Protection System Maintenance Reliability Standard	**)** **)**	**Docket No. RM13-7-000**

INFORMATIONAL FILING OF THE NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY CORPORATION REGARDING COMMISSIONING TESTING OF PROTECTION SYSTEMS

The North American Electric Reliability Corporation ("NERC")[1] hereby provides the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("FERC" or "Commission") a report for informational purposes as directed in this proceeding on December 19, 2013. As described below, in Order No. 793,[2] the Commission accepted NERC's commitment to keep the Commission informed on its progress on a variety of projects to examine the issue of commissioning testing of Protection Systems. NERC hereby provides the Commission with an accounting of NERC's activities in this area during the past year since the issuance of Order No. 793. NERC will continue to remain engaged in the actions noted herein. NERC staff will keep Commission staff apprised on the progress of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers ("IEEE") I25 working group, as noted below.

I. Notices and Communications

Notices and communications with respect to this filing may be addressed to the following:[3]

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[1] The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission certified NERC as the electric reliability organization ("ERO") in its order issued on July 20, 2006, in Docket No. RR06-1-000. *N. Am. Elec. Reliability Corp.*, 116 FERC ¶ 61,062 (2006).

[2] *Protection System Maintenance Reliability Standard*, Order No. 793, 145 FERC ¶ 61,253 at P 42 (2013).

[3] Persons to be included on the Commission's service list are identified by an asterisk. NERC respectfully requests a waiver of Rule 203 of the Commission's regulations, 18 C.F.R. § 385.203 (2014), to allow the inclusion of more than two persons on the service list in this proceeding.

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II. Proceeding History

A. Notice of Proposed Rulemaking ("NOPR") for Order No. 793

In the NOPR preceding Order No. 793, the Commission noted its concern that Reliability Standard PRC-005-2 does not include a requirement to verify that Protection System equipment and Components meet the same requirements specified for subsequent maintenance and testing in the PRC-005-2 Reliability Standard when those Components are first placed in service or are modified.[4] The Commission requested comment on whether the Reliability Standard should be modified to address this concern.

B. NERC Comments in Response to NOPR

In its comments in response to the NOPR, NERC asked the Commission to refrain from issuing a directive until NERC can complete the on-going work described below and determine whether the actions have been sufficient to address commissioning testing.[5] NERC also summarized its current activities to research whether a Reliability Standard governing commissioning testing programs should be developed. These actions, originally described in the NERC comments, are also included here for ease of reference.

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4 *Protection System Maintenance Reliability Standard*, NOPR, 144 FERC ¶ 61,055 at P 28 (2013).
5 NERC Sept. 23, 2013 Comments at 4.

C. NERC Activity on Commissioning Testing of Protection Systems

On July 13, 2011, NERC's Event Analysis and Investigations Group submitted a Reliability Standard Suggestions Form[6] to initiate a new standard development project to create a standard to address the testing of Protection System equipment before that equipment is placed into initial service.[7] NERC's Event Analysis and Investigations Group provided an example of an event where an entity did not perform in-service testing as part of commissioning a new Protection System, resulting in line relays placed in service with the incorrect current transformer ratio. The defect remained undetected until the occurrence of a severe system disturbance when the relaying operated incorrectly, increasing the magnitude and scope of the disturbance.

The NERC Standards Committee identified the Reliability Standard suggestion as a possible new development project, but determined additional research was needed prior to initiating the project. On December 27, 2011, the Standards Committee issued a request for research asking for concurrence that a problem exists and requesting suggestions for addressing the issue. The Standards Committee requested that the Planning Committee research the issue.[8] The Planning Committee assigned the System Protection and Control Subcommittee[9] ("SPCS") responsibility for conducting the analysis. The *SPCS Response to Standards Committee Request*

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[6] Reliability Standard Suggestions Forms are submitted to suggest topics for the Reliability Standards Development Plan.

[7] A copy of the Reliability Standard Suggestions Form is available in the materials posted for the March 6-7, 2012 NERC Planning Committee meeting. *See* Planning Committee Agenda, *available at* http://www.nerc.com/comm/PC/Agendas%20Highlights%20and%20Minutes%20DL/2012/1_March_2012_PC_Agenda_Finalv.pdf.

[8] A copy of the request for research is available in the materials posted for the March 6-7, 2012 NERC Planning Committee meeting. *See* Planning Committee Agenda, *available at* http://www.nerc.com/comm/PC/Agendas%20Highlights%20and%20Minutes%20DL/2012/1_March_2012_PC_Agenda_Finalv.pdf.

[9] The SPCS provides subject matter expertise related to Protection Systems and control. The purpose of the SPCS is purpose of the SPCS is to promote the reliable and efficient operation of the North American power system through technical excellence in Protection System and control system design, coordination, and practices A roster of current SPCS members is available at http://www.nerc.com/comm/PC/System%20Protection%20and%20Control%20Subcommittee%20SPCS%20DL/Roster_Updated-08-17-10.pdf.

for Research ("SPCS Report")[10] was approved by the NERC Planning Committee on March 5, 2013.[11] A copy of the Reliability Standard Suggestions Form, Request for Research and the SPCS Report are included in NERC's prior comments as Exhibit A.

In the SPCS Report, the SPCS recommends actions to reduce Protection System Misoperations through improved commissioning practices. The SPCS Report recommends, as an alternative to a standard, a series of reactive and proactive activities related to analysis of Misoperations, sharing of lessons learned, and development of an industry reference document on Protection System commissioning practices. The SPCS explained that inadequate or improper testing of Protection Systems during any time in the life cycle of a Protection System may lead to a future Misoperation. However, the SPCS noted that it considers Misoperations due to commissioning testing errors to be a relatively small subset of Misoperations overall, and often discovered upon initial energization. The SPCS also explained that the event cited in the Reliability Standard Suggestion Form is not typical because commissioning testing that includes in-service tests to verify current and potential circuits are properly connected is a common practice throughout the industry.

The SPCS Report noted that most entities have effective commissioning processes currently in place and that these processes are unlikely to be improved by a new reliability standard. The SPCS explained that a broad reliability standard with broad requirements to create and implement commissioning testing practices would introduce additional documentation burden without providing real guidance to entities for improving their processes. Conversely, a standard with detailed requirements prescribing how to commission Protection Systems would

[10] *SPCS Response to Standards Committee Request for Research* (Mar. 5, 2013), *available at* http://www.nerc.com/docs/pc/spctf/SPCS%20Commissioning%20Testing%20Response_Final.pdf.

[11] See NERC Planning Committee Meeting Minutes, *available at* http://www.nerc.com/comm/PC/Pages/AgendasHighlightsandMinutes-.aspx.

undermine the various methods that entities have developed specific to their circumstances and could have an unintended, negative impact on reliability.

Rather than developing a new reliability standard, the SPCS suggested improving commissioning practices through (1) analysis of Protection System Misoperations; (2) sharing of lessons learned; and (3) development of an industry reference document on Protection System commissioning practices. Each of these areas is summarized below and includes updates on activities since the issuance of Order No. 793.

In Order No. 793, the Commission stated that while it remained concerned about the continued possibility of Misoperations resulting from a failure to properly verify the operability or settings of Protection System equipment upon being placed in service or modified, it would not issue its proposed directive and instead await NERC's report on its activities as committed in its comments.[12]

D. Summary of NERC Activity on SPCS Report Recommendations

1. Analysis of Protection System Misoperations

On the first SPCS suggested method of improvement, analysis of Misoperations is an ongoing obligation pursuant to Reliability Standards PRC-004-2.1a (Analysis and Mitigation of Transmission and Generation Protection System Misoperations) and PRC-003-1 (Regional Procedure for Analysis of Misoperations of Transmission and Generation Protection Systems). Since Order No. 793, NERC has completed development work to revise and improve the PRC-004 Reliability Standard. Proposed PRC-004-3 (Protection System Misoperation Identification and Correction) identifies and corrects causes of Misoperations of Protection Systems, ensuring that transmission and generation Protection System Misoperations are analyzed and mitigated.

[12] Order No. 793 at P 41.

Proposed PRC-004-3 and a separate "Request for Data or Information"[13] prepared pursuant to Section 1600 of NERC's Rules of Procedure and approved by the NERC Board of Trustees ("NERC Board"), provide the means to accomplish the continued systematic analysis and correction of Misoperations. The NERC Board adopted proposed Reliability Standard PRC-004-3 on August 14, 2014, replacing PRC-004-2.1a. The proposed Reliability Standard is currently pending approval with the Commission.[14]

2. "Lessons Learned" Publication

With respect to the second SPCS suggested method of improvement, on March 11, 2014, the SPCS published its *Lesson Learned: Verification of Alternating Current Quantities during Protection System Commissioning* ("Lesson"). This Lesson is included as Exhibit A to this filing. The purpose of a "lessons learned" document is to provide industry with technical and understandable information that assists them with maintaining the reliability of the Bulk-Power System. The goal of this Lesson is to convey to Generator Operators, Generator Owners, Transmission Owners, and Transmission Operators the importance of including installation tests and effective in-service tests in commissioning testing practices. The Lesson is intended to emphasize the importance of commissioning testing, and not to be an exhaustive discussion of all available techniques. The Lesson highlights that failure to employ effective commissioning testing practices can lead to Protection System Misoperations, which impact the reliability of the Bulk-Power System. The Lesson details a case where effective commissioning and testing practices were not implemented during the installation of a new transformer. The Lesson uses this case to recommend specific advice on effective commissioning testing. Specifically, the

[13] This document is available at http://www.nerc.com/pa/RAPA/Pages/Protection-System-Misoperations-Section-1600-Data-Request.aspx.

[14] *See* NERC Sept. 15, 2014 Petition in Commission Docket No. RD14-14-000

Lesson explains that effective commissioning testing includes not only installation tests, but also effective primary current tests and in-service voltage and current tests. Each of these types of tests is detailed in the document. Collectively, the various tests uncover potential shortcomings by essentially comparing known, proper circuitry with newly installed circuitry.

NERC uses a number of different methods to follow-up on the issuance of a Lessons Learned document. NERC distributes Lessons Learned to industry, advertises them on social media, presents them at NERC technical committee meetings, discusses them during site visits with entities when appropriate, conducts quarterly webinars to discuss the documents, and also collects and analyzes feedback submitted by users through the instructions in the Lesson Learned. NERC has received very positive feedback on the use of Lesson Learned documents. This Lesson regarding commissioning testing has and will have similar treatment as NERC conducts follow-up activity following its issuance.

3. IEEE Working Group Report

With regard to the third recommended improvement, SPCS recommended that the IEEE Power System Relaying Committee ("PSRC") create the industry reference document on Protection System commissioning practices and proposed to submit a formal request upon approval of the SPCS report. The Chair of the SPCS issued this request to the IEEE Power System Relaying Committee on September 5, 2013.[15]

In May of 2013, the ITF25 task force reviewed the SPCS Report.[16] The task force determined that IEEE Guide C37.233 *Guide for Power System Protection Testing* should be

[15] A copy of the letter request is included as **Exhibit B**.

[16] *See* Power System Relaying Committee of the IEEE Power and Energy Society – Minutes of the Meeting, May 16, 2013, *available at* http://www.pes-psrc.org/minutes/2013_May_Baltimore_MD_draft_2.0.pdf.

reviewed prior to the next meeting since this guide has a section on commissioning.[17] It was also suggested that the group review proposed Reliability Standard PRC-005-2 before the next meeting. Several members volunteered to contribute outlines of commissioning practices at their companies and present for discussion at the group's next meeting in September of 2013.

A member of NERC staff and the SPCS vice chair attended the ITF25 meeting on September 11, 2013 and engaged the group in discussion. Phil Tatro and Phillip Winston representing the NERC System Protection and Control Subcommittee provided background information on the discussions at the SPCS that led to the request for IEEE/PSRC to create a document to provide guidance for the utility industry. The group also discussed IEEE Guide C37.333 *Guide for Power System Protection Testing*, which covers commissioning as well as other testing activities. There was a discussion of what should be included in commissioning and pitfalls that need to be addressed. Some attendees also presented outlines of what their respective companies review during commissioning. At the end of the discussions, it was the decision of the taskforce to request that a working group be created to more specifically address commissioning of Protection Systems. The ITF25 agreed that PSRC should form a working group to develop a report to the Relaying Practices Subcommittee specifically on Protection System commissioning.[18]

The task force developed a scope of work and purpose statement for the proposed working group – I25: Commissioning of Substation Protection and Control Devices. The I25 working group report will provide guidance in the commissioning of power system Protection

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[17] IEEE Guide for Power System Protection Testing, *IEEE Std C37.233-2009* , Dec. 11, 2009, *available at* http://ieeexplore.ieee.org/stamp/stamp.jsp?tp=&arnumber=5352213&isnumber=5352212 (sign in or purchase required for access).

[18] *See* Power System Relaying Committee of the IEEE Power and Energy Society – Minutes of the Meeting, Sept. 12, 2013, *available at* http://www.pes-psrc.org/minutes/2013_Sept_Albuquerque_NM_draft_3.0.pdf.

Systems. The report will cover overall system testing procedures for generators, line, line reactors, transformers, capacitors, and special protection schemes. This report is intended for power system protection professionals. It will include a reference list of type tests for protective devices as well as overall protection scheme performance tests applicable for commissioning testing for the various types of protection schemes.

The Relay Practices Subcommittee approved formation of the working group at its meeting on September 12, 2013. The group was formally established in January 2014. I25 met for the first time on January 16, 2014.[19] At this meeting, the assignment and the motivation for the assignment were reiterated. The group briefly reviewed those sections of C37.233 that specifically address commissioning tests. Assignments were made to review the entire guide and how it addresses commissioning testing of the five areas of a Protection System, identify gaps and address those gaps. I25 met for a second time on May 15, 2014.[20] At this meeting, the group continued its discussion of C37.233 and set a goal of creating an outline of the report at its next meeting.

The working group has set a tentative goal of a first draft of a report by its September 2015 meeting. NERC staff will remain engaged with the working group to follow-up on the SPCS Report recommendation. NERC staff will keep Commission staff apprised on the working group's progress.

[19] *See* Power System Relaying Committee of the IEEE Power and Energy Society – Minutes of the Meeting, Jan. 16, 2014, *available at* http://www.pes-psrc.org/minutes/2014_Jan_New_Orleans_LA_draft_3.1.pdf.

[20] *See* Power System Relaying Committee of the IEEE Power and Energy Society – Minutes of the Meeting, May 15, 2014, *available at* http://www.pes-psrc.org/minutes/IEEE_PSRC_May-2014_Meeting_Minutes-Draft-1.pdf.

III. Conclusion

For the reasons set forth above, NERC respectfully requests that the Commission accept this informational filing as compliant with the Commission's directive in Order No. 793.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ William H. Edwards

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Counsel for the North American Electric Reliability Corporation

Date: December 19, 2014

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have served a copy of the foregoing document upon all parties listed on the official service list compiled by the Secretary in this proceeding.

Dated at Washington, D.C. this 19th day of December, 2014.

/s/ William H. Edwards
William H. .H.Edwards

Counsel for the North American Electric Reliability Corporation

NERC
NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY CORPORATION

January 21, 2015

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Ms. Kimberly D. Bose
Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, D.C. 20426

RE: Errata to the North American Electric Reliability Corporation Informational Filing of Reliability Standards Development Plan 2015-2017 to Update Reliability Standards Development Plan 2015-2017
Docket Nos. RM05-17-000, RM05-25-000, RM06-16-000

Dear Ms. Bose:

On December 31, 2014, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation ("NERC") filed the *North American Electric Reliability Corporation Informational Filing of Reliability Standards Development Plan 2015-2017* ("Informational Filing") with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("Commission") to provide the Commission with the most current Reliability Standards Development Plan ("RSDP"). Since submittal of the Informational Filing, NERC has identified minor errors in the RSDP as filed and has revised it as necessary.

NERC hereby submits a replacement RSDP, contained herein as Attachment 1. For convenience, NERC also submits a redline version of the original RSDP to the replacement, contained herein as Attachment 2.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Andrew C. Wills
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have served a copy of the foregoing document upon all parties listed on the official service list compiled by the Secretary in this proceeding.

Dated at Washington, D.C. this 21st day of January, 2015.

/s/ Andrew C. Wills

Andrew C. Wills
Counsel for the North American Electric Reliability Corporation

ATTACHMENT 1

RELIABILITY STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT PLAN

2015-2017

NERC
NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY CORPORATION

Reliability Standards Development Plan

2015–2017

December 16, 2014

RELIABILITY | ACCOUNTABILITY






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Executive Summary

The 2015-2017 Reliability Standards Development Plan (2015-2017 RSDP) is another bold step towards transforming the NERC Reliability Standards to "steady-state" (for purposes of this Plan, that term means a stable set of clear, concise, high-quality and technically sound Reliability Standards that are results-based, including retirement of requirements that do little to promote reliability). During 2015, the NERC Reliability Standards will reach steady-state[1] and the number of active projects will dramatically decrease.

By the end of 2015, almost all or all of the Paragraph 81 (P81) candidates,[2] the Independent Expert Review Panel's (IERP) recommendations for requirement retirement, and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) directives issued prior to December 2012 will have been addressed. Projects that were languishing for years, as well as periodic reviews, will have been completed. The industry will also have completed large projects to respond to FERC orders including, for example, Geomagnetic Disturbances, Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP) Version 5 Revisions, and CIP-014 Physical Security; and revised the Transmission Operations (TOP) and Interconnection Reliability Operations and Coordination (IRO) standards to address concerns identified in FERC's proposed remand. This is a significant achievement – the Standards Committee (SC) worked diligently with NERC to determine project schedules and manage industry workload. Stakeholders engaged throughout North America to provide expertise during standard development ensuring that all projects were of high quality and adhered to timely schedules.

Now, in the 2015-2017 RSDP, the number of projects necessary to reach steady-state by 2015 is reduced and the pace of the work will likely become more deliberate. Ten projects that began during 2014 will be completed in 2015,[3] while four new projects will be initiated in 2015, with one focused on aligning the Glossary of Terms used in NERC Reliability Standards with the Definitions used in the Rules of Procedure (Rules of Procedure, Appendix 2). This reduction in planned Standards projects provides a bandwidth to: 1) respond to emerging risks, if any, to reliability, 2) establish an enhanced periodic review for quality and content, and 3) address any new FERC orders or directives. Also, given the increased focus on quality during the standard development process, as well as active engagement of the FERC Office of Electric Reliability staff during the standards development process, FERC directives and orders on existing standards are expected to trend lower.

Following the completion of the work to achieve steady-state, the Reliability Standards will continue to be assessed for quality, content or alignment with other standards through enhanced periodic reviews, building on the foundation established by the IERP[4]. These enhanced periodic reviews will also provide an opportunity to incorporate lessons learned from understanding the characteristics of quality, content and results-based standards; further target applicability based on risk; and clarify compliance assessment so the Reliability Standards achieve the intended reliability benefit without creating undue burden on industry. The NERC model is unique in the realm of regulation; and, with the participation by stakeholders, the SC and applicable regulatory authorities, we are demonstrating that this is a viable regulatory model.

---

[1] As stated in the 2014-2016 RSDP and 2014-2016 Standards Committee Strategic Work Plan, Steady-State means a set of clear, concise, high quality and technically sound Reliability Standards that are results-based, while retiring requirements that do little to promote reliability.

[2] There are 7 P81 candidates that will be addressed during the enhanced periodic reviews.

[3] Three of these projects are scheduled to be completed in February 2015. Project 2014-04 Physical Security Directives, was initiated in November 2014 to address FERC's directives in Order No. 802 (final order on CIP-014-1 – Physical Security).

[4] The North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) retained five industry experts to independently review the NERC Reliability Standards, setting the foundation for a plan that will result in a set of clear, concise and sustainable body of Reliability Standards. The primary scope was an assessment of the content and quality of the Reliability Standards, including identification of potential Bulk-Power System (BPS) risks that were not adequately mitigated.

Steady-State

The NERC Reliability Standards will reach steady-state in 2015.

This section provides information on the status of FERC directives, Paragraph 81 candidates and the IERP's recommendations for retirement. Completion of projects is discussed in the next section, "2014 Status Report."

Directives

In 2013, NERC set out to address the 191 FERC directives that were issued and unaddressed prior to December 2012:

	2012 Directives	2013/2014 Directives	Total
Issued prior to year-end 2012*	191		
Issued in 2013/2014*		50	
Resolved as of December 15, 2014	158	25	
Remaining	**33**	**25**	**49**
Projected to be resolved in 2014	13	14	18
Projected to be remaining at year-end 2014	20	11	31

*Does not include non-standards' related directives

Table 1. Completion of Directives

While this is one benchmark, it is also imperative to address the FERC directives issued post-December 2012 in a timely fashion. As noted in the footnote to the chart above, FERC issued some directives that require work from groups outside of standards, such as the NERC technical committees, or another internal NERC department, such as Reliability Assessment and Performance Analysis (RAPA). These directives, as they cannot be resolved through a Standards process, are not included in the above numbers.

As depicted in Table 1, the majority of the 191 Directives (115 or 60 percent) were addressed in 2013. Depending upon project completion, 171 will be addressed at year-end 2014.

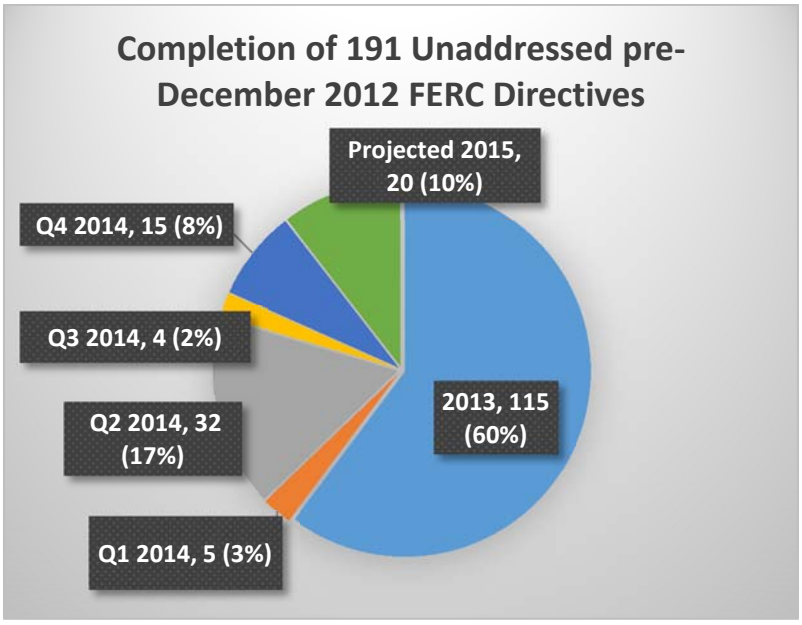


Chart 1. Completion of 191 Directives

FERC has issued 59 directives since December 2012. Nine of those pertain to areas outside of standards. Twenty-five have been addressed. Of the remaining 25, 14 are projected to be addressed in 2014 and 11 in 2015. Completion of the total number of directives is shown in Chart 2.

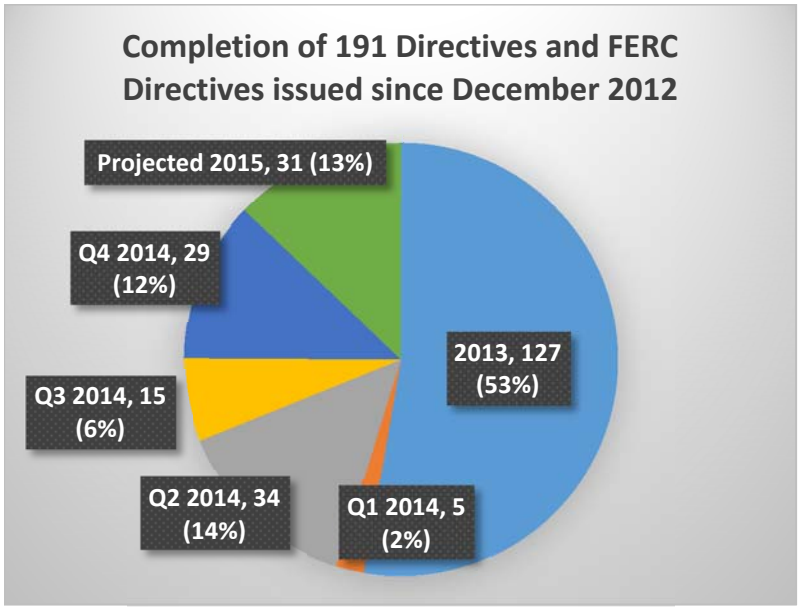


Chart 2. Completion of Remaining Directives

Paragraph 81 Candidates and IERP Recommendations for Retirement

The P81 project was initiated in response to Paragraph 81 of FERC's March 15, 2012 Order.[5,6] Candidate requirements for retirement filed in a Phase 1 of the project were approved by FERC in Order 788, issued on November 21, 2013.[7] In addition to candidate requirements filed in Phase 1, stakeholders identified 217 candidates for consideration. These candidates were addressed through standard development projects for each standard, rather than in one project for efficiency. Further, the IERP recommended 147 candidates for retirement.[8]

There was some overlap in the requirements recommended for retirement. When combined, a total of 281 unique requirements were identified and are projected for standard development team consideration as follows:

	Current Status	P81 and IERP Recommendations for Retirement
Total*		281
Addressed	236	
In current projects	38	
Not assigned	7	

*Unique requirements

Table 2. Candidates Unique for P81 and IERP

[5] 138 FERC 61,193, Order Accepting with Conditions the Electric Reliability Organization's Petition Requesting Approval of New Enforcement Mechanisms and Requiring Compliance Filing, March 15, 2012.

[6] Id., p. 81: …The Commission is interested in obtaining views on whether such requirements could be removed from the Reliability Standards with little effect on reliability and an increase in efficiency of the ERO compliance program. If NERC believes that specific Reliability Standards or specific requirements within certain Standards should be revised or removed, we invite NERC to make specific proposals to the Commission identifying the Standards or requirements and setting forth in detail the technical basis for its belief. In addition, or in the alternative, we invite NERC, the Regional Entities and other interested entities to propose appropriate mechanisms to identify and remove from the Commission-approved Reliability Standards unnecessary or redundant requirements. We will not impose a deadline on when these comments should be submitted, but ask that to the extent such comments are submitted NERC, the Regional Entities, and interested entities coordinate to submit their respective comments concurrently.

[7] FERC Order No. 788, 145 FERC 61,147, Electric Reliability Organization Proposal to Retire Requirements in Reliability Standards, November 21, 2013.

[8] See Appendix E of the Independent Experts Review Project.

Resolution

Recommendations for retirement are tracked at the requirement level. If the entire requirement was recommended for retirement, drafting teams may have considered one action (or part of a requirement) suitable for retirement, but determined that another action within a requirement should be retained. In conducting the analysis to determine whether the drafting team followed a recommendation for retirement, if the intent of the recommendation was met or if the majority of the requirement was retired, this analysis considers the recommendation addressed. With those considerations, the status of the resolution for the candidates addressed as of the fourth quarter of 2014 is:

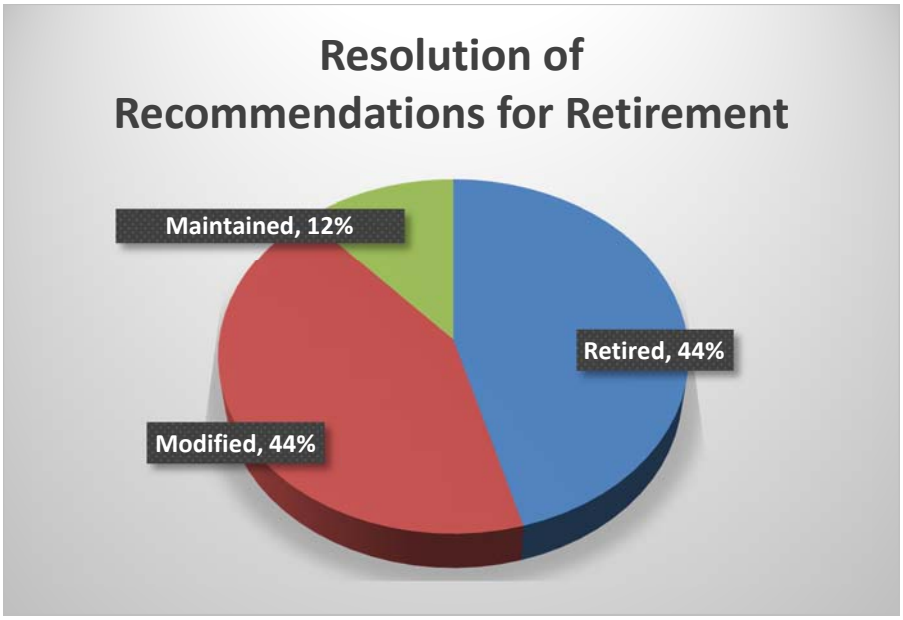


Chart 3. Resolution of Recommendation for Retirement

2014 Progress Report

The 2014–2016 RSDP identified thirteen active projects to be conducted over the three-year period, of which eight are projected to be completed by year-end 2014. There are ten additional projects that have continued development from the 2013-2015 RSDP, all of which are scheduled to be completed in 2014. Finally, there are four projects that were initiated in 2014 as a result of a reliability need or to respond to a FERC order or directive.

An "*" next to a project indicates that the SC has not yet accepted a Standards Authorization Request (SAR) for posting.

Projects that were listed in the 2014–2016 RSDP:

- Project 2008-02 Undervoltage Load Shedding and Underfrequency Load Shedding
- Project 2007-11 Disturbance Monitoring
- Project 2009-02 Real-Time Reliability Monitoring and Analysis Capabilities (consolidated into Project 2014-03 TOP/IRO Revisions)
- Project 2009-03 Emergency Operations
- Project 2010-02 Connecting New Facilities to the Grid
- Project 2010-05.2 Phase 2 of Protection System Misoperations: SPS/RAS
- Project 2010-08 Functional Model Glossary Revisions (withdrawn)
- Project 2010-14.2 Periodic Review and Revisions of BAL-004, BAL-005 and BAL-006
- Project 2012-09 Implementation of IRO Five-year Review Recommendations
- Project 2012-13 NUC Review and Implementation
- Project 2013-03 Geomagnetic Disturbance Mitigation Measures (Stage 2)

Two projects were listed as pending technical committee input and initiated in the first quarter of 2014:

- Project 2007-17.3 Protection System Maintenance and Testing Auxiliary Relays
- Project 2010-13.3 Generator Relay Loadability Stable Power Swings

The following projects were listed in the 2013-2015 RSDP:[9]

- Project 2007-02 Operating Personnel Communications Protocol
- Project 2007-06 System Protection Coordination
- Project 2008-12 Coordinate Interchange Standards
- Project 2010-01 Operations Personnel Training
- Project 2010-03 Modeling Data – MOD B
- Project 2010-04 Demand Data – MOD C
- Project 2010-05.1 Phase 1 of Protection Systems: Misoperations
- Project 2010-14.1 Phase 1 of Balancing Authority Reliability-Based Control: Reserves

[9] These projects were also included in the 2014-2016 RSDP in the 203-2015 Progress Report section.

- Project 2012-05 ATC Revisions – MOD A
- Project 2013-04 Voltage and Reactive Control

The following projects were identified as either an emerging issue or developed in response to a FERC order or directive:

- Project 2014-02 CIP Version 5 Revisions
- Project 2014-01 Standards Applicability for Dispersed Generation Resources
- Project 2014-03 Revisions to TOP/IRO Standards
- Project 2014-04 Physical Security

2015 Projects

As discussed in the prior section, there are eleven projects that were in process in 2014 that are projected to continue into 2015. Four of these projects, Project 2008-02 Undervoltage Load Shedding, Project 2008-02.5 Underfrequency Load Shedding, Project 2009-03 Emergency Operations and Project 2010-14.2 Revisions of BAL-004, BAL-005 and BAL-006 may complete in 2014, reducing the number of projects carrying over into 2015 to two (2).

Two of the projects that are identified below as being initiated in 2013 are directly related to resolving remaining FERC Directives, one is to complete the review of the FAC standards from the 2013 periodic reviews, and the remaining project is being conducted to align the Glossary of Terms used in the NERC Reliability Standards and the Definitions used in the Rules of Procedure. The project to complete the FAC standards review may be included with the 2015 Periodic Review.

Additionally, the IERP identified three high-level gaps that were reviewed by the NERC Operating Committee in 2014. It is anticipated that two of the issues, Outage Coordination and Situational Awareness, will be addressed by the TOP/IRO Revisions project. Depending upon the outcome of that project, additional work may be necessary. The third issue, Governor Frequency Response, was determined by the Operating Committee as a potential area of concern, but one that is being monitored. Depending upon the findings of the Operating Committee on this issue, more work may be necessary for this concern, as well.

An "*" next to a project indicates that the SC has not yet accepted a Standards Authorization Request (SAR) for posting.

Projects continuing from 2014 into 2015

As stated above, the following projects will continue from 2014:

- Project 2007-06 System Protection Coordination
- Project 2007-06.2 PRC-001 (Separating PRC-001 from Project 2014-03 Revisions to TOP/IRO Standards and Project 2007-06 System Protection Coordination)
- Project 2008-02 PRC-004-X Undervoltage Load Shedding
- Project 2009-02 Real-Time Reliability Monitoring and Analysis Capabilities (Separated from Project 2014-03 TOP/IRO Revisions)
- Project 2010-05.2 Phase 2 of Protection System Misoperations: SPS/RAS
- Project 2010-14.2 Phase 2 Implementation of BAL-005 and BAL-006 Periodic Review Recommendations
- Project 2010-14.2.2 Phase 2 Periodic Review of BAL-004
- Project 2012-09 Implementation of IRO Review (on hold pending completion of the TOP/IRO Revisions)
- Project 2014-01 Standards Applicability for Dispersed Generation Resources (Medium Priority Standards)[10]
- Project 2014-02 CIP Version 5 Revisions[11]
- Project 2014-03 Revisions to TOP/IRO Standards – TOP-001-3[12]

[10] Scheduled for February and May completions.
[11] Scheduled for February completion.
[12] Scheduled for February completion.

- Project 2014-04 Physical Security Directives

Projects to be initiated in 2015[13]

To achieve steady-state, the following projects will be initiated in 2015. The EOP and FAC periodic review projects planned for initiation in 2015 complete reviews that were deferred by Review Teams in 2013, either due to interdependencies with standards that were pending regulatory approval, or to gain compliance experience prior to conducting the review.

Consistent with the approach applied to prioritize projects in the 2014-2016 RSDP and used by the SC for new projects, such as Project 2014-01 Standards Applicability for Dispersed Generation Resources, new projects for 2015 have been assigned a prioritization of High, Medium, Low or Pending Technical Committee input. Specific elements considered in prioritization include: (1) Reliability Issues Steering Committee (RISC) Category Rankings, (2) regulatory directives, (3) regulatory deadlines, (4) Reliability Standard requirement candidates for retirement, (5) the IERP content and quality assessments, and (6) additional considerations (fill-in-the-blank status and five-year assessment commitments). The prioritization gave primary consideration to RISC Category Rankings, regulatory directives and regulatory deadlines, which was further informed by the other prioritization elements. Based on the application of these elements, this section prioritizes each Reliability Standard project as High, Medium, Low or Pending Technical Committee input.

The prioritization in this RSDP does not include projects in progress at year-end 2014, since those projects have been previously prioritized. Additionally, this plan does not include any new projects that may need to be initiated consistent with the Standard Processes Manual (SPM), in response to FERC directives issued after August 2014, or to implement the recommendations from the Risk-Based Registration initiative. Any such projects initiated by the SC will be added to the Project Tracking Spreadsheet posted on the SC's webpage for a real-time tracking, and to the next RSDP.

Prioritization Considerations for 2015 Projects

Medium Priority

- Project 2015-01 TPL Directives (prioritized by SC in 2014)*
  - Two FERC directives
  - RISC: medium priority area (Operational Modeling and Model Inputs)
  - IERP considerations: minor quality and content
- Project 2015-02 Periodic Review of EOP-004, EOP-005, EOP-006 and EOP-008*
  - No FERC directives
  - RISC: medium priority area (Operational Modeling and Model Inputs)
  - IERP considerations: some content and some quality
  - Three P81 Candidates
- Project 2015-03 Periodic Review of System Operating Limit Standards (FAC-010, FAC-011, and FAC-014)*
  - RISC: medium priority area (Operational Modeling and Model Inputs)
  - IERP: content and quality issues
  - Two P81 candidates

[13] See Appendix 1 for 2015 project detail.

Low Priority

- Project 2015-04 Alignment of Glossary of Terms used in NERC Reliability Standards and the Definitions used in the Rules of Procedure (Rules of Procedure Appendix 2)*

Sustainable Approach to Periodic Reviews[14]

At the February 6, 2014 Board of Trustees (Board) meeting, the Board requested that NERC management and the leadership of the SC work together to develop a mutually acceptable metric for 2015-2017, including a content and quality grading system for the Reliability Standards as part of the metric. Jointly, the following approach was developed, which was endorsed by the SC on March 12, 2014, and, in summary form, adopted by Corporate Governance and Human Resources Subcommittee of the Board on March 20, 2014.

2014 and 2015 Metric

The metric for 2014 and 2015 focuses on ensuring certain Reliability Standard projects are completed in a timely manner. For 2014, the standard projects are all high priority standard projects, many with regulatory deadlines.

2016 and 2017 Metric

The implementation of an enhanced Reliability Standard periodic review for quality and content takes into consideration the following issues: (1) folding the enhanced quality and content periodic review into the period review required by Section 13 of the SPM; (2) a quality and content review of the steady-state Standards developed, considering the use of, or adaptation of, the 2013 Independent Expert Review Team's quality and content scoring system; (3) the formation of a cross-functional task force to conduct periodic reviews of steady-state Reliability Standards, potentially consisting of Committee chairs, NERC management, and NERC and stakeholder subject matter experts (with all task force meetings open to the public); (4) the task force's use of the quality and content system developed in response to (2), above, to identify needed enhancements to steady-state standards for inclusion in a Standards Authorization Request (SAR) processed through the standards development process and completed within a year from the date of posting of the SAR, unless technical review and study is needed (to the extent possible, the inclusion of identified enhancements in a SAR shall be limited focusing enhancements rather than re-opening an entire standard(s); and (5) the development of an annual task force review timeline starting with the cross-functional task force being operational no later than mid-2015, so it can identify which standards will undergo the enhanced period review for inclusion in the 2016-2018 Reliability Standards Development Plan.

The above summary of the metric approach shows a focus on the completion of transforming NERC's Reliability Standards to a steady-state by the end of 2015, and, thereafter, the initiation of an enhanced periodic review to address quality and content issues related to the steady-state Reliability Standards. It is contemplated that approximately 25 percent of the steady-state Reliability Standards could begin the enhanced periodic review in 2015.

At its March 2014 meeting, the SC appointed a periodic review development team (consisting of the SC Executive Committee and the Project Management and Oversight and Process Subcommittees chairs) to work with NERC staff and legal to develop the attributes of the enhanced quality and content periodic review. This team developed an approach to address the Board's direction, as summarized below.

[14] During 2014 this framework is being presented for stakeholder comment, and then Board approval, so the final framework may differ in some respects from the approach outlined here.

Summary of draft enhanced periodic review approach

- The enhanced periodic review approach will satisfy NERC's obligations under Section 13 of the *Standard Processes Manual*, and will be conducted in accordance with that section.
- The SC shall appoint a standing cross-functional team including NERC staff and the NERC standing committee representatives to work with the Section 13 *"review team of subject matter experts."* This team will be appointed by the SC, who will adopt the results of the team's deliberations.
- The cross-functional team shall be operational no later than the beginning of 2015 so it may make recommendations to the SC on the Reliability Standards that should undergo the enhanced periodic review in 2016-2018, and so these projects may be included in the 2016-2018 Reliability Standards Development Plan.
- NERC's five-year periodic review template that was successfully employed for a number of standards in 2013 and 2014 has been revised and adapted to include those quality and content questions developed by the Independent Expert Review Panel that were not already included. The template was further adapted to eliminate duplicative questions, and to provide the cross-functional Review Team with a clear framework to conduct the periodic reviews. A new question was added to consider whether the applicability section or requirements can be revised for smaller entities, provided that there is technical justification to support tailoring the applicability.
- A dashboard will be developed for each reviewed standard indicating whether it has a score of Green, Yellow or Red, according to the following grading system:
  - Green = no quality and content changes needed – standard confirmed as steady-state;
  - Yellow = the standard is sufficient to protect reliability and meet the reliability objective of the standard; however, there may be future opportunity to improve a non-substantive or insignificant quality and content issue – i.e., continue to monitor; and
  - Red = the standard needs to be retired or revised to address identified quality and content issues.
- Standards graded as "Red" by the cross-functional Review Team will be revised in a manner consistent with applicable sections of the SPM.

In 2015, the cross-functional Review Team appointed by the SC will prioritize families or groups of standards for review starting in 2016 and going forward. As resources permit, reviews of standards may begin in 2015.

Appendix 1 – Projects for 2015

Project 2015-01 TPL Directives

This project will address two directives and consider other improvements to TPL-001-4 — Transmission System Planning Performance Requirements.

Order 678:

- Para 40 - Direct NERC to modify Reliability Standard TPL-001-4 to address the concern that the six month threshold could exclude planned maintenance outages of significant facilities from future planning assessments.
- Para 89 - Directs NERC to consider a similar spare equipment strategy for stability analysis upon the next review cycle of Reliability Standard TPL-001-4.

Project 2015-02 Periodic Review of EOP-004, EOP-005, EOP-006 and EOP-008

This periodic review project will review four (4) EOP standards for which the review was delayed to allow the Electric Reliability Organization (ERO) and industry to gain compliance experience with revisions to the standards that became enforceable in 2013 and early 2014. The review team will also consider one directive and, as part of its recommendation on EOP-006, recommend whether a guideline should be developed.

Order 749:

- Para 24 - (EOP-006) …Once the standard is effective, if industry determines that ambiguity with the term [unique tasks] arises, it would be appropriate for NERC to consider its proposal to develop a guideline to aid entities in their compliance obligations.

Project 2015-03 Periodic Review of System Operating Limit Standards (FAC-010, FAC-011, and FAC-014)

The three NERC Reliability Standards in this periodic review project concern methodologies for determining and communicating System Operating Limits. In 2013, a five-year review team (FYRT) assigned to review the FAC family of standards recommended review of these three standards be delayed until shortly after approval of the TPL, TOP, and IRO standards which were pending regulatory approval at the time of the FAC five-year review. TPL-001-4 was approved by FERC in October 2013; the TOP and IRO standards are being revised in 2014 for filing with applicable regulators in early 2015.

Project 2015-04 Alignment of Definitions in *Glossary of Terms used in NERC Reliability Standards* and NERC *Rules of Procedure*, Appendix 2

This project will review the NERC *Glossary of Terms Used in Reliability Standards* (Glossary) to determine what changes are necessary to align the Glossary definitions with definitions of the same terms used in the NERC *Rules of Procedure,* Appendix 2.

ATTACHMENT 2

RELIABILITY STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT PLAN

2015-2017

Redline Version

NERC
NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY CORPORATION

Reliability Standards Development Plan

2015–2017

December 16, 2014

RELIABILITY | ACCOUNTABILITY






3353 Peachtree Road NE
Suite 600, North Tower
Atlanta, GA 30326
404-446-2560 | www.nerc.com

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Executive Summary

The 2015-2017 Reliability Standards Development Plan (2015-2017 RSDP) is another bold step towards transforming the NERC Reliability Standards to "steady-state" (for purposes of this Plan, that term means a stable set of clear, concise, high-quality and technically sound Reliability Standards that are results-based, including retirement of requirements that do little to promote reliability). During 2015, the NERC Reliability Standards will reach steady-state[1] and the number of active projects will dramatically decrease.

By the end of 2015, almost all or all of the Paragraph 81 (P81) candidates,[2] the Independent Expert Review Panel's (IERP) recommendations for requirement retirement, and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) directives issued prior to December 2012 will have been addressed. Projects that were languishing for years, as well as periodic reviews, will have been completed. The industry will also have completed large projects to respond to FERC orders including, for example, Geomagnetic Disturbances, Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP) Version 5 Revisions, and CIP-014 Physical Security; and revised the Transmission Operations (TOP) and Interconnection Reliability Operations and Coordination (IRO) standards to address concerns identified in FERC's proposed remand. This is a significant achievement – the Standards Committee (SC) worked diligently with NERC to determine project schedules and manage industry workload. Stakeholders engaged throughout North America to provide expertise during standard development ensuring that all projects were of high quality and adhered to timely schedules.

Now, in the 2015-2017 RSDP, the number of projects necessary to reach steady-state by 2015 is reduced and the pace of the work will likely become more deliberate. ~~Eleven~~Ten projects that began during 2014 will be completed in 2015,[3] while four new projects will be initiated in 2015, with one focused on aligning the Glossary of Terms used in NERC Reliability Standards with the Definitions used in the Rules of Procedure (Rules of Procedure, Appendix 2). This reduction in planned Standards projects provides a bandwidth to: 1) respond to emerging risks, if any, to reliability, 2) establish ~~a quality and content~~ an enhanced periodic review for quality and content, and 3) address any new FERC orders or directives. Also, given the increased focus on quality during the standard development process, as well as active engagement of the FERC Office of Electric Reliability staff during the standards development process, FERC directives and orders on existing standards are expected to trend lower.

Following the completion of the work to achieve steady-state, the Reliability Standards will continue to be assessed for quality, content or alignment with other standards through enhanced periodic reviews, building on the foundation established by the IERP[4]. These enhanced periodic reviews will also provide an opportunity to incorporate lessons learned from understanding the characteristics of quality, content and results-based standards; further target applicability based on risk; and clarify compliance assessment so the Reliability Standards achieve the intended reliability benefit without creating undue burden on industry. The NERC model is unique in the realm of regulation; and, with the participation by stakeholders, the SC and applicable regulatory authorities, we are demonstrating that this is a viable regulatory model.

---

[1] As stated in the 2014-2016 RSDP and 2014-2016 Standards Committee Strategic Work Plan, Steady-State means a set of clear, concise, high quality and technically sound Reliability Standards that are results-based, while retiring requirements that do little to promote reliability.

[2] There are 7 P81 candidates that will be addressed during the enhanced periodic reviews.

[3] Three of these projects are scheduled to be completed in February 2015. Project 2014-04 Physical Security Directives, was initiated in November 2014 to address FERC's directives in Order No. 802 (final order on CIP-014-1 – Physical Security).

[4] The North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) retained five industry experts to independently review the NERC Reliability Standards, setting the foundation for a plan that will result in a set of clear, concise and sustainable body of Reliability Standards. The primary scope was an assessment of the content and quality of the Reliability Standards, including identification of potential Bulk-Power System (BPS) risks that were not adequately mitigated.

Steady-State

The NERC Reliability Standards will reach steady-state in 2015.

This section provides information on the status of FERC directives, Paragraph 81 candidates and the IERP's recommendations for retirement. Completion of projects is discussed in the next section, "2014 Status Report."

Directives

In 2013, NERC set out to address the 191 FERC directives that were issued and unaddressed prior to December 2012:

	2012 Directives	2013/2014 Directives	Total
Issued prior to year-end 2012*	191		
Issued in 2013/2014*		~~55~~50	
Resolved as of December 15, 2014	1~~6~~58	~~29~~25	
Remaining	~~23~~33	~~26~~25	**49**
Projected to be resolved in 2014	~~3~~13	~~15~~14	18
Projected to be remaining at year-end 2014	20	11	31

*Does not include non-standards' related directives

Table 1. Completion of Directives

While this is one benchmark, it is also imperative to address the FERC directives issued post-December 2012 in a timely fashion. As noted in the footnote to the chart above, FERC issued some directives that require work from groups outside of standards, such as the NERC technical committees, or another internal NERC department, such as Reliability Assessment and Performance Analysis (RAPA). These directives, as they cannot be resolved through a Standards process, are not included in the above numbers.

As depicted in Table 1, the majority of the 191 Directives (115 or 60 percent) were addressed in 2013. Depending upon project completion, 171 will be addressed at year-end 2014.

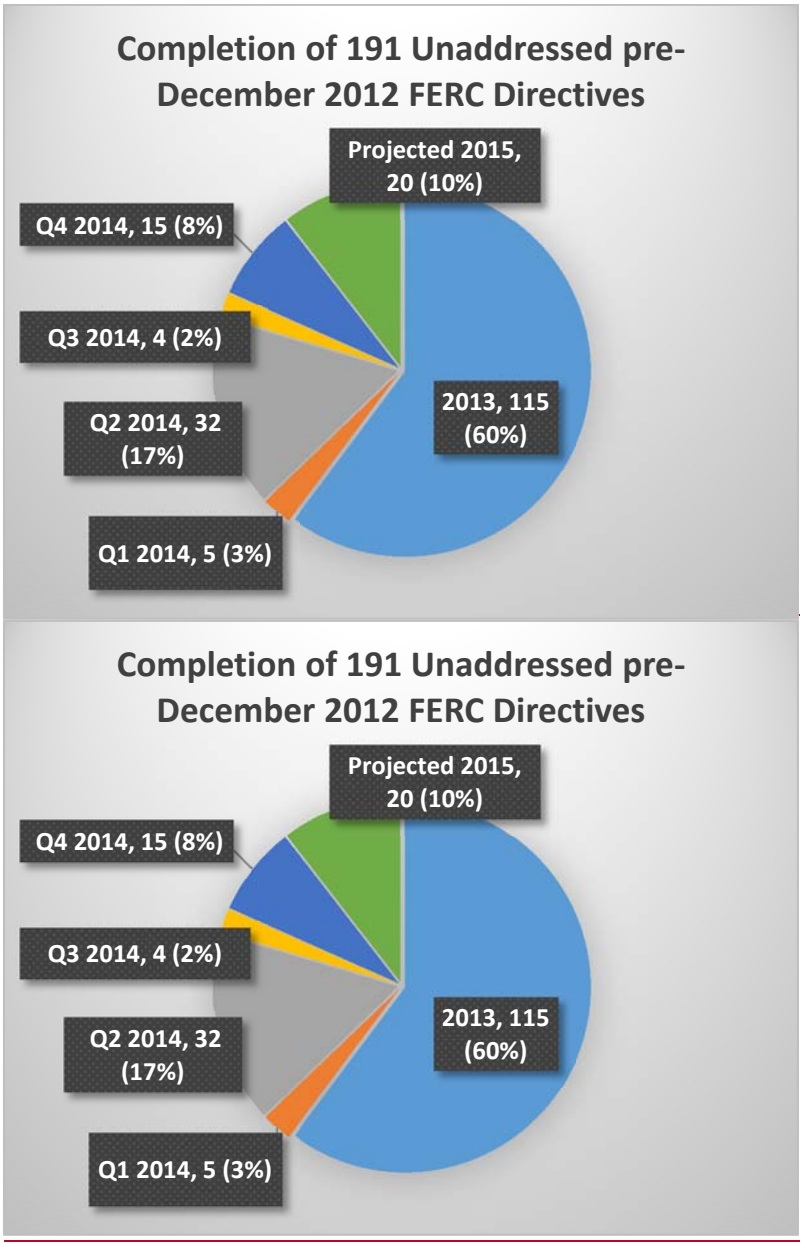


Chart 1. Completion of 191 Directives

FERC has issued ~~64~~59 directives since December 2012. Nine of those pertain to areas outside of standards. Twenty-~~n~~f~~i~~n~~v~~e have been addressed. Of the remaining ~~26, 15~~25, 14 are projected to be addressed in 2014 and 11 in 2015. Completion of the total number of directives is shown in Chart 2.



Chart 2. Completion of Remaining Directives

Paragraph 81 Candidates and IERP Recommendations for Retirement

The P81 project was initiated in response to Paragraph 81 of FERC's March 15, 2012 Order.[5,6] Candidate requirements for retirement filed in a Phase 1 of the project were approved by FERC in Order 788, issued on November 21, 2013.[7] In addition to candidate requirements filed in Phase 1, stakeholders identified 217 candidates for consideration. These candidates were addressed through standard development projects for each standard, rather than in one project for efficiency. Further, the IERP recommended 147 candidates for retirement.[8]

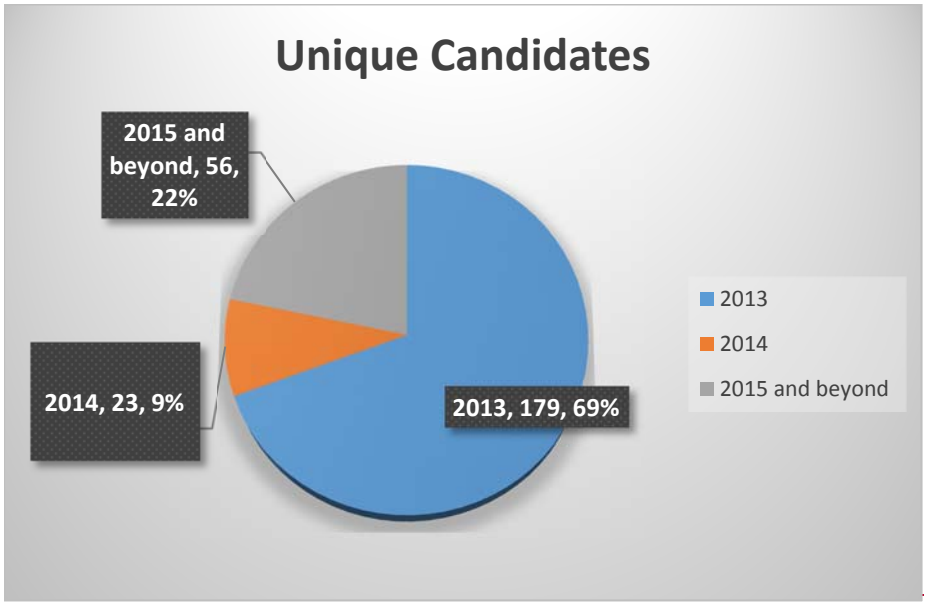
There was some overlap in the requirements recommended for retirement. When combined, a total of 281 unique requirements were identified and are projected for standard development team consideration as follows:

[5] 138 FERC 61,193, Order Accepting with Conditions the Electric Reliability Organization's Petition Requesting Approval of New Enforcement Mechanisms and Requiring Compliance Filing, March 15, 2012.

[6] Id., p. 81: …The Commission is interested in obtaining views on whether such requirements could be removed from the Reliability Standards with little effect on reliability and an increase in efficiency of the ERO compliance program. If NERC believes that specific Reliability Standards or specific requirements within certain Standards should be revised or removed, we invite NERC to make specific proposals to the Commission identifying the Standards or requirements and setting forth in detail the technical basis for its belief. In addition, or in the alternative, we invite NERC, the Regional Entities and other interested entities to propose appropriate mechanisms to identify and remove from the Commission-approved Reliability Standards unnecessary or redundant requirements. We will not impose a deadline on when these comments should be submitted, but ask that to the extent such comments are submitted NERC, the Regional Entities, and interested entities coordinate to submit their respective comments concurrently.

[7] FERC Order No. 788, 145 FERC 61,147, Electric Reliability Organization Proposal to Retire Requirements in Reliability Standards, November 21, 2013.

[8] See Appendix E of the Independent Experts Review Project.



~~Chart 3. Candidates Unique for P81 and IERP~~

	Current Status	P81 and IERP Recommendations for Retirement
Total*		281
Addressed	236	
In current projects	38	
Not assigned	7	

*Unique requirements

Table 2. Candidates Unique for P81 and IERP

Resolution

Recommendations for retirement are tracked at the requirement level. If the entire requirement was recommended for retirement, drafting teams may have considered one action (or part of a requirement) suitable for retirement, but determined that another action within a requirement should be retained. In conducting the analysis to determine whether the drafting team followed a recommendation for retirement, if the intent of the recommendation was met or if the majority of the requirement was retired, this analysis considers the recommendation addressed. With those considerations, the status of the resolution for ~~179~~the candidates addressed as of the ~~second~~fourth quarter of 2014 is:

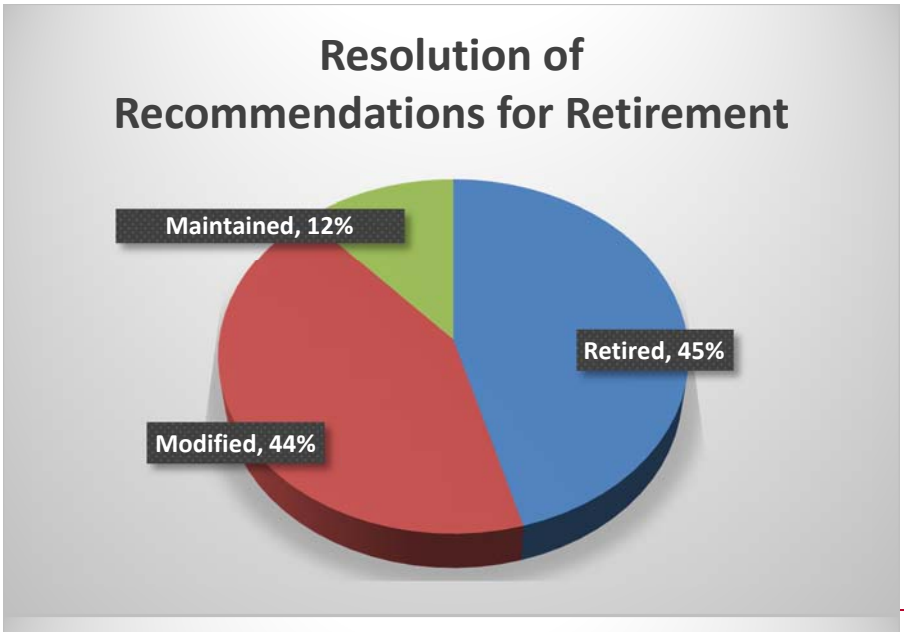


Chart ~~4~~3. Resolution of Recommendation for

2014 Progress Report

The 2014–2016 RSDP identified thirteen active projects to be conducted over the three-year period, of which eight are projected to be completed by year-end 2014. There are ten additional projects that have continued development from the 2013-2015 RSDP, all of which are scheduled to be completed in 2014. Finally, there are four projects that were initiated in 2014 as a result of a reliability need or to respond to a FERC order or directive.

An "*" next to a project indicates that the SC has not yet accepted a Standards Authorization Request (SAR) for posting.

Projects that were listed in the 2014–2016 RSDP:

- Project 2008-02 Undervoltage Load Shedding and Underfrequency Load Shedding
- Project 2007-11 Disturbance Monitoring
- Project 2009-02 Real-Time Reliability Monitoring and Analysis Capabilities (consolidated into Project 2014-03 TOP/IRO Revisions)
- Project 2009-03 Emergency Operations
- Project 2010-02 Connecting New Facilities to the Grid
- Project 2010-05.2 Phase 2 of Protection System Misoperations: SPS/RAS
- Project 2010-08 Functional Model Glossary Revisions (withdrawn)
- Project 2010-14.2 Periodic Review and Revisions of BAL-004, BAL-005 and BAL-006
- Project 2012-09 Implementation of IRO Five-year Review Recommendations
- Project 2012-13 NUC Review and Implementation
- Project 2013-03 Geomagnetic Disturbance Mitigation Measures (Stage 2)

Two projects were listed as pending technical committee input and initiated in the first quarter of 2014:

- Project 2007-17.3 Protection System Maintenance and Testing Auxiliary Relays
- Project 2010-13.3 Generator Relay Loadability Stable Power Swings

The following projects were listed in the 2013-2015 RSDP:[9]

- Project 2007-02 Operating Personnel Communications Protocol
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- Project 2010-04 Demand Data – MOD C
- Project 2010-05.1 Phase 1 of Protection Systems: Misoperations
- Project 2010-14.1 Phase 1 of Balancing Authority Reliability-Based Control: Reserves

[9] These projects were also included in the 2014-2016 RSDP in the 203-2015 Progress Report section.

- Project 2012-05 ATC Revisions – MOD A
- Project 2013-04 Voltage and Reactive Control

The following projects were identified as either an emerging issue or developed in response to a FERC order or directive:

- Project 2014-02 CIP Version 5 Revisions
- Project 2014-01 Standards Applicability for Dispersed Generation Resources
- Project 2014-03 Revisions to TOP/IRO Standards
- Project 2014-04 Physical Security

2015 Projects

As discussed in the prior section, there are eleven projects that were in process in 2014 that are projected to continue into 2015. Four of these projects, Project 2008-02 Undervoltage Load Shedding, Project 2008-02.5 Underfrequency Load Shedding, Project 2009-03 Emergency Operations and Project 2010-14.2 Revisions of BAL-004, BAL-005 and BAL-006 may complete in 2014, reducing the number of projects carrying over into 2015 to two (2).

Two of the projects that are identified below as being initiated in 2013 are directly related to resolving remaining FERC Directives, one is to complete the review of the FAC standards from the 2013 periodic reviews, and the remaining project is being conducted to align the Glossary of Terms used in the NERC Reliability Standards and the Definitions used in the Rules of Procedure. The project to complete the FAC standards review may be included with the 2015 Periodic Review.

Additionally, the IERP identified three high-level gaps that were reviewed by the NERC Operating Committee in 2014. It is anticipated that two of the issues, Outage Coordination and Situational Awareness, will be addressed by the TOP/IRO Revisions project. Depending upon the outcome of that project, additional work may be necessary. The third issue, Governor Frequency Response, was determined by the Operating Committee as a potential area of concern, but one that is being monitored. Depending upon the findings of the Operating Committee on this issue, more work may be necessary for this concern, as well.

An "*" next to a project indicates that the SC has not yet accepted a Standards Authorization Request (SAR) for posting.

Projects continuing from 2014 into 2015

As stated above, the following projects will continue from 2014:

- Project 2007-06 System Protection Coordination
- Project 2007-06.2 PRC-001 (Separating PRC-001 from Project 2014-03 Revisions to TOP/IRO Standards and Project 2007-06 System Protection Coordination)
- Project 2008-02 PRC-004-X Undervoltage Load Shedding
- Project 2009-02 Real-Time Reliability Monitoring and Analysis Capabilities (~~consolidated into~~Separated from Project 2014-03 TOP/IRO Revisions)
- Project 2010-05.2 Phase 2 of Protection System Misoperations: SPS/RAS
- Project 2010-14.2 Phase 2 Implementation of BAL-~~004, BAL-~~005 and BAL-006 Periodic Review Recommendations
- Project 2010-14.2.2 Phase 2 Periodic Review of BAL-004
- Project 2012-09 Implementation of IRO Review (on hold pending completion of the TOP/IRO Revisions)
- Project 2014-01 Standards Applicability for Dispersed Generation Resources (Medium Priority Standards)[10]
- Project 2014-02 CIP Version 5 Revisions[11]

[10] Scheduled for February and May completions.
[11] Scheduled for February completion.

- Project 2014-03 Revisions to TOP/IRO Standards – TOP-001-3[12]
- Project 2014-04 Physical Security Directives

Projects to be initiated in 2015[13]

To achieve steady-state, the following projects will be initiated in 2015. The EOP and FAC periodic review projects planned for initiation in 2015 complete reviews that were deferred by Review Teams in 2013, either due to interdependencies with standards that were pending regulatory approval, or to gain compliance experience prior to conducting the review.

Consistent with the approach applied to prioritize projects in the 2014-2016 RSDP and used by the SC for new projects, such as Project 2014-01 Standards Applicability for Dispersed Generation Resources, new projects for 2015 have been assigned a prioritization of High, Medium, Low or Pending Technical Committee input. Specific elements considered in prioritization include: (1) Reliability Issues Steering Committee (RISC) Category Rankings, (2) regulatory directives, (3) regulatory deadlines, (4) Reliability Standard requirement candidates for retirement, (5) the IERP content and quality assessments, and (6) additional considerations (fill-in-the-blank status and five-year assessment commitments). The prioritization gave primary consideration to RISC Category Rankings, regulatory directives and regulatory deadlines, which was further informed by the other prioritization elements. Based on the application of these elements, this section prioritizes each Reliability Standard project as High, Medium, Low or Pending Technical Committee input.

The prioritization in this RSDP does not include projects in progress at year-end 2014, since those projects have been previously prioritized. Additionally, this plan does not include any new projects that may need to be initiated consistent with the Standard Processes Manual (SPM), in response to FERC directives issued after August 2014, or to implement the recommendations from the Risk-Based Registration initiative. Any such projects initiated by the SC will be added to the Project Tracking Spreadsheet posted on the SC's webpage for a real-time tracking, and to the next RSDP.

Prioritization Considerations for 2015 Projects~~:~~

Medium Priority

- Project 2015-01 TPL Directives (prioritized by SC in 2014)*
  - Two FERC directives
  - RISC: medium priority area (Operational Modeling and Model Inputs)
  - IERP considerations: minor quality and content
- Project 2015-02 Periodic Review of EOP-004, EOP-005, EOP-006 and EOP-008*
  - No FERC directives
  - RISC: medium priority area (Operational Modeling and Model Inputs)
  - IERP considerations: some content and some quality
  - Three P81 Candidates
- Project 2015-03 Periodic Review of System Operating Limit Standards (FAC-010, FAC-011, and FAC-014)*
  - RISC: medium priority area (Operational Modeling and Model Inputs)

[12] Scheduled for February completion.
[13] See Appendix 1 for 2015 project detail.

- IERP: content and quality issues
- Two P81 candidates

Low Priority

- Project 2015-04 Alignment of Glossary of Terms used in NERC Reliability Standards and the Definitions used in the Rules of Procedure (Rules of Procedure Appendix 2)*

Sustainable Approach to Periodic Reviews[14]

At the February 6, 2014 Board of Trustees (Board) meeting, the Board requested that NERC management and the leadership of the SC work together to develop a mutually acceptable metric for 2015-2017, including a content and quality grading system for the Reliability Standards as part of the metric. Jointly, the following approach was developed, which was endorsed by the SC on March 12, 2014, and, in summary form, adopted by Corporate Governance and Human Resources Subcommittee of the Board on March 20, 2014.

2014 and 2015 Metric

The metric for 2014 and 2015 focuses on ensuring certain Reliability Standard projects are completed in a timely manner. For 2014, the standard projects are all high priority standard projects, many with regulatory deadlines.

2016 and 2017 Metric

The implementation of an enhanced Reliability Standard periodic review for quality and content takes into consideration the following issues: (1) folding the enhanced quality and content periodic review into the period review required by Section 13 of the SPM; (2) a quality and content review of the steady-state Standards developed, considering the use of, or adaptation of, the 2013 Independent Expert Review Team's quality and content scoring system; (3) the formation of a cross-functional task force to conduct periodic reviews of steady-state Reliability Standards, potentially consisting of Committee chairs, NERC management, and NERC and stakeholder subject matter experts (with all task force meetings open to the public); (4) the task force's use of the quality and content system developed in response to (2), above, to identify needed enhancements to steady-state standards for inclusion in a Standards Authorization Request (SAR) processed through the standards development process and completed within a year from the date of posting of the SAR, unless technical review and study is needed (to the extent possible, the inclusion of identified enhancements in a SAR shall be limited focusing enhancements rather than re-opening an entire standard(s); and (5) the development of an annual task force review timeline starting with the cross-functional task force being operational no later than mid-2015, so it can identify which standards will undergo the enhanced period review for inclusion in the 2016-2018 Reliability Standards Development Plan.

The above summary of the metric approach shows a focus on the completion of transforming NERC's Reliability Standards to a steady-state by the end of 2015, and, thereafter, the initiation of an enhanced periodic review to address quality and content issues related to the steady-state Reliability Standards. It is contemplated that approximately 25 percent of the steady-state Reliability Standards could begin the enhanced periodic review in 2015.

[14] During 2014 this framework is being presented for stakeholder comment, and then Board approval, so the final framework may differ in some respects from the approach outlined here.

At its March 2014 meeting, the SC appointed a periodic review development team (consisting of the SC Executive Committee and the Project Management and Oversight and Process Subcommittees chairs) to work with NERC staff and legal to develop the attributes of the enhanced quality and content periodic review. This team developed an approach to address the Board's direction, as summarized below.

Summary of draft enhanced periodic review approach

- The enhanced periodic review approach will satisfy NERC's obligations under Section 13 of the *Standard Processes Manual*, and will be conducted in accordance with that section.
- The SC shall appoint a standing cross-functional team including NERC staff and the NERC standing committee representatives to work with the Section 13 *"review team of subject matter experts."* This team will be appointed by the SC, who will adopt the results of the team's deliberations.
- The cross-functional team shall be operational no later than the beginning of 2015 so it may make recommendations to the SC on the Reliability Standards that should undergo the enhanced periodic review in 2016-2018, and so these projects may be included in the 2016-2018 Reliability Standards Development Plan.
- NERC's five-year periodic review template that was successfully employed for a number of standards in 2013 and 2014 has been revised and adapted to include those quality and content questions developed by the Independent Expert Review Panel that were not already included. The template was further adapted to eliminate duplicative questions, and to provide the cross-functional Review Team with a clear framework to conduct the periodic reviews. A new question was added to consider whether the applicability section or requirements can be revised for smaller entities, provided that there is technical justification to support tailoring the applicability.
- A dashboard will be developed for each reviewed standard indicating whether it has a score of Green, Yellow or Red, according to the following grading system:
  - Green = no quality and content changes needed – standard confirmed as steady-state;
  - Yellow = the standard is sufficient to protect reliability and meet the reliability objective of the standard; however, there may be future opportunity to improve a non-substantive or insignificant quality and content issue – i.e., continue to monitor; and
  - Red = the standard needs to be retired or revised to address identified quality and content issues.
- Standards graded as "Red" by the cross-functional Review Team will be revised in a manner consistent with applicable sections of the SPM.

In 2015, the cross-functional Review Team appointed by the SC will prioritize families or groups of standards for review starting in 2016 and going forward. As resources permit, reviews of standards may begin in 2015.

Appendix 1 – Projects for 2015

Project 2015-01 TPL Directives

This project will address two directives and consider other improvements to TPL-001-4 — Transmission System Planning Performance Requirements.

Order 678:

- Para 40 - Direct NERC to modify Reliability Standard TPL-001-4 to address the concern that the six month threshold could exclude planned maintenance outages of significant facilities from future planning assessments.
- Para 89 - Directs NERC to consider a similar spare equipment strategy for stability analysis upon the next review cycle of Reliability Standard TPL-001-4.

Project 2015-02 Periodic Review of EOP-004, EOP-005, EOP-006 and EOP-008

This periodic review project will review four (4) EOP standards for which the review was delayed to allow the Electric Reliability Organization (ERO) and industry to gain compliance experience with revisions to the standards that became enforceable in 2013 and early 2014. The review team will also consider one directive and, as part of its recommendation on EOP-006, recommend whether a guideline should be developed.

Order 749:

- Para 24 - (EOP-006) …Once the standard is effective, if industry determines that ambiguity with the term [unique tasks] arises, it would be appropriate for NERC to consider its proposal to develop a guideline to aid entities in their compliance obligations.

Project 2015-03 Periodic Review of System Operating Limit Standards (FAC-010, FAC-011, and FAC-014)

The three NERC Reliability Standards in this periodic review project concern methodologies for determining and communicating System Operating Limits. In 2013, a five-year review team (FYRT) assigned to review the FAC family of standards recommended review of these three standards be delayed until shortly after approval of the TPL, TOP, and IRO standards which were pending regulatory approval at the time of the FAC five-year review. TPL-001-4 was approved by FERC in October 2013; the TOP and IRO standards are being revised in 2014 for filing with applicable regulators in early 2015.

Project 2015-04 Alignment of Definitions in *Glossary of Terms used in NERC Reliability Standards* and NERC *Rules of Procedure*, Appendix 2

This project will review the NERC *Glossary of Terms Used in Reliability Standards* (Glossary) to determine what changes are necessary to align the Glossary definitions with definitions of the same terms used in the NERC *Rules of Procedure,* Appendix 2.

NERC
NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY CORPORATION

January 13, 2015

Ms. Kimberly D. Bose
Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, D.C. 20426

Re: Request for Extension of Time to File Revisions to the Critical Infrastructure Protection Reliability Standards, Docket No. RM13-5-___

Dear Secretary Bose:

The North American Electric Reliability Corporation ("NERC") hereby requests a 10-day extension of time to file the revisions to the Critical Infrastructure Protection ("CIP") Reliability Standards required by Order No. 791.[1] As explained below, the 10-day extension will provide NERC time to submit all of the modifications required by Order No. 791 as a single package and ease the administrative burden on the Commission, NERC, and the industry.

In Order No. 791, the Commission approved new and modified CIP Reliability Standards, referred to as the CIP Version 5 Standards, and, among other things, directed NERC to develop the following four modifications to those standards:

1. Modify or remove the language in 17 requirements in the CIP Version 5 Standards that requires entities to implement cyber security policies in a manner that "identifies, assesses, and corrects deficiencies."
2. Develop modifications to the CIP Version 5 Standards to address security controls for assets containing "low impact" BES Cyber Systems.
3. Develop requirements that protect transient electronic devices (e.g., thumb drives, laptop computers) that fall outside the definition of BES Cyber Asset.
4. Create a definition of "communication networks" and develop new or modified standards that address the protection of the nonprogrammable components of communication networks.

The Commission directed NERC to submit the modifications in response to the "identify, assess, and correct" and communications network directives within one year from the effective date of Order No. 791, which is February 3, 2015. The Commission did not provide a deadline for the other directives.

[1] *Version 5 Critical Infrastructure Protection Reliability Standards*, Order No. 791, 145 FERC ¶ 61,160 at PP 4, 42, 67, 76, 124, 125, 150 (2013).

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Suite 600, North Tower
Atlanta, GA 30326
404-446-2560 | www.nerc.com

Following the issuance of Order No. 791, NERC initiated a standards development project to address all four directives simultaneously. In November 2014, the NERC Board of Trustees ("BOT") adopted revisions addressing the "identify, assess, and correct" language and the communications network directive. Although the revisions to address the other directives also received the requisite stakeholder approval at that time, the standard drafting team determined that additional development was necessary to address certain stakeholder comments. As such, NERC did not request BOT adoption of those revisions at the November 2014 BOT meeting. Instead, NERC posted a revised set of standards for comment and an additional ballot on November 25, 2014.[2]

Given that the revisions associated with the "low impact" and transient electronic device directives were nearing completion, NERC decided that it was prudent to await the outcome of the additional ballot to see if all of the revisions addressing the Order No. 791 directives could be filed as a single package for Commission approval. This approach will conserve Commission and industry resources and avoid the potential confusion that could result from the filing of overlapping standards. On January 9, 2015, the revised set of standards passed additional ballot. A 10-day final ballot will be conducted at the end of January 2015. The next scheduled meeting at which the BOT can adopt the revised set of standards, however, is February 12, 2015. Accordingly, NERC respectfully requests a short, 10-day extension of time, until February 13, 2015, to file the revisions addressing the "identify, assess, and correct" and the communications network directives. A 10-day extension will allow the NERC BOT time to approve the proposed revisions at its regularly scheduled meeting while also enabling NERC to file a single set of revised standards addressing the Order No. 791 directives.

As the February 3, 2015 deadline is quickly approaching, NERC respectfully requests that the Commission act expeditiously on the request.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Shamai Elstein
Shamai Elstein
North American Electric Reliability Corporation
Counsel
1325 G Street, NW, Suite 600
Washington, D.C. 20005
202-400-3009
shamai.elstein@nerc.net

Counsel to the North American Electric Reliability Corporation

[2] This revised set of standards would supersede many of the standards adopted by the NERC BOT in November 2014.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have served a copy of the foregoing document upon all parties listed on the official service list compiled by the Secretary in this proceeding.

Dated at Washington, D.C. this 13th day of January, 2015.

/s/ Courtney Baughan
Courtney Baughan

Legal Assistant for the North American Electric Reliability Corporation

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20426

OFFICE OF ENERGY MARKET REGULATION

North American Electric Reliability Corporation
Docket No. RR15-3-000

January 13, 2015

North American Electric Reliability Corporation
1325 G Street, NW, Suite 600
Washington, DC 20005

Attention: Holly A. Hawkins
Associate General Counsel

Reference: Amendments to Delegation Agreement with Florida Reliability Coordinating Council, Inc.

Dear Ms. Hawkins:

On November 19, 2014, North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) submitted amendments to its Delegation Agreement with Florida Reliability Coordinating Council, Inc. (FRCC), specifically to revise the FRCC Bylaws.

Notice of this filing was issued on November 20, 2014, with protests and interventions due on or before December 10, 2014. Notices of intervention and unopposed timely filed motions to intervene are granted pursuant to the operation of Rule 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure. 18 C.F.R. § 385.214. No protests were filed.

NERC's uncontested filing is accepted pursuant to the relevant authority delegated to the Director, Office of Energy Market Regulation, under 18 C.F.R. § 375.307.

This action shall not be construed as approving any other application, including proposed revisions of Electric Reliability Organization or Regional Entity rules or procedures pursuant to 18 C.F.R. § 375.307(a)(2)(vi). This action does not constitute approval of any service, rate, charge, classification, or any rule, regulation, contract, or practice affecting such rate or service provided for in the filed documents. Such action shall not be deemed as recognition of any claimed right or obligation associated therewith and such action is without prejudice to any findings or orders that have been or may

hereafter be made by the Commission in any proceeding now pending or hereafter instituted by or against the Electric Reliability Organization or any Regional Entity.

This order constitutes final agency action. Requests for rehearing by the Commission may be filed within 30 days of the date of issuance of this order pursuant to 18 C.F.R. § 385.713.

Sincerely,

Penny S. Murrell, Director
Division of Electric Power Regulation-Central

20141223-3026 FERC PDF (Unofficial) 12/23/2014

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20426

OFFICE OF ENERGY MARKET REGULATION

North American Electric Reliability Corporation
Docket No. RR14-7-000

December 23, 2014

North American Electric Reliability Corporation
1325 G Street, NW, Suite 600
Washington, DC 20005

Attention: William H. Edwards
Counsel for North American Electric Reliability Corporation

Reference: Revisions to Delegation Agreement with Northeast Power Coordinating Council, Inc.

Dear Mr. Edwards:

On September 15, 2014, as supplemented on October 28, 2014, North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) submitted revisions to NERC's Delegation Agreement with Northeast Power Coordinating Council, Inc. (NPCC), specifically to revise the NPCC Regional Reliability Standards Development Procedure.

Notices of these filings were issued on September 16, 2014 and October 29, 2014, with protests and interventions due on or before October 6, 2014 and November 18, 2014, respectively. Notices of intervention and unopposed timely filed motions to intervene are granted pursuant to the operation of Rule 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure. 18 C.F.R. § 385.214. No protests were filed.

NERC's uncontested filing is accepted pursuant to the relevant authority delegated to the Director, Office of Energy Market Regulation, under 18 C.F.R. § 375.307.

This action shall not be construed as approving any other application, including proposed revisions of Electric Reliability Organization or Regional Entity rules or procedures pursuant to 18 C.F.R. § 375.307(a)(2)(vi). This action does not constitute approval of any service, rate, charge, classification, or any rule, regulation, contract, or practice affecting such rate or service provided for in the filed documents. Such action shall not be deemed as recognition of any claimed right or obligation associated therewith

20141223-3026 FERC PDF (Unofficial) 12/23/2014

and such action is without prejudice to any findings or orders that have been or may hereafter be made by the Commission in any proceeding now pending or hereafter instituted by or against the Electric Reliability Organization or any Regional Entity.

This order constitutes final agency action. Requests for rehearing by the Commission may be filed within 30 days of the date of issuance of this order pursuant to 18 C.F.R. § 385.713.

Sincerely,

Penny S. Murrell, Director
Division of Electric Power Regulation-Central

20141223-3026 FERC PDF (Unofficial) 12/23/2014

Document Content(s)

RR14-7-000.DOC.....1-2

150 FERC ¶ 61,039
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

18 CFR Part 40

[Docket No. RM14-8-000; Order No. 803]

Protection System Maintenance Reliability Standard

(Issued January 22, 2015)

AGENCY: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Federal Power Act, the Commission approves a revised Reliability Standard, PRC-005-3 (Protection System and Automatic Reclosing Maintenance), submitted by the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC). In addition, the Commission approves one new definition and six revised definitions referenced in the Reliability Standard, the assigned violation risk factors and violation severity levels, and NERC's implementation plan. Consistent with Order No. 758, the Reliability Standard requires applicable entities to test and maintain certain autoreclosing relays as part of a protection system maintenance program. However, to ensure that proper maintenance and testing is done for all parts of a reclosing relay scheme that can affect the reliable operation of the Bulk-Power System, the Commission directs that NERC develop a modification to the Reliability Standard to include maintenance and testing of supervisory relays.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This rule will become effective **[INSERT DATE 60 days after publication in the FEDERAL REGISTER]**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

150 FERC ¶ 61,039
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Before Commissioners: Cheryl A. LaFleur, Chairman;
Philip D. Moeller, Tony Clark,
Norman C. Bay, and Colette D. Honorable.

Protection System Maintenance Reliability Standard — Docket No. RM14-8-000

ORDER NO. 803

FINAL RULE

(Issued January 22, 2015)

1. Pursuant to section 215 of the Federal Power Act (FPA),[1] the Commission approves a revised Reliability Standard, PRC-005-3 (Protection System and Automatic Reclosing Maintenance), submitted by the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC). In addition, the Commission approves one new definition and six revised definitions referenced in the Reliability Standard, the assigned violation risk factors and violation severity levels, and NERC's implementation plan. Consistent with Order No. 758,[2] the revised Reliability Standard requires applicable entities to test and maintain certain autoreclosing relays as part of a protection system maintenance program. However, to ensure that proper maintenance and testing is done for all parts of a reclosing

[1] 16 U.S.C. 824o (2012).

[2] *Interpretation of Protection System Reliability Standard*, Order No. 758, 138 FERC ¶ 61,094, *clarification denied*, 139 FERC ¶ 61,227 (2012).

relay scheme that can affect the reliable operation of the Bulk-Power System, the Commission directs that NERC develop a modification to the Reliability Standard to include maintenance and testing of supervisory relays, as discussed below.[3]

I. Background

A. Regulatory Background

2. Section 215 of the FPA requires a Commission-certified Electric Reliability Organization (ERO) to develop mandatory and enforceable Reliability Standards, subject to Commission review and approval.[4] Once approved, the Reliability Standards may be enforced by the ERO subject to Commission oversight, or by the Commission independently.[5] In 2006, the Commission certified NERC as the ERO.[6]

3. In 2007, in Order No. 693, the Commission approved an initial set of Reliability Standards submitted by NERC, including initial versions of four protection system and load-shedding-related maintenance standards: PRC-005-1, PRC-008-0, PRC-011-0, and

[3] Supervisory devices, as applied to autoreclosing relays, essentially "supervise" the actions of an autoreclosing scheme, i.e., allow autoreclosing for desirable conditions or block autoreclosing for undesirable conditions.

[4] 16 U.S.C. 824o(c) and (d).

[5] *See id.* at 824o(e).

[6] *North American Electric Reliability Corp.*, 116 FERC ¶ 61,062, *order on reh'g and compliance*, 117 FERC ¶ 61,126 (2006), *order on compliance*, 118 FERC ¶ 61,030, *order on compliance*, 118 FERC ¶ 61,190, *order on reh'g*, 119 FERC ¶ 61,046 (2007), *rev. denied sub nom. Alcoa, Inc. v. FERC*, 564 F.3d 1342 (D.C. Cir. 2009).

PRC-017-0.[7] In addition, the Commission directed that NERC develop a revision to PRC-005-1 to incorporate a maximum time interval during which to conduct maintenance and testing of protection systems, and to consider combining into one standard the various maintenance and testing requirements for all of the maintenance and testing-related Reliability Standards for protection systems, underfrequency load shedding (UFLS) equipment and undervoltage load shedding (UVLS) equipment.

4. The Commission issued Order No. 758 in February 2012, in response to NERC's request for approval of its interpretation of Requirement R1 of the then-current version of the protection system maintenance standard, PRC-005-1. The Commission accepted NERC's proposed interpretation of PRC-005-1, which identified the types of protection system equipment to which the Reliability Standard applied. In addition, the Commission directed NERC to develop modifications to the standard to address gaps highlighted by the proposed interpretation, including the need to address reclosing relays that may affect the reliability of the Bulk-Power System.[8]

5. Prior to issuance of Order No. 758, NERC had begun developing revisions to its initial maintenance standards for protection systems and underfrequency and undervoltage load shedding equipment in response to the Order No. 693 directives.

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[7] *Mandatory Reliability Standards for the Bulk-Power System*, Order No. 693, FERC Stats. & Regs. ¶ 31,242 at PP 1474, 1492, 1497, and 1514, *order on reh'g*, Order No. 693-A, 120 FERC ¶ 61,053 (2007).

[8] *See* Order No. 758, 138 FERC ¶ 61,094 at PP 7, 23-24.

Those revisions, reflected in a consolidated Reliability Standard, PRC-005-2, were approved by the Commission on December 24, 2013 in Order No. 793.[9]

B. NERC Petition and Proposed Standard PRC-005-3

6. On February 14, 2014, NERC submitted a petition seeking approval of proposed Reliability Standard PRC-005-3. In its petition, NERC maintained that the standard promotes reliability by making certain reclosing relays subject to a mandatory maintenance program, including adding detailed tables of minimum maintenance activities and maximum maintenance intervals for the reclosing relays. NERC explained that the purpose of PRC-005-3 is to "document and implement programs for the maintenance of all Protection Systems and Automatic Reclosing affecting the reliability of the Bulk Electric System so that they are kept in working order."[10]

7. NERC explained that the subset of reclosing applications included in proposed PRC-005-3 is based on the findings of a technical study performed, in response to Order No. 758, by NERC's System Analysis and Modeling Subcommittee (SAMS) and System Protection and Control Subcommittee (SPCS). The resulting study (the Joint Committee Report), attached to NERC's petition as Exhibit D, examined both the scope of reclosing relays that could affect the reliable operation of the Bulk-Power System and appropriate maintenance intervals and activities for those relays.

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[9] *Protection System Maintenance Reliability Standard*, Order No. 793, 145 FERC ¶ 61,253 (2013).

[10] NERC Petition at 8.

8. In its petition, NERC explained that reclosing relays are "utilized on transmission systems to restore elements to service following automatic circuit breaker tripping," and are "typically installed to lessen the burden on Transmission operators of manually restoring transmission lines."[11] NERC explained that "while more efficient restoration of transmission lines following temporary faults does provide an inherent reliability benefit, certain applications of reclosing relays can result in undesired relay operation or operation not consistent with relay design, leading to adverse reliability impacts."[12] After examining these potential reliability impacts, the Joint Committee Report recommended that the revised standard should:

> 1) explicitly address maintenance and testing of reclosing relays applied as an integral part of a Special Protection System; and 2) include maintenance and testing of reclosing relays at or in proximity to generating plants at which the total installed capacity is greater than the capacity of the largest generating unit within the Balancing Authority Area.[13]

In addition, NERC explained that the Joint Committee Report recommended that "proximity" to these large generators be defined as "substations one bus away if the substation is within 10 miles of the plant."[14]

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[11] *Id.* at 9 (citations to Joint Committee Report omitted).

[12] *Id.*

[13] *Id.* at 10.

[14] *Id.* NERC staff conducted its own analysis of this definition of "proximity," "to verify that the 10-mile threshold provides adequate margin to ensure maintenance and testing of all reclosing relays where failure could result in generating station instability."

(continued…)

9. The Joint Committee Report recommendations are reflected in the applicability section of PRC-005-3, which identifies, *inter alia*, the following facilities:

> 4.2.6.1 Automatic Reclosing applied on terminals of Elements connected to the BES bus located at generating plant substations where the total installed gross generating plant capacity is greater than the gross capacity of the largest BES generating unit within the Balancing Authority Area.
>
> 4.2.6.2 Automatic Reclosing applied on the terminals of all BES Elements at substations one bus away from generating plants specified in Section 4.2.6.1 when the substation is less than 10 circuit-miles from the generating plant substation.
>
> 4.2.6.3 Automatic Reclosing applied as an integral part of an SPS specified in Section 4.2.4.[15]

10. Further, NERC proposed modifications to the language of Requirements R1, R3, and R4 of PRC-005-2 to reflect the inclusion of automatic reclosing relays. NERC also proposed to include a new definition as part of the revised standard, as follows:

> **Automatic Reclosing** – Includes the following Components:
>
> - Reclosing relay
> - Control circuitry associated with the reclosing relay.

NERC stated that the definition is intended for use within PRC-005-3 only, and would not be incorporated into the NERC Glossary of Terms. In addition, NERC proposed modifications to four defined terms referenced in PRC-005-2, Protection System

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Id. at 20. *See Protection System Maintenance Reliability Standard*, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 79 Fed. Reg. 43,987 at 43,989 (July 29, 2013), 148 FERC ¶ 61,041, at PP 11-14 (2014) for additional background on the Joint Committee Report and NERC staff analysis.

[15] NERC Petition, Ex. A at 1-2.

Maintenance Plan, Component Type, Component, and Countable Event, to reflect the inclusion of automatic reclosing components. Finally, NERC proposed to revise the definitions of Unresolved Maintenance Issue and Segment, also currently referenced in PRC-005-2, to capitalize the reference to the defined term "Component."

11. NERC's implementation plan for PRC-005-3 incorporates the phased-in implementation period approved for PRC-005-2, with the addition of compliance dates for the new requirements for automatic reclosing components. NERC explained that retirement of the legacy Reliability Standards (PRC-005-1b, PRC-008-0, PRC-011-0, and PRC-017-0) will continue to "key off" the regulatory approval date for PRC-005-2, although PRC-005-2 itself will be retired in the United States immediately prior to the effective date of PRC-005-3, on the first day of the first calendar quarter twelve months following regulatory approval.[16] According to NERC, applicable entities will continue to calculate compliance dates for Protection System Components by counting forward from the Commission approval date of PRC-005-2, and for Automatic Reclosing Components by counting forward from the effective date of Commission approval of PRC-005-3. Finally, for newly-identified Automatic Reclosing Components (e.g., resulting from the addition or retirement of generating units), compliance would be required by the end of the third calendar year following identification of those Components.

[16] *See id.* at 22-24.

12. NERC stated that the violation risk factors proposed in PRC-005-3 track those in the currently approved standard PRC-005-2, and that the violation severity levels now include the additional component (Automatic Reclosing) in a manner consistent with the approach taken for PRC-005-2.[17]

C. Notice of Proposed Rulemaking

13. On July 17, 2014, the Commission issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NOPR) proposing to approve Reliability Standard PRC-005-3.[18] While the NOPR acknowledged that NERC had provided technical support for the proposed thresholds for identifying applicable reclosing relays, the Commission noted that it "nonetheless [had] concerns whether the thresholds are too narrow."[19] Based on those concerns, the Commission proposed to require NERC to submit a report examining the effectiveness of the revised standard in identifying reclosing relay schemes that could affect the reliable operation of the Bulk-Power System based on "(1) actual operations data, and (2) simulated system conditions from planning assessments."[20]

[17] On June 4, 2014, NERC submitted two additional filings: (1) proposed revisions to a violation severity level assigned to Requirement R1 of PRC-005, consistent with a Commission directive in Order No. 793; and (2) an errata to NERC's petition to reflect proper capitalization of defined terms as used in the proposed standard.

[18] *Protection System Maintenance Reliability Standard*, 148 FERC ¶ 61,041 (2014).

[19] *Id.* P 22.

[20] *Id.* P 23.

14. With regard to actual operations data, the NOPR proposed that NERC enhance the granularity of its existing misoperations database "to gather relevant information regarding events that involve autoreclosing relays, such as distance from the fault, whether the relay reclosed into the fault, and whether that reclosure caused or exacerbated an event."[21] With regard to simulated system conditions, the NOPR suggested that the contingency analyses generated as part of planning assessments required under Reliability Standard TPL-001-4 could provide an appropriate benchmark for assessing PRC-005-3's applicability thresholds for reclosing relays.[22]

15. The NOPR also proposed to direct modification of PRC-005-3 to include supervisory devices associated with applicable reclosing relay schemes. The Commission raised concerns that the failure of supervisory devices could raise reliability concerns under certain conditions, such as when static system angles are greater than designed and allow autoreclosing into a fault. Finally, the NOPR requested that commenters address the data retention obligations as proposed in PRC-005-3, which require applicable entities to retain maintenance records for a minimum of two maintenance cycles (up to 24 years).

16. Comments on the NOPR were filed by NERC; the Edison Electric Institute (EEI); International Transmission Company (ITC); Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc., Basin

[21] *Id.*

[22] *See id.* PP 24-27.

Electric Power Cooperative, Inc. and Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc. (together G&T Cooperatives); and Idaho Power Company (Idaho Power).

II. Discussion

17. Pursuant to section 215(d)(2) of the FPA, we adopt our NOPR proposal and approve Reliability Standard PRC-005-3, including the associated definitions, violation risk factors and violation severity levels, and implementation plan (including the proposed retirement of identified "legacy" standards), as just, reasonable, not unduly discriminatory or preferential and in the public interest. As discussed above, NERC, EEI, ITC, and G&T Cooperatives support approval, commenting that the modifications to PRC-005-3 "address a known reliability gap" and address the directive in Order No. 758.[23] We agree with NERC and the commenters, and conclude that Reliability Standard PRC-005-3 will enhance reliability by reducing the risk of autoreclosing relay misoperations through the imposition of minimum maintenance activities and maximum maintenance intervals for these relays. We further determine that PRC-005-3 adequately addresses the Commission directive from Order No. 758 with respect to the inclusion of reclosing relays in an adequate protection system maintenance program. In addition, as discussed below, we direct NERC to develop one modification to PRC-005-3 pertaining to the inclusion of supervisory relays for applicable reclosing relay schemes, and we

[23] EEI Comments at 2. *See also* ITC Comments at 4; G&T Cooperatives Comments at 2 (supporting approval of the Reliability Standard).

clarify that NERC's proposal set forth in its NOPR comments is an appropriate approach to satisfy this directive.

18. Below, we discuss the following matters: (A) proposed reporting on the effectiveness of PRC-005-3; (B) supervisory devices; and (C) requested clarification on the applicability provisions of PRC-005-3.

A. Proposed Reporting on Effectiveness of PRC-005-3

NOPR

19. As noted above, the Commission proposed in the NOPR to direct NERC to submit a report, two years after the effective date of PRC-005-3, addressing the effectiveness of PRC-005-3 in identifying reclosing relay schemes that could impact the reliable operation of the Bulk-Power System. The Commission suggested that NERC submit such a report to address the Commission's on-going concerns whether the standard's applicability thresholds reasonably identify those types of reclosing relays that can affect the reliability of the Bulk-Power System. The NOPR proposed two means of evaluating the standard's scope, based on (1) actual operations data and (2) simulated system conditions, such as contingency analyses required as part of the requirements of Reliability Standard TPL-001-4. The NOPR sought comment on the value of these means to evaluate PRC-005-3.

Comments

20. NERC objects to additional reporting of any kind, contending that it adequately supported the applicability thresholds in PRC-005-3 through the analysis provided in the Joint Committee Report. NERC argues that the Commission did not adequately justify the need for additional reporting or analysis, and did not provide a sufficiently detailed

description of its concerns to allow the industry to "meaningfully comment" on the Commission's reporting proposals.[24] NERC also objects to the specific reporting benchmarks proposed in the NOPR, arguing that the planning assessment information generated by TPL-001-4 would not provide a meaningful benchmark for analyzing the scope of PRC-005-3. According to NERC, the simulations of autoreclosing in these planning assessments would not provide information relevant to the Commission's concerns with PRC-005-3 because they only assess the impact of (1) a successful autoreclosing, which is the "desired outcome," and (2) an unsuccessful autoreclosing into a fault, which NERC claims "will not provide information regarding the potential impact of an autoreclosing failure that may result in premature reclosing into a fault." [25]

21. EEI supports the Commission's proposed directive to require NERC to evaluate the effectiveness of PRC-005-3 through the submission of a report. However, EEI maintains that the Commission should "allow NERC, with industry input and support, the latitude to develop" the methods and processes for such an evaluation.[26] EEI contends that this approach would appropriately give due weight to the technical expertise of NERC, in recognition of the requirements of FPA section 215.

22. EEI also asks the Commission to refrain from requiring changes to NERC's existing Misoperations Database, stating that such a directive could "inadvertently

[24] NERC Comments at 12.

[25] *Id.* at 14.

[26] EEI Comments at 3.

change the purpose and intent of this system."[27] According to EEI, the Misoperations Database "is currently used to track misoperations, categorize the misoperation type and assign cause," and "was not intended to assess impact."[28] Moreover, EEI does not support the use of the contingency analyses required by TPL-001-4 to assess the scope of reclosing relays encompassed by PRC-005-3, because the two standards were developed for different purposes and should not necessarily be expected to align. Finally, EEI notes that considerable study has already been conducted to address the Commission's identified concerns on the potential impact of reclosing relay misoperations, and asks that the Commission "allow those recommendations to be applied, vetted, and studied before setting a new set of criteria which may not be necessary to ensure BES reliability."[29]

23. Idaho Power agrees with NERC and EEI that the misoperations database enhanced reporting requirement as proposed in the NOPR is of little value, and notes that the only autoreclosing relays that should be subject to additional scrutiny are those relatively few reclosing relays needed to ensure reliability.

24. By contrast, ITC does not generally oppose the proposed directive on gathering additional misoperations data related to reclosing relays, but asks for clarification about certain information NERC would be required to collect. Specifically, ITC asks that the

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[27] *Id*. at 4.

[28] *Id.*

[29] *Id.* at 5.

Commission recognize that an entity may not be able to report the distance from the fault without some allowable margin of specificity.

Commission Determination

25. Based on the comments received on this issue, we are persuaded not to require NERC to submit a report on the effectiveness of PRC-005-3 in identifying reclosing relay schemes that can have an impact on the reliable operation of the Bulk-Power System, as we had proposed in the NOPR. Instead, we direct NERC to obtain, maintain, and make available to the Commission upon request, one year following the effective date of the standard and on an annual basis thereafter, data sufficient to analyze the effectiveness of PRC-005-3, whether it be through NERC's Event Analysis process or other means. Specifically, NERC is to collect relevant information regarding Bulk-Power System events that involve high speed autoreclosing relays. Such information would include the operations of autoreclosing relays and their supervisory functionalities (e.g., time delays, synchronism check, voltages, etc.) that caused or exacerbated the events, and any unintended consequences of the events. The Commission encourages NERC and FERC staff to collaborate on the specific data to be collected, which could include, but is not limited to, the approximate distance from the fault and the generation loss associated with the event. Further, the Commission is also interested in knowing if those autoreclosing relays identified as causing or exacerbating an event operated as designed, and if PRC-005-3 is applicable to the autoreclosing relays that were involved. We expect NERC to share all appropriate data as needed to evaluate autoreclosing relay performance, in accordance with our general expectation that NERC will "cooperate with and share all

appropriate data and information with Commission staff" as needed "to ensure that the ERO Enterprise and the Commission are both able to effectively perform their duties under section 215 of the FPA."[30]

26. Given our decision in this Final Rule, we need not address the various arguments regarding the use of simulated contingency analyses as a benchmark for determining whether PRC-005-3 encompasses an adequate set of reclosing relays, and need not address ITC's request for clarification about the data points potentially required under our proposed revisions to NERC's misoperations database.

B. Supervisory Devices

NOPR

27. The NOPR proposed to require modification of PRC-005-3 to include maintenance and testing of supervisory devices associated with autoreclosing relay schemes otherwise covered by the standard, such as sync-check and voltage relays that may be critical to the operation of an autoreclosing scheme.[31] In doing so, the Commission noted that requiring the inclusion of supervisory devices within the scope of PRC-005-3 is consistent with Commission orders on NERC's Transmission Relay

[30] *Order on the Electric Reliability Organization's Five-Year Performance Assessment*, 149 FERC ¶ 61,141 at P 38 (2014).

[31] NOPR, 148 FERC ¶ 61,041 at P 28.

Loadability Reliability Standard.[32] In addition, the Commission noted that NERC had failed to explain how a failure of a sync-check relay for undesirable conditions, such as when static system angles are greater than designed, would not allow autoreclosing, thus leading to the reliability concerns identified in Order No. 758.[33]

Comments

28. NERC states that it would support modification of PRC-005-3 to include certain supervisory devices to address the Commission's concerns as stated in the NOPR. Specifically, NERC suggests modifying the Reliability Standard to include "maintenance of supervision functions for which a failure can result in autoreclosing into a fault and potentially cause generating or plant instability."[34] Accordingly, NERC states that it "would support the addition of voltage supervision, and where used, supervisory inputs associated with selective autoreclosing in the coverage of PRC-005."[35] While asserting that "synchronism check failures do not have the potential to affect reliable operation of the Bulk-Power System," NERC also acknowledges that "including synchronism check supervision, as suggested by the Commission, would provide a reliability benefit."[36]

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[32] *Id*. P 29 (citing *Transmission Relay Loadability Reliability Standard*, Order No. 733, 130 FERC ¶ 61,221 (2010)).

[33] *Id.* P 30.

[34] NERC Comments at 4.

[35] *Id.*

[36] *Id*. at 5.

Thus, NERC states that it supports the addition of synchronism check supervision to the Reliability Standard's coverage.

29. Idaho Power generally supports the inclusion of supervisory devices as part of PRC-005-3, based on its position that "any component required for the successful operation of the reclosing system at the identified critical location should be tested and maintained."[37]

30. Other commenters support modification of PRC-005-3 to include supervisory devices with certain limitations. EEI asks that the Commission limit the directive "to only those supervisory relays, which are directly associated with automatic reclosing schemes that would be covered by the proposed Reliability Standard."[38] G&T Cooperatives ask that the Commission limit any directive on supervisory devices to "those supervisory sync-check relays that can reclose on another transmission line," arguing that these are the only supervisory devices where failure could lead to a reliability concern.[39]

Commission Determination

31. For the reasons stated in the NOPR and based on the commenters' general support, we adopt our NOPR proposal and direct that, pursuant to section 215(d)(5) of the FPA, NERC develop modifications to PRC-005-3 to include supervisory devices associated

[37] Idaho Power Comments at 3-4.

[38] EEI Comments at 5.

[39] G&T Cooperatives Comments at 4.

with autoreclosing relay schemes to which the Reliability Standard applies. Further, we clarify that NERC's proposal regarding the scope of supervisory devices is an acceptable approach to satisfy the Commission directive. Specifically, NERC proposed in its NOPR comments, and we find acceptable, that the scope of the supervisory devices to be encompassed in the Reliability Standard are those providing voltage supervision, supervisory inputs associated with selective autoreclosing, and sync-check relays that are part of a reclosing scheme covered by PRC-005-3.

C. Requested Clarification on Applicability Sections

Comments

32. ITC requests that the Commission clarify, or direct NERC to clarify, two applicability provisions. First, ITC asks for clarification that "the largest BES generating unit within the Balancing Authority Area" under Applicability section 4.2.6.1 would be determined using the NERC-defined term "Balancing Authority," and not the MISO-defined term "Local Balancing Authority." In addition, ITC requests that the Commission provide guidance on how to measure the gross capacity of multi-unit generating plants that are connected to electrically-isolated buses under section 4.2.6.2.

Commission Determination

33. We decline to provide the requested clarifications. Rather, we expect that an applicable entity will consult with the relevant Balancing Authority and/or Regional Entity, as appropriate, with questions concerning identification of the largest generating unit within the Balancing Authority Area, or the determination of gross generating plant capacity under the applicability sections of Reliability Standard PRC-005-3.

III. Information Collection Statement

34. The following collection of information contained in this Notice of Proposed Rulemaking is subject to review by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under section 3507(d) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.[40] OMB's regulations require approval of certain information collection requirements imposed by agency rules.[41] Upon approval of a collection(s) of information, OMB will assign an OMB control number and an expiration date. Respondents subject to the filing requirements of a rule will not be penalized for failing to respond to these collections of information unless the collections of information display a valid OMB control number.

35. The Commission solicited comments on the need for and purpose of the information contained in Reliability Standard PRC-005-3 and the corresponding burden to implement the standard. The Commission received one comment on the reporting and information collection estimates. Specifically, EEI recommends that the Commission revise the cost estimate associated with the increase in information collection burdens expected under the proposed standard. EEI states that the NOPR underestimated the cost burden because it failed to take into account the extent to which compliance "will require

[40] 44 U.S.C. 3507(d) (2006).

[41] 5 CFR 1320.11.

significant coordination with other entities, the modification of existing maintenance programs, identification of affected plants as well as all affected substations."[42]

36. The Final Rule approves Reliability Standard PRC-005-3 (Protection System and Automatic Reclosing Maintenance), which will replace PRC-005-2 (Protection System Maintenance). We decline to alter the burden estimate as calculated in the NOPR, as the only party to comment on the estimate (EEI) failed to point out any specific, quantifiable errors in the NOPR's estimate or otherwise offered an alternative quantification.

37. Further, in the NOPR, the Commission requested comment on the data retention requirements, explaining that PRC-005-3 requires applicable entities to maintain documentation of covered maintenance activities performed since the last audit, or of the two most recent maintenance cycles if the maintenance interval exceeds the normal audit cycle. Because the longest maintenance interval for certain components under PRC-005-3 is twelve years, an entity could be required to retain records for up to 24 years.

38. EEI, Idaho Power, and G&T Cooperatives oppose continuation of the data retention requirement, claiming that it is unnecessary and burdensome to retain maintenance records for 24 years, and noting that the record retention period far exceeds the normal audit cycle. Likewise, NERC avers that there is no "substantial need" to maintain the records for two full cycles. Further, NERC states that another version of the standard is being developed (version 4) that will reduce the data retention requirement so

[42] EEI Comments at 6.

that records must only be maintained for the length of the audit cycle if the maintenance interval is shorter than the audit cycle, or for the length of the maintenance interval if not.

39. We generally agree with NERC and other commenters that the current data retention requirement, with a maximum retention period of 24 years, is unnecessarily long and burdensome. However, since the issuance of the NOPR and subsequent comments, NERC has submitted a petition for approval of the version 4 standard, PRC-005-4, which includes a modified document retention requirement.[43] Rather than ruling in the immediate docket, we will address the data retention issue in the context of NERC's version 4 standard. As a result, there is no need to make corresponding adjustments to the NOPR's burden estimate as part of this Final Rule.

40. The approved Reliability Standard expands the applicability of the existing standard to include reclosing schemes that meet certain criteria, imposing mandatory minimum maintenance activities and maximum maintenance intervals for the various reclosing scheme components. Because the specific requirements were designed to reflect common industry practice, entities are not expected generally to experience a meaningful change in actual maintenance and documentation practices. However, applicable entities will have to perform a one-time review of their reclosing schemes to determine which ones fall under PRC-005-3, and, if they have applicable reclosing

[43] *See* December 18, 2014, NERC Petition for Approval of Proposed Reliability Standard PRC-005-4, Docket No. RM15-9-000. Nothing in this Final Rule prejudges the outcome in the separate proceeding addressing the Version 4 standard.

schemes, review current reclosing scheme maintenance programs to ensure that they meet the requirements of PRC-005-3. Accordingly, all information collection costs are expected to be limited to the first year of implementation of the revised standard.

41. Public Reporting Burden: Our estimate below regarding the number of respondents is based on an analysis of the generating plants within the footprint of the PJM Interconnection, LLC (PJM) that meet the inclusion criteria of the proposed standard. There are an estimated 23 generating plants in PJM that meet these criteria. These generating plants represent approximately 47,000 MWs of the approximately 184,000 MWs within PJM. Based on 2012 data, total installed capacity in the continental United States is 1,153,000 MWs.[44] Applying the PJM ratio to this total results in an estimated 144 plant sites nationwide to which PRC-005-3 would be applicable. We also assume that a substation will be located within 10 miles of each plant site, resulting in an estimated total number of entities that meet the inclusion criteria of 288.[45] Finally, we assume that all generator owners and transmission owners must review their existing plant and substation sites to determine applicability under the proposed standard.

42. Affected entities must perform a one-time review of their existing reclosing scheme maintenance program to ensure that it contains at a minimum the activities listed

[44] *See* http://search.usa.gov/search?utf8=%E2%9C%93&affiliate=eia.doe.gov&query=generation+capacity+all+states&search=Submit and http://www.eia.gov/electricity/annual/html/epa_08_07_a.html.

[45] This estimate conservatively assumes that the proximate substation would be owned by a different entity than the generating plant.

in Table 4 in Reliability Standard PRC-005-3, and that the activities are performed within the applicable maximum interval listed in Table 4. If the existing reclosing scheme maintenance program does not meet the criteria in Reliability Standard PRC-005-3, the entity will have to make certain adjustments to the program.

RM14-8-000 (Mandatory Reliability Standards: Reliability Standard PRC-005-3)						
	Number of Respondents (1)	**Annual Number of Responses per Respondent (2)**	**Total Number of Responses (1)*(2)=(3)**	**Average Burden & Cost Per Response[46] (4)**	**Total Annual Burden Hours & Total Annual Cost (3)*(4)=(5)**	**Cost per Respondent ($) (5)÷(1)**
One-time review of existing plant and substation sites to determine which ones fall under PRC-005-3	937[47]	1	937	2 $146	1,874 $136,802	$146
One-time review and adjustment of existing program	288[48]	1	288	8 $584	2,304 $168,192	$584
TOTAL			**1,225**		**4,178** **$304,994**	

Title: FERC-725P, Mandatory Reliability Standards: Reliability Standard PRC-005-3

Action: Final Rule

[46] The estimates for cost per response are derived using the following formula: Average Burden Hours per Response * $73 per Hour = Average Cost per Response. The hourly cost figure comes from the average of the salary plus benefits for a manager and an engineer (rounded to the nearest dollar). The figures are taken from the Bureau of Labor Statistics at (http://bls.gov/oes/current/naics3_221000.htm).

[47] This figure reflects the generator owners and transmission owners identified in the NERC Compliance Registry as of May 28, 2014.

[48] This figure is a subset of GOs and TOs, as discussed in P 41 and n. 44.

OMB Control No: 1902-0269

Respondents: Business or other for-profit and not-for-profit institutions.

Frequency of Responses: One time.

Necessity of the Information: The approved Reliability Standard PRC-005-3 will implement the Congressional mandate of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to develop mandatory and enforceable Reliability Standards to better ensure the reliability of the nation's Bulk-Power System. Specifically, the standard will ensure that transmission and generation protection systems and reclosing relays affecting the reliability of the bulk electric system are maintained and tested.

43. Internal review: The Commission has reviewed revised Reliability Standard PRC-005-3 and made a determination that approval of this standard is necessary to implement section 215 of the FPA. The Commission has assured itself, by means of its internal review, that there is specific, objective support for the burden estimates associated with the information requirements.

44. Interested persons may obtain information on the reporting requirements by contacting the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Office of the Executive Director, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426 [Attention: Ellen Brown, e-mail: DataClearance@ferc.gov, phone: (202) 502-8663, fax: (202) 273-0873].

45. Comments concerning the information collections approved in this Final Rule and the associated burden estimates should be sent to the Commission in this docket and may also be sent to the Office of Management and Budget, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs [Attention: Desk Officer for the Federal Energy Regulatory

Commission]. For security reasons, comments should be sent by e-mail to OMB at the following e-mail address: oira_submission@omb.eop.gov. Comments submitted to OMB should reference the collection number (FERC-725P) and OMB Control No. 1902-0269.

IV. Regulatory Flexibility Act Analysis

46. The Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980 (RFA)[49] generally requires a description and analysis of final rules that will have significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. As shown in the information collection section, an estimated 288 entities are expected to have applicable reclosing relays under the revised Reliability Standard. The proposed Reliability Standard requires applicable entities to test and maintain certain autoreclosing relays as part of a protection system maintenance program. More specifically, affected entities must perform a one-time review of their existing reclosing scheme maintenance program to ensure that it contains at a minimum the activities listed in Table 4 in Reliability Standard PRC-005-3. Comparison of the applicable entities with the Commission's small business data indicates that approximately 197 are small entities[50] or 68.24 percent of the respondents affected by this Final Rule.

[49] 5 U.S.C. 601-12.

[50] The Small Business Administration sets the threshold for what constitutes a small business. Public utilities may fall under one of several different categories, each with a size threshold based on the company's number of employees, including affiliates, the parent company, and subsidiaries. For the analysis in this Final Rule, we are using a

(continued…)

47. As discussed above, we estimate that Reliability Standard PRC-005-3 will apply to 144 generating plant sites and 144 substations that are located within 10 miles of the plant site. We therefore estimate that 288 entities will have applicable reclosing relays subject to the revised Reliability Standard's requirements, conservatively assuming that the proximate substation would be owned by a different entity than the generating plant. In addition, we estimate that all generator owners and transmission owners will initially review plant and substation sites to determine applicability with the proposed standard.

48. On average, each small entity affected may have a one-time cost of $730 per site, representing a one-time review of the program for each entity, consisting of 10 man-hours at $73/hour as explained above in the information collection statement. We do not consider this cost to be a significant economic impact for small entities. The Commission certifies that Reliability Standard PRC-005-3 will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. Accordingly, no regulatory flexibility analysis is required.

V. Environmental Analysis

49. The Commission is required to prepare an Environmental Assessment or an Environmental Impact Statement for any action that may have a significant adverse effect

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500 employee threshold for each affected entity. Each entity is classified as Electric Bulk Power Transmission and Control (NAICS code 221121).

on the human environment.[51] The Commission has categorically excluded certain actions from this requirement as not having a significant effect on the human environment. Included in the exclusion are rules that are clarifying, corrective, or procedural or that do not substantially change the effect of the regulations being amended.[52] The actions taken herein fall within this categorical exclusion in the Commission's regulations.

VI. Document Availability

50. In addition to publishing the full text of this document in the Federal Register, the Commission provides all interested persons an opportunity to view and/or print the contents of this document via the Internet through the Commission's Home Page (http://www.ferc.gov) and in the Commission's Public Reference Room during normal business hours (8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Eastern time) at 888 First Street, NE, Room 2A, Washington, DC 20426.

51. From the Commission's Home Page on the Internet, this information is available on eLibrary. The full text of this document is available on eLibrary in PDF and Microsoft Word format for viewing, printing, and/or downloading. To access this document in eLibrary, type the docket number excluding the last three digits of this document in the docket number field.

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[51] *Regulations Implementing the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969*, Order No. 486, FERC Stats. & Regs. ¶ 30,783 (1987).

[52] 18 CFR 380.4(a)(2)(ii).

52. User assistance is available for eLibrary and the Commission's website during normal business hours from the Commission's Online Support at 202-502-6652 (toll free at 1-866-208-3676) or email at ferconlinesupport@ferc.gov, or the Public Reference Room at (202) 502-8371, TTY (202) 502-8659. E-mail the Public Reference Room at public.referenceroom@ferc.gov.

VII. Effective Date and Congressional Notification

53. This Final Rule is effective **[INSERT DATE 60 days after publication in the FEDERAL REGISTER]**.

54. The Commission has determined, with the concurrence of the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs of OMB, that this rule is not a "major rule" as defined in section 351 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996.[53] The Commission will submit the Final Rule to both houses of Congress and to the General Accountability Office.

By direction of the Commission. Commissioner Honorable is voting present.

(S E A L)

Nathaniel J. Davis, Sr.,
Deputy Secretary.

[53] *See* 5 U.S.C. 804(2).

20150113-3043 FERC PDF (Unofficial) 01/13/2015

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Version 5 Critical Infrastructure Protection Reliability Standards — Docket No. RM13-5-000

NOTICE GRANTING EXTENSION OF TIME

(January 13, 2015)

On January 13, 2015, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) filed a request for a 10-day extension of time (motion) to file revisions to the Critical Infrastructure Protection Reliability Standards, in the above-referenced proceeding. In its motion, NERC states that the additional time is needed to submit all of the modifications required in Order No. 791 as a single package to ease the administrative burden on the Commission, NERC and industry, .

Upon consideration, notice is hereby given that NERC's motion is granted, extending the deadline to and including February 13, 2015, to file its revisions.

Nathaniel J. Davis, Sr.,
Deputy Secretary.

Document Content(s)

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20141223-3027 FERC PDF (Unofficial) 12/23/2014

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20426

OFFICE OF ENERGY MARKET REGULATION

North American Electric Reliability Corporation
Docket No. RR14-8-000

December 23, 2014

North American Electric Reliability Corporation
1325 G Street, NW, Suite 600
Washington, DC 20005

Attention: William H. Edwards
Counsel for North American Electric Reliability Corporation

Reference: Revisions to Delegation Agreement with Western Electricity Coordinating Council

Dear Mr. Edwards:

On September 16, 2014, as amended on November 21, 2014, North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) submitted revisions to NERC's Delegation Agreement with Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC), specifically to revise the WECC Bylaws and the WECC Reliability Standards Development Procedures.

Notices of these filings were issued on September 23, 2014 and November 25, 2014, with protests and interventions due on or before October 16, 2014 and December 1, 2014, respectively. Notices of intervention and unopposed timely filed motions to intervene are granted pursuant to the operation of Rule 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure. 18 C.F.R. § 385.214. No protests were filed.

NERC's uncontested filing is accepted pursuant to the relevant authority delegated to the Director, Office of Energy Market Regulation, under 18 C.F.R. § 375.307.

This action shall not be construed as approving any other application, including proposed revisions of Electric Reliability Organization or Regional Entity rules or procedures pursuant to 18 C.F.R. § 375.307(a)(2)(vi). This action does not constitute approval of any service, rate, charge, classification, or any rule, regulation, contract, or practice affecting such rate or service provided for in the filed documents. Such action shall not be deemed as recognition of any claimed right or obligation associated therewith

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and such action is without prejudice to any findings or orders that have been or may hereafter be made by the Commission in any proceeding now pending or hereafter instituted by or against the Electric Reliability Organization or any Regional Entity.

This order constitutes final agency action. Requests for rehearing by the Commission may be filed within 30 days of the date of issuance of this order pursuant to 18 C.F.R. § 385.713.

Sincerely,

Penny S. Murrell, Director
Division of Electric Power Regulation-Central

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Document Content(s)

RR14-8-000.DOC.....1-2

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

SUNSHINE ACT MEETING NOTICE

January 15, 2015

The following notice of meeting is published pursuant to section 3(a) of the government in the Sunshine Act (Pub. L. No. 94-409), 5 U.S.C. 552b:

AGENCY HOLDING MEETING:	FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
DATE AND TIME:	January 22, 2015 10:00 A.M.
PLACE:	Room 2C 888 First Street, N.E. Washington, D.C. 20426
STATUS:	OPEN
MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:	Agenda * NOTE - Items listed on the agenda may be deleted without further notice.
CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION:	Kimberly D. Bose Secretary Telephone (202) 502-8400 For a recorded message listing items struck from or added to the meeting, call (202) 502-8627.

This is a list of matters to be considered by the Commission. It does not include a listing of all documents relevant to the items on the agenda. All public documents, however, may be viewed on line at the Commission's website at http://www.ferc.gov using the eLibrary link, or may be examined in the Commission's Public Reference Room.

1012TH - MEETING

REGULAR MEETING

January 22, 2015

10:00 AM

Item No	Docket No.	Company
		ADMINISTRATIVE
A-1	AD02-1-000	Agency Business Matters
A-2	AD02-7-000	Customer Matters, Reliability, Security and Market Operations
A-3	AD14-3-000	Coordination Across the PJM/MISO Seam
		ELECTRIC
E-1	ER13-1922-000	Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC Duke Energy Florida, Inc
	ER13-1929-000	Florida Power & Light Company
	ER13-1932-000	Tampa Electric Company
	NJ13-11-000	Orlando Utilities Commission
	ER13-1928-000	Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC Duke Energy Progress, Inc.
	ER13-1930-000	Louisville Gas and Electric Company
	ER13-1940-000	Ohio Valley Electric Corporation
	ER13-1941-000	Alabama Power Company
	ER13-1935-000	South Carolina Electric & Gas Company
E-2	ER13-1923-000	Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc.
	ER13-1928-000	Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC Duke Energy Progress, Inc.
	ER13-1930-000	Louisville Gas and Electric Company
	ER13-1940-000	Ohio Valley Electric Corporation
	ER13-1941-000	Alabama Power Company
	ER13-1945-000	Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc.
	ER13-1955-000	Entergy Services, Inc.
	ER13-1956-000 (not consolidated)	Cleco Power LLC
E-3	ER13-1927-000	PJM Interconnection, L.L.C. Duquesne Light Company
	ER13-1936-000	PJM Interconnection, L.L.C.
	ER13-1928-000	Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC Duke Energy Progress, Inc.

	ER13-1930-000	Louisville Gas and Electric Company
	ER13-1940-000	Ohio Valley Electric Corporation
	ER13-1941-000	Alabama Power Company
E-4	PL15-3-000	Policy Statement on Hold Harmless Commitments
E-5	RM14-8-000	Protection System Maintenance Reliability Standard
E-6	OMITTED	
E-7	EL15-6-000	PáTu Wind Farm LLC v. Portland General Electric Company
	QF06-17-002	PáTu Wind Farm, LLC
E-8	ER13-1864-000	Southwest Power Pool, Inc.
E-9	ER13-2376-002	Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc. Northern Indiana Public Service Company
E-10	ER13-2375-002	Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc. Southern Indiana Gas & Electric Company
E-11	ER13-2379-001	Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc.
	ER13-2376-001	Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc. Northern Indiana Public Service Company
	ER13-2375-001	Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc. Southern Indiana Gas & Electric Company
	EL12-35-002	Midwest Independent Transmission System Operator, Inc. ALLETE, Inc. Ameren Illinois Company Ameren Transmission Company of Illinois American Transmission Company, LLC Big Rivers Electric Corporation Board of Water, Electric and Communications Trustees of the City of Muscatine, Iowa Central Minnesota Municipal Power Agency City of Columbia, Missouri, Water & Light Company City Water, Light & Power (Springfield, Illinois) Duke Energy Indiana, Inc. Dairyland Power Cooperative Entergy Services, Inc. Great River Energy Hoosier Energy Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc. Indiana Municipal Power Agency Indianapolis Power & Light Company International Transmission Company ITC Midwest, LLC Michigan Electric Transmission Company, LLC Michigan Public Power Agency Michigan South Central Power Agency MidAmerican Energy Company Missouri River Energy Services Montana-Dakota Utilities Company Montezuma Municipal Light & Power

		Municipal Electric Utility of the City of Cedar Falls, Iowa Muscatine Power and Water Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota Corporation Northern States Power Company, a Wisconsin Corporation Northwestern Wisconsin Electric Company Otter Tail Power Company Southern Illinois Power Cooperative Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency Tipton Municipal Utilities Wabash Valley Power Association, Inc. Wolverine Power Supply Cooperative, Inc.
E-12	ER13-2379-002 ER13-2379-003	Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc.
E-13	ER10-1791-003	Midwest Independent Transmission System Operator, Inc.
E-14	ER14-1681-001	Illinois Municipal Electric Agency
E-15	ER14—503-002	PJM Interconnection, L.L.C.
E-16	ER13-107-006 ER13-107-007	South Carolina Gas & Electric Company
E-17	ER13-187-006 ER13-187-007 ER13-187-008 ER13-187-009	Midwest Independent Transmission System Operator, Inc. and the MISO Transmission Owners
	ER13-186-004	Midwest Independent Transmission System Operator, Inc. and the MISO Transmission Owners
	ER13-89-003	MidAmerican Energy Company and Midwest Independent Transmission System Operator, Inc.
	ER13-84-002	Cleco Power LLC
	ER13-95-002	Entergy Arkansas, Inc.
E-18	ER13-198-003 ER13-198-004	PJM Interconnection, L.L.C.
	ER13-195-002	Indicated PJM Transmission Owners
	ER13-90-003	PJM Interconnection, L.L.C. Public Service Electric and Gas Company
	ER13-90-004	PJM Interconnection, L.L.C. Pennsylvania Electric Company
E-19	OMITTED	
E-20	EL14-83-000	NM Neptune, LLC

GAS

G-1	RP15-23-001	Transwestern Pipeline Company, LLC

HYDRO

H-1	P-14512-001	KC Pittsfield, LLC
H-2	P-14612-001	New Summit Hydro, LLC
H-3	P-2610-010	Northern States Power Company
H-4	P-14613-001	Green Energy Storage Corporation

Kimberly D. Bose,
Secretary.

A free webcast of this event is available through www.ferc.gov. Anyone with Internet access who desires to view this event can do so by navigating to www.ferc.gov's Calendar of Events and locating this event in the Calendar. The event will contain a link to its webcast. The Capitol Connection provides technical support for the free webcasts. It also offers access to this event via television in the DC area and via phone bridge for a fee. If you have any questions, visit www.CapitolConnection.org or contact Danelle Springer or David Reininger at 703-993-3100.

Immediately following the conclusion of the Commission Meeting, a press briefing will be held in the Commission Meeting Room. Members of the public may view this briefing in the designated overflow room. This statement is intended to notify the public that the press briefings that follow Commission meetings may now be viewed remotely at Commission headquarters, but will not be telecast through the Capitol Connection service.

January 2015
Meeting Summaries

These are summaries of orders voted by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission at its January 22, 2015 public meeting. The summaries are produced by FERC's Office of External Affairs and are intended to provide only a general synopsis of the orders. These summaries are not intended as a substitute for the Commission's official orders. To determine the specific actions and the Commission's reasoning, please consult the individual orders when they are posted to FERC's eLibrary found at www.ferc.gov.

E-1, E-2 & E-3 – Press Release

E-4 – Press Release

FERC approves a revised reliability standard

E-5, *Protection System Maintenance Reliability Standard*, Docket No. RM14-8-000. The order approves a revised Reliability Standard, PRC-005-3 (Protection System Maintenance), which adds certain auto-reclosing relays to the currently approved standard (PRC-005-2). The order also directs North American Electric Reliability Corporation to modify the standard to include supervisory devices associated with applicable reclosing relay schemes.

FERC grants in part a complaint

E-7, *PáTu Wind Farm, LLC v. Portland General Electric Company*, Docket Nos. EL15-6-000 & QF06-17-002. This order grants in part a complaint filed by PáTu Wind Farm alleging that Portland General violated the Federal Power Act, the Commission's open access regulations, and PáTu's rights as a qualifying facility under section 210 of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978. The order finds that Portland General must purchase PáTu's entire net output (all energy, less onsite uses and losses) delivered to Portland General. The order dismisses the remaining portions of the complaint and leaves any claim of possible monetary reparations owed to PáTu to the Public Utility Commission of Oregon or an appropriate court.

FERC conditionally accepts in part a proposed market-to-market coordination process

E-8, *Southwest Power Pool, Inc.*, Docket No. ER13-1864-000. The order conditionally accepts in part and rejects in part Southwest Power Pool's (SPP) proposed market-to-market coordination process with Midcontinent Independent System Operator following a FERC staff-led technical conference. The order also directs SPP to submit compliance filings and informational reports.

FERC conditionally accepts a compliance filing

E-9, *Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc*., Docket No. ER13-2376-002. This order conditionally accepts the filing made by Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) and Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO) proposing revisions to NIPSCO's Attachment O of MISO's Open Access Transmission, Energy and Operating Reserve Markets Tariff to modify the existing formula rate protocols. This filing was made to comply with the Commission's prior directives requiring several adjustments to the protocol provisions related to the transparency of the information exchange process and the ability of customers to challenge transmission owners' implementation of the formula rate. The order conditionally accepts the proposed protocols to be effective January 1, 2014, as requested, subject to a further compliance filing.

FERC conditionally accepts a compliance filing

E-10, *Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc*., Docket No. ER13-2375-002. This order conditionally accepts the filing made by Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) and Southern Indiana Gas & Electric Company (Southern Indiana) proposing revisions to Southern Indiana's Attachment O of MISO's Open Access Transmission, Energy and Operating Reserve Markets Tariff to modify the existing formula rate protocols. This filing was made to comply with the Commission's prior directives requiring several adjustments to the protocol provisions related to the scope of participation in the challenge and review procedures, the transparency of the information exchange process, and the ability of customers to challenge transmission owners' implementation of the formula rate. The order conditionally accepts the proposed protocols to be effective January 1, 2014, as requested, subject to a further compliance filing.

FERC denies rehearing

E-11, *Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc*., Docket No. ER13-2379-001, *et al*. This order denies rehearing of the Commission's orders requiring adjustments to several formula rate protocols in Attachment O of Midcontinent Independent System

Operator's Open Access Transmission, Energy and Operating Reserve Markets Tariff. The required adjustments related to the scope of participation in the challenge and review procedures, transparency of the information exchange process and the ability of customers to challenge transmission owners' implementation of the formula rate.

FERC conditionally accepts a compliance filing

E-12, *Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc*., Docket Nos. ER13-2379-002 and ER14-2379-003. This order conditionally accepts the filing submitted by Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) and MISO transmission owners proposing revisions to Attachment O of MISO's Open Access Transmission, Energy and Operating Reserve Markets Tariff (Tariff) to modify the existing formula rate protocols. The order also conditionally accepts the filing made by MISO and the Central Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (Central Minnesota) to modify Central Minnesota's Attachment O formula rate protocols under MISO's Tariff. These filings were made to comply with the Commission's prior directives requiring several adjustments to the protocol provisions related to the transparency of the information exchange process and the ability of customers to challenge transmission owners' implementation of the formula rate. The order conditionally accepts the proposed protocols to be effective January 1, 2014, as requested, subject to a further compliance filing.

FERC establishes hearing procedures

E-13, *Midwest Independent Transmission System Operator, Inc*., Docket No. ER10-1791-003. This order establishes a paper hearing in response to a decision by the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, remanding to the Commission the determination, in light of current conditions, of what if any limitation on export pricing to PJM Interconnection, LLC for Multi-Value Projects by Midwest Independent System Operator is justified.

FERC denies request for clarification and rehearing

E-14, *Illinois Municipal Electric Agency*, Docket No. ER14-1681-001. This order denies a request for clarification, or in the alternative rehearing, of a May 2, 2014 order that granted Illinois Municipal Energy Agency's (Illinois MEA) requested waiver of the PJM Interconnection, LLC Reliability Assurance Agreement's internal resource requirement for Illinois MEA's Naperville, Illinois, load in the Commonwealth Edison Locational Deliverability Area for the 2017/18 Delivery Year. The order denies Illinois MEA's request for clarification or rehearing to extend the waiver to the life of Illinois MEA's resource investments and commitments or, at a minimum, for the five-year minimum term of its election of the Fixed Resource Requirement Alternative.

FERC denies rehearing

E-15, *PJM Interconnection, L.L.C.*, Docket No. ER14-503-002. This order denies rehearing of a Commission order accepting revisions to the PJM Reliability Assurance Agreement and the PJM Open Access Transmission Tariff to recognize limits on the amount of capacity from external generation resources that can be reliably committed in the PJM forward capacity auctions. The Illinois Municipal Electric Agency and American Municipal Power, Inc. with Northern Illinois Municipal Power Agency had sought rehearing on the capacity import limits issue.

FERC denies rehearing

E-16, *South Carolina Gas & Electric Company*, Docket Nos. ER13-107-006, ER13-107-007. This order denies requests for rehearing filed by South Carolina Gas & Electric (SCE&G) and LS Power Transmission LLC and LS Power Holdings LLC, and finds that SCE&G's Order No. 1000 compliance filing partially complies with the directives in the Commission's second compliance order issued May 15, 2014. The order accepts SCE&G's compliance filing to be effective April 19, 2013, and directs a further compliance filing due within 30 days.

FERC conditionally accepts compliance filing, orders further compliance filing

E-17, *Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc., et al.*, Docket No. ER13-187-006, *et al*. The order conditionally accepts MISO's June 4, 2014 and July 14, 2014 third round Order No. 1000 regional compliance filings, subject to a further compliance filing due within 30 days, and denies requests for rehearing of the Commission's second compliance order issued May 15, 2014.

FERC denies in part and grants in part requests for rehearing and clarification

E-18, *PJM Interconnection, LLC,* Docket No. ER13-198-003. This order denies in part and grants in part requests for rehearing and clarification of the Commission's May 15, 2014 second compliance order issued in response to Order No. 1000 compliance filings. The order also finds that PJM Interconnection's and the PJM Transmission Owners' (collectively, PJM Parties) respective Order No. 1000 compliance filings partially comply with the directives in the Commission's second compliance order and accepts, subject to conditions, PJM Parties' respective proposed Operating Agreement revisions and Open Access Transmission Tariff revisions. The order directs the PJM Parties to submit, within 30 days, a further compliance filing.

FERC grants a petition for declaratory order

E-20, *NM Neptune, LLC*, Docket No. EL14-83-000. This order grants NM Neptune's petition for a declaratory order requesting that the Commission disclaim jurisdiction over NM Neptune under sections 201 and 203(a)(1) of the Federal Power Act.

FERC grants a request for rehearing

G-1, *Transwestern Pipeline Company, LLC*, Docket No. RP15-23-001. This order grants the Indicated Shippers' request for rehearing of the Commission's October 30, 2014 order that addressed Transwestern's general rate case filed in accordance with section 4 of the Natural Gas Act. The October 2014 order accepted and suspended Transwestern's tariff records to be effective April 1, 2015, and established a hearing on all issues, including the proposed rate design. In their November 26, 2014 request for rehearing, the Indicated Shippers argued that Transwestern's proposed Adjusted Straight Fixed Variable (SFV) rate design is inconsistent with Commission policy. The order grants the Indicated Shippers' request for rehearing, and rejects Transwestern's Adjusted SFV rate design. The order directs Transwestern to file an unadjusted SFV rate design within 30 days of the date of the order.

FERC denies rehearing

H-1, *KC Pittsfield*, Project No. 14512-001. This order denies rehearing of Commission staff's November 4, 2014 order dismissing KC Pittsfield's application for a preliminary permit to study the feasibility of developing the proposed Old Cow Creek Open-Channel Turbines Hydro Project No. 14512. The order affirms Commission staff's finding that KC Pittsfield's proposal would use project facilities currently licensed to Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) for its Kilarc-Cow Creek Project No. 606, and for which PG&E's license surrender application is pending before the Commission.

FERC denies rehearing

H-2, *New Summit Hydro, LLC*, Project No. 14612-001. The order denies Summit Metro Parks' request for rehearing of Commission staff's October 16, 2014 order issuing a preliminary permit to New Summit for New Summit Pumped Storage Project No. 14612, a 1,500-megawatt project proposed to be located near the city of Norton in Medina and Summit counties, Ohio. The order concludes that Summit Metro Parks failed to demonstrate that the permit application should be considered as an application for a successive (i.e., second) permit for the site or that it was entitled to written notice of New Summit's application under the Federal Power Act and the Commission's regulations.

FERC denies rehearing

H-3, *Northern States Power Company*, Project No. 2610-010. The order denies American Whitewater's request for rehearing of Commission staff's November 6, 2014 order extending the term of Northern States Power Company's license for its Saxon Falls Project No. 2610 for five years, in order to coordinate the expiration date with that of the downstream Superior Falls Project. The Saxon Falls Project is located on the Montreal River in Iron County, Wisconsin, and in Gogebic County, Michigan. The order states that existing recreational facilities at Saxon Falls are adequate through the extension of the license term, and American Whitewater's requests for additional recreational enhancements would be more appropriately examined in the context of the relicensing process.

FERC rescinds preliminary permit, denies preliminary permit application

H-4, *Green Energy Storage Corp*., Project No. 14613-001. The order rescinds Commission staff's October 29, 2014 order that issued a preliminary permit to Green Energy Storage Corp. for the proposed Weed Heights Pumped Storage Project No. 14613, to be located off stream near the town of Yerington in Lyon County, Nevada. The order also denies Green Energy's preliminary permit application, and dismisses Singatse Peak Services, LLC's request for rehearing as moot. The order, noting that the proposed project area is an active Superfund site under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA), finds that no purpose would be served by issuing a permit for the site as it would be unlikely that a permittee would be able to take any significant steps toward developing a license application during the pendency of the CERCLA process that will take many years to resolve.

NERC
NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY CORPORATION

Lesson Learned

Control System Network Switch Failure

Primary Interest Groups
Generator Owners (GOs)
Generator Operators (GOPs)

Problem Statement
A partial failure of one of the redundant core switches on a control system mesh network caused a data communication failure. This resulted in two generating units tripping simultaneously, losing a total net output of 1130 MW. There were no alarms or warnings prior to the unit trips.

Details
A data communication failure at a generating plant resulted in both generating units tripping off-line, and the cause of the event was a partial failure of one of the redundant core switches on a control system mesh network. The core switches served as a communications hub for both units. The partial failure of the primary core switch allowed the system to keep its ports open for traffic. The secondary switch detected the problem that the primary switch had and opened its ports for communication, and this simultaneous operation of both switches caused the network to loop, generating a data storm.

The data storm blocked the communication between the boiler controls and the burner management control processors on both units. When communication between these two processors was interrupted, a unit trip occurred. The "loss of fault tolerant burner control system communications processor (BCS CP)" was the immediate cause of the unit trips. Consequently, the turbine control system on each unit listed its associated BMS as its trip signal source.

The switch alarming is monitored in the network internally and is intended to notify the operator in the event of a switch fail-over or a switch port failure. However, due to the data storm, the operator did not receive any alarms prior to the event. The first indication of a problem to the operator was all operator screens experienced a loss of communications with the rest of the control system, which resulted in loss of visibility into the controls on both units.

Corrective Actions
The failed switch and its redundant twin were replaced.

Lessons Learned

- Although redundant devices are implemented to increase reliability, implementation of such devices may introduce unanticipated failure scenarios if not fully tested.
- Whenever practical, consider a reliable external monitor that can provide diagnostics and alarming to reduce the risk of an undetected failure.
- Consideration should be given to testing and verification of the network topology and fail-over function.

NERC's goal with publishing lessons learned is to provide industry with technical and understandable information that assists them with maintaining the reliability of the bulk power system. NERC requests that you provide input on this lesson learned by taking the short survey provided in the link below.

Click here for: Lesson Learned Comment Form

For more Information please contact:

NERC – Lessons Learned (via email)	David Penney (via email) or (512) 583-4958
Source of Lesson Learned:	Texas Reliability Entity
Lesson Learned #:	LL20141201
Date Published:	December 9, 2014
Category:	Communications

This document is designed to convey lessons learned from NERC's various activities. It is not intended to establish new requirements under NERC's Reliability Standards or to modify the requirements in any existing Reliability Standards. Compliance will continue to be determined based on language in the NERC Reliability Standards as they may be amended from time to time. Implementation of this lesson learned is not a substitute for compliance with requirements in NERC's Reliability Standards.

NERC
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Lesson Learned

Bus Differential Power Supply Failure

Primary Interest Groups
Transmission Operators (TOPs)
Transmission Owners (TOs)

Problem Statement
A microprocessor bus differential relay scheme hardware failure initiated a double bus trip on the BES, resulting in a loss of 58,000 customers.

Details
The substation had a 115 kV single-breaker double-bus configuration with 10 elements, and was protected by a B90 bus differential scheme. The scheme consisted of: (1) seven intelligent electronic devices, including a tripping, a control, and a bus selector SW; and (2) three differential relays (one per phase). The scheme uses multiple zones of protection to identify and trip only the faulted bus. The zones are identified by "bus selector switch" inputs, which are used to place the breaker on bus-1 or bus-2. Internal logic places the breaker current transformer (CT) contribution in the bus-1 or bus-2 differential zone. Using this type of scheme, one bus differential scheme can protect two busses.

The "A" phase differential relay power supply capacitor started degrading, which caused the analog to digital converter to provide erroneous current and voltage values from the reference voltage used in the protection element calculations. This resulted in an "A" phase differential trip for bus-1 and bus-2; the voltage supervision was not effective since the degraded capacitor also provided erroneous voltage values used in the differential element supervision. This version of the relay does not monitor the power supply internal logic voltages, so the relay did not take itself out of service. The double bus trip resulted in a sustained loss of over 58,000 customers.

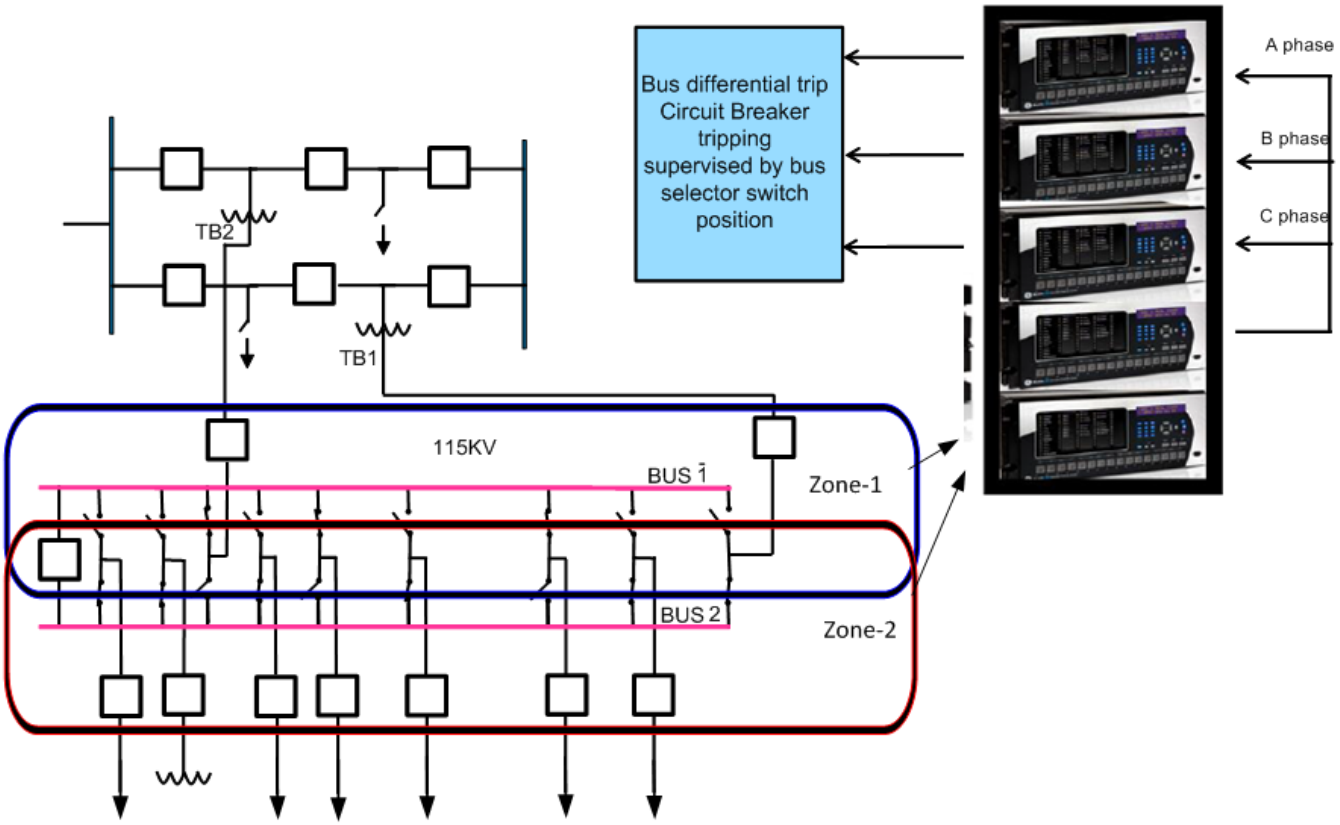


Figure 1: Substation Double Bus Single Breaker Bus Differential Scheme

Corrective Actions

The affected Direct Current (DC) power supplies were replaced with new versions of power supplies that incorporate additional self-monitoring on all seven IEDs for the bus differential scheme.

The security of the equipment was improved by adding independent supervision of the tripping elements. The adjacent phase bus differential relays were used to supervise the previous phase relay. For example, "B" and "C" phase differential relays are monitoring "A" phase bus voltage and providing input into the "A" phase bus differential relay. A subsequent "A" phase bus fault causes low "A" phase voltage. Since A phase voltage is being monitored by "B" and "C" elements, which are providing an input into the "A" phase relay, the bus differential element is allowed to operate. The inter-relay communication is being provided "direct input/output digital bits" that are not affected by DC power supply degradation (refer to figure 3).

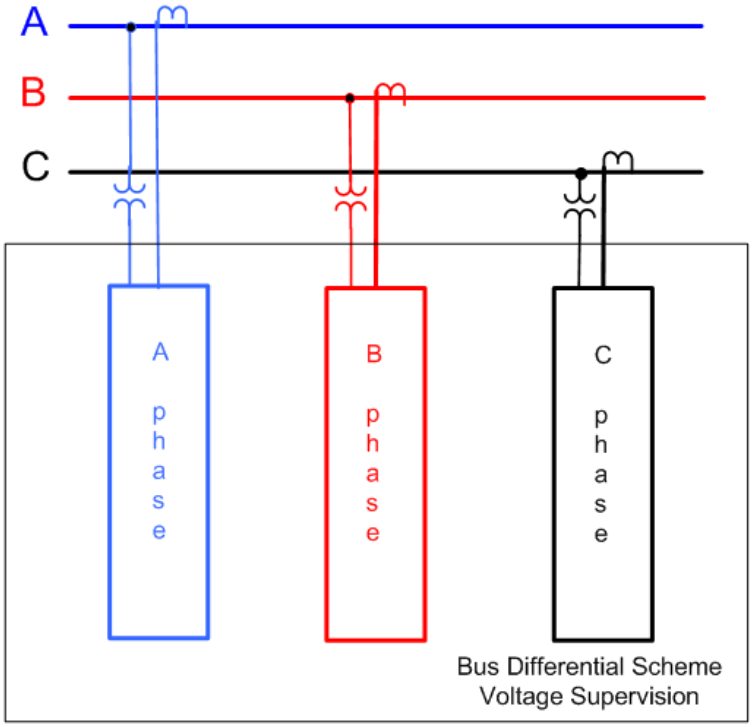


Figure 2: Original Bus Differential Voltage Supervision

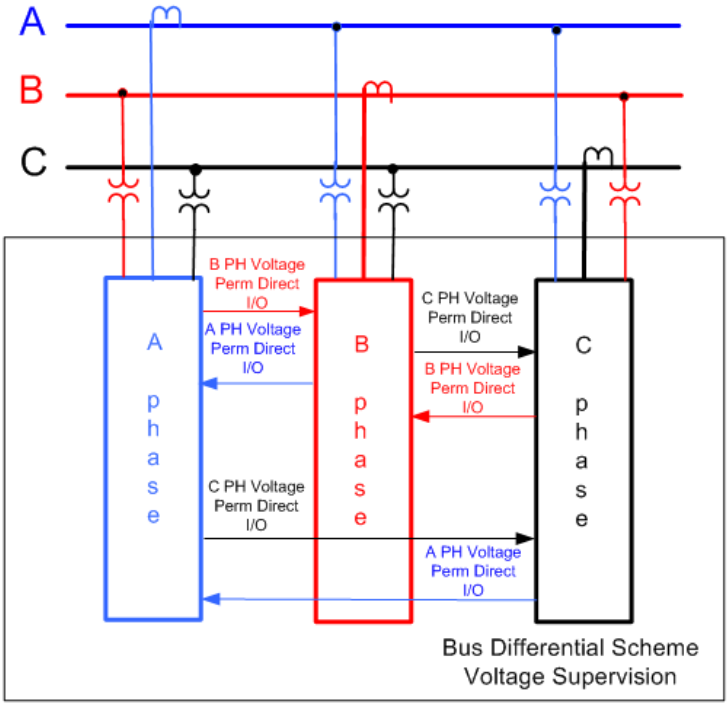


Figure 3: Revised Bus Differential Voltage Supervision

The location of similar installations and similar relays were determined throughout the service territory and prioritized based on the number of customers at risk for a bus differential misoperation. The replacement of DC power supplies, modified settings, functional testing, and drawing changes were

staged ahead of time to minimize the amount of time the bus differential scheme was out of service. The new DC power supplies were energized for three days prior to installation to ensure there were no problems. All at-risk bus differential schemes were modified within three months of the originating event.

Lessons Learned

- For important and high-impact schemes, such as bus differential schemes using multiple zones in one relay, the supervision should be independent of the tripping device. In this case, the mode of failure affected the supervising element along with the tripping element (current) being measured.
- The design of this scheme, in which one scheme protects bus-1 and bus-2, thereby putting both busses at risk during a device failure or misoperation, should have involved increased security when applied.
- Relay manufacturers should ensure there is sufficient device self-monitoring to allow the device to be disabled prior to causing an unwanted trip. The manufacture must communicate the risks clearly to the owners and immediately when the problem is discovered.

NERC's goal with publishing lessons learned is to provide industry with technical and understandable information that assists them with maintaining the reliability of the bulk power system. NERC requests that you provide input on this lesson learned by taking the short survey provided in the link below.

Click here for: Lesson Learned Comment Form

For more Information please contact:

NERC – Lessons Learned (via email)	Paul Rice (via email) or (801) 883-6840
Source of Lesson Learned:	Western Electricity Coordinating Council
Lesson Learned #:	20141202
Date Published:	December 9, 2014
Category:	Relaying and Protection Systems

This document is designed to convey lessons learned from NERC's various activities. It is not intended to establish new requirements under NERC's Reliability Standards or to modify the requirements in any existing Reliability Standards. Compliance will continue to be determined based on language in the NERC Reliability Standards as they may be amended from time to time. Implementation of this lesson learned is not a substitute for compliance with requirements in NERC's Reliability Standards.

NERC
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Lesson Learned

Loss of Multiple Generators Due to Control Air Problems
Addendum to Lesson Learned #LL20130402

On April 17, 2013, NERC published Lesson Learned #LL20130402. That lesson learned was focused on the inadequate separation of the critical ac power supply of a generating plant's air system. When the air system was lost, it contributed to the loss of two large generators, creating a system disturbance. Since LL20130402 was published, the NERC Event Analysis (EA) staff has identified other instances of generating plants tripping multiple generators due to the loss of station air when the station's air systems are tied together.

Primary Interest Groups
Generator Owners (GOs)
Generator Operators (GOPs)

Problem Statement
On more than one occasion, system disturbances have been reported due to the loss of a single air system component causing multiple generating units to trip.

Details
The NERC EA staff has observed other occasions of multiple unit trips at generating plants due to degradation of station air supplies.

In one example, power plant "A" was equipped with two air headers, which are normally separated. The plant experienced a problem with an air compressor that was serving one of the headers and plant technicians took that compressor out of service for repair. While this compressor was out of service, the air headers were tied together per plant operating procedure. During the time the air headers were tied together, a valve on one of the headers failed, which degraded the station air supply for the plant and resulted in multiple generating units tripping.

In another example, power plant "B" with a common air header to both of its units experienced an overheating condition in the compressor room, causing two station air compressors to trip. The resulting drop in air pressure supply required the plant operators to manually trip both units due to load swings.

In a third example, at power plant "C" a loss of auxiliary cooling water caused all instrument air compressors at a generating station to trip. The resulting loss of instrument air supply caused both of the stations generators to run back and trip.

Corrective Actions
In one case technical and procedural controls were applied to reduce non-critical air usage during short-supply situations.

A station reconfigured the electrical supply to its air compressors so that the loss of one source would not trip multiple air compressors.
A station added additional air compressors to assure adequate capacity in the event of a compressed air supply deficiency.

One entity updated plant procedures to quickly isolate individual air supply header sections when necessary.

Lessons Learned

NERC staff recognizes that plant design or other circumstances require generating plant personnel to operate with a single air header or multiple air headers tied together. However, plant personnel should be mindful that, while in that configuration, a problem with any part of the air system supply or the headers may result in a drop in control air and cause multiple units to trip. The amount of time that power plants are in this configuration should be kept to a minimum to reduce the chance of this type of failure occurring. When possible, individual air compressors should be fed from separate power supplies. The installation of additional air compressors may be required to handle a significant loss of station air. Procedures and checklists may also need to be updated or revised to address unforeseen low station air pressure conditions.

NERC's goal with publishing lessons learned is to provide industry with technical and understandable information that assists them with maintaining the reliability of the bulk power system. NERC requests that you provide input on this lesson learned by taking the short survey provided in the link below.

Click here for: Lesson Learned Comment Form

For more Information please contact:

Source of Lesson Learned:	NERC – Lessons Learned (via email)
Lesson Learned #:	LL20141203
Date Published:	December 9, 2014
Category:	Generation Facilities

This document is designed to convey lessons learned from NERC's various activities. It is not intended to establish new requirements under NERC's Reliability Standards or to modify the requirements in any existing Reliability Standards. Compliance will continue to be determined based on language in the NERC Reliability Standards as they may be amended from time to time. Implementation of this lesson learned is not a substitute for compliance with requirements in NERC's Reliability Standards.

NERC
NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY CORPORATION

July 21, 2014

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Ms. Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20426

Re: North American Electric Reliability Corporation
Five-Year Electric Reliability Organization Performance Assessment Report
Submitted in Accordance with 18 C.F.R. § 39.3(c)

Dear Ms. Bose:

The North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) respectfully submits its Five-Year Electric Reliability Organization (ERO) Performance Assessment Report in accordance with the requirements of the Commission's regulations at 18 C.F.R. § 39.3(c).

The filing consists of this transmittal letter and the following documents:

- **Overview of NERC Activities and Accomplishments in the Five-Year Period**
- **Attachment 1:** Discussion of How NERC Meets the ERO Certification Criteria of 18 C.F.R. §39.3(b)
- **Attachment 2:** Joint Regional Entity Self-Assessment
- **Attachment 3:** NERC Assessment of Regional Entity Delegated Functions
- **Attachment 4:** NERC Consideration of Industry Feedback
- **Attachment 5:** Status of Areas for Improvement Identified in the Order on the Three-Year ERO Performance Assessment
- **Attachment 6:** NERC's Plan and Initiatives for Improving Coordinated Operations Across the ERO Enterprise

These documents are transmitted in two PDF files.

Please place the following persons on the Commission's official service list on behalf of NERC with respect to this submittal and the proceeding that we understand the Commission will open pursuant to 18 C.F.R. § 39.3(c) to consider this report:

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Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Nina H. Jenkins-Johnston
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Attorney for the North American Electric Reliability Corporation

NERC
NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY CORPORATION

Lesson Learned

Digital Inputs To Protection Systems May Need To Be De-sensitized To Prevent False Tripping Due To Transient Signals

Primary Interest Groups
Generator Owner (GO)
Generator Operator (GOP)
Transmission Operator (TOP)
Transmission Owner (TO)

Problem Statement
A converter station was lost due to the erroneous initiation of a top-oil temperature trip signal from a transformer protection system. The operating entity investigated the connections in the transformer cabinet at the time and visually inspected the transformer and temperature gauges. Both the transformer's current temperature and the drag hand for the high temperature indication were well below the alarm and trip levels. There was no evidence found to indicate any loose or corroded connections in the transformer cabinet.0

Multiple events initiated by this type of erroneous input signal have been observed by the event analysis process.

Details
According to design, the control and protection systems acted properly to block the converter and open the main station breaker to de-energize the transformers. The control and protection systems properly responded to the trip signal by isolating the transformers; however, the top-oil temperature trip signal should not have been initiated. Upon review of the sequence of events and additional data collected from the transient fault recorders, it was determined that this event was a false trip based on: (1) there was no indication that the top-oil temperature alarm (which would normally precede a trip signal for an actual high oil temperature condition) was received from either control system, and (2) there was no trip signal received from the backup protection system.

Corrective Actions
The operating entity identified that transient signals were mistaken as a full-contact closure due to arcing or high resistive bridging of the trip contact. This was a case of the protection digital inputs being too sensitive to transient signals, signal noise, or high-resistance contact bridging from outdoor mounted devices.

With the assistance of the vendor, it was determined that loading resistors should be installed on the digital inputs to desensitize them to transient signals. The entity reviewed other applications to see if similar issues existed.

Lessons Learned

Outdoor mounted devices that have inputs to protective relays have the potential to be exposed to shocks and vibrations or to be negatively impacted by dampness and corrosion. These events could cause transients to be detected as contact closure by the protection digital input. The protection digital inputs should be designed or modified as necessary to reduce their sensitivity to a possible transient or high-resistance contact bridging being incorrectly detected as a full-contact closure.

NERC's goal with publishing lessons learned is to provide industry with technical and understandable information that assists them with maintaining the reliability of the bulk power system. NERC requests that you provide input on this lesson learned by taking the short survey provided in the link below.

Click here for: Lesson Learned Comment Form

For more Information please contact:

NERC – Lessons Learned (via email)	NPCC – Event Analysis
Source of Lesson Learned:	Northeast Power Coordinating Council
Lesson Learned #:	20150201
Date Published:	February XX, 2015
Category:	Relaying and Protection Systems

This document is designed to convey lessons learned from NERC's various activities. It is not intended to establish new requirements under NERC's Reliability Standards or to modify the requirements in any existing Reliability Standards. Compliance will continue to be determined based on language in the NERC Reliability Standards as they may be amended from time to time. Implementation of this lesson learned is not a substitute for compliance with requirements in NERC's Reliability Standards.

NERC
NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY CORPORATION

Lesson Learned

Consideration of the Effects of Mutual Coupling when Setting Ground Instantaneous Overcurrent Elements

Primary Interest Groups
Transmission Owners (TO)
Transmission Operators (TOP)
Generator Owners (GO)
Generator Operators (GOP)

Problem Statement
An event occurred that caused the unintended trip of a transmission line connected to a large generation facility. The transmission system and generation response to the loss of this line resulted in an unintended total loss of transmission connection to the generating facility. An investigation revealed that the unintended trip of the transmission line was due to an incorrect setting on a numerical relay directional ground instantaneous overcurrent (IOC) element. This setting caused it to misoperate in response to a fault on a mutually coupled adjacent line. Failure to consider the effects of mutual coupling between adjacent lines led to the improper derivation of the ground IOC element settings, and this resulted in a protection system misoperation.

Details
Mutual coupling exists between two or more transmission lines that are routed in parallel for a substantial distance due to the magnetic fields between the lines. For these configurations, a fault on one line can induce a large zero sequence current in the unfaulted parallel line and may lead to inappropriate tripping of the unfaulted line. Zero sequence current is only present during ground faults, so the consideration of mutual coupling effects only applies to the derivation of ground fault protective element settings. For the purpose of this document, a directional ground IOC element is defined as a relay element that trips instantaneously for a quantity of forward zero sequence current in excess of its set point.

When developing the ground IOC element setting associated with this event, the entity did not consider nor simulate a line-end fault (with end open) on the adjacent line that was mutually coupled to the protected line. The adjacent line ran in the same right of way as the protected line for a significant portion of the protected line's length. As a result, the associated line relays were placed in service with ground IOC settings that had the potential to misoperate. The setting error remained undetected until the occurrence of the event described above where the relaying operated incorrectly, resulting in an increase in the magnitude and scope of the disturbance.

Corrective Actions
The entity reviewed the composite protection system package on the lines associated with the disturbance, which included both zone 1 directional ground distance elements in addition to ground IOC elements. Since both of these relay elements are set to provide the same unconditional instantaneous

tripping for ground faults that occur on approximately 80% of the line nearest the protected terminal, the entity concluded that existing directional ground distance elements would provide adequate zone 1 ground fault coverage by themselves. That being the case as an immediate solution, the entity revised the relay settings on the lines associated with the disturbance to disable the ground IOC elements.

The entity is also conducting a comprehensive review of their transmission system to assess if there are other locations where a line-end fault on a mutually coupled line may not have been considered. The entity is considering changing their protection design philosophy to preclude the use of ground IOC elements if a directional ground distance element is available. For applications where a zone 1 directional ground distance element is not available, the entity has concluded that it is prudent to increase the ground IOC setting design margin applied to the worst case out-of-zone fault to better account for protection system component tolerances and fault simulation modeling tolerances.

The entity recognizes that while this increased margin provides enhanced security against misoperation, it also reduces the effective fault coverage of the ground IOC element under normal system conditions. The reduction in instantaneous ground fault coverage is an acceptable consequence of mitigating potential ground IOC misoperation because directional ground time overcurrent (TOC) elements are also enabled, providing time-delayed ground fault coverage for the entire line.

Lessons Learned

It is important that the mutual impedances between all line pairs be calculated and included when developing the system model.

The ground IOC element has no time delay and is therefore considered a zone 1 protection element. When this element is used as part of a protection system, it is critical that it be set so that it will not operate for any credible system event beyond the protected line (out-of-zone), while still providing adequate coverage for ground faults on the protected line. Determining the worst case out-of-zone fault is typically accomplished through the use of a fault simulation software tool to model the transmission system.

The out-of-zone fault simulations to consider should include:

1. A simulation of a fault on each line connected to each remote terminal that is close to the remote terminal with the remote line end open and closed.
2. Perform the same simulation described in consideration one with the contingency of having the largest remaining remote terminal ground source out of service.
3. Simulate a line-end fault (with end open) on all lines that are mutually coupled with the protected line for more than 10% of the protected lines length.
4. Perform the same simulation described in consideration three with the contingency of having the largest remaining remote terminal ground source out of service.

It may also be possible to eliminate the use of ground IOC elements if zone 1 ground distance elements can provide adequate ground fault protection and if appropriate consideration is given to providing reliable ground fault protection when a loss of potential condition occurs.

NERC's goal with publishing lessons learned is to provide industry with technical and understandable information that assists them with maintaining the reliability of the bulk power system. NERC requests that you provide input on this lesson learned by taking the short survey provided in the link below.

Click here for: Lesson Learned Comment Form

For more Information please contact:

NERC – Lessons Learned (via email)	NPCC – Event Analysis
Source of Lesson Learned:	Northeast Power Coordinating Council
Lesson Learned #:	20150202
Date Published:	February XX, 2015
Category:	Relaying and Protection Systems

This document is designed to convey lessons learned from NERC's various activities. It is not intended to establish new requirements under NERC's Reliability Standards or to modify the requirements in any existing Reliability Standards. Compliance will continue to be determined based on language in the NERC Reliability Standards as they may be amended from time to time. Implementation of this lesson learned is not a substitute for compliance with requirements in NERC's Reliability Standards.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
BEFORE THE
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY CORPORATION	**)** **)**	**Docket No. RR14-__-000**

NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY CORPORATION

FIVE-YEAR ELECTRIC RELIABILITY ORGANIZATION PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT REPORT

SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH 18 C.F.R. §39.3(c)

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July 21, 2014

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
DOCKET NO. RR14-___

NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY CORPORATION

FIVE-YEAR ELECTRIC RELIABILITY ORGANIZATION PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT REPORT

OVERVIEW OF NERC ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THE FIVE-YEAR PERIOD

SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH 18 C.F.R. §39.3(c)

JULY 21, 2014

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Attachment 1: Discussion of How NERC Meets the ERO Certification Criteria of 18 C.F.R. §39.3(b)

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Attachment 4: NERC Consideration of Industry Feedback

Attachment 5: Status of Areas for Improvement Identified in the Order on the Three-Year ERO Performance Assessment

Attachment 6: NERC's Plan and Initiatives for Improving Coordinated Operations Across the ERO Enterprise

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Contents of Five-Year ERO Performance Assessment

The North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) is submitting this *Five-Year Electric Reliability Organization (ERO) Performance Assessment Report* in accordance with the Commission's regulations at 18 C.F.R. §39.3(c). NERC was certified by the Commission as the ERO, pursuant to §215(c) of the Federal Power Act (FPA), by Commission order issued July 20, 2006.[1] The Commission's regulations at 18 C.F.R. Part 39 require the ERO to submit an assessment of its performance three years from the date of certification and every five years thereafter.[2] On July 20, 2009, NERC filed its initial, Three-Year ERO Performance Assessment Report with the Commission. On September 16, 2010, the Commission issued an order accepting the three-year performance assessment of NERC and the Regional Entities and found that they continue to satisfy the statutory and regulatory criteria for certification.[3] NERC now submits this *Five-Year ERO Performance Assessment Report* in accordance with the Commission's regulations.

In this *Five-Year ERO Performance Assessment Report*, NERC describes its activities and accomplishments during the assessment period[4] in carrying out its statutory and regulatory responsibilities as the ERO, with a particular focus on the latter part of the assessment period and on NERC's current and planned initiatives. As required by 18 C.F.R. §39.3(c)(1), this report: (i) describes how NERC continues to meet the certification criteria of 18 C.F.R. §39.3(b); (ii)

[1] *Order Certifying the North American Electric Reliability Corporation as the Electric Reliability Organization and Ordering Compliance Filing*, 116 FERC ¶ 61,062 (2006).

[2] 18 C.F.R. §39.3(c).

[3] *Order on the Electric Reliability Organization's Three-Year Performance Assessment*, 132 FERC ¶ 61,217 (2010).

[4] NERC defines the assessment period as January 1, 2009 through May 31, 2014.

evaluates of the effectiveness of each Regional Entity in carrying out its delegated functions;[5] and (iii) addresses stakeholder comments on NERC's performance that were collected in the preparation of this report. As noted, this report identifies actions that NERC and the Regional Entities are currently taking and plan to take to continue to improve their operations to enhance the reliable operation of the bulk power system (BPS). Unlike the three-year performance assessment report, NERC has not presented a program area-by-program area discussion of activities because NERC's annual business plan and budgets (and those of the Regional Entities) provide the Commission with an annual, detailed look at NERC's and each Regional Entity's current and planned activities by program area. Instead, this *Five-Year ERO Performance Assessment Report* highlights activities and accomplishments in support of the ERO Enterprise[6] Strategic Plan (Strategic Plan) initiatives applicable to this assessment period. These initiatives include: (i) Reliability Standards reform (both as to the number and content of Reliability Standards and the processes for developing them); (ii) the Reliability Assurance Initiative (RAI) which involves identifying risks to reliability and reformulating the compliance monitoring and enforcement processes to have a risk-based focus; and (iii) the revision of the bulk electric system (BES) definition.

In this *Five-Year ERO Performance Assessment Report*, NERC also demonstrates how the ERO is improving the performance of, and mitigating risks to, the BPS as related to avoidable outages. As detailed in NERC's *State of Reliability 2014* report, the number of BPS transmission-related events resulting in loss of firm load, other than events caused by factors

[5] The eight Regional Entities are: (i) Florida Reliability Coordinating Council, Inc.; (ii) Midwest Reliability Organization; (iii) Northeast Power Coordinating Council, Inc.; (iv) ReliabilityFirst Corporation; (v) SERC Reliability Corporation; (vi) Southwest Power Pool Regional Entity; (vii) Texas Reliability Entity, Inc.; and (viii) Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC).

[6] NERC uses the term "ERO Enterprise" to encompass both NERC and the eight Regional Entities.

external to the transmission system's actual performance (i.e., weather-initiated events), decreased from an average of ten per year over a ten year period (2002 through 2011) to seven in 2013. The daily severity risk index value (SRI), a metric created by NERC that measures risk impact or "stress" from events resulting in the loss of transmission, generation, and load, has been stable from 2008 to 2013. Including weather-initiated events, 2013 had no high-stress days, which is within the range of zero to seven days experienced during 2008 through 2013. The availability of the bulk transmission system, as measured by the SRI and other metrics, continues to remain high with no statistically significant change from 2008 to 2013.[7]

Despite the progress made to date in improving the reliability of the BPS and reducing the risks to reliability, opportunities remain for enhancements to ensure that the BPS remains reliable. NERC describes these opportunities, and its initiatives designed to pursue them, in this *Five-Year ERO Performance Assessment Report*. Additionally, in this assessment report, NERC evaluates the effectiveness of each Regional Entity in performing its delegated functions, drawing from NERC's ongoing oversight activities, the Regional Entities' self-assessments, and feedback solicited from industry through an industry survey and posting the Regional Entity self-assessments for stakeholder comment.

Finally, NERC describes how its compliance monitoring and enforcement efforts have matured into a robust program providing industry with greater certainty on actions, outcomes, and reliability consequences. The actions taken by the ERO to identify, correct, and prevent violations of NERC's Reliability Standards have promoted the reliability of the BPS. For example, the adoption, modification, and rigorous enforcement of NERC's transmission vegetation management Reliability Standard (FAC-003), which became mandatory and

[7] NERC's *State of Reliability 2014* report is available at: http://www.nerc.com/pa/RAPA/PA/Performance%20Analysis%20DL/2014_SOR_Final.pdf.

enforceable in 2007, has dramatically reduced the number of outages caused by vegetation growing into high voltage lines. From 2004 through 2008, there were 58 reported outages. By contrast, from 2009 through 2013, only six instances were reported.[8]

B. Industry Engagement

The electric industry has made tremendous strides towards improving reliability since the August 2003 Northeast blackout, which left 50 million customers without power. Enactment of §215 of the FPA, NERC's certification as the ERO, and the adoption of mandatory and enforceable Reliability Standards renewed the industry's focus on reliability. This focus, which includes proactive steps by the ERO to identify and address risks and avoid preventable events, has had a demonstrable and positive impact on reliability.

In passing the Energy Policy Act of 2005, which included the enactment of §215, Congress recognized the importance of an international ERO across North America to ensure the reliability of the BPS. As the ERO, NERC plays a unique role in facilitating industry engagement to create effective approaches for reliability initiatives. For example, industry participation in Reliability Standards development from start to finish is critical. Industry stakeholders participate in Reliability Standards development with increasing frequency since changes to the *Standard Processes Manual* (SPM) became effective June 26, 2013.[9] Stakeholders participate directly by joining standard drafting teams or participating as observers; attending and discussing Reliability Standards at webinars, committee meetings or technical conferences with standard drafting team members and NERC staff; communicating technical opinions directly to standard drafting teams or NERC staff; and commenting and voting on

[8] NERC's quarterly *Vegetation-Related Transmission Outage Reports* are available at: http://www.nerc.com/pa/comp/CE/Pages/vegetation-management-reports.aspx.

[9] The SPM is Appendix 3A to the NERC Rules of Procedure (NERC ROP) and is available at: http://www.nerc.com/pa/Stand/Documents/Appendix_3A_StandardsProcessesManual.pdf.

proposed Reliability Standards. As of May 2014, 858 stakeholder representatives had registered their eligibility to vote on proposed Reliability Standards as members of the Registered Ballot Body, and in 2013 alone NERC hosted 43 Reliability Standard industry webinars attended by an average of 360 participants. During the last six months of 2013, standard drafting teams and five-year review teams made up of 195 industry volunteers participated in 60 team meetings to advance standard development activities.[10]

Industry engagement is also a critical component of NERC's strategic initiatives, such as RAI. Through RAI, NERC and the Regional Entities are adopting a risk-based approach to compliance monitoring and enforcement activities.[11] NERC and the Regional Entities are spearheading RAI, with substantial input from industry representatives on important RAI projects. For example, the ERO Enterprise is examining information flow requirements for registered entity self-reporting and is developing criteria to evaluate the various approaches to reliability risk assessments and internal controls review and testing. Similarly, industry played an important role in the development and implementation of NERC's Find, Fix, Track and Report (FFT) process, an enforcement mechanism that differentiates and processes noncompliance occurrences according to their significance to the reliability of the BPS.

Preparation of this *Five-Year ERO Performance Assessment Report* has benefited from considerable input from industry. On October 31, 2013, NERC distributed a 36-question online survey soliciting numerical ratings and free-form responses from registered entities regarding the performance of NERC and the Regional Entities in carrying out their responsibilities. On March 3, 2014, NERC posted a draft statement of its activities and accomplishments, as well as drafts of

[10] As described later in this *Overview of NERC Activities and Accomplishments in the Five-Year Period*, five-year review teams are engaged in the five-year reviews of those Reliability Standards that have been adopted by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) as national standards, in accordance with §13.0 of the SPM.

[11] NERC expects to submit an informational filing in 2014 fully describing RAI.

the Regional Entities' self-assessments, on NERC's website for industry comment. On June 17, 2014, NERC posted a complete draft of the *Five-Year ERO Performance Assessment Report* on its website for stakeholder comment. A compilation of the responses to the survey questions and of the comments received on the March 3, 2014 and June 17, 2014 postings, are included as **Attachment 4** to this report.[12]

This *Five-Year ERO Performance Assessment Report* includes the following attachments:

Attachment 1: Discussion of How NERC Meets the ERO Certification Criteria of 18 C.F.R. §39.3(b)

Attachment 2: Joint Regional Entity Self-Assessment[13]

Attachment 3: NERC Assessment of the Regional Entities' Delegated Functions

Attachment 4: NERC Consideration of Industry Feedback

Attachment 5: Status of Areas for Improvement Identified in the Order on the Three-Year ERO Performance Assessment

Attachment 6: NERC's Plan and Initiatives for Improving Coordinated Operations Across the ERO Enterprise

NERC requests that the Commission accept this filing as satisfying NERC's obligation under 18 C.F.R. §39.3(c) to file a performance assessment every five years after the three-year anniversary of its certification as the ERO. Pursuant to 18 C.F.R. §39.3(c), the Commission will initiate a proceeding, with opportunity for public comment, on NERC's *Five-Year ERO Performance Assessment Report*. At the conclusion of the proceeding, the Commission will either issue an order finding that NERC and the Regional Entities meet the statutory and regulatory criteria, or direct them to come into or improve their compliance with

[12] Issues raised by stakeholders, and the responses of NERC and the Regional Entities, are addressed in this report. Industry responses to the survey were discussed at the February 28, 2014 NERC Member Representatives Committee (MRC) meeting, and industry responses to the survey and comments received on the March 3, 2014 posting were discussed at the May 6, 2014 NERC Board of Trustees (NERC Board) meeting.

[13] **Attachment 2** contains both an overall self-assessment of the Regional Entities' collective performance during the assessment period, and individual discussions of how each Regional Entity satisfied the applicable statutory and regulatory criteria including those specified in the Commission's regulations at 18 C.F.R. §39.8.

the requirements of Part 39. Because considerable opportunity has been provided for stakeholder input through the industry survey and the posting of drafts of this report, NERC suggests that the Commission initiate its proceeding by setting a comment period of no more than 45 days on the filed report. Conducting the Commission's proceeding pursuant to §39.3(c) in an expeditious manner will allow NERC and the Regional Entities both to receive timely feedback from commenters and the Commission and to move forward and devote time and resources to the various initiatives outlined in the report. NERC will use the contents of this *Five-Year ERO Performance Assessment Report* and the results of the proceeding to guide the continuing implementation and evolution of its programs in the years ahead.

II. NERC ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

This section describes activities and initiatives that NERC has completed during the assessment period, has in progress, or plans to commence in the near future, to enhance the reliability of the BPS and to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the operations of the ERO Enterprise. NERC focuses this discussion on the following five areas: (i) development of clear, reasonable and technically sound Reliability Standards; (ii) registration of entities with functional responsibilities for the reliability of the BPS; (iii) monitoring and enforcing compliance with Reliability Standards; (iv) identification, prioritization and dissemination of information on risks to the reliability of the BPS; and (v) collecting and sharing information on cybersecurity and threats to the cyber and physical security of the BPS.

A. The ERO Is Transitioning NERC Reliability Standards to a Steady-State

Since the three-year performance assessment, NERC has made great strides in transforming Reliability Standards to a steady-state, which NERC defines as a stable set of clear, concise, high-quality, and technically sound Reliability Standards. Steady-state Reliability Standards are results-based and include requirements that promote reliability. They are

sustainable (stable), necessary for accountability, and sufficient to maintain the reliability of the BPS. After a set of steady-state Reliability Standards is fully developed, it is expected that Reliability Standards will only need to be amended in response to changes in risks, technology, practices, and similar changes. In support of this objective, during the assessment period, NERC focused on addressing FERC directives and conducting periodic reviews of Reliability Standards. NERC expects to complete the development of a set of steady-state Reliability Standards in 2015.

NERC's efforts to arrive at steady-state Reliability Standards would not have been possible without strong participation from industry stakeholders, FERC staff, the NERC Standards Committee (SC), and other NERC committees and working groups, including the Reliability Issues Steering Committee (RISC) and the Standards Process Improvement Group (SPIG), the NERC Board, and the NERC MRC. Arriving at a set of steady-state Reliability Standards required changes in NERC's Reliability Standards development process. The SPIG identified needed changes to the process. These changes were implemented through amendments to the SPM that became effective on June 26, 2013, upon Commission approval.[14]

The currently effective *Reliability Standards Development Plan 2014-2016* (RSDP), approved by the NERC Board in November 2013, endorses the objective of arriving at steady-state Reliability Standards.[15] It specifically defines "steady-state" as a stable set of clear, concise, high quality, and technically sound Reliability Standards that are results-based and that exclude requirements that do little to promote reliability. The 2014-2016 RSDP prioritizes future Reliability Standards projects as high, medium, low or pending technical committee input based

[14] *Order Approving Revisions to Electric Reliability Organization's Standard Processes Manual*, 143 FERC ¶ 61,273 (2013).

[15] *Reliability Standards Development Plan 2014-2016* is available at: http://www.nerc.com/pa/Stand/Pages/ReliabilityStandardsDevelopmentPlan.aspx.

on a series of inputs, which include the Standards Independent Expert Review Panel's (IERP or Panel) content and quality assessments (discussed later in this document). Prioritization considerations were influenced by: (i) RISC category rankings (also described later in this document); (ii) outstanding regulatory directives; (iii) regulatory deadlines; (iv) Paragraph 81 retirement candidates (also described below); (v) content and quality assessments by the IERP (also described below); and (vi) additional considerations such as fill-in-the-blank status and five-year review assessment commitments.

During the assessment period, NERC launched several initiatives to improve Reliability Standards, including: (i) the results-based Reliability Standards initiative; (ii) the Paragraph 81 project; (iii) the reorganization of the Reliability Standards department; and (iv) the establishment of the IERP. Each of these initiatives built upon the prior initiative, resulting in a comprehensive set of criteria by which to evaluate whether a Reliability Standard has reached its steady-state.

Since the three-year performance assessment, NERC initiated the results-based concept for developing the content of Reliability Standards. Each requirement of a results-based Reliability Standard identifies a measurable outcome such as: (i) a stated level of reliability performance; (ii) a reduction in a specified reliability risk (prevention); or (iii) a necessary competency. In 2011, NERC began training standard drafting teams to write results-based Reliability Standards. In 2013, the Commission approved the first Reliability Standard that resulted from that effort, FAC-003-2 – Transmission Vegetation Management.[16] NERC is in the process of converting major families of Reliability Standards into results-based Reliability

[16] *Revisions to Reliability Standard for Transmission Vegetation Management*, 142 FERC ¶ 61,208 (2013).

Standards.[17] These Reliability Standards include those dealing with long-term planning, reliability coordination, and real-time operations.[18]

In 2012, in response to FERC's invitation to NERC in a March 15, 2012 Order, NERC and industry conducted the Paragraph 81 project, which identified and retired requirements from Reliability Standards that did little to support reliability.[19] The criteria developed to scrutinize existing requirements in Reliability Standards in response to the Commission's Paragraph 81 invitation continue to be used by standard drafting teams to evaluate the need for proposed requirements in new Reliability Standards development projects.[20]

In further support of the development of steady-state Reliability Standards, NERC reorganized its Standards department in 2013 to focus resources on addressing FERC directives, conducting periodic reviews of Reliability Standards, and completing ongoing Reliability Standards development projects. NERC also conducted a parallel effort to identify future work necessary to transform the Reliability Standards to steady-state, by establishing the IERP to evaluate the content and quality of every requirement in the NERC Reliability Standards. The Panel established its own criteria, which included those developed in the Paragraph 81 project, to

[17] The terms "families of standards" refers to groupings of Reliability Standards that address a common subject matter area, e.g., Emergency Preparedness and Operations (EOP), Personnel Performance, Training and Qualifications (PER), and Protection and Controls (PRC).

[18] NERC revised the Transmission Planning (TPL) Reliability Standards and a single consolidated Reliability Standard approved by FERC; revisions to the Transmission Operations (TOP), Interconnection Reliability Operations and Coordination (IRO), Modeling (MOD), and Voltage and Reactive (VAR) standards are pending FERC approval.

[19] "Paragraph 81" refers to P 81 of the Commission's March 15, 2012 Order on NERC's FFT process, in which the Commission invited NERC (as well as the Regional Entities and other stakeholders) to identify specific standards requirements that could be revised or removed because they provide little protection for BPS reliability or are redundant. *Order Accepting with Conditions the Electric Reliability Organization's Petition Requesting Approval of New Enforcement Mechanisms and Requiring Compliance Filing*, 138 FERC ¶ 61,193 (2012) (March 2012 FFT Order), at P 81. *See* §II.A.3 below for a more detailed description of the Paragraph 81 initiative.

[20] The Paragraph 81 criteria are outlined in the Phase I *Paragraph 81 Project Technical White Paper* available at: http://www.nerc.com/pa/Stand/Project%20201302%20Paragraph%2081%20RF/P81_Phase_I_technical_white_paper_FINAL.pdf.

determine whether a requirement was steady-state or needed further revisions. The Panel's recommendations set the course for arriving at high quality, results-based Reliability Standards with sustainable requirements. NERC is preparing training materials for standard drafting teams to highlight the use of the Panel's methods for content and quality assessments of Reliability Standards.

NERC has also been diligent in assessing the need for Reliability Standards that address reliability gaps. Sections II.A.8.a through e below discuss five important areas of Reliability Standards development focusing on reliability risk: (i) the Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP) Version 5 Reliability Standards; (ii) vegetation management (formerly a top ten cause of outage events); (iii) protection system maintenance and testing; (iv) geomagnetic disturbances (GMD) (a high-impact, low-frequency risk to the BPS which does not readily manifest in reliability performance data, but nonetheless represents a significant risk to the BPS); and (v) the physical security Reliability Standard.

A more recent initiative to assist with the achievement of steady-state Reliability Standards is the development of a template for enhanced periodic reviews of Reliability Standards that have not yet been revised through other Reliability Standards development projects. NERC is working with industry stakeholders to develop the necessary criteria for determining which Reliability Standards will be subject to these enhanced periodic reviews as well as whether the Reliability Standards have reached their steady-state. NERC expects the criteria to include those from the results-based Reliability Standards initiative, the Paragraph 81 project and the IERP. Upon reaching a consensus with industry on the criteria for evaluating whether a requirement is steady-state, and after completing the projects identified in the ERO's 2014-2016 RSDP and the ERO's 2015-2017 RSDP, NERC will apply the criteria to the

Reliability Standards through enhanced periodic reviews beginning in 2015.[21]

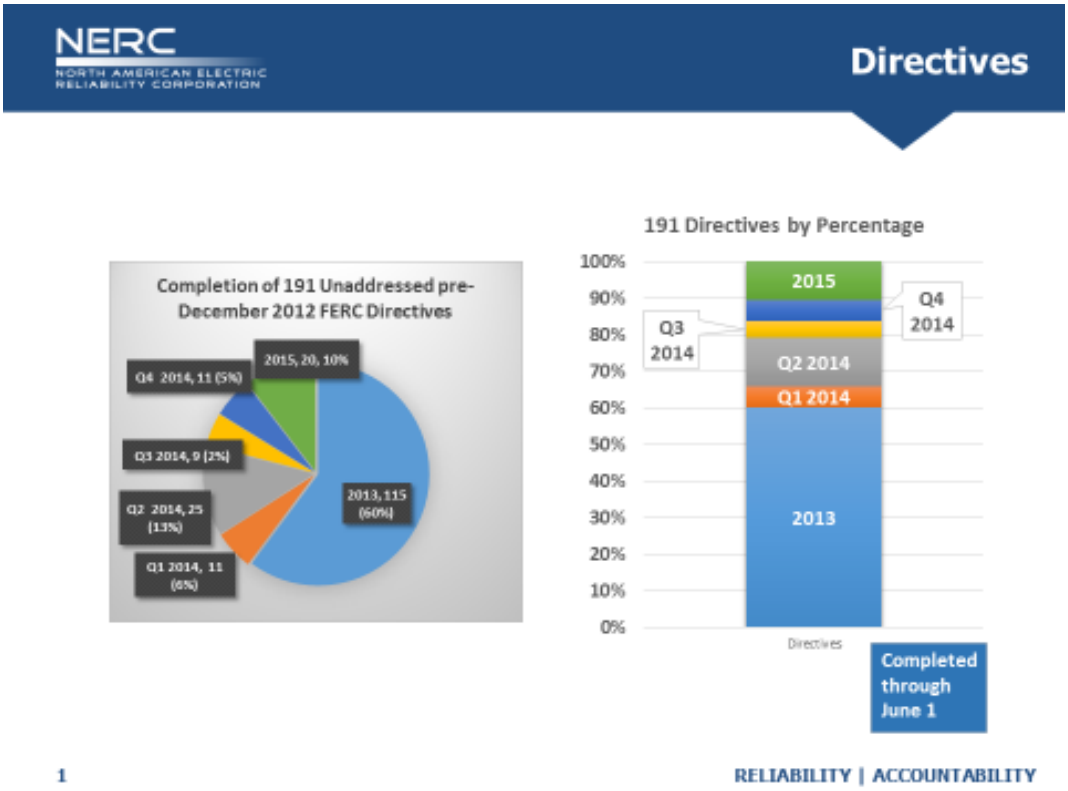
1. Completing Commission Directives

During this assessment period, NERC made significant progress in reducing the number of Commission directives involving Reliability Standards. Addressing these directives is a priority to facilitate the transformation to steady-state.[22] The status of NERC's efforts in addressing Reliability Standards-related directives is reported on a quarterly basis to the NERC Standards Oversight and Technology Committee (SOTC). At the February 2014 SOTC meeting, NERC reported that 128 directives had been addressed by year-end 2013, with 107 directives remaining to be addressed. NERC continues to report the status of completion at every SOTC meeting and anticipates that 90% of FERC directives issued to date will be resolved during the first half of 2015.

[21] The 2014-2016 RSDP identified 18 Reliability Standard development projects completed in 2013 or scheduled to be completed by the first quarter of 2014. It also identified 13 projects that were to be completed thereafter.

On June 20, 2014, the draft 2015-2017 RSDP was posted for industry comment. Currently, it identifies 27 projects that have been completed or are in progress, many of which were newly introduced in 2014. Eight of these 27 projects have been approved by the Registered Ballot Body, approved by the NERC Board, and filed with FERC for approval, and 12 are anticipated to be completed in 2014. The draft 2015-2017 RSDP identifies the remaining seven projects that will extend into 2015, with completion anticipated in the first half of the year. Additionally, four new projects for 2015 are identified. Completion of these projects will position NERC to begin enhanced periodic reviews in late 2015.

[22] Directives may be addressed by: (i) completing the directive as assigned; (ii) addressing the reliability concern of the directive in an equally effective and efficient manner; or (iii) providing persuasive reasoning as to why the directive is no longer necessary.



FERC has been instrumental in reducing the number of outstanding directives, as well. On November 21, 2013, in its order addressing the Paragraph 81 project, the Commission withdrew 41 directives, 24 of which were related to Reliability Standards, effective January 21, 2014.[23] The Commission identified Reliability Standards-related directives for withdrawal based on the following three guidelines:

(1) Whether the reliability concern underlying the outstanding directive has been addressed in some manner, rendering the directive stale;

(2) Whether the outstanding directive provides general guidance for Reliability Standards development rather than a specific directive; and

(3) Whether the outstanding directive is redundant with another directive.

[23] *Electric Reliability Organization Proposal to Retire Requirements in Reliability Standards*, 145 FERC ¶ 61,147 (2013).

FERC staff participation on standard drafting teams has also been instrumental in addressing Reliability Standards directives. Increased participation by FERC staff allows their concerns to be raised early in the Reliability Standard development process and for issues to be vetted with industry. This open dialogue translates into fewer directives in FERC orders.

2. The Standards Independent Experts Review Panel

To set the foundation for a steady-state body of Reliability Standards, NERC established the IERP to evaluate the existing families of Reliability Standards and requirements. The Panel consisted of five independent industry experts and a sixth participant from FERC staff. Their areas of experience and competence included power systems engineering, relaying, transmission system planning, transmission and power system operations (including control center operations and dispatching, generation operations, transmission operations, and maintenance). The independent consultants brought executive leadership, experience from all three U.S. interconnections, experience with investor-owned utilities and public power as well as with vertically integrated and regional transmission organizations/independent system operator (RTO/ISO) market environments and small entities. The Panel also had experience working with Canadian provinces and Mexico. The Commission participant offered thorough knowledge of previous FERC orders and an understanding of the contributions of the requirements of various Reliability Standards to BPS reliability.

Due to the ongoing evolution of NERC's Reliability Standards, the Panel addressed requirements from two groups of Reliability Standards: (i) Reliability Standards that were, or would become, enforceable in 2013 (Enforceable in 2013 Standards); and (ii) Reliability Standards that will be enforceable in the future (Future Enforceable Standards). The Future Enforceable Standards and requirements included both Enforceable in 2013 Reliability Standards and those that, at the time of the Panel's report, had been approved by the NERC Board or by the

FERC and were currently pending enforceability.[24] Requirements pending replacement by approved Reliability Standards were not included in this group.

The Panel issued its report in June 2013 and presented the report to the NERC Board in August 2013. In the report, the Panel outlined a vision for how to transform the NERC Reliability Standards to steady-state. The Panel made seven short-term recommendations, three longer-term recommendations and seven additional recommendations.[25] The Panel's main recommendation was to retire 147 existing requirements of Reliability Standards, address seven areas (high-level gaps) not currently addressed by the Reliability Standards, and complete Reliability Standards development projects to address gaps within individual requirements. The Panel also made recommendations regarding compliance monitoring, prioritization for addressing the identified gaps, using risk to determine whether a future Reliability Standard is needed, and use of the Panel's identified criteria to determine quality and content as future Reliability Standards are developed. Finally, the Panel recommended a new construct to further consolidate Reliability Standards and required actions.

In evaluating whether a requirement should be retired, the Panel assessed whether each requirement: (i) did not support a reliability principle; (ii) met the Paragraph 81 criteria for retirement; or (iii) was better suited as a guideline rather than as a part of a Reliability Standard. For the requirements that the Panel did not recommend for retirement, the Panel applied content and quality criteria to examine whether they were steady-state or needed additional work. Specifically, the Panel examined the following content criteria: (i) whether the content of the

[24] The June 2013 report, *Standards Independent Experts Review Project – An Independent Review by Industry Experts*, is available at: http://www.nerc.com/pa/Stand/Standards%20Development%20Plan%20Library/Standards_Independent_Experts_Review_Project_Report.pdf.

[25] *Id*., p. 16-17.

requirement is technically correct, including identifying who does what and when; (ii) whether the requirement identifies the correct functional entities; and (iii) whether there are appropriate actions for which there should be accountability included or there is a gap. Additionally, the Panel examined the following quality criteria:

(1) Whether the requirement should stand alone or be consolidated with other Reliability Standards;

(2) Whether the requirement was drafted as a results-based standard;

(3) Whether a requirement is technologically neutral;

(4) Whether the requirement aligns with the purpose of the Reliability Standard;

(5) Whether the requirement is a higher solution than the lowest common denominator;

(6) Whether the requirement is measureable;

(7) Whether the requirement has a technical basis in engineering and operations;

(8) Whether the requirement is complete and self-contained;

(9) Whether the language is clear and does not contain ambiguous or outdated terms;

(10) Whether the requirement can be practically implemented; and

(11) Whether the requirement uses consistent terminology.

The Panel evaluated whether these remaining requirements addressed a risk to reliability by examining: (i) the ranking developed by the NERC RISC; (ii) the violation risk factor (VRF) for each requirement; and (iii) the Panel members' professional judgment.

These recommendations have been pivotal in NERC's evaluations of the Reliability Standards by standard drafting team subject matter experts (SME). Furthermore, the Panel's recommendations have been used to inform standard drafting teams and NERC's annual RSDPs, including the current, 2014-2016 RSDP. The potential reliability gaps identified by the IERP have been evaluated by the RISC and are assigned in some cases to active drafting projects. The

IERP recommendations that apply to Reliability Standards that are not part of active drafting projects are assigned to teams that conduct periodic reviews of Reliability Standards in the future for consideration.[26]

3. Implementation of the Paragraph 81 Project

The Paragraph 81 project was a separate project, carried out during the assessment period, in which requirements were recommended for retirement. This project stemmed from paragraph 81 of the Commission's March 15, 2012 FFT Order, in which the Commission invited NERC (and other interested entities) to propose specific Reliability Standards or requirements for revision or retirement if they did not provide meaningful benefit to BPS reliability. In response, NERC began the Paragraph 81 project to identify and retire Reliability Standards requirements that have little or no effect on reliability. As discussed above, the project established a set of criteria for evaluating whether a requirement should be considered for retirement.[27]

This initiative is reducing and simplifying the set of Reliability Standards with which registered entities must comply and which the ERO must monitor and enforce. This reduction in the body of requirements enables both the ERO and registered entities to redirect resources to matters posing greater risks to the reliability of the BPS and to ensure that the costs of reliability are proportionate to the benefits.

[26] These future periodic reviews are required by §13 of the SPM.

[27] For a detailed discussion of criteria used to determine if a Reliability Standard requirement should be retired, *see Paragraph 81 Project Technical White Paper* (December 20, 2012), available at: http://www.nerc.com/pa/Stand/Project%20201302%20Paragraph%2081%20RF/P81_Phase_I_technical_white_paper_FINAL.pdf.

In February 2013, NERC filed a petition with FERC to retire 34 requirements or sub-requirements within 19 Reliability Standards.[28] In its June 20, 2013 notice of proposed rulemaking (NOPR), the Commission indicated agreement that the requirements proposed for retirement either: (i) provided little protection for BPS reliability; or (ii) were redundant with other aspects of Reliability Standards. In addition, in the NOPR, the Commission proposed to withdraw several outstanding Commission directives relating to Reliability Standards.[29] On November 21, 2013, the Commission issued an order approving, as proposed in the NOPR, the retirement of 34 requirements and sub-requirements within 19 Reliability Standards, and withdrawing the identified directives effective January 21, 2014 (the Retirement Effective Date).[30] As noted above, the retirement of these requirements is enabling both the ERO and registered entities to redirect resources to matters posing greater risks to the reliability of the BPS and to ensure that the costs of reliability are proportionate to the benefits.

In the period leading up to the Retirement Effective Date, Regional Entities did not actively monitor compliance with the 34 retired requirements, nor did they process any new or existing possible violations of these retired requirements. Regional Entities also documented removal of any of the 34 retired requirements from Compliance Audit scopes in the final Compliance Audit reports for those audits. Within 30 days of the Retirement Effective Date, Regional Entities dismissed existing possible violations of the requirements being retired and issued dismissal letters to the registered entities.

[28] *Petition of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation for Approval of Retirement of Requirements in Reliability Standards*, Docket No. RM13-8-000 (Feb. 28, 2013).

[29] *Electric Reliability Organization Proposal to Retire Requirements in Reliability Standards*, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 143 FERC ¶ 61,251 (2013).

[30] *Electric Reliability Organization Proposal to Retire Requirements in Reliability Standards*, 145 FERC ¶ 61,147 (2013).

In addition to the 34 requirements that the Commission approved for retirement, stakeholders submitted an additional 217 requirements for consideration for retirement. NERC is examining whether to retire these requirements through individual Reliability Standards development projects. Progress on this retirement effort is reported to the SOTC on a quarterly basis. As of the February 2014 SOTC meeting, 179 out of 281 recommendations had been addressed, 79 were under consideration in either a current project or in a periodic review, and 23 had not yet been assigned to a project.

4. Development of Compliance Assessment Tools Concurrently with Reliability Standards Development

Over time, one of the key improvement opportunities identified for NERC Reliability Standards has been to strengthen the connection between standard drafting teams and the compliance program, in order to clarify the expectations of Reliability Standard requirements. Two efforts at clarifying Reliability Standard requirements, but which ultimately illustrated the need for greater involvement of the Compliance department in the Reliability Standards development process, were the Compliance Application Notice (CAN) initiative and the Reliability Standard Audit Worksheets (RSAWs). CANs were notices drafted to respond to questions regarding how to assess compliance with specific Reliability Standards. CANs were posted on the NERC website to provide transparency to industry; however, since they were drafted well after the Reliability Standard was developed, the compliance assessment positions articulated in the CANs often varied from industry's perspective of the intent of the Reliability Standard or requirement. Similarly, prior to 2013, NERC developed RSAWs after regulatory approval of a Reliability Standard.

The CAN process demonstrated the need for concurrent development and dialogue between standard drafting teams and NERC Compliance Operations staff. As a result, in 2013,

NERC began incorporating the development of compliance assessment information into the Reliability Standards development process. After June 2013, informal development project teams began posting documents during standards development titled "compliance input." These documents provided questions from industry and answers developed by Compliance staff regarding how to assess compliance for specific requirements, or phrases in the requirements. This basic tool opened the door for conversation between the standard drafting teams and Compliance staff. It also allowed for conversation regarding the wording of requirements and the effect of that wording on how compliance would be assessed.

NERC then created an inter-departmental team to examine the development of RSAWs, which resulted in an internal policy on the development of RSAWs concurrent with Reliability Standards development projects. The policy included the following provisions:

(1) Coordinating input between standard drafting teams and NERC Compliance staff;

(2) Posting a draft RSAW during the formal comment period and prior to the ballot period for a Reliability Standard, allowing stakeholders to provide comments or to raise concerns at that time;[31] and

(3) Continuing to involve Regional Entity Compliance staffs in drafting RSAWs to strengthen compliance consensus throughout the ERO and capture additional subject matter expertise.

Today, RSAWs are written concurrently with new Reliability Standard development projects. They provide information regarding compliance assessment and testing. Reliability Standards staff leads coordination between the Standards and Compliance departments. Each Reliability Standards project is assigned dedicated staff support led by Compliance staff. Additionally, NERC Compliance staff are coordinating with Regional Entity Compliance staffs. This increased and ongoing coordination will help ensure that standard drafting teams, NERC

[31] The RSAWs themselves are not subject to the ballot.

and Regional Entity Compliance staffs and RSAWs are aligned as to the intent of Reliability Standards. By creating a uniform understanding of compliance expectations for each Reliability Standard early in the development process, the need for interpretations or other forms of subsequent compliance guidance should be reduced.

NERC Compliance staff will continue to supply standard drafting teams with compliance and enforcement information, statistics, and perspectives to help develop Reliability Standards that provide an increased reliability benefit and clarify compliance risks. Compliance staff will continue collaborating with industry and Reliability Standards staff early in the Reliability Standards development process in order to understand the intent of Reliability Standards under development and provide feedback on the proposed language of Reliability Standards. Finally, as described in greater detail in §II.C.2 and 4 below, NERC is working to provide training to auditors and industry on how to assess compliance with a new or revised Reliability Standard. This training is provided following FERC approval of a Reliability Standard, but well before its effective date.

5. Review of Regional Reliability Standards

A Regional Entity can propose adoption of a regional Reliability Standard to implement requirements that are more stringent than the continent-wide requirement, and/or to address a reliability concern that is unique to that Regional Entity and not addressed in a continent-wide Reliability Standard.[32] Today, a regional Reliability Standard requirement may be developed as a separate regional Reliability Standard or as an addendum to a continent-wide Reliability Standard. NERC is considering, based on the recommendations from the Panel, commissioning a team to evaluate regional Reliability Standards to identify candidates for retirement,

[32] **Attachment 3**, NERC Assessment of the Regional Entities' Delegated Functions, contains a discussion of each Regional Entity's regional Reliability Standards development activity during the assessment period.

consolidation with continent-wide Reliability Standards, or incorporation as variances within continent-wide Reliability Standards. The regional Reliability Standards that are not identified as candidates for retirement or consolidation should align with continent-wide Reliability Standards.

6. Improvements in the Reliability Standards Development Process

Transforming NERC Reliability Standards to a steady-state required changes to how NERC identified and resolved issues through the Reliability Standards development process. Implementing these changes was possible due to strong participation from industry stakeholders, the NERC SC and other NERC committees and workgroups, specifically the RISC, the SPIG, and the NERC technical committees, as well as FERC staff. The NERC Board and the NERC MRC also provided strong support to implement the changes.

a. Revisions to the *Standard Processes Manual* and Related Improvements

NERC's Reliability Standards development process is defined in the SPM, Appendix 3A to the NERC ROP. The SPM governs all NERC activities related to the development, approval, revision, reaffirmation, and withdrawal of Reliability Standards, interpretations, VRFs, violation severity levels (VSLs), definitions, variances, and reference documents developed to support Reliability Standards. It also addresses the respective roles of the NERC SC, standard drafting teams, and Registered Ballot Body members in the stakeholder process. Upon FERC's approval of revisions to the SPM in June 2013, NERC, the NERC SC, and stakeholders began implementing the approved changes into the Reliability Standards development process.

The revisions to the SPM were initiated in February 2012, when the NERC Board, in consultation with the NERC MRC, formed the SPIG.[33] The NERC Board tasked the SPIG with achieving the following objectives: (i) provide clarity on the reliability objectives, technical parameters, scope and relative priority of Reliability Standards; (ii) review the Reliability Standard drafting process to ensure that Reliability Standards contain specific technical content; and (iii) assess Reliability Standards project management.

After gathering input from stakeholders, the SPIG made five recommendations to modify the way NERC develops Reliability Standards.[34] Based on these recommendations, NERC worked with stakeholders to develop revisions to the SPM. In these revisions, NERC:

(1) Revised the composition of standard drafting teams to ensure that they are appropriately equipped to meet reliability objectives, namely by adding legal and compliance experts;

(2) Incorporated references to compliance assessment tool development, such as RSAWs, cooperatively and in parallel with Reliability Standard drafting;

(3) Streamlined commenting and balloting provisions as follows:

  (a) Allowing summary responses to comments;

  (b) Eliminating the obligation to respond in writing at every stage of the comment process; and

  (c) Eliminating negative votes without comments in the calculation of consensus.

(4) Incorporated the following provisions:

  (a) Quality review conducted in parallel with Reliability Standards development;

  (b) Guidance for the appropriate role and scope of interpretations, to be consistent with guidance from the NERC Board; and

[33] The SPIG is composed of the MRC chair and vice chair, other MRC members, two members of the NERC Board, the NERC chief executive officer (CEO), and the NERC SC chair.

[34] The SPIG's *Recommendations to Improve the NERC Standards Development Process* report is available on the NERC website at: http://www.nerc.com/pa/Stand/Standards%20Processes%20Manual%20revisions%20SPIG%20Recommen/Standards_Process_Input_Group_04.24.12_ver_8_FINAL.pdf.

(c) A waiver provision to allow for modifications to the Reliability Standards development process for good cause, with five days' notice and reporting of the exercise of a waiver to the NERC SOTC.

(5) Reduced the requirement for periodic reviews to be consistent with ANSI minimum requirements.

These improvements provide a balanced flexibility to the process, enabling NERC and industry to address pressing reliability issues on accelerated timeframes if necessary. Further, with the changes, the Reliability Standards development process continues to meet ANSI requirements. The Commission approved the proposed revisions on June 26, 2013, agreeing that these changes enable greater flexibility and efficiency.[35] Reliability Standards development projects initiated and completed after FERC's approval of the SPM changes have shown both significant increases in efficiency and improvements in the quality of the product.

In addition to the revisions to the SPM, NERC has implemented additional enhancements to the Reliability Standards development process. In conjunction with implementing changes to the SPM, in 2013, NERC spearheaded an "informal development" effort, which uses informal groups composed of industry subject matter experts to conduct early outreach to industry stakeholders prior to initiating formal development of new or revised Reliability Standards. This early outreach encourages stakeholder conversations to obtain inputs on the proposed Reliability Standards development project. This approach is positively affecting how standard drafting teams are conducting their work. The periodic reviews conducted in 2013 followed this same approach, acting as a tool for gathering stakeholder input. Recommendations from each periodic review team are then implemented through subsequently-formed standard drafting teams.

The most significant improvement from the changes to the Reliability Standards development process has been in the amount of time required to develop a quality Reliability

[35] *Order Approving Revisions to Electric Reliability Organization's Standard Processes Manual*, 143 FERC ¶ 61,273 (2013), at P 18.

Standard. As reported in the *Analysis of NERC Standards Process Results, Fourth Quarter 2013* filing,[36] the baselines for the amounts of time to revise an existing Reliability Standard and to develop a new Reliability Standard were approximately 27 months and 40 months, respectively. The amount of time to produce each of the Reliability Standard development projects that began formal development under the revised SPM was dramatically reduced.[37] Approximately six projects completed formal development, from posting the standard authorization request to being adopted by the NERC Board, in less than seven months.[38] Two other projects completed formal development in ten months.[39]

The changes to the standard development process have provided benefits in terms of standard drafting team management and staffing. The reduced time needed to develop a Reliability Standard combined with the fact that standard drafting team meetings are held closer together in time provide registered entities and other participants with increased flexibility in staffing standard drafting teams. As a result, standard drafting team members are able to stay more focused on the Reliability Standard development project.

The speed and efficiency of the process, particularly at the standard drafting team stage, have also benefited from the following process improvements:

- Smaller standard drafting teams with appropriate expertise have increased the ability to conduct activities and respond to stakeholders in a more-timely and effective manner;

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[36] Available at: http://www.nerc.com/FilingsOrders/us/NERC%20Filings%20to%20FERC%20DL/Analysis_of_NERC_Standards_Process_Results_Q4_FINAL.pdf.

[37] The projects were: (i) 2010-01 – Training (PER); (ii) 2010-03 – Modeling Data (MOD B); (iii) 2010-04 – Demand Data (MOD C); (iv) 2012-05 – ATC Revisions (MOD A); and (v) 2013-04 – Voltage and Reactive Control (VAR).

[38] The six projects were: (i) GMD Phase 1; (ii) INT; (iii) Physical Security (CIP-014); (iv) MOD A; (v) MOD B; and (vi) PER projects; one of the two Reliability Standards in the VAR project (VAR-001) also met this benchmark.

[39] The two other projects were: (i) the remaining Reliability Standard in the VAR project (VAR-002); and (ii) the MOD C project.

- Open communication and concurrent development of compliance assessment tools have addressed compliance questions and allowed for clarification of compliance intentions during Reliability Standards development;

- Summary responses to comments has allowed standard drafting teams to consider stakeholder inputs, modify the draft Reliability Standard in response to those inputs, and repost it for industry review more quickly (as short as 1.5 weeks); summary responses are more concise while still addressing the issues, and provide visibility into the concerns in an easily digestible format;

- Not considering negative votes without comments in the calculation of consensus encourages entities to provide constructive comments, providing better insight into the issues for the standard drafting teams;

- Coordinating quality review in parallel with standard development has eliminated an additional step (that previously could require 4 to 6 weeks) from the process and improved focus on quality at an earlier stage; and

- Granting the NERC SC authority to waive provisions in the SPM for good cause gives the SC the ability to respond to urgent reliability issues. A recent example, discussed in §II.A.8.e below, is the development of Reliability Standard CIP-014-1 – Physical Security, in less than 90 days.

Another improvement resulting from the SPM revisions, which is also associated with increased outreach and communication, is the partnership created between NERC staff, standard drafting teams, and the NERC SC. Additionally, FERC staff has been providing early input regarding their perspectives during the standards development process, thereby giving standard drafting teams the opportunity to weigh those inputs early in the process. Based on experience to date, NERC anticipates that this open dialogue will result in FERC orders with either no directives or a significantly reduced number of directives.

The NERC SC, under the NERC Board's direction, also developed a strategic plan and work plan, as well as a revised charter, all of which were approved by the NERC Board on February 6, 2014.[40] These actions were designed to increase the NERC SC's effectiveness, efficiency, and ability to deliver high quality Reliability Standards. The *Standards Committee*

[40] The *Standards Committee Strategic Work Plan 2014-2016*, *Standards Committee Strategic Plan*, and amended *Standards Committee Charter* are available at: http://www.nerc.com/comm/SC/Pages/default.aspx.

Strategic Plan is a five-year plan that sets the vision and mission for the NERC SC, describes the guiding principles for the NERC SC, and sets the foundation for refocusing the activities of the NERC SC. The *Standards Committee Strategic Work Plan* is the tactical implementation of the *Standards Committee Strategic Plan*. The revised *Standards Committee Charter* clarifies the NERC SC's role in the development of steady-state Reliability Standards that provide for the reliability of the BPS, and ensures that the NERC SC develops a multi-year strategic vision that describes the goals and direction for the development of Reliability Standards consistent with the strategic and business plans of NERC.

Additionally, the NERC SC created a new subcommittee, the Process Management and Oversight Subcommittee (PMOS), that acts as an industry and standard drafting team partner. This subcommittee assigns a representative to each standard drafting team for the purpose of oversight. The oversight includes such actions as assisting the standard drafting team in understanding any stakeholder concerns, reaching out to stakeholders if they do not understand the actions being taken by the standard drafting team, being partners in reviewing the Reliability Standards for quality, and assisting with advice on a range of topics from direction to posting schedules. The PMOS has assisted standard drafting teams in avoiding or overcoming hurdles during the process.

The revisions made to the SPM and other changes made to the Reliability Standards development process, including strengthened partnerships among standard drafting teams, the NERC SC, and NERC staff, are showing great promise as improvements to the process, in terms of improving efficiency, speed and quality. These improvements have allowed the ERO to make significant progress towards achieving a body of steady-state Reliability Standards. The 2015-2107 RSDP will reflect that most, if not all, FERC directives and recommendations for

retirement (both from the Paragraph 81 project and the IERP review) will be addressed in 2015, and it will provide an opportunity for a strategic review of the Reliability Standards.

b. Formation and Work of the Reliability Issues Steering Committee

In response to the SPIG's recommendations, the NERC Board formed the NERC RISC in August 2012 to establish a collaborative effort at the industry leadership level to set priorities on issues of importance to the BPS. The RISC is composed of industry executives and thought leaders, including representatives from the NERC Operating, Planning, Standards, Critical Infrastructure Protection, and Compliance and Certification Committees. The RISC is an advisory committee that reports directly to the NERC Board, focusing on triaging and providing front-end, high-level leadership and accountability for issues of strategic importance to BPS reliability. The RISC assists the NERC Board, NERC technical committees, NERC staff, regulators, Regional Entities, and industry stakeholders in establishing a common understanding of the scope, priority, and goals for the development of solutions to address these issues. In doing so, the RISC provides a framework for steering, developing, formalizing, and organizing recommendations to help NERC and the industry effectively focus their resources on the critical means to improve the reliability of the BPS. In some cases, that includes recommending reliability solutions other than the development of new or revised Reliability Standards and offering high-level stakeholder leadership engagement and input on issues that enter the Reliability Standards process. In other cases, the development of a new Reliability Standard or modification of an existing Reliability Standard may be the best way to address a particular issue.

The NERC SC works closely with the RISC and the NERC technical committees, creating an alignment of focus on specific issues. The chairs of the technical committees and NERC SC are members of the RISC, which strengthens the needed coordination.

The RISC is developing a triage process to address other reliability issues that are brought to the NERC SC, whether through a standards authorization request or another mechanism. This process will include a review by the RISC to determine whether the issue is a risk to the reliability of the BPS and, if so, the priority of investing ERO and stakeholder resources to resolve the issue. This review will aid in focusing resources on the resolution of the most important issues.

The RISC also provides input into prioritizing Reliability Standards development activities by providing input to the RSDP in two ways: first, by considering whether the projects identified in the RSDP address areas of risk for the BPS; and second, by developing a priority rank for each of the projects.

In considering whether each of the projects addresses an area of risk for the BPS, the NERC RISC considers whether there are outstanding FERC directives or any recommendations for retirement, either from the Paragraph 81 project or the IERP, that could be addressed by the project.

In reviewing the priority of each project, the RISC provides a mechanism for addressing any scheduling conflicts between projects through the development process.[41] In its initial analysis, the RISC identified four high-priority focus areas for Reliability Standards: (i) cyber attacks; (ii) workforce capability and human error; (iii) protection systems; and (iv) monitoring and situational awareness. The RISC presented these priorities to the NERC Board in February 2013. In response, the NERC Board directed the RISC to conduct further analysis of the issues identified as high and medium priority. The NERC Board also directed that the RISC's input be integrated into the overall ERO planning process. NERC staff is implementing process steps to

[41] RISC reviewed and provided input on the use of RISC's rankings in project prioritization.

meet this objective. Subsequently, the RISC issued an updated report in August 2013 identifying a fifth area of focus: adaptation and planning for change.[42]

In addition to the activities described above, in November 2012, the RISC participated in a NERC-sponsored conference in which reliability topics were discussed with technical experts. The conference, conducted as a series of panel discussions, highlighted several existing and emerging reliability risks and created an opportunity for informed dialogue about technical topics. A second conference, the Reliability Leadership Summit, was held in October 2013, with key industry decision-makers gathering to discuss reliability priorities and industry trends.[43]

Efforts to review the risk areas identified by the RISC and to develop appropriate risk management strategies are ongoing. Integrating these priorities into the annual business plan and budget process will be a cornerstone of NERC's annual planning process going forward. To effect this change in planning, NERC has developed the Reliability Risk Management (RRM) process, a multi-year strategy development method that uses industry expertise through the RISC and other standing committees to develop actionable, measureable efforts to manage reliability risk. The RRM process is discussed in detail below in §II.D.1.

c. Realignment of Resources in the Reliability Standards Program

NERC is constantly assessing the alignment of resources to be responsive to the changes necessary to move the NERC Reliability Standards to a steady-state. In 2013, NERC realigned resources in its Reliability Standards department by creating multiple small teams of Reliability Standards developers and one team focused on information management. This realignment focused resources on the production of Reliability Standards rather than on executing and

[42] *ERO Priorities – RISC Updates and Recommendations* is available at: http://www.nerc.com/comm/RISC/Related%20Files%20DL/RISC_Priority_Recommendations-Jul_26_2013.pdf.

[43] NERC intends for this summit meeting to be an annual event; the next Reliability Leadership Summit is scheduled for September 2014.

monitoring the development process, thereby increasing the throughput to complete outstanding projects and resolve outstanding directives. In 2013, each of the three "developer" teams was assigned one of the following high-level goals:

(1) Resolving directives;

(2) Conducting the required five-year reviews for current Reliability Standards;[44] or

(3) Overseeing emerging issue projects and the completion of remaining open projects.

The small developer teams closely coordinate with one another to ensure a balance in workload and to create an expertise in each of the major work areas.

Additionally, NERC has improved the composition of standard drafting teams by enhancing the selection process to identify, for each project, the necessary technical, writing, and project management expertise to form a balanced team that will foster improved effectiveness and enhanced efficiency. Standard drafting teams also now receive increased NERC staff support, including dedicated legal support, for each project. Each standard development project is staffed by a lead standard developer, and many projects have a second supporting standard developer. Standard developers provide project management and facilitation experience as well as additional skills, including technical writing, legal skills, and outreach/consensus-building skills, to the standard drafting team, which contributes to the development of high-quality Reliability Standards. With this enhanced staffing, standard drafting teams are better able to reach milestones and build consensus among industry stakeholders in advance of balloting. Further, NERC now provides facilitation training to all newly appointed standard drafting team leaders. Finally, NERC has developed a Standards Development Process Participant Conduct

[44] Section 13.0 of the revised SPM now requires periodic reviews every five years for those Reliability Standards that have been adopted by ANSI as an American national standard, and every ten years for all other Reliability Standards.

Policy to ensure that the Reliability Standards development process is conducted in a professional and constructive environment.

d. Developing and Implementing Procedures for the Cost-Effective Analysis Process

NERC has developed the Cost-Effective Analysis Process (CEAP) in response to requests by registered entities and regulators to incorporate consideration of costs more directly into Reliability Standard development activity.[45] The CEAP affords stakeholders an opportunity to share projected cost information regarding implementation of draft Reliability Standards and provides the opportunity to offer alternatives that would be equally, or more, efficient at achieving the reliability objective of the draft Reliability Standard while also taking into consideration implementation costs. CEAP has been used for a limited number of new and revised Reliability Standards projects, with limited success. NERC continues to explore options for improving both the process and the quality of the resulting information.

The current CEAP process provides for a two-phase process for identifying projected implementation costs. The first phase of the CEAP, identified as the Cost Impact Analysis, is conducted during the standard authorization request stage of Reliability Standard development. It provides an opportunity to identify approximate implementation costs associated with a proposed Reliability Standard prior to its development. Information related to the mission and forecasted implementation costs of the proposed Reliability Standard is collected from the industry during the initial standard authorization request comment period. The information collected is shared with the NERC SC and the standard drafting team, and is posted on the NERC website.

[45] This was an issue raised in response to the five-year performance assessment survey.

The second phase of the CEAP, identified as the cost effective analysis, typically comes after the draft Reliability Standard is developed by the standard drafting team and is ready for the first combined formal comment period and ballot. During this phase, NERC again solicits industry to provide forecasted implementation costs of the proposed requirements and to propose alternative methods to achieve the proposed Reliability Standard's reliability objective more efficiently. Any alternative proposals provided by industry during this phase should contain sufficient technical justification, and if possible, cost comparison data for consideration.

7. Improved Stakeholder Access to Reliability Standards Information

All Reliability Standards are available to stakeholders through NERC's public website, including: (i) Reliability Standards that are currently enforceable in specific jurisdictions (i.e., in the U.S. and Canadian provinces); (ii) Reliability Standards pending regulatory approval; (iii) Reliability Standards approved by the NERC Board and pending regulatory filing; and (iv) Reliability Standards no longer subject to enforcement. In 2012, NERC launched an improved interface to allow stakeholders to filter the complete set of Reliability Standards so that they could identify which Reliability Standards are applicable to their respective registered functions. Work is ongoing to improve the completeness and timeliness of this information for non-U.S. jurisdictions (i.e., Canadian provinces or Mexico).

Additionally, beginning in 2013, interested entities can track current Reliability Standards development projects in a publicly posted spreadsheet, the *Project Tracking Spreadsheet*.[46] NERC updates this spreadsheet monthly. The spreadsheet also provides a link to the projects page, the deliverables, the number of Paragraph 81 requirements, the number of regulatory directives or guidance, the PMOS liaison assigned to the project, the NERC standards developer,

[46] NERC regularly updates the *Project Tracking Spreadsheet: 2014 Project Work Plan* and the link to the file is located on the left side of NERC's Standards webpage available at: http://www.nerc.com/pa/Stand/Pages/Default.aspx.

and a month-by-month timeline. Also in 2013, NERC began posting the *Projected Standards Posting Schedule*, which provides the industry with an outlook of near term postings.

8. Specific Reliability Standards Projects

a. Critical Infrastructure Protection Version 5 Reliability Standards

On November 22, 2013, the Commission issued Order No. 791 approving the Critical Infrastructure Protection Version 5 (CIP Version 5) Reliability Standards.[47] The CIP Version 5 Reliability Standards provide a cybersecurity framework for the categorization and protection of BES cyber systems to support the reliable operation of the grid. NERC worked with industry to ensure that the CIP Version 5 Reliability Standards address the differing roles of each registered entity in the operation of the BES, the criticality and vulnerability of the BES cyber systems needed to support BES reliability, and the risks to which the BES cyber systems are exposed. In Order No. 791, the Commission found that CIP Version 5 is an improvement over the currently approved CIP Reliability Standards. The Commission also determined that categorizing BES cyber systems based on their impact on the reliable operation of the BES (Low, Medium, or High), with all BES cyber systems categorized as at least Low Impact, offers more comprehensive protection of the BES.[48] The Commission directed NERC to address several new directives, some of which must be addressed within a year. To meet these directives, NERC has established a standard drafting team and set an aggressive schedule to address all the Commission's concerns, consistent with the timeline set by the Commission.

In Order No. 791, the Commission also approved NERC's proposal to bypass CIP Version 4 and move directly to implement CIP Version 5. Recognizing that registered entities

[47] *Version 5 Critical Infrastructure Protection Reliability Standards*, Order No. 791, 145 FERC ¶ 61,160 (2013).

[48] In Order No. 791, the Commission directed NERC to develop modifications to address specified concerns with the CIP Version 5 standards, including: (i) the "identify, assess, and correct" language; (ii) protections for Low Impact BES Cyber Systems; (iii) the risks posed by transient devices; and (iv) the protection of communication networks.

are in various stages of implementation of CIP Versions 3 and 4, NERC tackled the need for flexibility as well as the need to identify and address the associated transition challenges for industry. In October 2013, NERC launched the CIP Version 5 Transition Implementation Study (CIP Version 5 Study) to collect and to evaluate relevant data from select responsible entities regarding their experience in implementing CIP Version 5 requirements. Through this study, NERC is identifying successful implementation methods and challenges that the industry faces in transitioning to CIP Version 5. On October 11, 2013, NERC submitted an informational filing to the Commission that described how the CIP Version 5 Study would assist responsible entities in making the transition to CIP Version 5.[49] As part of the CIP Version 5 Study, NERC selected a group of six responsible entities, based on factors including willingness to participate, past performance under the CIP Reliability Standards, and expected relevance to the CIP Version 5 Study's goals. NERC is sharing the experience and information obtained through the CIP Version 5 Study with industry throughout the study period. NERC will also prepare a final report that synthesizes the study participants' experiences in applying CIP Version 5. The report will focus on the effectiveness of meeting the CIP Version 5 requirements and the methods employed during implementation. The report will also focus on the following:

(1) Methods, approaches, and policies that were effective in implementing the technical controls of CIP Version 5;

(2) Tools, policies, and training that were effective in aligning employees' skills and cooperation with the responsible entity's mission and the CIP Version 5 Reliability Standards;

(3) Hurdles encountered by the participating responsible entities and the relevant outcomes; and

(4) Requirements and concepts of CIP Version 5 that the responsible entities had difficulty implementing and why.

[49] *Informational Filing of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation Regarding the CIP Version 5 Reliability Standards Implementation Study*, Docket No. RM13-5-000 (Oct. 11, 2013).

b. Transmission Vegetation Management

During the assessment period, the Commission approved two new versions of the FAC-003 Reliability Standard. In Order No. 777,[50] the Commission approved NERC's proposed FAC-003-2, a Reliability Standard that requires responsible entities to minimize encroachments from vegetation located adjacent to transmission rights-of-way and within a transmission owner's control. Historically, vegetation-related outages have been a recurring contributor to blackouts. In fact, inadequate vegetation management practices causing tree contact was one of the initiating causes of the 2003 Northeast blackout. Industry compliance with FAC-003-2, together with a continued industry focus on best practices for vegetation management, enhances the reliability of the BPS.

FAC-003-2 is the first results-based Reliability Standard approved by the Commission, and contains several improvements over FAC-003-1. For example, while FAC-003-2 continues to apply to overhead transmission lines operated at or above 200 kV, it additionally applies to any lower voltage overhead transmission line that is either an element of an interconnection reliability operating limit or a major WECC transfer path. Another improvement is that FAC-003-2 makes explicit a transmission owner's obligation to prevent an encroachment into the minimum vegetation clearance distance for a line subject to this standard, regardless of whether that encroachment results in a sustained outage or fault. FAC-003-2 also requires transmission owners, for the first time, to annually inspect all transmission lines subject to the Reliability Standard and complete 100 percent of their annual vegetation management work plan.

[50] *Revisions to Reliability Standard for Transmission Vegetation Management*, Order No. 777, 142 FERC ¶ 61,208 (2013) (Order No. 777).

On September 19, 2013, the Commission approved FAC-003-3,[51] which extends FAC-003-2 vegetation management requirements to certain generator interconnection facilities to address a reliability gap that existed when the requirements only applied to transmission owners. Certain generator owners with overhead lines, particularly those with generator interconnection facilities longer than one mile and which run through areas that may be densely populated with trees and other plants, are now also required to perform vegetation management of those lines. For purposes of this Reliability Standard, these lines are treated as transmission lines.

NERC is conducting additional research relating to vegetation management issues in response to Commission directives in Order No. 777. The Commission directed NERC to conduct or contract testing to develop empirical data regarding the flashover distances between conductors and vegetation.[52] To carry out this project, NERC is contracting support to conduct the necessary research and testing that will provide empirical evidence to statistically validate the calculation of the minimum vegetation clearance distances (MVCD), as specified in Reliability Standard FAC-003-3. Significant industry support for the application of the Gallet Equation, which uses the gap factor to calculate MVCD, was a key factor in achieving approval for this NERC Reliability Standard. A final report summarizing this research will be filed with the Commission in June 2015 and will advise the Commission about the issues encountered and how best to address them.

c. Protection System Maintenance and Testing

NERC has identified protection systems, and in particular reduction of protection system misoperations, as a top reliability priority. Likewise, the RISC has named protection systems as one of four high priority areas to be addressed in Reliability Standards. In particular, properly

[51] *Generator Requirements at the Transmission Interface*, 144 FERC ¶ 61,221 (2013).

[52] Order No. 777 at P 59.

maintaining protection systems supports the ERO's goal of reducing protection systems misoperations. By reducing misoperations, maintenance and testing of protection systems helps provide reliable system performance when responding to abnormal system conditions.

In 2007, NERC initiated Project 2007-17 – Protection System Maintenance and Testing – to consolidate four currently enforceable Reliability Standards[53] that pertain to various aspects of maintenance and testing of protection and control systems into a single Reliability Standard, PRC-005-2. This project also seeks to address: (i) certain Commission directives from Order No. 693 related to these four Reliability Standards;[54] and (ii) fundamental issues identified by the NERC System Protection and Control Task Force (SPCTF) in its assessment of these four Reliability Standards.

On December 19, 2013, the Commission approved Reliability Standard PRC-005-2,[55] Protection System Maintenance, which establishes requirements for a time-based maintenance program, where all relevant devices are maintained according to prescribed maximum

[53] The four Reliability Standards at issue were PRC-005-1, PRC-008-0, PRC-011-0, and PRC-017-0. *See NERC SPCTF Assessment of Standards: PRC-005-1 — Transmission and Generation Protection System Maintenance and Testing, PRC-008-0 — Underfrequency Load Shedding Equipment Maintenance Programs, PRC-011-0 — UVLS System Maintenance and Testing, PRC-017-0 — Special Protection System Maintenance and Testing*, Mar. 8, 2007 (SPCTF Assessment), available at: http://www.nerc.com/docs/standards/sar/PRC-005-008-011-017_Report_Approved_by_PC.pdf.

A supplement to the SPCTF Assessment was also considered. *See NERC SPCTF Supplemental Assessment Addressing FERC Order 693 Relative to PRC-005-1 — Transmission and Generation Protection System Maintenance and Testing, PRC-008-0 — Underfrequency Load Shedding Equipment Maintenance Programs, PRC-011-0 — UVLS System Maintenance and Testing, PRC-017-0 — Special Protection System Maintenance and Testing*, May 17, 2007, available at: http://www.nerc.com/docs/pc/spctf/Supplemental_Report_on_PRC-005-008-011-017_Approved_by_PC_2.pdf.

[54] The Commission approved Reliability Standard PRC-005-1 in Order No. 693 and directed NERC "to develop a modification … through the Reliability Standards development process that includes a requirement that maintenance and testing of a protection system must be carried out within a maximum allowable interval that is appropriate to the type of the protection system and its impact on the reliability of the Bulk-Power System." The Commission also directed NERC to consider suggestions made by commenters to "combine PRC-005, PRC-008, PRC-011, and PRC-017 into a single Reliability Standard." Order No. 693 at P 1475.

[55] On March 30, 2011, NERC submitted a petition for Commission approval of a proposed modification to the definition of "Protection System" to close a reliability gap created by an omission in the prior definition. The Commission approved the modified definition, which is used in PRC-005-2. *See North American Electric Reliability Corporation*, 138 FERC ¶ 61,095 (2012).

intervals.[56] It also establishes requirements for a condition-based maintenance program, where the hands-on maintenance intervals are adjusted to reflect the known and reported condition of the relevant devices. For a performance-based maintenance program, the hands-on maintenance intervals are adjusted to reflect the historical performance of the relevant devices. PRC-005-2 also provides a comprehensive set of requirements that define a strong protection systems maintenance program. It also includes detailed tables of minimum maintenance activities and maximum maintenance intervals for all five component types addressed within the NERC definition of protection system. Functional entities that monitor the actual condition of their protection system components are further empowered to utilize monitoring to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of their protection systems maintenance program. With the benefit of extensive protection system performance data, these entities will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of their programs.

This Reliability Standard will go into effect on April 1, 2015, and implementation will continue over a twelve-year phased-in period, which includes milestones for implementation during the implementation timeframes. In furtherance of the important issues surrounding the maintenance and testing of protection systems, the System Protection and Control Subcommittee (SPCS) issued a report that suggested improving commissioning practices through: (i) analysis of protection system misoperations; (ii) sharing of lessons learned; and (iii) development of an industry reference document on protection system commissioning practices.[57]

[56] *Protection System Maintenance Reliability Standard*, 145 FERC ¶ 61,253 (2013)

[57] *See* the Planning Committee-approved final report, *SPCS Response to Standards Committee Request for Research*, (Mar. 5, 2013), available at: http://www.nerc.com/docs/pc/spctf/SPCS%20Commissioning%20Testing%20Response_Final.pdf.

d. Geomagnetic Disturbances

As high-impact, low-frequency (HILF) events, severe GMDs pose a unique threat to BPS reliability. NERC is committed to working with stakeholders and the Commission to mitigate the risks posed by such events. The science concerning GMDs is still maturing and there is significant disagreement in the scientific and manufacturing communities about the most likely effects of a GMD event on the BPS, but NERC recognizes the potential for GMDs to adversely affect the BPS. Occurrences such as the 1989 event in Hydro-Québec demonstrate that severe solar storms have potential to cause loss of reactive power support, voltage instability, relay misoperations, and possibly equipment loss of life or damage to the BPS.

Through the efforts of the Geomagnetic Disturbance Task Force (GMDTF), NERC released the *2012 Special Reliability Assessment Interim Report: Effects of Geomagnetic Disturbances on the Bulk Power System* in February 2012.[58] The GMDTF identified four recommendations for industry in the report:

(1) Improve tools for industry planners to develop geomagnetic mitigation strategies;

(2) Improve tools for system operators to manage geomagnetic impacts;

(3) Develop education and information exchanges between researchers and industry; and

(4) Review the need for enhanced NERC Reliability Standards.

With implementation of these recommendations well underway, the Commission issued Order No. 779 concerning Reliability Standards for GMDs on May 16, 2013.[59] In Order No. 779, the Commission directed NERC to submit for approval proposed Reliability Standards that address the impact of GMD on the reliable operation of the BPS, in two stages. In the first stage,

[58] Available at: http://www.nerc.com/pa/stand/pages/geomagnetic-disturbance-resource.aspx.

[59] *Reliability Standards for Geomagnetic Disturbances*, Order No. 779, 143 FERC ¶ 61,147 (2013).

NERC was directed to develop one or more Reliability Standards that require owners and operators of the BPS to implement operational procedures to mitigate the effects of GMDs consistent with the reliable operation of the BPS. On November 14, 2013, well within the six-month time frame directed by the Commission, NERC submitted a petition requesting Commission approval of the first GMD Reliability Standard.[60] The proposed standard, EOP-010-1, requires entities to develop tailored operating plans, processes, and procedures.

In the second stage, NERC was directed to submit one or more Reliability Standards that require owners and operators of the BPS to conduct initial and on-going assessments of the potential impact of benchmark GMD events on BPS equipment and the BPS as a whole. NERC and the standard drafting team assigned to develop GMD Reliability Standards have completed development of a technically justified benchmark GMD event during the first half of 2014 in preparation for completion of Reliability Standard development in late 2014.

The following efforts resulting from implementation activities have been important in supporting development of technically sound Reliability Standards, as ordered by the Commission:

(1) Development of operating procedure templates for transmission operators that reflect best practices and consensus among technical experts;

(2) Improved ground conductivity models that represent the geological regions of North America and a published guidance for modeling geomagnetically-induced current; and

(3) Initiation of a transformer modeling and testing project to validate models used to assess the effects of geomagnetically-induced current on transformers.

NERC is continuing efforts to expand the technical foundation for understanding the potential impact of GMD by supporting the work of the GMDTF and collaborative research with

[60] *Petition of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation for Approval of Proposed Reliability Standard EOP-010-1 – Geomagnetic Disturbance Operations*, Docket No. RM14-1-000 (Nov. 14, 2013).

the Electric Power Research Institute, U.S. Geological Survey, Natural Resources Canada, and other public and private research organizations. The GMDTF and the Electric Power Research Institute are giving focused attention toward improving the suite of publicly available and technically valid tools, guidelines, and transformer models to evaluate potential impacts of GMD. The results of this work will support registered entities in conducting vulnerability assessments as required by the second stage Reliability Standards being developed in response to Order No. 779.

e. Physical Security Reliability Standard

On March 7, 2014, FERC issued an order directing NERC to submit for approval, within 90 days of the order, one or more Reliability Standards to address physical security risks and vulnerabilities of critical facilities on the BPS. FERC's order focused on critical facilities, directing steps to evaluate physical security threats and implement security plans that continues NERC's ongoing physical security efforts. In the order, FERC stated, among other things, that the proposed Reliability Standard(s) should require entities to take at least the following three steps:

(1) Perform a risk assessment to identify facilities that, if damaged or rendered inoperable, could result in instability, uncontrolled separation, or cascading failures on the BPS;

(2) Evaluate the potential threats and vulnerabilities to those identified facilities; and

(3) Develop and implement a security plan designed to protect against physical attacks to those identified facilities based on the assessment of the potential threats and vulnerabilities to their physical security.

The Commission's order also specified that the Reliability Standard should require procedures for a third party to verify the list of identified facilities and add or remove facilities from the list, procedures for a third party to review the evaluation of threats and vulnerabilities and the

physical security plan, and that the three steps listed above be periodically re-evaluated and revised.

In response to the order, NERC staff and the NERC SC worked together to develop an action plan for meeting the June 5, 2014 deadline. The NERC SC approved several waivers to facilitate meeting the required timelines and formed the eleven member standard drafting team on March 21, 2014. Also on March 21, 2014, the NERC SC approved waivers to support drafting activities to meet the June 5, 2014 deadline. Additionally, on March 21, 2014, the NERC SC also accepted the Project 2014-04 standard authorization request for a seven calendar-day informal comment period posting, pursuant to the NERC SC-approved waiver. On April 1, 2014, NERC staff convened a technical conference to focus stakeholder discussion on developing a draft of a Physical Security Reliability Standard, with the intent of assisting the standard drafting team to quickly develop and post a Reliability Standard for comment and ballot. The conference provided a forum for industry input on the concepts in the draft Reliability Standard, to include criteria for determining applicable entities, identification of critical facilities, evaluation of potential threats and vulnerabilities, development and implementation of physical security plans, and the proposed standard's implementation plan. NERC Compliance staff also provided an overview of the RSAW approach.

The Physical Security standard drafting team developed the proposed Reliability Standard, CIP-014-1 through the Reliability Standards development process. The Reliability Standard was posted under a NERC SC-approved waiver for a 15-day concurrent comment and initial ballot period from April 10, 2014 through April 24, 2014. The initial ballot achieved a quorum of 88.60 percent and an industry approval of 82.07 percent. The final ballot was posted, under an SC-approved waiver, for a 5-day period from May 1, 2014 through May 5, 2014 and

achieved a quorum of 92.53 percent and an industry approval of 85.61 percent. The NERC Board adopted the standard on May 13, 2014, and it was filed with FERC by NERC on May 23, 2014.

B. The ERO Is Implementing Processes to Register Entities Commensurate with Risk to the Bulk Power System

The starting point for the ERO's program for monitoring and enforcing compliance with Commission-approved Reliability Standards is its processes for comprehensively identifying and registering owners, operators and users of the BPS that are responsible for performing reliability-related functions in accordance with the approved Reliability Standards. This section discusses major enhancements to the registration process initiated during the assessment period.

1. Improved Registration Processes, Information Systems, and Methods Across Regional Entities

NERC's organization registration process identifies entities that are responsible for compliance with the Commission-approved Reliability Standards. Entities that are registered are included on the NERC Compliance Registry (NCR) and are responsible for compliance with all applicable Reliability Standards. Pursuant to Section 500 of the NERC ROP and the terms of the approved Regional Entity delegation agreements (RDAs), the Regional Entities are responsible to provide timely and accurate information to NERC relating to registrations to enable NERC to maintain a NCR that is accurate and up-to-date.[61] To further consistency and increase transparency in registrations across the Regional Entities, as well as to address the problem of obtaining timely updates of registration information from entities, NERC developed a Common Registration Form (CRF) which registered entities use to provide the Regional Entities with real-

[61] The amended and restated RDAs, effective January 1, 2011, included revisions to the provisions concerning the Regional Entities' responsibilities in the registration process. In addition, revisions to the registration criteria and registration processes were effectuated through amendments to NERC ROP Section 500, Appendix 5A, *Organization Registration and Certification Manual*, and Appendix 5B, *Statement of Compliance Registry Criteria*, during the assessment period.

time updates of the information recorded in the NCR pertaining to ownership, operations, contact information, asset lists and other information that may affect registration status. A corollary benefit of the CRF is that it serves as a check for the Regional Entities to ensure that owners, users, and operators of the BPS are appropriately registered. NERC is also undertaking an effort to map all the inter-relationships between registered entities on the NCR, to ensure that all owners, users and operators of the BPS are registered in the NCR.

In January 2014, NERC launched the Risk-based Registration Assessment Initiative to enhance the compliance registration and certification program to be more efficient and better aligned with reliability benefit. Through this initiative, NERC will register entities and assign appropriate Reliability Standard requirements commensurate with the need to mitigate the risk that each entity poses to the BES, by scaling registration criteria based on their contributions to reliability. NERC will also develop tools that will enhance registered entities' understanding of the relevant Reliability Standards and requirements that apply to them. Scoping compliance responsibilities according to BPS reliability risks equates to better use of resources at both the registered entity level in the implementation of compliance programs, and at the Regional Entity level in their overall compliance monitoring efforts.

2. BES Definition

During the assessment period, NERC revised the definition of the BES in the NERC *Glossary of Terms Used in Reliability Standards*, in response to Commission directives in Order Nos. 743 and 743-A.[62] The objective of the revisions is to ensure consistent inclusion or exclusion of entities and elements that are subject to Reliability Standard requirements. With the strong support and participation of industry representatives and the Regional Entities, NERC

[62] *Revision to Electric Reliability Organization Definition of Bulk Electric System*, Order No. 743, 133 FERC ¶ 61,150 (2010), *order on reh'g*, Order No. 743-A, 134 FERC ¶ 61,210 (2011).

delivered a technically grounded and legally supportable foundation for identifying the elements and facilities that comprise the BES.

In Phase 1 of this process, NERC proposed to eliminate regional discretion and establish a bright-line threshold that includes in the BES all facilities operated at or above 100 kV. The Commission accepted the revised definition in Order No. 773.[63] NERC also identified specific categories of facilities and configurations as inclusions and exclusions to the BES definition. These inclusions and exclusions are set forth in the revised BES definition. The process for requesting an inclusion or exclusion in or from the BES, is set forth in Appendix 5C, *Procedure for Requesting and Receiving an Exception from the Definition of the Bulk Electric System*, of NERC's ROP, which FERC has also approved.[64] Appendix 5C establishes an exception process to bring elements within, or remove elements from, the BES definition on a case-by-case basis.

In Phase 2 of the BES definition process, NERC addressed additional regulatory directives from Order Nos. 773 and 773-A, as well as industry comments received during Phase 1. As part of Phase 2, and with industry input, NERC proposed substantive changes to Inclusion I4 (dispersed power producing resources), Exclusion E1 (radial systems), Exclusion E3 (local networks), and Exclusion E4 (reactive power devices). The Commission approved the additional proposed revisions to the BES definition in an order issued March 20, 2014.[65]

The Commission-approved revised BES definition enables NERC and the Regional Entities to identify assets that are material to the reliability of the interconnected transmission

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[63] *Revisions to Electric Reliability Organization Definition of Bulk Electric System and Rules of Procedure*, Order No. 773, 141 FERC ¶ 61,236 (2012); *order on reh'g*, Order No. 773-A, 143 FERC ¶ 61,053 (2013), *order on reh'g and clarification*, 144 FERC ¶ 61,174 (2013).

[64] Available at: http://www.nerc.com/FilingsOrders/us/RuleOfProcedureDL/Appendix_5C_ProcForReqAndRecExFromAppOfNERCDefBES_20140701.pdf.

[65] *North American Electric Reliability Corporation, Order Approving Revised Definition*, 146 FERC ¶ 61,199 (2014).

network. By using a set of continent-wide, "bright line" criteria that eliminates regional discretion, the revised definition effectively ensures that the users, owners and operators of BES assets are identified and registered on a consistent basis in order to comply with applicable Reliability Standards. The revised BES definition provides improved clarity for industry by identifying specific categories of facilities and configurations as inclusions and exclusions to the BES. Additionally, the case-by-case exception process to add elements to, and to remove elements from, the BES provides transparency and uniformity to the determinations of what constitutes the BES.

To implement the revised BES definition, which became effective on July 1, 2014, NERC developed a web-based, ERO Enterprise-wide application, the BESnet Enterprise Application Tool (BESnet tool), to provide a consistent platform for registered entities to submit self-determined notifications and to submit exception requests for inclusions in or exclusions from the BES. Once a registered entity applies the BES definition to a specific element within its system, it must notify its applicable Regional Entity of any newly identified system elements that are inclusions or exclusions (i.e., system elements with changed BES classifications under the revised BES definition). Inclusion and exception decisions on the self-determined notifications are made by the Regional Entity through the BESnet tool in order to support uniform reviews and evaluations by the Regional Entity and NERC. If a Regional Entity receives notification of a self-determined exclusion, then it must evaluate whether that registered entity can stop its compliance obligations for that excluded system element. If a Regional Entity receives notification of a self-determined inclusion, then the Regional Entity must evaluate whether that registered entity should take steps to bring that system element into compliance with applicable Reliability Standard requirements within a fixed implementation period. NERC

will also use the BESnet tool to manage associated support materials and records related to technical reviews by the Regional Entities and NERC.

NERC is finalizing implementation materials that will guide the consistent evaluation of inclusions, exclusions and self-notifications of BES elements across the ERO Enterprise. NERC has created a single portal location to provide a central site to obtain useful materials to support registered entities' review of their BES elements. Additionally, the BES exception process was identified by NERC and the Regional Entity Management Group as having sufficient similarities in business processes and function across the ERO to be deemed an ERO Enterprise application, which will be used by both NERC and the Regional Entities to eliminate disparate applications across the ERO. NERC is also developing a Reliability Standard reference document to explain the intended application of the BES definition to yield consistent results. Development of additional reference documents to promote further consistency across the ERO Enterprise includes:[66]

(1) *BES Definition Reference Document*, which addresses how to apply the BES definition using several examples;

(2) *BES Definition Implementation Guidance*, which shows how the Regional Entities and NERC will review self-determined notifications and includes a high-level summary of notification requirements; and

(3) *BES Exception Request Evaluation Guideline*, which demonstrates how the Regional Entities and NERC will evaluate exception requests, and provides a high-level summary of the exception request evidentiary requirements.

During the first two quarters of 2014, NERC held communications and training sessions for Regional Entities, registered entities, and NERC staff to address, among other things: (i) evidentiary requirements for BES determinations; (ii) review and appeal mechanisms; and (iii) Reliability Standards applicability. These sessions included workshops and webinars.

[66] *See* the Bulk Electric System (BES) Definition, Notification, and Exception Process Page at: http://www.nerc.com/pa/rapa/pages/bes.aspx.

C. The ERO Monitors and Enforces Compliance with Reliability Standards in an Efficient and Transparent Manner Using Enforcement Processes that Match the Risk and Importance of Possible Violations to BPS Reliability

A key, strategic transformation that NERC, in collaboration with the Regional Entities and stakeholders, embarked upon during the assessment period is the construction of a risk-based model for compliance monitoring and enforcement. This risk-based approach enables NERC to focus ERO and industry resource investment on the most important issues to BPS reliability. In this section of the assessment report, NERC highlights initiatives to improve the Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program (CMEP) during the assessment period, including the FFT program. The FFT program and its subsequent enhancements began to implement this risk-based approach. The FFT program enables the ERO Enterprise to achieve major efficiencies in enforcement. Through the use of FFT, the ERO resolves noncompliances that pose a lesser risk to BPS reliability more efficiently, recognizing that efficient disposition of such issues allows the ERO Enterprise and industry to devote its emphasis and resources to more important reliability matters. Further, through careful planning and coordination and collaboration between NERC and the Regional Entities, NERC has achieved major enforcement efficiencies. These efforts have also resulted in a drastically reduced NERC caseload; for the past two years, NERC and the Regional Entities have worked to eliminate all items in the caseload which are older than 24 months. In 2012, that effort resulted in a reduction of those items by 80%. In 2013, the ERO Enterprise reduced those items by 93%. By the end of 2013, only 65 violations in inventory were older than 24 months. Additionally, taking advantage of the FFT process, which provides incentives for self-reporting, registered entities continue to aggressively self-identify, self-report and mitigate reliability issues.

Building upon the success of FFT through the RAI, NERC and the Regional Entities created additional incentives to discourage poor performance and encourage positive behaviors

that contribute to higher accountability and improved reliability performance. RAI processes that promote more effective reliability risk mitigation by encouraging development and enhancement of internal management controls and corrective action programs at registered entities began to be implemented in 2013.[67]

1. Compliance Enforcement Initiative and Find, Fix, Track and Report

Recognizing the need and the importance of ensuring that reliability risks are addressed properly through a scaled approach, NERC devised the FFT initiative in 2011 as a risk control strategy that differentiates and addresses compliance issues according to their significance to the reliability of the BPS. FFT emphasizes proportionality and enforcement discretion. The FFT process enables NERC to report lesser-risk possible violations of Reliability Standards through a streamlined process that results in the posting of a minimal record associated with the noncompliance on NERC's website.[68] The FFT initiative illustrates that NERC continually reevaluates, redirects and rebalances its CMEP implementation efforts.

NERC developed FFT in conjunction with the Regional Entities. The development of the process benefited from collaboration with representatives of registered entities through a series of focus groups. During these focus group sessions, participants indicated that registered entities typically allocated time and resources equally among violations, regardless of the risk to reliability posed by each violation. Implementation of the FFT initiative was the first step towards addressing this mis-allocation of resources.

Since the launch of FFT in 2011, NERC has implemented additional enhancements to the process. Specifically, NERC expanded FFT treatment to: (i) a limited pool of possible moderate

[67] As noted previously, NERC will submit a separate informational filing to the Commission describing these processes.

[68] In contrast, NERC submits violations that pose a greater risk to reliability or do not otherwise meet the FFT criteria to the Commission in a spreadsheet Notice of Penalty (SNOP) or full Notice of Penalty (NOP) format.

risk violations; and (ii) some unmitigated possible violations so long as mitigation occurs within 90 days from the date the FFT item is filed or posted. To streamline processing of FFT items, NERC now posts FFTs collected by the Regional Entities on its website at the end of each month without prior review of such items. This replaces the prior procedure in which NERC submitted monthly informational filings to the Commission describing FFT items. While the Regional Entities post FFT items on a monthly basis, NERC maintains its enforcement oversight by reviewing a representative sample of FFTs during the 60-day window following the Regional Entities' monthly postings and by conducting an annual spot check of FFTs.

The FFT program has been highly successful in promoting a risk-based approach to resolving noncompliance. All Regional Entities utilize FFT to resolve a large number of minimal risk issues. Further, through its monthly reviews and annual spot checks, NERC verifies that the parameters for identifying minimal risk issues are consistently applied throughout the ERO Enterprise.

2. Reliability Assurance Initiative

In November 2012, NERC management proposed RAI as a multi-year effort to identify and implement changes to enhance the effectiveness of the ERO Enterprise's compliance and enforcement functions. RAI will help NERC foster consistency and efficiency in its compliance monitoring and enforcement processes. NERC expects RAI to improve BPS reliability by refocusing efforts on serious and substantial reliability risks and promoting the development and enhancement of the internal controls that mitigate those risks. Increased consistency in the ERO Enterprise's compliance and enforcement efforts yields a level of predictability for registered entities to understand how Reliability Standards are applied and enforced and to model positive behaviors.

To foster dialogue and seek industry feedback on the various aspects of RAI, NERC hosted a series of workshops in 2013 that addressed defining internal controls, conducting risk assessment, launching pilot programs, enhancing the FFT process, and improving self-reporting.

a. RAI Improvements to Compliance Monitoring Processes

The core concept of risk-based compliance monitoring is intended to guide Regional Entities in allocating resources for compliance monitoring activities and methods based on a registered entity's potential impact on the BPS. Compliance-related activities under the RAI program will help achieve a risk-based approach for compliance monitoring by evaluating current compliance monitoring practices, identifying improvements, and addressing the consistent application of audit techniques and the use of uniform tools to carry out compliance monitoring activities.

In 2013, NERC and the Regional Entities began to develop and implement tools that will define techniques and methods to perform compliance monitoring in a consistent manner across the ERO Enterprise. The Regional Entities began using the first of these tools, the *Compliance Auditor Checklist*, in August 2013. In December 2013, NERC and the Regional Entities completed the first draft of a companion document for the *Compliance Auditor Checklist*, specifically, the *Compliance Auditor Handbook*, as found in the *ERO Enterprise Compliance Auditor Manual* (Auditor Manual). NERC disseminated the Auditor Manual and provided initial training to Regional Entity auditors during the first quarter of 2014. In the second quarter of 2014, the Regional Entities began to use the Auditor Manual and its related processes and procedures on a select number of audits. Throughout 2014, NERC and the Regional Entities will revise and expand the Auditor Manual to address additional audit topics, reflect additional processes developed through RAI activities, and include lessons learned.

A second key RAI compliance activity, the Prototypes and Pilot program, focuses on the development and implementation of a formalized approach to risk assessments and testing of management controls. NERC and the Regional Entities initiated the first phase of the Prototypes and Pilot program during 2013. This phase explored different approaches to applying risk-based auditing concepts (e.g., audit scoping, reliability risk assessments, and management controls review and testing). For 2014 and beyond, a team consisting of NERC, Regional Entity, and industry representatives as well as an independent audit consultant will evaluate the findings and determine the best audit approach to implement throughout the ERO enterprise.

NERC and the Regional Entities are also developing and implementing activities that will address the transition to CIP Version 5 and redesign the tools and information available for compliance monitoring. In addition, and as discussed in further detail below, NERC and the Regional Entities have consolidated the annual CMEP Implementation Plans with the goal of implementing certain risk-based compliance enhancements.

b. RAI Improvements to Compliance Enforcement Processes

The enforcement aspect of the RAI builds on the success of FFT to develop incentives for registered entities to distinguish between poor performance and positive behaviors that contribute to higher accountability and improved reliability performance. The RAI calls for NERC to do the following by 2016: (i) exercise discretion to focus resources on the most serious and substantial risks to the reliability of the BPS; and (ii) empower registered entities to self-identify, mitigate and record noncompliance subject to NERC and Regional Entity oversight.

Similar to the RAI compliance monitoring effort, the enforcement element of RAI seeks to align the ERO's enforcement processing activities with levels of risk to the reliability of the BPS. Achieving this alignment will promote efficiencies for both the ERO Enterprise and

registered entities by eliminating undue regulatory burdens, streamlining documentation and filing requirements, and substantially improving the processing of noncompliance and related mitigating activities.

In 2013, NERC began implementing a series of activities in connection with RAI. These activities consisted of both short-term and long-term solutions to address registered entity concerns and improve enforcement processes. For example, in 2013, NERC and the Regional Entities developed the *ERO Self-Report User Guide*. This document explains the type and quality of information that a registered entity should submit with a self-report in order to allow for a prompt evaluation of noncompliance, and, if appropriate, a prompt disposition of the noncompliance if it poses a minimal risk to the reliability of the BPS. A companion *ERO Mitigation Plan Guide* document was also developed. NERC posted the draft guides in January 2014 for public review and comment. The final user guides are now available on the RAI page on the NERC website.[69]

Second, NERC and the Regional Entities began two pilot programs to test RAI enforcement concepts. The first pilot, the Aggregation of Minimal Risk Issues program, tests selected registered entities' ability to proactively self-address, identify, and mitigate minimal risk issues. The second pilot is testing the application of enforcement discretion; the purpose of this pilot is to identify minimal risk issues that would be recorded and mitigated without triggering an enforcement action. These pilot programs began a six-month testing cycle in October 2013. NERC and the Regional Entities are gradually expanding the programs to include additional registered entities.

[69] Available at: http://www.nerc.com/pa/comp/Pages/Reliability-Assurance-Initiative.aspx.

In addition, as of January 2014, all Registered Entities implemented the triage process. Under this process, all Regional Entities will review instances of noncompliance and make an initial determination as to whether an issue will proceed through enforcement or whether additional information is needed.

Going forward, NERC will continue to implement and evaluate these enforcement concepts. These processes will be further discussed in an informational filing on the RAI that NERC will submit to the Commission in 2014.

3. Development of a Consolidated CMEP Implementation Plan

NERC and the Regional Entities no longer create nine separate CMEP Implementation Plans, but rather have consolidated these documents into a single integrated CMEP Implementation Plan for the ERO Enterprise. The consolidated CMEP Implementation Plan uses a streamlined format that eliminates redundant information, improves the transparency of CMEP activities, and promotes consistency among the Regional Entities' Implementation Plans.

During the implementation year, NERC or a Regional Entity (with NERC approval) may update the Implementation Plan to change the *Actively Monitored List of Reliability Standards*, compliance monitoring processes, Regional Entity processes, or to provide updates. When updates occur, NERC will post a revised Implementation Plan to its website and issue a compliance communication. A Regional Entity may also update its Implementation Plan, with NERC approval. NERC is responsible for updating the ERO CMEP Implementation Plan to reflect any Regional Entity's changes and for posting the updated plan to its website and issuing compliance communications.

Following each implementation year, the Regional Entities will complete a CMEP Implementation survey due in January of the following implementation year (e.g., the 2014

CMEP Implementation Plan survey is due in January 2015). This survey will provide Regional Entity-specific information on compliance monitoring, outreach, enforcement, CMEP program effectiveness, and other regional activities. NERC will use this information to monitor Regional Entity CMEP implementation and to plan for the following implementation year.

4. Improvements in Processing of Compliance and Enforcement Items by NERC and the Regional Entities

a. NERC and the Regional Entities Have Improved the Speed and Efficiency of Processing Enforcement Items

During the assessment period, NERC and the Regional Entities have continued to hold industry accountable for violations that create serious risk to the BPS, and to implement improvements to ensure that enforcement actions are timely and transparent to industry. As discussed in further detail in the "Enforcement" section of the NERC Assessment of Regional Entity Delegated Functions (**Attachment 3**), by the end of 2013, NERC had reduced the number of active violations older than 24 months (excluding those held by appeal, a regulator, or a court)[70] so that only 65 such active violations remained. There has been consistent progress since 2012 in achieving the goal of processing all violations within 24 months following discovery.

By working to reduce the number of aging violations while improving the processing speed for newer violations, NERC and the Regional Entities reduced the average age of violations in the ERO caseload by six percent in 2013, from 11.86 months in 2012 to 11.2 months.

NERC's successes in improving the efficiency of violation processing can be attributed to several factors, including the implementation and use of streamlined enforcement processing

[70] "Held by appeal, a regulator or a court" (or "on hold") refers to violations that are not currently being processed by NERC or the Regional Entities as a result of a court or administrative proceeding that will impact the resolution of the violation.

mechanisms, such as FFT and the SNOP. The use of streamlined enforcement processing mechanisms has allowed NERC to increase substantially the number of violations filed in a given year, reducing the caseload and in turn, improving processing times.

In 2009 and 2010, NERC filed NOPs with the Commission for a combined total of 1,540 violations. In 2011, after implementing the use of streamlined enforcement processing mechanisms, NERC filed a total of 1,697 violations – more than the two previous years combined. In 2012, NERC filed a total of 1,767 violations. In 2013, NERC filed a total of 1,862 violations. NERC processed approximately 43 percent of the violations filed in 2013 using the FFT mechanism.

In addition to the use of streamlined enforcement mechanisms, NERC has dedicated substantial resources to improving its enforcement processing activities and performance. In fact, during the period covered by this *Five-Year ERO Performance Assessment Report,* NERC has more than doubled the size of its enforcement processing staff, going from four full time equivalent personnel (FTEs) in 2010 to nine FTEs as of January 1, 2014.

Lastly, NERC has taken several steps to enhance collaboration and consistency across the entire ERO Enterprise. NERC enforcement processing has assigned staff to work closely with each Regional Entity to enhance the relationships with each Regional Entity and to develop greater knowledge and expertise concerning each Regional Entity and identify areas for collaboration and process enhancement. In addition, NERC is continuing to provide training to the Regional Entities with the goal of increasing the consistency of enforcement processes and documents. Through collaboration with the Regional Entities, NERC expects to build on its past successes and continue to work toward reducing aging caseload, reducing enforcement processing times, and ensuring consistency in enforcement processes and procedures.

NERC and the Regional Entities have continued to work collaboratively to develop and implement a set of metrics to measure the efficiency with which enforcement items are processed. Development of these performance items was an area for improvement identified in the Commission's order on NERC's Three-Year ERO Performance Assessment.[71] A set of final metrics has been agreed upon and a set of common parameters was developed to ensure that metrics measurements by NERC and the Regional Entities remain consistent. To that end, in the third quarter of 2013, NERC and the Regional Entities developed a set of business rules to ensure integrity and alignment across NERC and Regional Entity data. Ensuring the integrity of this data is important for analyzing trends and calculating processing metrics.

The four metrics developed to monitor the performance of NERC and the Regional Entities in processing enforcement items are:

(1) Caseload Index – computes the number of months it would take to clear the violations in a Compliance Enforcement Authority's (CEA, i.e., NERC or a Regional Entity) inventory based on the CEA's average monthly processing rate for the preceding twelve month period;

(2) Violations in Inventory – reports the number of violations in the CEA's caseload;

(3) Violation Aging – reports, by Regional Entity, the number of violations discovered in each year beginning with 2007 that have not been filed with the Commission or otherwise resolved;[72] and

(4) Mitigation Activity Aging – identifies the status of mitigation activity based upon age of violations.

NERC will continue to analyze and evaluate violation processing data. The purpose of analyzing violations and violation processing information is to identify trends and emerging risks. This analysis will provide NERC with insight into the effectiveness of NERC's and the

[71] *Order on the Electric Reliability Organization's Three-Year Performance Assessment*, 132 FERC ¶ 61,217 (2010) at PP 138 and 217.

[72] NERC also monitors Violation Aging by Disposition Method. This includes the average turnaround time for each disposition method for violations discovered within a specified time horizon (i.e., discovery to date filed with NERC, date filed with NERC to date filed with the Commission, and discovery to date filed with the Commission).

Regional Entities' processes and programs. The analysis informs the development of enforcement policies and processes and offers feedback for other departments such as Standards.

NERC's departments collaborate to leverage analytics as a risk management and resource allocation tool. As an example of this effort, NERC is closely monitoring the status of mitigation activity completion, regardless of whether or not the violation is on hold. NERC aims to work with the Regional Entities to reduce the amount of time from discovery of a violation to completion of the mitigating activity, thereby reducing the ongoing risk that these violations may pose to reliability.

b. Oversight of Regional Entity Processes and Actions

NERC is continuously evaluating and improving its methods of overseeing the Regional Entities' implementation of CMEP processes and procedures. During the assessment period, NERC adopted a more methodical approach to evaluating Regional Entity performance with respect to enforcement activities. NERC has also enhanced its approach to evaluating Regional Entity compliance activities. These oversight activities ensure that the Regional Entities are meeting their obligations under the NERC ROP and the RDAs. These oversight activities also promote transparency and consistency, and drive the identification and implementation of best practices across the ERO Enterprise.

For additional information regarding NERC's oversight of Regional Entity enforcement program and processes, see the "Enforcement" section of the NERC Assessment of Regional Entity Delegated Functions, **Attachment 3** to this *Five-Year ERO Performance Assessment Report.*

c. Developing Common Compliance Auditor Qualifications Across the ERO Enterprise

NERC and the Regional Entities are developing common ERO auditor qualification

requirements and auditor job descriptions that will be consistently used across the ERO Enterprise. Establishing common ERO auditor qualifications is an initiative specified in the 2013-2016 ERO Strategic Plan.[73] NERC and the Regional Entities will establish key attributes and skill sets that audit team members should possess to ensure the audit team composition includes competencies needed to complete an effective audit. Establishing common ERO job descriptions promotes a consistent approach in attracting and retaining the necessary talent for auditor positions. Common auditor qualification criteria, training, and audit approach help promote high-quality audits and consistency in CMEP implementation activities across the ERO Enterprise.

d. Enhancing the Training Program for Auditors so that Processes and Procedures Developed in the RAI are Implemented Consistently Across the ERO Enterprise

As part of its Regional Entity Assurance and Oversight function, NERC is responsible for supporting the development of qualified and trained compliance operations and auditing staffs at both NERC and the Regional Entities. In addition to the development of a common set of auditor qualifications, described in the immediately preceding subsection, NERC ensures the proper qualifications of personnel for auditing and other essential compliance roles through training. As noted above, NERC and the Regional Entities collaborated to create the *Compliance Auditor Checklist* and *Compliance Auditor Handbook*, as found in the Auditor Manual.[74] These documents will be reviewed and revised to incorporate lessons learned from the RAI pilots. NERC will train auditors to ensure that Regional Entities are consistently applying the

[73] The *Electric Reliability Organization Enterprise Strategic Plan 2013-2016* is available at: http://www.nerc.com/gov/bot/FINANCE/Documents/ERO%20Enterprise%20Strategic%20Plan%202013-2016%20FINAL%2005%2009%2013.pdf

[74] Available at: http://www.nerc.com/pa/comp/ERO%20Enterprise%20Compliance%20Auditor%20Manual%20DL/ERO_Enterprise_Compliance_Auditor_Manual_version_1.pdf.

procedures and methodologies of these documents. Auditor training will also incorporate relevant changes related to enforcement processing, including changes to the self-reporting process and enhancements to the FFT process. Setting clear expectations for registered entities regarding audit practices and procedures should also allow registered entities to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of their pre-audit preparation.

D. Identification, Prioritization, and Dissemination of Information on Risks to the BPS

NERC is an expert resource for industry on reliability risks and information because it is uniquely positioned to assess potential impacts to reliability and raise awareness of threats to reliability. NERC draws upon a plethora of resources, discussed below, to make its assessments, including the RISC priorities, robust databases of information on transmission, generator and demand-response availability, the annual NERC *State of Reliability* report, and other assessments and reports, as well as internal core analyses of events. In its risk-informed approach, NERC uses performance analysis, solid technical foundation, sophisticated statistical analyses, and integrated validation with actual system events to enhance BPS reliability. As described in §II.D.1 below, at the direction of its Board of Trustees, NERC has developed and is implementing a specific RRM process to create and execute plans for managing reliability risks.

As an example of risk identification, NERC's *2013 Long-Term Reliability Assessment* (LTRA) identified significant emerging reliability issues that industry will face over the next decade.[75] These challenges stem from, among other things, a changing resource mix comprised of significant increases in variable energy resources to meet renewable portfolio standards, increased reliance on natural gas-fired generation and demand-side management primarily driven by economics, and the retirement of nearly 10% of North America's generation capacity.

[75] Available at: http://www.nerc.com/pa/RAPA/ra/Reliability%20Assessments%20DL/2013_LTRA_FINAL.pdf.

Another resource for identifying and prioritizing risks is NERC's Event Analysis process. This process, which is described in greater detail in §II.D.3 below, establishes a systematic approach to capturing details about all BPS events, from minor Category 1 Events that typically do not have a significant impact on electricity users, to Category 4 and 5 Events that result in widespread customer outages.

Collectively, these resources provide an independent and complete picture of risks to reliability and key BPS reliability indicators such as resource adequacy, peak demand, energy forecasts and transmission developments. These efforts and well-developed resources are critical to how NERC approaches reliability, learns from events on the BPS, and prioritizes resources.

NERC draws upon these resources to inform industry and policymakers about trends and challenges to reliability. One example is the work of the NERC Integration of Variable Generation Task Force (IVGTF), which developed several recommendations that support the reliability considerations for accommodating large amounts of variable generation.[76] These recommendations guided the California Independent System Operator (CAISO) in finding solutions to how it will ensure reliability given the significant development of variable energy resources in that region of the country. Another example is the *Accommodating an Increased Dependence on Natural Gas for Electric Power* report that examined the different risks, arising out of the interdependence of the BPS and the natural gas delivery system, which can affect reliability.[77] Recommendations from this report are being used by WECC, the CAISO, and the Midcontinent Independent System Operator, among others, to identify approaches to minimize vulnerabilities due to electric system-gas system interdependence.

[76] Information about the IVGTF is available at: http://www.nerc.com/comm/PC/Pages/Integration-of-Variable-Generation-Task-Force-(IVGTF)-2013.aspx.

[77] Available at: http://www.nerc.com/pa/RAPA/ra/Reliability%20Assessments%20DL/NERC_PhaseII_FINAL.pdf

1. Establishing a Structured Reliability Risk Management Process

In response to direction from the NERC Board in February 2013, NERC has developed a RRM process to create and execute plans for managing reliability risk and to integrate these plans with the business planning and budgeting process. The RRM process leverages: (i) the business acumen of the RISC; (ii) the technical knowledge of the NERC Operating Committee, Planning Committee, and CIP Committee (CIPC); (iii) the diverse set of tools that can be employed by the ERO to manage risk; and (iv) the open and transparent nature of the ERO. The RRM process is comprised of the following stages:

(1) Strategic Planning: In this phase, the RISC works to collection information and to identify broad areas of reliability risk to be recommended to the NERC Board for further analysis and study.

(2) Analysis: In this phase, members of the RISC work with the technical committees they represent to identify specific risks within the broad areas accepted by the NERC Board. This phase includes problem definition, gap analysis, and selection of measurement approaches.

(3) Solution Design: In this phase, members of the RISC develop potential solutions to the problems identified in the previous stage. NERC uses this information to develop the *ERO Top Priority Reliability Risks* for the upcoming business planning and budget cycle.

(4) Business Planning and Budgeting: In this phase, NERC staff and the Regional Entities work together to include in the annual business plans and budgets descriptions of the reliability risks that are to be addressed in the coming year and the resources needed to support those efforts.

(5) Preparation: In this phase, ERO staff, stakeholders, and third parties[78] discuss the plans identified in the latest business plan and budget. At this stage, NERC's committees have an opportunity to align their work plans with the business plan and budget.

(6) Execution: In this phase, stakeholders, staff, and third parties execute the detailed plans developed in the prior phase.

Specific documentation or other aids to assist in the implementation of the RRM

[78] "Third parties" in this context might refer to industry manufactures and service vendors, who might be asked to work on a specific problem, tool or application.

process,[79] document templates, and detailed instructions and training are being developed to support the execution of this process. NERC intends that the RRM process will become an integral part of ERO operations.

NERC will continue the work of the RISC to develop risk profiles (including HILF issues) for the ERO. These profiles of the BPS will inform how the ERO prioritizes and ranks reliability risks. For high priority risks, NERC will develop project plans and business case assessments outlining initiatives to address those risks.

2. ERO Top Priority Reliability Risks for 2014-2017

As described immediately above, the RRM process includes the identification of the *ERO Top Priority Reliability Risks* for each upcoming business planning and budget cycle. The development of the list of top ten high priority reliability risks is intended to focus the efforts of the ERO Enterprise program areas, including training and education, Reliability Standards development, and compliance. NERC developed a set of the ten top priority reliability risks to be focused on in the development of the *ERO Enterprise Strategic Plan 2014-2017*. The development of this list started with a reliability gap analysis that the RISC presented to the NERC Board in August 2013. NERC staff then undertook further review and analysis to identify any additional reliability risk areas of strategic importance for the ERO. Next, qualitative estimates of probability, consequence, and current level of risk management were prepared for each of the identified reliability risks within the chosen areas. NERC used this information to identify ten top priority reliability risks requiring increased attention or additional activity. Following this analysis, recommendations were developed based on previous committee discussions; industry dialogue at the Reliability Leadership Summit; and past work products such

[79] This documentation and other aids may include worksheets, diagrams, task descriptions, and similar items.

as the LTRA, the *State of Reliability* report, and various special reports and assessments. The ten high priority reliability risks are:

(1) Changing Resource Mix: As the generation and load on the power system changes (e.g., integrated variable resources, increased dependence on natural gas, increased demand-side management, new technologies deployed), the system is being brought into states that are significantly different than those considered when the system was designed and planned, exposing new vulnerabilities not previously considered. Fundamental operating characteristics and behaviors are no longer a certainty.

(2) Resource Planning: Plant retirements (largely due to implemented environmental regulations; increased uncertainty in future resources due to other potential environmental regulations; and lower natural gas prices, which significantly affect power plant economics) are leading to cases where resources may be inadequate to ensure firm demand is served at all times. As the system continues to change, some regional assessments identify concerns with insufficient reserve margins as early as 2014 and 2015 in the ERCOT and Midcontinent ISOs.

(3) Protection System Reliability: A fault accompanied by a failure of any protection system component could in some cases result in instability, violation of applicable thermal or voltage ratings, unplanned or uncontrolled loss of demand or curtailment of firm transfers, or cascading outages.

(4) Uncoordinated Protection Systems: A lack of protection system coordination has the potential to increase the size and magnitude of events due to unnecessary trips. Uncoordinated protection systems were identified as contributing to the September 8, 2011, and August 14, 2003 events.

(5) Extreme Physical Events: While the probability of extreme physical events (such as physical attack, GMD, or severe weather) that lead to extensive damage is low, the potential consequences are significant enough that risk avoidance (reducing the probability) is insufficient as a sole risk management strategy.[80]

(6) Availability of Real-Time Tools and Monitoring: Not having the right tools and monitoring available to manage reliability in real time is a latent problem waiting for the right combination of events to exploit it.

(7) Protection System Misoperations: NERC's 2012 and 2013 *State of Reliability* reports identified protection system misoperations as a significant threat to BPS reliability.

(8) Cold Weather Preparedness: Lack of generator preparedness for cold weather extremes may result in forced outages, de-ratings, and failures to start.

[80] Additional strategies may incorporate factors like improving resiliency and reducing restoration times.

Insufficient availability of intra-regional generation and limits on import transfer capability may result in insufficient generation to serve forecasted load, resulting in load shedding.

(9) Right-of-Way Clearances: Transmission owners and applicable generation owners may have established incorrect ratings based on design documents, rather than on the actual facilities built. Managing to stay within system operating limits and interconnection reliability operating limits that are based on incorrect ratings may be inadequate to prevent equipment damage and/or instability, cascading outages, or separation. Ensuring clear right-of-ways can reduce adverse impacts to reliability even when SOLs and IROLs are based on incorrect ratings.

(10) 345-kV Breaker Failures: NERC has identified a potential trend of 345 kV SF6 puffer type breakers failing. Circuit breaker failures, in conjunction with another fault, may lead to more BES facilities removed from service than required to clear the original fault.

3. NERC Event Analysis Process and How it is Used to Identify Risks to the BPS and Disseminate Lessons Learned

NERC has developed a voluntary Event Analysis process that delivers quality, timely and actionable lessons learned to registered entities. Development of the Event Analysis process was led by the Event Analysis Subcommittee (EAS), a cross-functional group of industry experts.[81]

The Event Analysis process begins with a registered entity making an initial assessment of an occurrence and determining if the occurrence falls within one of five qualifying event categories.[82] The event category is determined by weighing the level of significance of a qualifying event and its impact on the interconnected BPS. After a qualifying event occurs, the applicable Regional Entity holds a planning meeting with all involved parties, including other registered entities. If a qualifying event is categorized as Category 3 or higher, the registered entity will prepare an Event Analysis Report (EAR), in which the registered entity describes the

[81] The EAS is a subcommittee of the NERC Operating Committee.

[82] A description of each event category is included in the *Electric Reliability Organization Event Analysis Process – Version 2* report, available at: http://www.nerc.com/pa/rrm/ea/Pages/EA-Program.aspx.

sequence of events and identifies causal factors and appropriate corrective actions. The registered entity then submits the EAR to the applicable Regional Entity(ies) for review, and then to NERC. The registered entity, in collaboration with the ERO, drafts the proposed lessons learned from the event and submits them to the applicable Regional Entity. Once the event analysis is complete, NERC shares any lessons learned with industry by publishing them as soon as practical. NERC staff analyzes EARs to identify reliability risks, trends, and potential gaps in Reliability Standards, compliance, and other programs. NERC also reviews the EARs to assign descriptive cause codes, which assist in identifying trends and corrective actions that will prevent recurrence of similar events.

Since initial implementation of the Event Analysis process in 2010, there have been more than 388 qualified events reported to the ERO and more than 77 lessons learned produced, including 14 published in 2013.

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Event Counts

Event Category	Count (Total)	Count (2013)	Comments
CAT 1	256	91	
CAT 2	114	33	
CAT 3	14	6	
CAT 4	3	0	SW Winter Weather (2011) SW Blackout (2011) Derecho (2012)
CAT 5	1	0	Hurricane Sandy (2012)
Total CAT 1-5 Events	**388**	**130**	
Non-Qualified Occurrences reported	**1711**	**338**	

RELIABILITY | ACCOUNTABILITY

Participation in the voluntary Event Analysis process does not relieve registered entities of their obligation to comply with NERC Reliability Standards. While performing the steps of the Event Analysis process, the registered entity is encouraged to continue performing critical self-assessments of compliance with Reliability Standards in connection with the event and to conduct compliance self-assessments for review by applicable Regional Entities. If a registered entity discovers a possible violation in the process of analyzing an event, it is encouraged to self-report that possible violation to the applicable Regional Entity.

NERC is continuously improving how it defines, catalogs and trends the causes of system events. NERC assesses every event submitted through the voluntary Event Analysis process to identify and share possible risks to reliability with industry. Further, the cause code assignment allows for greater historical trending and predictive analysis.

NERC provides Regional Entity and registered entity staff with cause analysis training. As of December 2013, 164 personnel from all eight Regional Entities and over 600 people from 115 different registered entities have received more than 4,000 hours of cause analysis training, with 432 hours of continuing education hours awarded to 54 NERC-certified system operators in connection with this training. NERC is adding a training and education component to the Event Analysis process to increase the relevance and impact of lessons learned for the Regional Entities, industry, and other stakeholders. Through the Event Analysis process, NERC continues to establish the appropriate balance of data reporting for analysis and use by industry.

NERC continues to work with the Regional Entities to obtain from and review with registered entities information regarding qualifying events and disturbances. The primary goal of this process is to identify reliability risks through robust data gathering, validation, rigorous analysis, and rapid dissemination to industry of information on identified risks and remediation

options. NERC is working collaboratively with the Regional Entities to prioritize analytical efforts based on the Event Analysis process categories. Determining root and contributing causes for each event allows for trend and risk identification. NERC plans to further facilitate event analysis by merging its event-driven databases and defining the relationships between various system cause codes. This analysis of system events will inform NERC of gaps in Reliability Standards, compliance monitoring and enforcement effectiveness, registration, and risk controls effectiveness.

Additionally, NERC is collaborating with the North American Transmission Forum and the North American Generator Forum to further enhance the Event Analysis process and lessons learned dissemination in identifying risks to the BPS. Further, NERC plans to improve the timeliness of the availability of and access to final event reports by creating a secure portal that will be accessible by industry to obtain these reports.

4. Reports on Reliability

In May 2012, NERC released its first *State of Reliability* report assessing grid reliability based on performance trends identified through data and analysis of system disturbance events. The report presented NERC's integrated view of ongoing BPS reliability and performance trends. It assessed 18 reliability performance metrics that measure whether an adequate level of reliability exists in North America. The report also included an analysis from the frequency response initiative, the 2011 demand response availability assessment, event analysis trends, and post-seasonal assessments. The initial *State of Reliability* report included the following key findings:

(1) Reliability of the BPS remains adequate with little change in trends between 2008 and 2011;

(2) Frequency response is stable with no deterioration;

(3) Protection system misoperations are a significant reliability issue;

(4) Equipment failure warrants further analysis; and

(5) Resource mix changes necessitate new metrics.

Subsequently, *State of Reliability* reports have been issued for 2013 and 2014.[83] Going forward, NERC will continue to prepare its annual *State of Reliability* report and the associated reliability metrics.

As noted earlier, for many years NERC has prepared and issued an annual 10-year LTRA Report for the North American BPS. The LTRA provides an independent view of the reliability of the BPS and identifies trends, emerging issues, and potential concerns. Recent LTRAs have focused on a variety of emerging issues expected to impact BPS reliability. Most notably, a rapidly changing resource mix with substantial retirements of coal-fired and nuclear capacity, paralleled by a growing reliance on natural gas-fired generation that has created fuel transportation concerns in certain areas. Ongoing unit retirements are also contributing to diminishing reserve margins that fall below reference reserve margin levels during the 10-year outlook. Finally, continued penetration of variable resources and a growing dependence on demand-side management programs create uncertainties for system planners and operators. Each LTRA report also provides high-level recommendations for each emerging issue and tracks ongoing industry progress.

In addition to the annual LTRA, NERC issues two seasonal (i.e., summer and winter) assessment reports each year in which it identifies, assesses, and reports on the industry's preparations to manage potential seasonal issues such as significant generation or transmission

[83] NERC's *State of Reliability 2014* report is available at: http://www.nerc.com/pa/RAPA/PA/Performance%20Analysis%20DL/2014_SOR_Final.pdf.

constraints or potential fuel-related impacts. NERC also issues other, special reports from time to time that focus on current or emerging technical or other reliability concerns, such as changing resource mix (increasing amounts of variable generation and potential retirements of fossil-fueled generation), misoperations, HILF event concerns, and smart grid considerations.

NERC has implemented several enhancements to the LTRA processes and reports in response to areas for improvement identified in the three-year ERO performance assessment. NERC has revised its reliability assessment guidelines to establish a requirement for an annual scenario analysis.[84] Scenario analyses are typically included in separate special assessments prepared by the Reliability Assessment program, including the following reports that NERC issued during the assessment period:

- *Reliability Impacts of Climate Change Initiatives: Technology Assessment and Scenario Development* (2010);
- *Special Reliability Scenario Assessment: Potential Reliability Impacts of Swift Demand Growth After a Long-Term Recession* (2010);
- *Special Reliability Scenario Assessment: Resource Adequacy Impacts of Potential U.S. Environmental Regulations* (2010);
- *Potential Impacts of Future Environmental Regulations* (2011); and
- *Special Reliability Assessment: Accommodating an Increased Dependence on Natural Gas for Electric Power* (2013).

5. Bulk Power System Awareness Department

Previously a functional responsibility of the Electricity Sector Information Sharing and Analysis Center (ES-ISAC),[85] NERC created the Bulk Power System Awareness department

[84] *See Order on the Electric Reliability Organization's Three-Year Performance Assessment*, 132 FERC ¶ 61,217 (2010), at P 180.

[85] The activities of ES-ISAC are described in §II.E.2 below.

(BPSA) in 2012 to improve NERC's capability to monitor BPS conditions, significant events, and emerging risks to reliability across the 15 reliability coordinator regions in North America.

BPSA develops and disseminates timely, accurate and complete information regarding the status of the BPS from a near-term operational reliability perspective, complementary to RAPA's seasonal and long-term assessments and ES-ISAC's cyber and physical security perspective. BPSA shares this continuous assessment across NERC, the eight Regional Entities and FERC staff through a number of channels, including a *System Awareness Daily Report* that highlights current day potential risks to wide-area reliability, significant operational and security occurrences for the previous day, and high-level information on forecasted loads and reserves.

During major system disturbances, BPSA facilitates information sharing and a common operational picture of BPS status with a broader audience of industry and governmental agencies. BPSA provides ES-ISAC operational reliability information in support of its government and cross-sector coordination activities, and hosts periodic update conference calls for technically oriented government agencies including FERC, the Department of Energy, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Department of Homeland Security, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

BPSA administers the NERC Alerts program, which is used to disseminate important reliability and security information to industry, pursuant to §810 of the NERC ROP. Additionally, BPSA actively participates in the Event Analysis Process described in §II.D.3 above, by identifying qualifying events and other items of interest for further trending and analysis.

E. The ERO Facilitates Information Sharing on Cybersecurity and Cyber and Physical Threats to the BPS among Industry, Regional Entities, and Government

Section 215(a) of the FPA and the Commission's regulations at 18 C.F.R. §39.1 define "reliable operation" of the BPS as "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." The FPA and the regulations define "Cybersecurity Incident" as "a malicious act or suspicious event that disrupts, or was an attempt to disrupt, the operation of those programmatic electronic devices and communications networks including hardware, software and data that are essential to the Reliable Operation of the Bulk-Power System." As the Commission is fully aware, identifying, assessing, and preventing threats and risks to both the physical security and the cybersecurity of the BPS, while always matters of concern, have attained increasing significance in the last three to four years.

Two of NERC's principal programs focused on these areas are the Critical Infrastructure department (CID) and the ES-ISAC. The CID supports efforts to develop and administer critical infrastructure standards, conducts security and reliability outreach visits, provides training and exercise opportunities, and coordinates between industry and governmental entities on CIP matters. The CID accomplishes these activities through active CIP standards drafting team participation, and programs such as the Sufficiency Review Program (SRP),[86] the annual Grid Security Conference (GridSecCon), and the biennial Grid Security Exercise (GridEx). The CID also leverages public-private partnerships to examine CIP policy issues, and it provides staff-

[86] In 2014, CID renamed the SRP to "Security Readiness Program" to reflect the program's focus.

level support to NERC's CIPC, an industry-led committee comprised of industry experts in the areas of cybersecurity, physical security, and operational security. The ES-ISAC monitors the physical security and cybersecurity of the electricity sub-sector, gathers information on threats to the physical security and cybersecurity of the sub-sector, and actively disseminates information on such threats and means to avoid or mitigate them to users, owners, and operators of the BPS as well as to applicable government entities and other stakeholders.

Both programs focus significant attention on public-private partnerships, which are critical to effective information sharing. CID and the ES-ISAC work closely with NERC entities, industry trade associations, national and international government departments and agencies, and other sectors to share information, discuss sector priorities, and respond to legislative and executive branch requests. Recent partnership activity includes sector responses to Executive Order (EO) 13636, *Improving Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity*, and Presidential Policy Directive (PPD) 21, *Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience*. This work included coordinating with government and across sectors to develop a voluntary cybersecurity framework, based on existing standards, guidelines, and practices, for reducing cyber risks to critical infrastructure. In addition, NERC worked closely with government and industry to rewrite the *National Infrastructure Protection Plan*, which outlines how government and private sector participants in the critical infrastructure community work together to manage risks and achieve security and resilience outcomes.

This section of this *Five-Year ERO Performance Assessment Report* describes NERC's activities in these areas during the assessment period, with an emphasis on activities during the latter part of the period. Included in this section are descriptions of CID programs, such as the

CIPC, the SRP, the GridSecCon, and the GridEx, as well as ES-ISAC activities, including the Cyber Risk Preparedness Assessment (CRPA) program.

1. Critical Infrastructure Department Activities

a. Critical Infrastructure Protection Committee

NERC's CIPC focuses on advancing the physical and cybersecurity of the critical electricity infrastructure of North America. The committee consists of both NERC–appointed regional representatives and technical subject matter experts. The CIPC coordinates NERC's security initiatives and serves as an expert advisory panel to the NERC Board, to the ES-ISAC, and to NERC standing committees, in the areas of cybersecurity and physical security. During quarterly CIPC meetings, CIPC members receive security training and participate in briefings regarding the latest security issues. To address issues related to cybersecurity and physical security, the CIPC establishes working groups or task forces comprised of subject matter experts who review and examine specific issues and develop reports and recommendations.

In 2012, the CIPC reorganized and expanded to allow it to produce more deliverables. This reorganization established new subcommittees and created new task forces and working groups to address emerging issues and initiative requests from the NERC CEO and NERC Board. The reorganization included forming task forces to address cybersecurity-related subjects identified in the 2010 *High-Impact, Low-Frequency Event Risk to the North American Bulk Power System* report.[87] One CIPC task force, the Cyber Attack Task Force, considered the impact of a coordinated cyber-attack on the BPS and developed flexible options for detecting, operating, and recovering from such an attack. A key component of the resulting Cyber Attack

[87] Available at: http://www.nerc.com/pa/ci/resources/documents/hilf_report.pdf.

Task Force report was the development and use of an attack tree tool that provides key insight into the attack surface of the interconnected BPS of North America.

Following NERC Board approval of the Cyber Attack Task Force report, the CIPC established a High-Impact, Low-Frequency Implementation Task Force to review the recommendations in this and other related reports, and to determine which recommendations the CIPC should address. The High-Impact, Low-Frequency Implementation Task Force determined that the CIPC should continue its analysis of cyber attack trees and analyze issues relating to information sharing, security clearances, security metrics, and physical security guidelines. The CIPC established task forces for all of these issue areas, and most groups have completed their reviews and issued recommendations.

b. Security Readiness Program

NERC conducts SRP visits, which consist of visits to registered entities to focus on the sufficiency of industry implementation of the CIP Standards. An SRP visit both examines CIP Version 3 compliance in a retrospective review and helps registered entities address transitioning from CIP Version 3 to CIP Version 5 in a prospective view. While compliance with CIP Version 3 and its risk-based assessment methodology remains mandatory until March 31, 2016, many registered entities are concerned about how to transition their compliance and security efforts to Version 5 to meet the April 1, 2016, compliance deadline. Registered entities are exploring how to best manage the transition process to CIP Version 5 while remaining compliant with CIP Version 3. NERC invites Regional Entity representatives to participate in SRP discussions; however, no content from those discussions may be used during a subsequent audit or compliance action unless that content reveals an imminent threat to the BES. NERC staff,

Regional Entity representatives, and outside consultants sign non-disclosure agreements to ensure strict confidentiality of all discussions and materials.

c. Grid Security Conferences

In 2011, NERC hosted the first GridSecCon focusing on physical security and cybersecurity issues facing the electricity sub-sector. NERC has continued to hold these conferences annually to achieve the following objectives:

- Build on NERC's mission to ensure the reliability of the North American BPS through education and training;
- Discuss and provide solutions to emerging industrial control system security issues;
- Deliver expert analysis on social engineering and phishing attacks;
- Focus strategically on public-private partnerships; and
- Provide an update on ES-ISAC activities and issue a call for increased industry participation and communication.

Over 300 industry and government stakeholders attended the most recent GridSecCon in October 2013. More than 20 speakers led discussions focused on industry being transformational, strategic, and tactical in its approach to securing systems. Participants were asked to consider different information sharing techniques; determine if their organizations are resilient through self-assessments; test response activities through exercises; work to ensure that security is built into operations; and enhance the workforce by recruiting, training, and retaining individuals who can address these and other issues. Additionally, almost 200 stakeholders attended credentialed training sessions in cybersecurity and physical security.

d. Grid Security Exercises

In 2011, NERC hosted the first GridEx, which focused on analyzing industry's response to a physical and cybersecurity scenario. NERC now holds a biennial distributed play exercise and executive tabletop discussion to achieve the following:

- Exercise the current readiness of the electricity industry to respond to a security incident, incorporating lessons learned;
- Review existing command, control, and communication plans and tools for NERC and its stakeholders;
- Identify potential improvements in cybersecurity and physical security plans, programs, and responder skills; and
- Explore senior leadership policy decisions and triggers in response to a coordinated cyber and physical event of national significance with long-term grid reliability issues.

Over 200 organizations participated in GridEx II, which took place November 13, 2014 through November 14, 2013. During the exercise, participants identified five key lessons learned:

- Information sharing has increased;
- NERC has improved ES-ISAC and BPSA coordination functions;
- Simultaneous cyber and physical attacks pose significant challenges;
- Industry continues to refine and enhance its all-hazard incidence response plans and protocols; and
- Industry and government information-sharing stakeholders can better inform incident response through coordination and consolidation of content.

GridEx II included an executive tabletop exercise involving about 30 participants, including electricity industry executives representing a broad cross-section of the industry and senior officials from the federal government. Participants considered a severe cyber and physical

attack scenario of national and international significance, and discussed the policy-level challenges that would need to be addressed by industry and government.

e. Electricity Sub-sector Coordinating Council

NERC established the Electricity Sub-sector Coordinating Council (ESCC) in 1998 at the request of the Department of Energy to foster and facilitate the coordination of sector-wide, policy-related activities and initiatives designed to improve the reliability and resilience of the Electricity Sub-sector, including physical and cyber infrastructure. In 2010, NERC restructured the ESCC to consist of industry senior executives with NERC's CEO as the ESCC chair. The ESCC provided advice to the NERC Board on policy-level matters related to critical infrastructure, developed a Critical Infrastructure Strategic Roadmap, and provided oversight on several NERC and industry initiatives to address HILF events and other critical infrastructure risks to the BPS.

In August 2013, the NERC Board approved a new ESCC charter, which amended, superseded, and terminated the existing charter. The new charter provides for a total of 30 CEO-level representatives, including members of the ESCC Steering Committee. NERC's CEO continues to serve on the ESCC and its Steering Committee. The transition formally recognized the significant increased CEO interest and participation on cybersecurity issues, focused industry association activities through an existing channel recognized by government agencies, and provided a unified industry framework upon which to build in response to President-issued orders and directives, such as EO-13636 and PPD-21.

2. ES-ISAC Tools and Activities

a. ES-ISAC Portal

The ES-ISAC has seen a tremendous leap in its user base since its inception in 1998, with

more reporting from organizations and more information sharing between members of industry. The ES-ISAC portal, which became functional in April 2012, is the industry's first and often primary interface with the ES-ISAC. The portal is continuously updated with technical and trend reports, watch lists, advanced sector information sharing tools, and other relevant resources. The portal receives "Indicators of Compromise" from various sources, including U.S. government departments and agencies, and NERC distributes this information to electricity sector entities. The portal allows the ES-ISAC to reach thousands of users and hundreds of organizations across industry to discuss and exchange security-related information. The ES-ISAC is concentrating its efforts on increasing the user base of this important portal. The success of this effort relies on the value of information available on the portal as well as the timeliness with which information reaches users. To achieve this goal, the ES-ISAC is enhancing portal capabilities to improve the ease of use and to improve analytic collaboration across the sub-sector.

Current capabilities of the portal include publishing alerts and other informational products, exchanging threat indicator information, and providing self-service access to portal users. Upgrades underway will increase flexibility to support additional functionality and capacity using a cloud-based, secure platform solution. The improved portal will facilitate direct data exchange with other ISACs and government partners. The portal will also support ES-ISAC analysts in their information analysis functions and tie the ES-ISAC analysts together with their counterparts in other sectors and in national laboratories. Finally, the portal will add private social media information sharing tools, automated access to enhanced cybersecurity information flows, and predictive analytics.

b. Analytics

The ES-ISAC has also improved its analytic capabilities by building out its operations

room to include data feeds from multiple sources, such as NERC's situation awareness monitoring tool, and procuring services that deliver cyber awareness information. As a result, the ES-ISAC is uniquely positioned to enhance grid and sector-level resilience by quickly evaluating and addressing potential cybersecurity impacts to BPS operations.

c. Industry and Government Coordination

The ES-ISAC was initiated to gather information from industry participants about security-related events, disturbances, and off-normal occurrences in the electricity sub-sector. The ES-ISAC shares that information with industry as a whole and with government partners. In turn, government entities provide information regarding risks, threats, and warnings to the ES-ISAC. The ES-ISAC adds analytic value to shared information and coordinates with other sectors. It is also responsible for developing industry and government products, including the NERC crisis action plan and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security incident response analysis. In addition, the ES-ISAC co-hosts annual cleared briefings to industry to ensure the electricity sub-sector maintains awareness of new and ongoing threats to the BPS.

Most recently, the ES-ISAC collaborated with the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Energy, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation to host a series of briefings focused on tactics and tools of emerging cyber threat actors. In addition, in the wake of the April 16, 2013 Metcalf substation incident in California, the ES-ISAC worked with these agencies and other organizations and governmental partners to raise awareness of physical attack threats, to increase local, regional and federal security partnerships, and to support mitigation efforts. These briefings continued through the first quarter of 2014.

d. Cyber Risk Preparedness Assessments

The ES-ISAC conducts CRPAs to assess the cybersecurity capabilities of registered

entities through facilitated tabletop exercises. Conducting these assessments allows the ES-ISAC staff to gain a better understanding of industry capabilities, identify key sector level areas for improvement, and share best practices across industry. Through CRPA exercises, participants gain an improved understanding of their cybersecurity programs and capabilities. These exercises also help participants identify areas for improvement and enhance their abilities to respond to and recover from cybersecurity events. The CRPA also educates participants through defined deliverables and best practices. During 2013, the ES-ISAC incorporated elements of the Electricity Sub-sector Cybersecurity Capability Maturity Model program into the CRPA. Additionally, the ES-ISAC has developed a CRPA kit for entities to use in developing and running their own CRPAs. The kit allows more entities to leverage the CRPA methodology to enhance their preparedness. In February 2013, ES-ISAC staff hosted initial training and education sessions on the kit to accelerate adoption of the methodology across the sector and move the program towards self-sustainment within industry.

III. NERC CONTINUES TO MEET THE §39.3(b) CRITERIA

An explicit requirement for the five-year ERO performance assessment is that it include an explanation of how the ERO satisfies the requirements of 18 C.F.R. §39.3(b). Section 39.3(b) sets forth the requirements for certification as the ERO, which specify that the entity:

(1) Has the ability to develop and enforce, subject to 18 C.F.R. §39.7, Reliability Standards that provide for an adequate level of reliability of the BPS;[88] and

(2) Has established rules that:

(a) Assure its independence from users, owners and operators of the BPS while assuring fair stakeholder representation in the selection of its directors and balanced decisionmaking in any ERO committee or subordinate organizational structure;

[88] 18 C.F.R. §39.7 sets forth the Commission's regulations concerning the enforcement of Reliability Standards by the ERO, including provisions pertaining to the imposition of penalties for violations of Reliability Standards.

(b) Allocate equitably reasonable dues, fees, and charges among end users for all activities under Part 39;

(c) Provide fair and impartial procedures for enforcement of Reliability Standards through the imposition of penalties in accordance with 18 C.F.R. §39.7, including limitations on activities, functions, operations, or other appropriate sanctions or penalties;

(d) Provide reasonable notice and opportunity for public comment, due process, openness, and balance of interests in developing Reliability Standards and otherwise exercising its duties; and

(e) Provide appropriate steps to gain recognition in Canada and Mexico.

Attachment 1 to this *Five-Year ERO Performance Assessment Report* shows in detail that NERC continues to satisfy the requirements of §39.3(b).

With respect to the requirements of §39.3(b)(1), NERC continues to have the ability to develop and enforce, subject to 18 C.F.R. §39.7, Reliability Standards that provide for an adequate level of reliability of the BPS. This requirement encompasses two distinct functions of the ERO: (i) the ability to develop reliability Standards that provide for an adequate level of reliability of the BPS, and (ii) the ability to enforce those Reliability Standards. NERC develops Reliability Standards pursuant to §300 of its ROP and its SPM, Appendix 3A to the ROP. These documents have been revised since NERC was certified as the ERO, including during the current assessment period, and the current versions of §300 and Appendix 3A have been approved by the Commission as ERO Rules. Further, NERC's SPM has been accredited by the ANSI as meeting ANSI's essential requirements for standards development. Moreover, as shown in detail in **Attachment 1**, NERC's Reliability Standards development process contains the essential attributes of the standards development process as set forth in prior Commission orders. As noted, during this assessment period, NERC has made improvements to its SPM, which the Commission has approved.

Further, NERC systematically manages the development of new Reliability Standards

and revisions to standards, in areas of highest need and importance, through its rolling three-year RSDP. The RSDP is revised annually and identifies and prioritizes Reliability Standards development projects in the immediate three-year time horizon, taking into account, among other information, perceived gaps in the Reliability Standards, proposals for closing those gaps, and timing priorities for standards development projects.

NERC enforces compliance with approved Reliability Standards through its CMEP, which is embodied in §400 and Appendix 4C of the ROP; its Organization Registration and Certification Program, which is embodied in §500 and Appendices 5A and 5B of the ROP; and its *Sanction Guidelines*, Appendix 4B of the ROP (all of the foregoing have been approved by the Commission as ERO Rules), as well as through its RDAs with the Regional Entities, which have also been approved by the Commission. Through the organization registration provisions of its ROP, NERC and the Regional Entities identify the users, owners, and operators of the BPS that are obligated to comply with Commission-approved Reliability Standards.

Monitoring and enforcement of compliance with Reliability Standards is conducted primarily by the eight Regional Entities pursuant to §401.4 of the ROP and the RDAs, subject to NERC oversight. Provisions of the ROP describe in detail the required attributes of Regional Entity compliance programs, including compliance program structure, resources and design. The controlling document for NERC's compliance monitoring and enforcement activities is the *Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program*, Appendix 4C to the ROP. Appendix 4C specifies compliance monitoring methods to be used and the detailed process steps for each method. Additionally, Appendix 4C specifies the process steps to be followed when a potential violation of a Reliability Standard by a registered entity is identified; as well as the actions required of the registered entity if it is found to be in violation of a Reliability Standard. The

Sanction Guidelines, which were significantly revised during this assessment period, specify the factors to be taken into account by the ERO in determining the financial penalty to be assessed for a violation of a Reliability Standard.

Pursuant to the RDAs, each Regional Entity has either adopted the NERC CMEP or a modified version of the CMEP as its compliance monitoring and enforcement program. Compliance monitoring and enforcement activities are further guided by the annual NERC and Regional Entity CMEP Implementation Plans (as described earlier, now combined into a single annual CMEP Implementation Plan document).

As detailed in **Attachment 1**, over this assessment period, NERC and the Regional Entities have continued to increase the resources devoted to compliance monitoring and enforcement activities. In their approved business plans and budgets for 2009, NERC and the Regional Entities provided for, collectively, 158.25 FTE staff and approximately $32.5 million of direct expenditures in their CMEPs. In their business plans and budgets for 2014, NERC and the Regional Entities provided for, collectively, 303.40 FTE staff and approximately $57.1 million of direct expenditures in their CMEPs.

With respect to the requirements of §39.3(b)(2)(i), NERC continues to have in place rules that assure its independence from users, owners, and operators of the BPS while assuring fair stakeholder representation in the selection of its directors and balanced decision-making in any ERO committee or subordinate organizational structure. This criterion encompasses three distinct considerations: (i) independence of NERC from users, owners and operators of the BPS; (ii) fair stakeholder representation in the selection of NERC's directors (i.e., its trustees); and (iii) provision for balanced decision-making in any NERC committee or organizational structure.

As described in detail in **Attachment 1**, provisions of NERC's Commission-approved Bylaws,[89] along with several NERC policy documents[90] assures NERC's independence from users, owners, and operators of the BPS. Provisions of the NERC Bylaws also assure fair stakeholder representation in the selection of NERC's trustees. Finally, provisions of the NERC Bylaws and of §1300 of the ROP specify requirements for selection of members for and voting procedures on, NERC committees and sub-groups, that provide for balanced decision-making.

With respect to the requirements of §39.3(b)(2)(ii), NERC's Bylaws and §1102 of its ROP provide for equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees and charges among end users for all of the ERO's statutory activities. Section 1102 provides for the assessments to recover NERC's approved funding requirements to be allocated among countries, regions, and load-serving entities in the North American BPS based on Net Energy for Load (NEL), except where direct assignment of costs to a specific country or region(s) is appropriate. The NEL-based allocation of the annual assessments to cover NERC's and the Regional Entities' annual funding requirements is provided to the Commission for approval in NERC's annual business plan and budget filing.

With respect to the requirements of §39.3(b)(2)(iii), NERC's rules also continue to provide fair and impartial procedures for enforcement of Reliability Standards through the imposition of penalties in accordance with 18 C.F.R. §39.7. These rules and procedures include §400 of the ROP; Appendix 4B, *Sanction Guidelines*, of the ROP; and Appendix 4C, the *Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program*, of the ROP, which includes the Hearing

[89] NERC's Bylaws are considered "ERO Rules." 18 C.F.R. §39.1.

[90] NERC's *Governance Guidelines* is available at: http://www.nerc.com/gov/Annual%20Reports/Governance%20Guidelines%20-%20Approved%202.6.14.pdf; NERC's *Employee Code of Conduct* is available at*:* http://www.nerc.com/gov/Annual%20Reports/Employee-Code-of-Conduct.pdf; and NERC's *Policy on Reporting Complaints Regarding Accounting and Code of Conduct Matters*, is available at: http://www.nerc.com/gov/Annual%20Reports/Whistleblower_Policy_Final-May%202014.pdf.

Procedures to be followed by Regional Entity Hearing Bodies in presiding over and ruling on disputes raised by a registered entity with respect to a Regional Entity's proposed finding of a violation or the proposed amount of penalty for a violation. All of these provisions have been approved by the Commission as ERO Rules. All of these provisions have been extensively revised, and the revisions approved by the Commission, during this assessment period. **Attachment 1** to this report describes in detail NERC's rules and procedures for the determination and imposition of penalties for violations of Reliability Standards and how they comply with the requirements of §215(e)(6) of the FPA and §39.3(b)(2)(iii) and §39.7 of the Commission's regulations.

With respect to the requirements of §39.3(b)(2)(iv), NERC continues to maintain rules that provide reasonable notice and opportunity for public comment, due process, openness, and balance of interests in developing Reliability Standards and otherwise exercising its duties. NERC's Bylaws require that Reliability Standards be developed through an open, transparent, and public process that provides for reasonable notice and opportunity for public comment, due process, and balancing of interests; and that participation in the Reliability Standards development process shall not be limited to NERC members but rather shall be open to all persons and entities with an interest in the reliable operation of the BPS. As noted in the discussion of the first §39.3(b)(1) criterion, above, NERC's Reliability Standards development process is embodied in §300 and Appendix 3A of the ROP. The ROP specify "Essential Principles for the Development of Reliability Standards," which include openness, transparency, consensus-building, fair balance of interest, due process, and timeliness. With respect to balance of interests, the ROP provide for balloting on proposed Reliability Standards to be conducted on the basis of a broad set of ten industry segments, which collectively encompass persons and

entities with an interest in the reliable operation of the BPS. The detailed process steps for developing and approving new or revised Reliability Standards, set forth in the NERC SPM, is based on the procedures of the ANSI and other standards-setting organizations in the U.S. and Canada.

In addition to its rules and procedures for the development of Reliability Standards, NERC's rules provide for reasonable notice and opportunity for public comment, due process, openness, and balance of interests in the exercise of NERC's other duties, including in the appointment and election of trustees, meetings of trustees, approving amendments to the Bylaws and amendments to the ROP, selection of members for and the conduct of business by committees and subgroups, development and approval of annual business plans and budgets, and the conduct of compliance monitoring and enforcement activities.

Finally, with respect to the requirements of §39.3(b)(2)(v), NERC continues to engage in substantial efforts to gain and maintain recognition as the ERO in Canada and Mexico. One of NERC's corporate purposes, as set forth in its Certificate of Incorporation, is "to act as the electric reliability organization for the United States as certified by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and for Canada and Mexico as recognized by applicable government and regulatory authorities in Canada and Mexico, all pursuant to law." In Canada, where by its Constitution the regulation of electricity is primarily within the jurisdiction of each province rather than the national government, NERC's activities to obtain and maintain recognition are conducted on a province-by-province basis. **Attachment 1** details NERC's efforts and accomplishments in the provinces of Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Québec, and Saskatchewan, as well as at the National Energy Board. Depending on the particular circumstances of each province, NERC has gained recognition

through statutes or other provisions of provincial law, or through a memorandum of understanding with appropriate entities in the province. As described in **Attachment 1**, NERC's efforts in each province fall into three areas: recognition of NERC Reliability Standards; provisions for sharing of information on issues related to compliance with NERC Reliability Standards; and monitoring and enforcement of compliance with Reliability Standards.

With respect to Mexico, the Comisión Federal de Electricidad (CFE), through the Centro Nacional de Control de Energia (CENACE), and the Area de Control Baja California (ACBC), have entered into a membership and operating agreement (MOA) with WECC. The MOA provides for WECC to assist CENACE and ACBC in monitoring compliance by Designated Entities (the Mexican equivalent of U.S. registered entities) with Mexico Reliability Standards for Baja California, Mexico. CENACE has approved ten Mexico Reliability Standards. Pursuant to the MOA, WECC monitors compliance with Mexico Reliability Standards, but does not have enforcement or registration (designation) authority for CFE. WECC provides compliance monitoring, reviews proposed and completed mitigation plans, and provides assessment recommendations with respect to alleged violations.

In summary, and as shown in detail in **Attachment 1** to this *Five-Year ERO Performance Assessment Report*, the Commission should find that NERC continues to satisfy the requirements of 18 C.F.R. §39.3(b).

IV. REGIONAL ENTITY PERFORMANCE AND EFFECTIVENESS CONTINUES TO IMPROVE

Attachment 3 provides NERC's evaluation of the performance of the Regional Entities in carrying out their delegated authorities and responsibilities during the assessment period.

The Commission's regulation specifying the required contents of the ERO's periodic performance assessment reports states that the performance assessment must include, among

other subjects, the ERO's evaluation of the effectiveness of each Regional Entity and recommendations by the ERO for improvement of the Regional Entity's performance of delegated functions.[91] In its September 16, 2010 Order on NERC's *Three-Year ERO Performance Assessment Report*, the Commission stated that future assessments should include, among other things, separate sections addressing each Regional Entity's satisfaction of statutory and regulatory criteria.[92]

In this five-year performance assessment, NERC organized its evaluation of the Regional Entities' performance based on their principal delegated authorities and responsibilities under the RDAs and the NERC ROP. These segments also correspond to the programmatic organization structures generally followed by NERC and the Regional Entities:

- Regional Reliability Standards Development (**Attachment 3**, §I)
- Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement (**Attachment 3**, §II)
  - Organization Registration and Certification (**Attachment 3**, §II.A)
  - Compliance Monitoring[93] (**Attachment 3**, §II.B)
  - Compliance Investigations (**Attachment 3**, §II.C)
  - Compliance Enforcement (**Attachment 3**, §II.D)
- Reliability Assessments (**Attachment 3**, §III)
- Reliability Risk Management (Situation Awareness and Event Analysis) (**Attachment 3**, §IV)
- Business Planning and Budgeting, Finance and Accounting (**Attachment 3**, §V).

[91] 18 C.F.R. §39.3(c)(1)(iii).

[92] *North American Electric Reliability Corporation, Order on the Electric Reliability Organization's Three-Year Performance Assessment*, 132 FERC ¶ 61,217 (2010), at P 36.

[93] The evaluation of the Regional Entities' performance in Compliance Monitoring includes evaluation of their efforts in providing training, education, and outreach to registered entities and other industry stakeholders on compliance-related matters.

To evaluate the Regional Entities' performance during the assessment period, NERC believed it to be important to use assessment criteria that were well-known to the Regional Entities and that were established at the beginning of, or early in, the assessment period. Accordingly, NERC has generally used the Regional Entities' obligations and responsibilities under the RDAs and the NERC ROP as the basis for evaluating the Regional Entities' performance or as the source for more specific assessment criteria. Although, during the assessment period, the RDAs were significantly revised through a collaborative process among NERC and the Regional Entities, with the revised RDAs going into effect on January 1, 2011 (i.e., approximately 18 months into the assessment period), the Regional Entities' fundamental delegated authorities and responsibilities under the RDAs were not changed in the revised RDAs.

Further, in evaluating the Regional Entities' performance during the assessment period, NERC placed greater emphasis on each Regional Entity's performance during the latter half of the assessment period rather than earlier in the assessment period. Although the assessment is intended to cover the entire five-year period, NERC views the success of a Regional Entity in improving its programs over the course of the period – particularly where improvements have been implemented in response to specific comments, criticisms or recommendations from NERC, the Commission, or the Regional Entity's stakeholders – as especially important to the evaluation. The quality of a Regional Entity's programs and performance as of the end of the assessment period is much more important to the objectives of this review than is a historical review of the Regional Entity's programs and performance at the start of, or in the early portion of, the assessment period. Further, a Regional Entity's willingness to cooperate in implementing new ERO Enterprise initiatives and improvements intended to improve the reliability of the BPS and increase consistency and efficiency across the ERO Enterprise is particularly important to

the evaluation. This focus on improvements, responses to comments and recommendations, and the state of the Regional Entities' programs and performance as of the end of the assessment period, is consistent with the emphasis in the Commission's applicable regulation on comments and recommendations from stakeholders for improvements and the Regional Entity's responses to such comments and recommendations.

In this evaluation of the Regional Entities' performance in the various program areas, NERC has also provided a significant amount of description of NERC's oversight activities of the Regional Entities. NERC's oversight of the Regional Entities' programs and activities provides important context for the performance assessment because, for almost all of the Regional Entities' delegated authorities and responsibilities, NERC's oversight is frequent, and in some areas, virtually continuous. NERC's oversight activities are a significant component of the informational and observational basis for NERC's evaluation of the Regional Entities' performance. Moreover, although this *Five-Year ERO Performance Assessment Report* is appropriately required by the Commission's regulations, it is NERC's ongoing oversight of the Regional Entities' activities that gives NERC both an up-to-date basis for evaluation, and a continuous platform to evaluate the need for and make recommendations for improvements, both in the performance of discrete tasks by individual Regional Entities and on a programmatic, ERO Enterprise-wide basis.

V. NERC HAS SURVEYED STAKEHOLDERS FOR COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENTS

One of the components of the ERO's periodic assessment reports as specified in 18 C.F.R. §39.3(c) is that the assessment include "[r]ecommendations by Regional Entities, users, owners, and operators of the Bulk-Power System, and other interested parties for improvement of the ERO's operations, activities, oversight and procedures, and the ERO's response to such

recommendations."[94] NERC has addressed this component by soliciting comments and recommendations through (i) a stakeholder survey conducted for purposes of the five-year ERO performance assessment, and (ii) posting drafts of the five-year performance assessment report for stakeholder comment.

The stakeholder survey was initiated on October 31, 2013, near the end of the five-year assessment period, when NERC distributed an online survey seeking stakeholder responses. The survey contained 36 specific questions on topics relating to (i) Reliability Standards development; (ii) compliance monitoring; (iii) compliance enforcement; (iv) organization registration and certification; (v) reliability assessment; (vi) performance analysis and metrics; (vii) training, education and personnel certification; (viii) event analysis; (ix) critical infrastructure protection; (x) shareholder communications, public relations and information technology; (xi) business plan and budget; and (xii) independence and stakeholder input. Stakeholders were invited to respond to the questions using a numerical scoring system and, more importantly, to provide free-form narrative comments on the topics covered by the survey. A total of 326 registered entity responses were received. The respondents were located in all Regional Entities, ranging from a low of 23 responses to a high of 97 responses from respondents located within particular Regional Entities. **Attachment 4** provides the text of the questions that were asked in the survey and also provides summary data on the numbers and distribution of respondents.

With respect to posting drafts of the five-year performance assessment for stakeholder comment, on March 3, 2014, NERC posted a draft statement of its activities and accomplishments during the five-year assessment period, as well as drafts of the Regional

[94] 18 C.F.R. §39.3(c)(1)(ii).

Entities' self-assessments, on the NERC website for stakeholder comment. Subsequently, on June 17, 2014, NERC posted a draft of the *Five-Year ERO Performance Assessment Report* and attachments on its website for stakeholder comment.[95]

Attachment 4 to this *Five-Year ERO Performance Assessment Report* provides the content specified by 18 C.F.R. §39.3(c)(1)(ii). As noted above, **Attachment 4** provides the questions included in the stakeholder survey, reports the average scores from the responses, and provides summary information on the number and distribution of respondents.[96] More importantly, **Attachment 4** provides the significant narrative comments and recommendations submitted by stakeholders and NERC's responses to those comments. To focus on the key issues, questions and recommendations posed or raised by commenters, and for simplicity, NERC has attempted to summarize the comments and to combine them where appropriate, in order to report the gist of the comments and recommendations. The comments are organized in **Attachment 4** in table format by subject matter area: Reliability Standards; Compliance Operations; Enforcement; Registration and Certification; Reliability Assessment & Performance Analysis Metrics; Training, Education and Personnel Certification; Event Analysis; Critical Infrastructure Protection; Stakeholder Communications, Public Relations and IT; and Business Plan and Budget. A separate table, organized into the same topical sections, provides a summary of key stakeholder comments of the Regional Entities. For each stakeholder comment reported in one of the two tables, NERC has provided in the table, opposite the comment, (i) where applicable, the section or sections of the *Overview of NERC Activities and Accomplishments in*

[95] The June 17, 2014 posted draft of **Attachment 4** was incomplete, since completion of that attachment required receipt of the stakeholder comments in response to the posting of the draft report and the preparation of responses to the comments for inclusion in the attachment.

[96] Some of the questions by their nature, pertained only to NERC, while others of the questions pertained to both NERC and the Regional Entities. Average scores are reported for NERC or for NERC and the individual Regional Entities as applicable to the particular survey questions.

the Five-Year Period or of an attachment to this report in which the subject matter of the comment is addressed, and (ii) for most of the comments, a brief narrative response to the comment as well. NERC submits that the tables provided in **Attachment 4** show that NERC has responded to and addressed, or is in the process of responding to and addressing, the key stakeholder comments and recommendations provided in connection with the development of this *Five-Year ERO Performance Assessment Report*.

VI. NERC HAS MADE SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS IN COMPLETING ACTIONS ON ITEMS IN THE COMMISSION'S ORDER ON THE *THREE-YEAR ERO PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT REPORT*

NERC's *Three-Year ERO Performance Assessment Report*, filed on July 20, 2009, identified and listed a number of actions to be taken in response to comments received from stakeholders as part of the three-year assessment process.[97] Additionally, the Commission's Order on the three-year ERO performance assessment, issued on September 16, 2010, identified a number of areas for improvement.[98] NERC was directed to submit an informational report to the Commission within six months addressing the directives, concerns and requests for information and/or feasibility reports discussed in the Order. NERC filed the Informational Report on March 16, 2011.[99] NERC was able to report either completion or significant progress with respect to many of the items listed in the Commission's Order.

As part of this *Five-Year ERO Performance Assessment Report*, NERC is providing a further report on its progress in addressing the directives, concerns and requests for information

[97] These actions were listed in Appendix A to **Attachment 1** of the *Three-Year ERO Performance Assessment Report*.

[98] *Order on the Electric Reliability Organization's Three-Year Performance Assessment*, 132 FERC ¶ 61,217 (2010). Appendix A to that Order provided an "Index of Directives" in the Order.

[99] *Informational Filing of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation in Response to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's September 16, 2010 Order*, filed March 16, 2011 in Docket Nos. RR09-7-000 and AD10-14-000.

and/or feasibility reports discussed in the Commission's Order on the three-year ERO performance assessment that were not discussed in the March 2011 informational filing. This information is provided in a chart format in **Attachment 5** to this report. As noted in the chart provided as **Attachment 5**, NERC's actions in connection with a number of the items are also discussed in the body of this five-year assessment report.

VII. NERC HAS A VISION AND PLAN FOR IMPROVING COORDINATED OPERATIONS ACROSS THE ERO ENTERPRISE TO REACH THE END STATE OF A HIGHLY EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT ERO ENTERPRISE

As described above and in the Attachments to this report, since being certified as the ERO in 2006 and, in particular, during this five-year assessment period, NERC has made substantial progress and recorded significant accomplishments in structuring the ERO Enterprise organization and improving the reliability of the BPS. Despite the achievements to date, the nine-entity structure of the ERO Enterprise, NERC and the eight Regional Entities, is not without certain challenges and risks. Going forward, NERC needs and intends to focus attention on the actions necessary to reach an end-state of a fully-integrated ERO Enterprise that can exercise effective and well-coordinated reliability oversight that mitigates reliability risks to the BPS. Achieving the end-state of a fully integrated ERO Enterprise entails creating greater clarity about the allocation of roles and responsibilities between NERC and the Regional Entities, achieving improved coordination of goals, and establishing more uniform work processes, tools and performance across the ERO Enterprise.

NERC has a vision and plan for achieving this end state of a fully integrated, highly effective and efficient ERO Enterprise. This vision and plan are described in detail in **Attachment 6** to this report.

Reaching this end state necessitates adherence to certain fundamental principles. The ERO Enterprise must:

- Apply technical expertise that is focused on risks to the BPS and important reliability outcomes;
- Achieve results and methods across the ERO Enterprise that are predictable, consistent and timely;
- Share common goals, objectives and measures of success;
- Build relationships that are founded on candor and mutual trust, openness and cooperation;
- Apply collaborative decision-making;
- Ensure efficiencies while minimizing duplication and any activities not affecting reliability outcomes; and
- Avoid undue burden, discrimination, or capriciousness for affected regulated entities.

As detailed in **Attachment 6**, NERC's plan for achieving excellence in the oversight and execution of its statutory functions and in the mitigation of BPS reliability risks requires actions in five areas relating to the relationships and allocations of responsibilities between and among NERC and the Regional Entities:

(1) Clarifying roles and responsibilities. A clear understanding of the roles and responsibilities of NERC and the Regional Entities is required, as well as a clear set of expectations in the execution of the activities performed across the ERO Enterprise. This in turn will necessitate ERO Enterprise program oversight that includes the following essential oversight elements to be provided by NERC in consultation with the Regional Entities:

- An overall program design indicating the program purpose and goals, and design of controls to manage risks;
- Documentation of common methods, practices and procedures to be applied in the program, and performance expectations for each;
- Statements of necessary qualifications of key positions within the Regional Entities for conducting certain statutory activities, and identification of any standards for critical positions;

- Training of NERC and Regional Entity staff for select positions in the conduct of delegated functions;

- A documented and transparent set of process controls and measures to assure delegated responsibilities are properly completed, and to assess the effectiveness of the delegated activities in managing BPS and ERO Enterprise risk; and

- Periodic reporting of results and feedback to Regional Entities on trends and providing opportunities to enhance consistency and effectiveness of results.

To improve the delegation process, it will be important that NERC and the Regional Entities work together to update and refine the RDAs, due for renewal as of January 1, 2016, to provide a clearer division of responsibilities, both related to the division of performance of statutory functions and oversight of those functions, and to provide effective mechanisms to resolve routine differences.

(2) Coordinating strategic planning. NERC and the Regional Entities have collaboratively made significant progress in developing a shared, rolling three-year strategic plan for the ERO Enterprise. However, adoption of the ERO Enterprise goals and objectives into business plans at all of the Regional Entities has varied. In May 2014, the NERC Board approved the 2014 performance metrics. These performance metrics will be used to assess the overall effectiveness of the ERO Enterprise in addressing risk to the BPS, achieving reliability results, assuring Reliability Standards and compliance effectiveness and improving risk mitigation and program execution. They include four overarching metrics focused on overall effectiveness in addressing BPS risks and improving reliability. They also include a number of supporting measures that assess the effectiveness of the key operational elements of the ERO Enterprise. The intent is to report the results of these metrics on an ERO Enterprise-wide basis, and also as applicable, distinguish results for NERC and individual Regional Entities.[100]

[100] *See* http://www.nerc.com/gov/Annual%20Reports/ERO%20Enterprise%20Strategic%20Plan%202014-2017%20and%20Performance%20Metrics.pdf.

(3) Coordinating operational decision-making. The ERO Enterprise model depends on successful delegation of activities, but also requires coordination of operational decisions that arise in the execution of these activities. To date, coordination of policy and directional decisions has been achieved through: (i) coordination meetings between NERC and Regional Entity CEOs, which have become more routinized in recent years and include an agreed-upon protocol for reaching consensus decisions; and (ii) the activities of approximately two dozen working groups collaborating across various functional areas of the ERO Enterprise. The preferred approach going forward is to proactively establish a more collaborative model and recognize that Regional Entity staffs for most functions typically have valuable first-hand experience in implementing the activities on the front lines with registered entities. However, success depends on collaboration that results in timely and effective decisions that all entities in the enterprise agree to implement, and the avoidance of unilateral decision-making that steers portions of the ERO Enterprise into alternative methods and practices for delegated functions.

(4) Achieving consistency. Achieving consistency of methods, practices, procedures and tools has been a challenge throughout the history of the ERO Enterprise. At the outset, given a lack of common processes and procedures from NERC, Regional Entities developed their own methods, practices, procedures and tools. While there has been significant progress made, through the leadership and working groups referred to in the preceding paragraph, in addressing substantive differences, there remain significant variations in methods, practices, procedures and tools across NERC and the eight Regional Entities. Today, the biggest challenge in addressing consistency is gaining common agreement on processes and procedures with the backdrop of years of institutionalized differences among NERC and the Regional Entities.

The ultimate success of the ERO Enterprise depends on there being one compliance

program, one enforcement program, one event analysis program, and so forth. Registered entities will have greater confidence and trust in the ERO Enterprise if they believe regulatory oversight is not subject to arbitrary variations and possible discrimination from one region to the next. Outcomes will be more predictable and consistent if each statutory function is conducted in a unified fashion across the ERO Enterprise. Outcomes will also be more readily measurable to demonstrate the reliability impacts and benefits of the ERO Enterprise programs. In the long term, after the transition from legacy approaches, there will be significant efficiencies.

This transition requires the development of a core set of common methods, practices, procedures, and tools, which NERC is principally responsible to produce, working in collaboration with the Regional Entities. Consistency does not necessarily require identical internal procedures at each Regional Entity, and some flexibility must be maintained to allow for progress through innovation. However, consistency does mean that the approach, methods and practices are the same across the ERO Enterprise and that outcomes produced from application of the local and regional expertise and judgment of the Regional Entity staffs are fair, reasonable and without bias. In other words, the goal is consistent methods, practices, procedures and tools that deliver fair and reasonable outcomes. The move to greater consistency must occur under the close scrutiny of the ERO Executive Management Group, with accountability for progress to the NERC and Regional Entity boards, and all entities must be prepared to adopt changes to drive to more consistent methods, practices, procedures and tools.

(5) Coordinating external and cross-ERO Enterprise communications. Communications are important to the effectiveness of the ERO Enterprise. Communications can help set expectations for registered entities and stakeholders and demonstrate a common and consistent approach for regulators and the public. To facilitate effective communications across the ERO

Enterprise, in May 2013 the NERC Board initiated a practice of meeting twice yearly as a group with all the chairs and vice-chairs of the Regional Entities, with a portion of these meetings conducted with the NERC and Regional Entity CEOs also present. Additionally, a NERC-Regional Entity communications working group has been active for several years, coordinating consistent messaging across the ERO Enterprise. Further, NERC and the Regional Entities have coordinated outreach to FERC Commissioners and staff and to Canadian governments. However, although efforts to coordinate key messages and direction have been successful, areas for improvement remain. Thus, going forward, this area requires further attention to arrive at a desired end-state for the ERO Enterprise.

To reach the desired end-state for the ERO Enterprise in the five areas described above, NERC intends to focus on the following eleven action items:

(1) NERC includes in its review of Regional Entity business plans adequacy of resources and alignment of the plans for achieving delegated function objectives and outcomes described in the three-year plan.

(2) NERC, in collaboration with the Regional Entities:

(a) Develops a comprehensive overarching design and set of controls, reporting requirements, and feedback mechanisms for each delegated statutory function, including the essential oversight elements listed above;

(b) Re-evaluates its organizational structure and leadership qualifications necessary to provide effective design and oversight of statutory activities;

(c) Identifies functional qualifications for select delegated activities, such as auditors and investigators;

(d) Adopts risk-based approaches to monitoring performance of delegated functions and providing effective feedback and coaching to continuously improve overall ERO Enterprise performance; and

(e) Re-evaluates the ERO working group structure to enhance effectiveness.

(3) Regional Entities:

(a) Work in a coordinated fashion to support NERC in the development of comprehensive functional program designs and controls;

(b) Adapt existing regional programs for delegated functions to conform with emerging program designs provided by NERC; and

(c) Ensure Regional Entity staffs meet qualification and training requirements.

(4) NERC and the Regional Entities develop and maintain a joint three-year strategic plan for the ERO Enterprise describing the goals and deliverables for statutory functions and this plan should guide the development of each Regional Entity's annual business plans. Additional goals and deliverables that are complimentary or supplemental to the strategic plan may be developed at the Regional Entity level.

(5) NERC and the Regional Entities transparently report results, based on a common set of performance measures focused on BPS reliability outcomes and effectiveness of the statutory programs. These measures are considered in the performance management program at each entity.

(6) ERO Enterprise senior leadership continues maturing the collaborative decision-making process and setting the direction and policy for the enterprise as well as driving this collaboration throughout the ERO Enterprise organizations.

(7) All nine ERO entities abide by the joint enterprise decisions of the ERO Enterprise senior leadership, and the NERC CEO should make final determinations if consensus is not otherwise achievable for an action that is required.

(8) With NERC leading, the ERO Enterprise develops a core set of methods, practices, procedures, and tools to support unified implementation of the major statutory functions of NERC. In doing so, the ERO Enterprise commits to put the best talent available throughout the collective organizations to achieve this goal.

(9) The ERO Enterprise senior leadership develops ERO Enterprise Information Technology applications, where appropriate, to support common processes, to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of Regional Entities' practices, to increase the consistency of the interface with registered entities, and to facilitate NERC's oversight function.

(10) All parties of the ERO Enterprise, including leadership and staffs, convey shared and consistent messages from the enterprise perspective and communicate together to minimize messages emphasizing self-importance or uniqueness.

(11) NERC and Regional Entities continue the joint board coordination to ensure oversight and accountability of all elements of the enterprise and should continue to refine and expand coordinated outreach to government entities in the U.S. and Canada, stakeholders, and media.

VIII. CONCLUSION

As detailed in this *Five-Year ERO Performance Report* and its Attachments, NERC has reached an important level of development in identifying, understanding and addressing reliability risks to the BPS. NERC has implemented targeted initiatives that benefit the electric industry and its customers through improved BPS reliability. These initiatives also allow NERC to measure and be accountable for the effectiveness and value of the investments made by the industry to enhance and maintain reliability. NERC's approach allows it to target results around specific issues that benefit the industry and its customers through improved BPS reliability. Further, NERC's programs are continuing to evolve, thereby sharpening its focus on reliability and accountability through risk-based processes.

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
DOCKET NO. RR14-___

NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY CORPORATION

ATTACHMENT 1

TO

FIVE-YEAR ELECTRIC RELIABILITY ORGANIZATION PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT REPORT

DISCUSSION OF HOW NERC MEETS THE ERO CERTIFICATION CRITERIA OF 18 C.F.R. §39.3(b)

JULY 21, 2014

Attachment 1

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I. DISCUSSION OF HOW NERC MEETS THE ERO CERTIFICATION CRITERIA OF 18 C.F.R. §39.3(b)

A. Criterion 1 - The ERO has the ability to develop and enforce, pursuant to 18 C.F.R. §39.7, Reliability Standards that provide for an adequate level of reliability of the BPS.

This criterion encompasses two distinct functions of the ERO: (i) the ability to develop Reliability Standards that provide for an adequate level of reliability of the bulk power system (BPS); and (ii) the ability to enforce those Reliability Standards.

Development of Reliability Standards

NERC develops Reliability Standards pursuant to §300 of its Rules of Procedure (ROP) and its *Standard Processes Manual* (SPM), Appendix 3A to the ROP, both of which have been approved by the Commission as ERO Rules.[1] In addition to having been approved by the Commission, the SPM has been accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) as meeting ANSI's essential requirements for standards development.

The overall purpose of NERC's Reliability Standards development process, as stated in §301 of the NERC ROP, is to develop and maintain Reliability Standards that apply to BPS owners, operators, and users and that enable NERC and the Regional Entities to measure the reliability performance of the owners, operators, and users and to hold them accountable for the reliable operation of the BPS. Section 301 of the ROP requires that Reliability Standards developed by NERC must be technically excellent, timely, just, reasonable, not unduly discriminatory or preferential, in the public interest, and consistent with other applicable standards of governmental authorities.[2]

In Order No. 672 and the *ERO Certification Order*, the Commission stated that the ERO's Reliability Standards development process must ensure that each Reliability Standard is technically sound; that its operational specifications are designed to achieve a valuable reliability goal; that the standard is clear and unambiguous regarding what is required and who is required to comply; and that there be clear criteria to measure whether an entity is in compliance with the Reliability Standard, so that enforcement can be applied in a consistent and non-preferential manner.[3] Consistent with these requirements, §302 of the ROP specifies the essential attributes of

[1] Sections 304 and 308.1 of the ROP specify that "NERC shall develop Reliability Standards in accordance with the NERC *Standard Processes Manual*, which is incorporated into these Rules of Procedure as Appendix 3A." The current version of the SPM is version 3 which became effective June 26, 2013.

[2] Section 304 of the ROP sets forth NERC's "Essential Principles for the Development of Reliability Standards." These principles, which include openness, transparency, consensus-building, fair balance of interests, due process and timeliness, are discussed under criterion 5, below.

[3] *Rules Concerning Certification of the Electric Reliability Organization; and Procedures for the Establishment, Approval, and Enforcement of Electric Reliability Standards*, Order No. 672, FERC Stats. & Regs. ¶ 31,204 (2006), at PP 258, 262, 325, 327; *Order Certifying North American Electric Reliability Corporation as the Electric Reliability Organization and Ordering Compliance Filing*, 116 FERC ¶ 61,062 (*ERO Certification Order*), at PP 239, 241.

technically excellent Reliability Standards to be developed by NERC.[4] These essential attributes include:[5]

1. **Applicability** — Each Reliability Standard shall clearly identify the functional classes of entities responsible for complying with the Reliability Standards, with any specific additions or exceptions noted.[6]

2. **Reliability Objectives** — Each Reliability Standard must have a clear statement of purpose that describes how the Reliability Standard contributes to the reliability of the BPS. Section 302.2 of the ROP lists the general objectives for the BPS that provide a foundation for determining the specific objective(s) of each Reliability Standard:[7]

    2.1. **Reliability Planning and Operating Performance** — Bulk Power Systems shall be planned and operated in a coordinated manner to perform reliably under normal and abnormal conditions.

    2.2. **Frequency and Voltage Performance** — The frequency and voltage of Bulk Power Systems shall be controlled within defined limits through the balancing of real and reactive power supply and demand.

    2.3. **Reliability Information** — Information necessary for the planning and operation of reliable Bulk Power Systems shall be made available to those entities responsible for planning and operating Bulk Power Systems.

    2.4. **Emergency Preparation** — Plans for emergency operation and system restoration of Bulk Power Systems shall be developed, coordinated, maintained, and implemented.

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[4] In the *ERO Certification Order*, the Commission recognized that NERC's proposed ROP provided that the characteristics for technical excellence of a Reliability Standard must be met for a proposed Reliability Standard to be approved. *ERO Certification Order* at P 235.

[5] The descriptions of the essential attributes that follow are summaries, not direct quotes from §302.

[6] The functional classes of entities, or reliability functions, have been developed through NERC's functional model of the BPS, and are defined in its: (i) *Glossary of Terms Used in NERC Reliability Standards*, and (ii) *Statement of Compliance Registry Criteria* which is incorporated into the ROP as Appendix 5B. Currently, the functional classes of entities are: Balancing Authorities (BAs), Distribution Providers, Generator Operators (GOPs), Generator Owners (GOs), Interchange Authorities, Load-Serving Entities, Planning Authorities, Purchasing-Selling Entities, Reliability Coordinators (RCs), Resource Planners, Reserve Sharing Groups, Transmission Operators (TOPs), Transmission Owners (TOs), Transmission Planners, and Transmission Service Providers.

[7] In the *ERO Certification Order*, the Commission recognized that NERC's proposed rules provided that the purpose of a Reliability Standard, or its reliability objective, should derive from one or more of these eight general objectives. *ERO Certification Order* at P 236.

2.5. **Communications and Control** — Facilities for communication, monitoring, and control shall be provided, used, and maintained for the reliability of Bulk Power Systems.

2.6. **Personnel** — Personnel responsible for planning and operating Bulk Power Systems shall be trained and qualified, and shall have responsibility and authority to implement actions.

2.7. **Wide-Area View** — The reliability of Bulk Power Systems shall be assessed, monitored, and maintained on a Wide-Area basis.

2.8. **Security** — Bulk Power Systems shall be protected from malicious physical or cyber attacks.

3. **Performance Requirement or Outcome** — Each Reliability Standard shall state one or more performance Requirements, which if achieved by the applicable entities, will provide for a reliable BPS, consistent with good utility practices and the public interest. Each Requirement is not a "lowest common denominator" compromise, but instead shall achieve an objective that is the best approach for BPS reliability, taking account of the costs and benefits of implementing the proposal.

4. **Measurability** — Each performance Requirement shall be stated so as to be objectively measurable by a third party with knowledge or expertise in the area addressed by the Requirement. Each performance Requirement shall have one or more associated measures used to objectively evaluate compliance with the Requirement. If performance can be practically measured quantitatively, metrics shall be provided to determine satisfactory performance.

5. **Technical Basis in Engineering and Operations** — Each Reliability Standard shall be based upon sound engineering and operating judgment, analysis, or experience, as determined by expert practitioners in that field.

6. **Completeness** — Reliability Standards shall be complete and self-contained. The Reliability Standards shall not depend on external information to determine the required level of performance.

7. **Consequences for Noncompliance** — In combination with guidelines for penalties and sanctions and other ERO and Regional Entity compliance documents, the consequences of violating a Reliability Standard are clearly presented to the entities responsible for complying with the Reliability Standards.

8. **Clear Language** — Each Reliability Standard shall be stated using clear and unambiguous language. Responsible entities, using reasonable judgment and in keeping with good utility practices, are able to arrive at a consistent interpretation of required performance.

9. **Practicality** — Each Reliability Standard shall establish Requirements that can be practically implemented by the assigned responsible entities within the specified effective date and thereafter.

10. **Consistent Terminology** — To the extent possible, Reliability Standards shall use a set of standard terms and definitions that are approved through the NERC Reliability Standards development process.[8]

In the *ERO Certification Order*, the Commission concluded that by specifying the eight general objectives for which a Reliability Standard must be intended, and by incorporating other requirements for Reliability Standards development into the essential attributes of technically excellent Reliability Standards, NERC's ROP satisfied the requirements of Order No. 672 for the ERO's Reliability Standards development process.[9]

The NERC SPM also specifies the performance elements of a Reliability Standard.[10] The requirement that each Reliability Standard contain these elements applies a systematic discipline in the development and revision of standards, in order to produce standards that are measurable, enforceable, and consistent. The SPM allows for a clear statement of the purpose, requirements, measures, and compliance elements associated with each standard. The performance elements of a Reliability Standard, as specified in the SPM §2.5, are as follows:

- Title: A brief, descriptive phrase identifying the topic of the Reliability Standard.
- Number: A unique identification number assigned in accordance with a published classification system to facilitate tracking and reference to the Reliability Standards.
- Purpose: The reliability outcome achieved through compliance with the Requirements of the Reliability Standard.
- Applicability: Identified which entities are assigned reliability requirements. The specific Functional Entities and Facilities to which the Reliability Standard applies.
- Effective Dates: Identification of the date or pre-conditions determining when each Requirement becomes effective in each jurisdiction.
- Requirement: An explicit statement that identifies the Functional Entity responsible, the action or outcome that must be achieved, any conditions achieving

[8] In furtherance of the essential attribute of "Consistent Terminology," NERC has developed and maintains the *Glossary of Terms Used in NERC Reliability Standards*, containing definitions of terms that are used in one or more Reliability Standards.

[9] *ERO Certification Order* at PP 239, 241.

[10] SPM at pp. 6-9.

the action or outcome, and the reliability-related benefit of the action or outcome. Each Requirement shall be a statement for which compliance is mandatory.

- Compliance Elements: Elements to aid in the administration of ERO compliance monitoring and enforcement responsibilities.

- Measure: Provides identification of the evidence or types of evidence that may demonstrate compliance with the associated requirement.

- Violation Risk Factors and Violation Severity Levels: Violation risk factors (VRFs) and violation severity levels (VSLs) are used as factors when determining the size of a penalty or sanction associated with the violation of a requirement in an approved Reliability Standard. Each requirement in each Reliability Standard has an associated VRF and a set of VSLs. VRFs and VSLs are developed by the drafting team, working with NERC staff, at the same time as the associated Reliability Standard, but are not part of the Reliability Standard. The Board of Trustees is responsible for approving VRFs and VSLs.

    - Violation Risk Factors: VRFs identify the potential reliability significance of noncompliance with each requirement. Each requirement is assigned a VRF in accordance with the last approved set of VRF criteria.
    - Violation Severity Levels: VSLs define the degree to which compliance with a requirement was not achieved. Each requirement shall have at least one VSL. While it is preferable to have four VSLs for each requirement, some requirements do not have multiple "degrees" of noncompliant performance and may have only one, two, or three VSLs. Each requirement is assigned one or more VSLs in accordance with the latest approved set of VSL criteria.

- Version History: The version history is provided for informational purposes and lists information regarding prior versions of Reliability Standards.

- Variance: A Requirement (to be applied in the place of the continent-wide Requirement) that is applicable to a specific geographic area or to a specific set of registered entities.

- Compliance Enforcement Authority: The entity that is responsible for assessing performance or outcomes to determine if an entity is compliant with the associated Reliability Standard. The Compliance Enforcement Authority [(CEA)] will be NERC or the Regional Entity in their respective roles of monitoring and enforcing compliance with the NERC Reliability Standards.

- Application Guidelines: Guidelines to support the implementation of the associated Reliability Standard.

- Procedures: Procedures to support implementation of the associated Reliability Standard.

The NERC SPM sets forth the detailed process steps for the development and approval of a new Reliability Standard or a revision to an existing standard; the SPM also sets forth the detailed roles of the different persons and groups in in the process.[11] Under the ROP and the SPM, the key groups involved in development of a proposed new Reliability Standard or revision to an existing standard are: (i) the NERC Standards Committee; (ii) the standards authorization request (SAR) drafting team; (iii) the standard drafting team; and (iv) the Registered Ballot Body (RBB).

The Standards Committee is an elected body comprised of two members from each segment of the RBB.[12] The Standards Committee, with the assistance and facilitation of the professional staff of the NERC Reliability Standards development program, oversees the overall standards development process. The Standards Committee ensures that standard development teams have the technical resources and capabilities required to develop technically sound standards that will gain industry support. Among other things, the Standards Committee determines whether SARs submitted by interested persons and entities should be pursued for development, and it appoints members to SAR drafting teams and standard drafting teams.[13] A SAR drafting team is a team of technical experts that, among other responsibilities, assists in refining a SAR and considers and responds to comments.[14] The standard drafting team is a team of technical experts that develops the details of the proposed new or revised Reliability Standard, analyzes results of field tests of the standard (if applicable), and considers and responds to comments.[15] The RBB, which is open to any person or entity and is organized by industry segments, votes on the adoption or rejection of proposed Reliability Standards or revisions to existing standards.[16]

The SPM also specifies roles in the standards development process for the NERC Reliability Standards staff, which is led by the director of standards.[17] Staff provides support to the Standards Committee in managing the Reliability Standards processes and in supporting the work of all drafting teams. More specifically, staff is responsible for ensuring that development

[11] The ROP also provides for an expedited standards development process in the event an applicable governmental authority directs the development of a Reliability Standard within a certain timeframe. This process is described in §309.3 of the ROP.

[12] The segment organization of the RBB is set forth in detail in the *Registered Ballot Body Criteria,* Appendix 3D to the ROP.

[13] *See* SPM at §§3.4 and 3.6.

[14] *See* SPM at §4.2.

[15] SPM at §4.3.

[16] ROP §305; SPM at §§3.2 and 4.7-4.15 (pp. 10, 20-24). Following successful balloting by the ballot pool, a proposed standard is submitted to the NERC Board of Trustees for approval, and if approved by the Board, is filed with the Commission for approval in accordance with §215(d) of the FPA and 18 C.F.R. §39.5. NERC Bylaws, Article IX, §1; ROP §§308.2, 308.3, and 309; and SPM at §§4.0 and 4.16.

[17] SPM at §3.5; *see also* ROP §307.

and revision of standards is in accordance with the SPM, works to ensure the integrity of the Reliability Standards development process and the consistency of quality and completeness of NERC Reliability Standards, and facilitates all steps in the standards development process.

The NERC standards development process relies on the legal and technical expertise provided by the industry experts comprising the SAR drafting teams and standard drafting teams, the technical and administrative assistance provided by the NERC standards process managers and the NERC standards process staff, and the overall oversight and direction of the Standards Committee. Thus, the NERC standards development process ensures that the essential attributes of technically excellent Reliability Standards, including the accomplishment of one of the eight general reliability objectives specified in §§302.2.1 through 302.2.8 of the ROP, are represented in each Reliability Standard that is developed or revised through the process and submitted to the NERC Board of Trustees and, ultimately, to the Commission for approval.

As demonstrated by the table below, NERC has invested significant resources to support its Reliability Standards program. Since 2009, NERC has increased its budgeted resources (direct expenses) for the Reliability Standards program by approximately 143.10% percent from 2009 to 2014:[18]

Year	**Amount**	**Increase over 2009**
2009:	$3,599,454	N/A
2010:	$4,189,050	116.38%
2011:	$4,863,139	135.11%
2012:	$5,307,943	147.47%
2013:	$5,134,738	142.65%
2014:	$5,150,854	143.10%

Leveraging its resources and standards development process, NERC has developed and submitted to the Commission a total of 293 continent-wide Reliability Standards that, as of December 1, 2013, have been approved by the Commission pursuant to §215(d) of the Federal Power Act (FPA) and 18 C.F.R. §39.5 to be mandatory and enforceable. NERC has also approved and submitted to the Commission, and the Commission has approved, a total of 23 regional Reliability Standards as of December 1, 2013. NERC's success to date in developing Reliability Standards that the Commission subsequently approved as mandatory and enforceable

[18] *See December 2008 Budget Compliance Filing* Attachment 1 at 1; *NERC 2010 Business Plan and Budget* at 36 and Attachment 2 at 15; *NERC 2011 Business Plan and Budget* at 35 and Attachment 2 at 27; *NERC 2012 Business Plan and Budget* at 37 and Attachment 2 at 26; *NERC 2013 Business Plan and Budget* at 42 and Attachment 2 at 34; *NERC 2014 Business Plan and Budget* at 43 and Attachment 2 at 29. The amounts cited are direct expenses only and do not include NERC indirect expenses (General and Administrative, Information Technology, Legal and Regulatory, Human Resources, and Finance and Accounting) allocated to the Reliability Standards Program Area.

demonstrates that NERC has, and has exercised, the ability to develop Reliability Standards that provide for an adequate level of reliability of the BPS.

Further, the continent-wide Reliability Standards that have been developed by NERC and approved by the Commission cover the full range of reliability objectives specified in §302 of the NERC ROP:

- Resource and Demand Balancing (25 approved standards)
- Communications (3 approved standards)
- Critical Infrastructure Protection (55 approved standards)
- Emergency Preparedness and Operations (21 approved standards)
- Facilities Design, Connections and Maintenance (21 approved standards)
- Interchange Scheduling and Coordination (18 approved standards)
- Interconnection Reliability Operations and Coordination (29 approved standards)
- Modeling, Data, and Analysis (33 approved standards)
- Nuclear (2 approved standards)
- Personnel Performance, Training and Qualifications (9 approved standards)
- Protection and Control (29 approved standards)
- Transmission Operations (21 approved standards)
- Transmission Planning (15 approved standards)
- Voltage and Reactive Power (12 approved standards)

In accordance with the template and performance elements specified in the SPM, each approved Reliability Standard contains the following clearly-identified sections and subsections: (i) Applicability — stating the title of the standard, its identification number, its purpose, the reliability functional entities to which it is applicable, and its effective date; (ii) Requirements; (iii) Measures; (iv) Compliance — stating the entity responsible for monitoring compliance; the compliance monitoring period and reset timeframe; data retention requirements for the registered entities; and the levels of noncompliance for specified types of violations of the standard; and (v) Regional Differences, if any.

The inclusion of these elements helps to ensure that Reliability Standards clearly state who is responsible for compliance with a Reliability Standard, the Requirements for which compliance is required, and how compliance may be measured by the CEA.

NERC systematically manages the development of new standards and revisions to standards, in areas of highest need and importance, through its rolling three-year *Reliability Standards Development Plan*. The *Reliability Standards Development Plan* identifies and prioritizes the Reliability Standards development projects in the immediate three-year time horizon. The three-year *Reliability Standards Development Plan* is revised annually, based on input from NERC staff, the standard drafting teams, the NERC technical committees and subgroups, other industry participants, and government authorities. The annual *Reliability Standards Development Plan* revision considers: (i) perceived gaps in NERC's Reliability Standards and proposals for closing those gaps; (ii) timing priorities of the projects in the *Reliability Standards Development Plan* and recommendations for adjusting the timing of individual projects; and (iii) potential new projects for development of new standards or revisions to existing standards. The three-year rolling *Reliability Standards Development Plan*, as revised each year, is submitted to the NERC Board of Trustees for approval and then filed with the Commission for information. The *Reliability Standards Development Plan 2014-2016* was approved by the NERC Board of Trustees on November 7, 2013 and continues the approach set forth in the *Reliability Standards Development Plan 2013-2015*; namely, to facilitate the transformation of NERC Reliability Standards to "steady-state," a set of standards that are stable, clear, concise, high-quality, results-based, and technically sound, while emphasizing addressing outstanding regulatory directives and the retirement of Reliability Standards that do little to promote reliability.[19]

Enforcement of Reliability Standards

NERC's program for monitoring and enforcing compliance with Commission-approved Reliability Standards is implemented through its *Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program* (CMEP) (§400 and Appendix 4C to the ROP), its Organization Registration and Certification Programs (§500 to the ROP), its *Sanction Guidelines* (Appendix 4B to the ROP), and its delegation agreements with the eight Regional Entities.[20]

Section 6(a) of NERC's delegation agreements with the Regional Entities specifies that the Regional Entity shall enforce Reliability Standards within its geographic boundaries through the compliance enforcement program set forth in Exhibit D to the agreement, and that the Regional Entity's compliance monitoring and enforcement program meets all applicable requirements of the FPA, Commission Order No. 672, and the Commission's regulations, including, *inter alia*, the requirement for an audit program pursuant to 18 C.F.R. §39.7(a), the assessment of penalties pursuant to 18 C.F.R. §39.7(c) through 39.7(g), and the requirements for due process. Additionally, §6(f) of the delegation agreements requires the Regional Entity to maintain the

[19] The *Reliability Standards Development Plan 2014-2016*, along with previous versions of the plan, are available at: http://www.nerc.com/pa/Stand/Pages/ReliabilityStandardsDevelopmentPlan.aspx.

[20] The delegation agreements were originally approved by the Commission in an order issued April 19, 2007 (*Order Accepting ERO Compliance Filing, Accepting ERO/Regional Entity Delegation Agreements, and Accepting Regional Entity 2007 Business Plans*, 119 FERC ¶ 61,060 (2007)), subject to various compliance requirements, which have been addressed in subsequent compliance filings and Commission orders. The currently-effective delegation agreements will expire on December 31, 2015.

capability to conduct investigations of potential violations of Reliability Standards and to conduct such investigations in a confidential manner. It also requires the Regional Entity to maintain a program of proactive enforcement audits, including procedures for spot checks of self-reported compliance and periodic audits of all registered entities.

Through the NERC Organization Registration and Certification Programs, NERC and the Regional Entities have identified users, owners, and operators of the BPS that are obligated to comply with Commission-approved NERC Reliability Standards.[21] Section 500 of the NERC ROP governs the registration of users, owners, and operators of the BPS as responsible for compliance with the requirements of Reliability Standards that are applicable to the reliability function for which the entity is registered. The purpose of the NERC Compliance Registry, established pursuant to §501 of the ROP, is to clearly identify those entities that are responsible for compliance with Reliability Standards. The NERC Compliance Registry identifies the reliability functions to be performed by each organization responsible for meeting the requirements of Reliability Standards. Organizations listed in the NERC Compliance Registry are responsible for knowing the contents of, and complying with, Reliability Standards applicable to the reliability function(s) for which the entity is registered.[22] The criteria upon which users, owners and operators of the BPS will be registered for one or more reliability functions are specified in §501 of the ROP and in NERC's FERC-approved *Statement of Compliance Registry Criteria* (Appendix 5B to the ROP). The purpose of the *Organization Registration and Certification Manual* (Appendix 5A) is twofold: (i) to define the process utilized in the Organization Registration Program by identifying which functional entities must register as owners, operators, and users of the BPS for compliance with Reliability Standards; and (ii) to define the process utilized in the Organization Certification Program for certifying the following entities: RC, BA, and TOP.

Typically, a user, owner or operator of the BPS is identified, in the first instance, for placement on the NERC Compliance Registry by the Regional Entity in whose territory the user, owner or operator is located. Upon the entity being notified by NERC that it is being placed on the NERC Compliance Registry, the entity may challenge its inclusion on the NERC Compliance Registry by filing a written objection with NERC.[23] Challenges to inclusion on the NERC Compliance Registry are heard and decided by the NERC Board of Trustees Compliance Committee (BOTCC). If the entity is not satisfied with the decision of the BOTCC, the entity may appeal the registration determination to the Commission.[24] NERC may remove a registered entity from the NERC Compliance Registry for one or more of the reliability functions for which the

[21] Section 215(b)(2) of the FPA requires all users, owners and operators of the BPS to comply with Reliability Standards approved by the Commission. Similarly, the Commission's regulations at 18 C.F.R. §39.2 and §40.2 require all users, owners, and operators of the BPS to comply with applicable Reliability Standards and applicable rules of the ERO and Regional Entities approved by the Commission.

[22] ROP §501. The current categories of reliability functional entities are listed in ROP Appendix 5B, *Statement of Compliance Registry Criteria*. *See also supra* n. 6.

[23] A user, owner, or operator of the BPS may be listed on the NERC Compliance Registry for several reliability functions. A registered entity may challenge its listing for one or more of the reliability functions for which it has been registered while accepting its listing for other reliability function(s).

[24] The registration, challenge, and appeal process described in this paragraph is set forth in §501.1.3 of the ROP.

entity is listed, based on changed circumstances. As of December 31, 2013, there were 1,920 organizations listed on the NERC Compliance Registry, registered for 4,794 reliability functions.

Monitoring and enforcement of compliance with Reliability Standards is conducted primarily by the eight NERC Regional Entities, pursuant to §401.4 of the NERC ROP and the delegation agreements between NERC and the Regional Entities. Each Regional Entity is responsible for compliance monitoring and enforcement activities within its regional footprint.[25] The ROP provide for NERC to take responsibility for CMEP activities where a Regional Entity is unable to perform those functions, as well as to be responsible for overseeing the CMEP activities of the Regional Entities.[26] Section 403 of the ROP describes in detail the required attributes of Regional Entity compliance programs, covering compliance program structure, compliance program resources, and compliance program design. Section 403 emphasizes the requirement that the Regional Entity's governance of its compliance program, and its compliance program staff, be independent.[27] Each Regional Entity must develop a Regional Entity Compliance Enforcement Implementation Plan that identifies the Reliability Standards to be actively monitored by the Regional Entity (both those required by NERC and any additional Reliability Standards the Regional Entity proposes to monitor), and how the identified Reliability Standards will be monitored, evaluated, reported, sanctioned, and appealed.[28] These plans must be developed on an annual basis and submitted to NERC for approval. In its annual Implementation Plan, each Regional Entity must also report to NERC how the Regional Entity carried out its delegated compliance enforcement authority in the previous year, the effectiveness of its CMEP, and changes expected to correct any identified deficiencies.[29]

NERC is required to conduct an audit, at least once every five years, to evaluate how each Regional Entity implements the NERC CMEP.[30] The evaluation is based on the ROP including the NERC CMEP, the delegation agreement with the Regional Entity, the approved Regional Entity annual CMEP Implementation Plans, the required CMEP attributes, and the CMEP procedures. NERC must provide its evaluations to the Commission and other appropriate ERO

[25] ROP §401.4.

[26] ROP §§401.5, 402, and 404. The Commission has also approved the practice of one Regional Entity entering into an agreement with another Regional Entity to administer the compliance processes in the NERC CMEP with respect to the Regional Entities' registered functions. *See*, e.g., *Order Conditionally Accepting Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program Agreements and Revised Delegation Agreements, and Ordering Compliance Filing*, 132 FERC ¶ 61,024 (2010).

[27] ROP §§403.1 and 403.6.

[28] ROP §§402.1.1.1 and 403.16.

[29] ROP §403.16.

[30] ROP §402.1.1.3.

governmental authorities to demonstrate the effectiveness of each Regional Entity in compliance monitoring and enforcement.[31]

NERC has also conducted spot checks of different aspects of the Regional Entities' implementation of the CMEPs in 2013 and 2014. In 2013, NERC conducted a spot check of Regional Entity dismissal procedures. NERC also conducted a spot check of Regional Entity processes and procedures relating to settlement agreements and notices of confirmed violation. In 2014, NERC plans to conduct a spot check of Regional Entity processes regarding mitigation plans. These spot checks are in addition to NERC's ongoing spot check of issues filed pursuant to NERC's Find, Fix, Track and Report (FFT) program.

The controlling document for NERC's compliance monitoring and enforcement activities is the NERC CMEP, Appendix 4C to the ROP. Pursuant to Exhibit D to its delegation agreement with NERC, each Regional Entity has either adopted the NERC CMEP or a modified version of the CMEP; in the latter case, the modified CMEP, or an enumeration of any deviations in the Regional Entity's CMEP from the uniform CMEP, is included in Exhibit D to the Regional Entity's delegation agreement. All CMEPs have been approved by the Commission.[32]

The NERC CMEP (as well as each of the modified Regional Entity CMEPs) provides for seven compliance monitoring methods: (i) audits of registered entities for compliance with Reliability Standards;[33] (ii) self-certifications by registered entities of their compliance with standards;[34] (iii) spot checks of registered entities' compliance with Reliability Standards;[35] (iv) compliance investigations (CIs), which may be conducted and led by the Regional Entity or by NERC;[36] (v) self-reports by registered entities of violations of Reliability Standards;[37] (vi) periodic

[31] ROP §402.1.3. The audit procedure for NERC's audits of the Regional Entity CMEPs is contained in *Audit of Regional Entity Compliance Programs*, Appendix 4A to the ROP.

[32] The Commission initially approved the NERC CMEP and modified CMEPs adopted by certain Regional Entities in their respective delegation agreements, subject to various compliance requirements, in its Order issued April 19, 2007. *Order Accepting ERO Compliance Filing, Accepting ERO/Regional Entity Delegation Agreements, and Accepting Regional Entity 2007 Business Plans*, 119 FERC ¶ 61,060 (2007). Subsequent Commission orders have approved modifications to the NERC CMEP and Regional Entity CMEPs (both modifications in response to Commission directives and modifications initiated by NERC and/or Regional Entities). *See*, e.g., *Order Conditionally Approving Revised Pro Forma Delegation Agreement, Revised Delegation Agreements with Regional Entities, Amendments to Rules of Procedure and Certain Regional Entity Bylaws*, 133 FERC ¶ 61,061 (2010); *Order Conditionally Accepting Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program Agreements and Revised Delegation Agreements, and Ordering Compliance Filings*, 132 FERC ¶ 61,024 (2010); *Order Conditionally Approving Revisions to North American Electric Reliability Corporation Rules of Procedure*, 141 FERC ¶ 61,241 (2012).

[33] CMEP §3.1.

[34] CMEP §3.2.

[35] CMEP §3.3.

[36] CMEP §3.4.

[37] CMEP §3.5.

data submittals by registered entities as requested by the CEA;[38] and (vii) investigation of complaints.[39] The NERC CMEP sets forth detailed process steps for each of the seven compliance monitoring methods, including requirements for the results of the processes to be reported by the Regional Entity to NERC and ultimately to the Commission. The NERC CMEP provides for due process for a registered entity by including provisions that address avoidance of conflicts of interest,[40] preservation of confidentiality,[41] provision of notice, and opportunities to respond.[42]

As specified by §4.1 of the NERC CMEP, NERC develops and posts an annual CMEP Implementation Plan each year. The annual NERC CMEP Implementation Plan specifies, among other information, the Reliability Standards to be actively monitored during the upcoming year and the compliance process(es) to be used by the CEAs to monitor each Reliability Standard. The annual NERC CMEP Implementation Plan is used by the Regional Entities in developing their individual annual regional Compliance Enforcement Program Implementation Plans.

The NERC CMEP also specifies the processes to be followed when an alleged violation of a Reliability Standard by a registered entity is identified,[43] including notification to the registered entity of an alleged violation and the required contents of the notice;[44] the registered entity's response to the notification of alleged violation;[45] the opportunity for the registered entity to obtain a hearing on the alleged violation and/or proposed penalty or sanction before the CEA hearing

[38] CMEP §3.6. The CEA is the entity (either NERC or the Regional Entity, as applicable) responsible for monitoring and enforcing the registered entity's compliance with Reliability Standards. CMEP §1.1.7.

[39] CMEP §3.7.

[40] For example, the registered entity is notified in advance of a compliance audit as to the members of the audit team (who are required to be free of conflicts of interest) and their backgrounds and is given the opportunity to object to individual members of the audit team on grounds of a conflict of interest or other circumstance that could interfere with the team member's impartial performance of his or her duties. *See* CMEP §3.1.5. Similar notice and opportunity to object is provided with respect to spot checking teams (*id.* at §3.3.1) and CI teams (*id.* at §3.4.1). In addition, §6 of the NERC-Regional Entity delegation agreements requires the Regional Entity to maintain a conflict of interest policy that assures the integrity of its compliance enforcement program and the independence of the compliance program staff from those subject to enforcement actions.

[41] CMEP §§2.0 and 9.3. In addition, §6 of the NERC-Regional Entity delegation agreements specifies that each violation or alleged violation of a Reliability Standard shall be treated as nonpublic until the matter is filed with the Commission as a notice of penalty or resolved by an admission that the owner, operator, or user of the BPS violated a Reliability Standard or by a settlement or other negotiated disposition.

[42] For example, the CEA must notify the registered entity in advance of a compliance audit as to the Reliability Standards to be covered by the audit, and must provide a pre-audit questionnaire to the registered entity at least two months before commencement of the audit. NERC uniform CMEP §3.1.1. At the conclusion of the audit, the compliance audit team is required to provide a draft audit report to the registered entity for comment. *Id.* §3.1.6. Similarly, in the spot check and periodic data submittal processes, the CEA is required to provide its draft assessment of compliance to the registered entity for comment. *Id.* §3.3.1 and §3.6.1.

[43] CMEP §5.0.

[44] CMEP §§5.1 and 5.3.

[45] CMEP §5.4.

body;[46] the process the registered entity may engage in to negotiate a settlement with the CEA;[47] the registered entity's right to appeal a hearing body decision to NERC;[48] and the process for reporting a penalty or sanction to the Commission for confirmation.[49]

The NERC CMEP requires that a registered entity found to be in violation of a Reliability Standard must file a mitigation plan with the CEA to correct the violation, or a description of how the violation has been mitigated.[50] The NERC CMEP describes the required contents of the registered entity's proposed mitigation plan;[51] the processes for submittal of the proposed mitigation plan by the Regional Entity[52] and for review and acceptance or rejection of the proposed mitigation plan by the Regional Entity and review and approval or disapproval by NERC (and, in the latter event, modification of the mitigation plan by the registered entity);[53] the timetable for completion of an accepted mitigation plan;[54] and the process for completion and confirmation by the CEA of implementation of the registered entity's mitigation plan.[55] Key components required by the NERC CMEP to be in any mitigation plan are the registered entity's action plans to correct the violation(s) and to prevent recurrence.[56]

Additionally, the NERC CMEP provides the procedure for the CEA to issue a remedial action directive to a registered entity.[57] A remedial action directive may be issued, when immediately necessary to protect the reliability of the BPS from an imminent threat, to a registered entity the CEA believes is committing or has committed a violation of a Reliability Standard. The remedial action directive may include, but is not limited to, specifying operating or planning

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[46] CMEP §5.5 and Attachment 2, *Hearing Procedures*. The *Hearing Procedures* set forth the detailed procedures for the hearing to be conducted before the CEA hearing body should a registered entity dispute a notice of alleged violation, proposed penalty or sanction, proposed mitigation plan, or a remedial action directive.

[47] CMEP §5.6.

[48] CMEP §5.7. The NERC appeal process is addressed in §§408 and 409 of the ROP.

[49] CMEP §5.9.

[50] CMEP §6.1.

[51] CMEP §6.2.

[52] CMEP §6.4.

[53] CMEP §6.5.

[54] CMEP §6.3.

[55] CMEP §6.6.

[56] CMEP §6.2.

[57] CMEP §7.0. A remedial action directive is "[a]n action (other than a [p]enalty or sanction) required by a Compliance Enforcement Authority that (1) is to bring a [r]egistered [e]ntity into compliance with a Reliability Standard or to avoid a Reliability Standard violation, and (2) is immediately necessary to protect the reliability of the Bulk Power System from an imminent or actual threat." CMEP §1.1.27.

criteria, limits or limitations; requiring specific system studies; defining operating practices or guidelines; requiring confirmation of data, practices or procedures through inspection, testing or other methods; requiring specific training for personnel; requiring development of specific operating plans; directing a registered entity to develop and comply with a plan to remediate a violation; imposing increased auditing or additional training requirements; and requiring the registered entity to cease an activity that may constitute a violation of a Reliability Standard.[58]

As a key component of the enforcement of compliance with mandatory Reliability Standards, a violation of a standard can result in the imposition of a financial penalty or other penalty or sanction on the registered entity. NERC has established, and is applying, rules and procedures for determining the amount of financial penalties, or other penalties or sanctions, to be imposed on registered entities for violations of Reliability Standards. These rules and procedures are embodied in the NERC *Sanction Guidelines*, Appendix 4B to the ROP. The *Sanction Guidelines* must be followed by the Regional Entities in the implementation of their CMEPs.[59] Penalties and sanctions must bear a reasonable relation to the seriousness of the violation and take into consideration timely remedial efforts by the registered entity.[60] NERC's rules and procedures for determining appropriate penalties and sanctions for violations of Reliability Standards are discussed in greater detail under criterion 4.[61]

In order to carry out their responsibilities to monitor and enforce compliance with Reliability Standards, NERC and the Regional Entities, over the period from 2009 to date, have developed substantial professional staffs for, and are devoting substantial resources to, their CMEP and Organization Registration Programs. The following table shows the direct expenses and the numbers of full-time equivalent (FTE) staff budgeted by NERC and each Regional Entity in 2009 and in 2014.[62]

[58] CMEP §7.0.

[59] ROP §§403.14 and 407.

[60] ROP §401.7.

[61] The ERO has established rules that provide fair and impartial procedures for enforcement of Reliability Standards through the imposition of penalties in accordance with 18 C.F.R. §39.7, including limitations on activities, operations, or other appropriate sanctions or penalties.

[62] *See NERC 2009 Business Plan and Budget; December 2008 Budget Compliance Filing; NERC 2014 Business Plan and Budget.* The amounts cited are direct expenses only and do not include NERC indirect expenses (General and Administrative, Information Technology, Legal and Regulatory, Human Resources, and Finance and Accounting) allocated to the Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement and Organization Registration and Certification Program Area.

Regional Entity	2009 Budgeted FTEs	2009 Budgeted Direct Expense ($)
NERC	35.50	7,358,536
FRCC	9.10	1,991,643
MRO	10.00	2,071,510
NPCC	9.00	2,095,204
ReliabilityFirst	23.00	5,099,328
SERC	21.50	4,805,617
SPP RE	6.00	1,283,653
Texas RE	14.15	1,628,935
WECC	30.00	6,165,303
Totals	**158.25**	**32,499,729**

Regional Entity	2014 Budgeted FTEs	2014 Budgeted Direct Expense ($)
NERC	41.28	7,902,272
FRCC	19.26	4,281,909
MRO	21.26	3,864,192
NPCC	16.00	5,080,485
ReliabilityFirst	43.00	9,788,246
SERC	42.50	7,389,556
SPP RE	22.10	4,258,217
Texas RE	40.00	5,991,654
WECC	58.00	8,592,053
Totals	**303.40**	**57,148,584**

As demonstrated in the tables above, the number of budgeted FTEs increased approximately 191.72% across NERC and the Regional Entities from 2009 to 2014, while the budgeted direct expense increased by nearly 175.84%.

In addition to their compliance program staffs, NERC and a number of the Regional Entities have also made use of consultants and contractors to assist in compliance audits, CIs, and other compliance monitoring and enforcement activities, and to provide subject matter expertise as needed to supplement the expertise of their staffs.

As explained in the *Joint Regional Entity Self-Assessment*, included in **Attachment 2** of this *Five-Year ERO Performance Report*, the Regional Entities describe how they execute their delegated function of enforcing Reliability Standards. Also in **Attachment 2**, the Regional Entities describe their compliance monitoring activities during the 2009 through 2013 assessment period.

NERC has participated in some Regional Entity compliance audits and will continue to do so as an observer to observe the performance of audits by the Regional Entities and to help ensure

consistent implementation and application of the CMEP and consistent application of the requirements of standards across the Regional Entities.

The foregoing discussion amply demonstrates that NERC has developed and is implementing the ability to develop and enforce Reliability Standards that provide for an adequate level of reliability of the BPS.

B. Criterion 2 - The ERO has established rules that assure its independence of users, owners and operators of the BPS while assuring fair stakeholder representation in the selection of its directors and balanced decision-making in any ERO committee or subordinate organizational structure.

This criterion encompasses three distinct considerations: (i) independence of NERC from users, owners and operators of the BPS; (ii) fair stakeholder representation in the selection of NERC's directors (trustees); and (iii) provision for balanced decision-making in any NERC committee or subordinate organizational structure.

Independence of Users, Owners, and Operators of the BPS

NERC's Bylaws provide that NERC's business and affairs shall be managed by a Board of Trustees.[63] The Bylaws provide that the Board of Trustees shall consist of ten independent trustees plus the President of NERC.[64] The Bylaws define "independent trustee" as follows:

> An independent trustee is a person (i) who is not an officer or employee of the Corporation [i.e., NERC], a member or an officer, director, or employee of a member of the Corporation, or an officer, director, or employee of any entity that would reasonably be perceived as having a direct financial interest in the outcome of board decisions and (ii) who does not have any other relationship that would interfere with the exercise of independent judgment in carrying out the responsibilities of a trustee. Provided, that upon initial election to the board, an independent trustee shall within ten (10) days terminate any employee, officer, or director position that conflicts with this subparagraph and shall within sixty (60) days terminate any financial interest or other relationship that conflicts with this subparagraph, and prior to such termination shall not participate in discussion of or voting on any matter involving the entity of which the trustee is an employee, officer or director or in which the trustee has the financial interest or other relationship giving rise to the conflict.[65]

[63] NERC Bylaws Article III, §1.

[64] NERC Bylaws Article III, §1. On October 14, 2009, the Commission approved in a letter order, in Docket No. RR09-8-000, new §§1a and 1b that allows the Board of Trustees to exercise the authority to increase the number of trustees from eleven to twelve, and decrease from twelve to eleven, respectively.

[65] NERC Bylaws Article III, §3a. The last sentence of §3a, providing for brief time periods for a newly-elected trustee to terminate any employment, officer or director position or financial interest or other relationship that would prevent

In the *ERO Certification Order*, the Commission found that the NERC Bylaws definition of "independent trustee" was sufficient to provide for independence from users, owners and operators of the BPS, subject to one clarification.[66]

Thus, a NERC trustee cannot be an officer, director, or employee of a member of NERC nor of any other entity that would be perceived as having a direct financial interest in the outcome of board decisions, and may not have any other relationship that would interfere with the exercise of independent judgment in carrying out the responsibilities of a trustee. The "responsibilities of a trustee" include, among other things, voting on: (i) board approval of proposed Reliability Standards;[67] (ii) board approval of the NERC ROP and amendments to the ROP;[68] and (iii) board approval of NERC and Regional Entity budgets.[69] Committees of the NERC Board, such as the BOTCC, are responsible for decisions such as hearing and deciding challenges by a user, owner or operator of the BPS to placement of the entity on the NERC Compliance Registry,[70] hearing and deciding appeals from a Regional Entity hearing body decision on a registered entity's challenge to a notice of alleged violation of a Reliability Standard and/or proposed penalty or sanction,[71] and approving the imposition of penalties or other sanctions for violations of Reliability Standards on registered entities, including by settlements.

In addition, the NERC *Conflict of Interest and Business Ethics Policy for Trustees, Officers and Employees* specifies that NERC Representatives "shall avoid and refrain from involvement in or situations where there is actually a conflict of interest (Conflict). A Conflict arises where the NERC Representative's personal financial interest is significantly affected or may reasonably appear to be significantly affected by his or her actions or decisions in his or her capacity at

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the trustee from being independent, is a 2008 amendment to the Bylaws that was approved by the Commission by a letter order issued October 7, 2008 in Docket No. RR08-5-000.

[66] *ERO Certification Order*, 116 FERC ¶61,062 at P 42. The clarification is that the definition prohibits an independent trustee from having a relationship that would interfere with his or her exercise of independent judgment in carrying out the responsibilities of a trustee, regardless of whether he or she is an officer, director, or employee of an entity with an interest in the outcome of NERC Board of Trustees decisions. NERC confirmed this clarification in a compliance filing dated September 18, 2006, and made a modification, consistent with the clarification, to the definition of "independent trustee" in its Bylaws. *Compliance Filing of the North American Electric Reliability Council and the North American Electric Reliability Corporation Addressing Governance Issues and Request for Expedited Treatment*, Docket No. RR06-1, filed September 18, 2006 (*NERC ERO Governance Compliance Filing*) at 3-4.

[67] NERC Bylaws Article IX, §1; ROP §308.2.

[68] NERC Bylaws Article XI, §2; ROP §1402.

[69] NERC Bylaws Article XIII, §§2, 3, 4, and 5; ROP §1101. Each of the matters just listed, upon being approved by the NERC Board of Trustees, must then be submitted to the Commission for approval or confirmation. Sections 215(d) and (f) of the FPA and 18 C.F.R. §§39.4(b), (c), and (d), and 39.5.

[70] ROP §501.1.3.

[71] ROP §409.

NERC." NERC's *Process for Reviewing Conflicts of Interes*t outlines how potential conflicts of interest of the independent trustees, officers and employees are evaluated beginning in December of each calendar year.[72] The *NERC Employee Code of Conduct* mandates an "employee's faithful pursuit of the interests of NERC rather than his or her own financial or other interests of another person or organization." Finally, NERC's *Policy on Reporting Complaints Regarding Accounting and Code of Conduct Matters* prohibits retaliation against any NERC employee who lodges a code of conduct complaint about fraud, unethical business conduct, questionable accounting, problems with internal accounting controls, financial reporting or auditing, violations of NERC's codes of conduct for trustees and employees, or violations of law occurring within NERC.

Fair Stakeholder Representation in the Selection of NERC's Trustees

NERC's Bylaws provide for fair stakeholder representation in the selection of NERC's trustees. Candidates for election as a trustee are selected by a nominating committee. The nominating committee is appointed annually (or more frequently if needed in the event of a special election to fill a board vacancy) by the board. The nominating committee is to consist of those independent trustees whose terms do not expire during the current year and such number of other persons with such qualifications as the board shall specify, including at least three members of the NERC Member Representatives Committee (MRC).[73] The procedures to be followed by the nominating committee must include a means of permitting members of NERC to recommend to the nominating committee candidates for consideration as nominees for independent trustees.[74] NERC's Bylaws specify that the nominating committee "shall also endeavor to nominate candidates for election to the board consistent with the objectives that the board as an entity reflects expertise in the areas of technical electric operations and reliability, legal, market, financial, and regulatory matters, and familiarity with regional system operations issues; and reflects geographic diversity."[75]

NERC's Bylaws provide that the independent trustees shall be elected by the NERC MRC, from nominees proposed by the nominating committee. To be elected an independent trustee, a nominee must receive the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members of the MRC.[76] The MRC

[72] On February 6, 2014, the NERC Board of Trustees approved *Governance Guidelines*, which consolidated NERC's (i) *Conflict of Interest and Business Ethics Policy for Trustees, Officers and Employees* and (ii) *Process for Reviewing Conflicts of Interest* into a single cohesive document.

[73] NERC Bylaws Article III, §5.

[74] NERC Bylaws Article III, §5.

[75] NERC Bylaws Article III, §5.

[76] NERC Bylaws Article III, §6. The NERC Bylaws also require that the number of trustees from Canada shall not be less than the percentage of the net energy for load (NEL) of Canada to the total NEL of the United States and Canada, times eleven (or twelve if the number of trustees has been increased to twelve pursuant to NERC Bylaws Article III, §1a), rounded up to the nearest whole number, with the management trustee (i.e., the president of NERC) counted as a trustee from Canada if he or she is a Canadian citizen. NERC Bylaws Article III, §2a. In the *ERO Certification Order*, the Commission approved this provision as "adequately provid[ing] for an international ERO," stating that "appropriate country representation helps to ensure that the ERO is truly international in addressing Bulk-

is comprised of representatives from the various sectors of the NERC membership.[77] As specified by Article II, §4 of the NERC Bylaws, the sectors of the NERC membership are: (i) investor-owned utilities; (ii) state/municipal utilities; (iii) cooperative utilities; (iv) federal or provincial utilities/federal power marketing administrations; (v) transmission-dependent utilities; (vi) merchant electricity generators; (vii) electricity marketers; (viii) large end-use electricity customers; (ix) small end-use electricity customers; (x) independent system operators/regional transmission organizations; (xi) regional entities; and (xii) government representatives.[78] The composition of the MRC, as specified in Article VIII, §2 of the NERC Bylaws, is as follows:

(1) Two representatives from each sector except the government representative sector and the regional entity sector;

(2) Two voting representatives from the regional entity sector, with the remaining members of that sector being non-voting members of the MRC;[79]

(3) The chairman and vice chairman of the MRC;[80]

(4) Any additional Canadian representatives as are selected pursuant to Article VIII, §4 of the Bylaws;[81] and

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Power System reliability and considering the concerns of stakeholders in each of the three countries." *ERO Certification Order* at P 47.

[77] Membership in NERC is voluntary and is open to any person or entity that has an interest in the reliable operation of the North American BPS, registers as a member, and complies with the other conditions and obligations of membership specified in the NERC Bylaws (which do not include payment of any membership or initiation dues or fees). NERC Bylaws Article II, §1. In the *ERO Certification Order*, the Commission stated the availability of membership to any person or entity with an interest in the reliable operation of the North American BPS created an open membership structure that is consistent with the statutory requirement that the ERO establish rules that assure fair stakeholder representation. *ERO Certification Order* at P 54. Each member is assigned to one of the 12 membership sectors of NERC. NERC Bylaws Article II, §4.

[78] Article II, §4a of the NERC Bylaws specifies the types of persons or organizations that would be included in each of the membership sectors.

[79] The representation of Regional Entities in the MRC reflects changes made by NERC to the originally-proposed composition of the MRC in response to concerns expressed by the Commission in P 75 of the *ERO Certification Order*. *See NERC ERO Governance Compliance Filing* at 6-9. The Commission accepted these changes in an Order issued October 30, 2006. The Commission also accepted the overall structure and composition of the MRC in that Order. *North American Electric Reliability Corporation, Order on Petitions for Rehearing and Clarification; Order on Compliance Filing*, 117 FERC ¶ 61,126 (2006), at PP 30 and 44.

[80] The chairman and vice chairman of the MRC are selected annually by majority vote of the members of the MRC, and may not be from the same membership sector. Upon being selected as chairman and vice chairman, these individuals cease to be representatives of the MRC sectors to which they were originally elected, and are thereafter responsible to act in the best interests of the members of NERC as a whole. NERC Bylaws Article VIII, §5.

[81] Article VIII, §4 of the Bylaws contains provisions for the election of additional Canadian members to the MRC as and when necessary to ensure that the percentage of Canadian members on the MRC is approximately equal to the percentage the NEL of Canada is of the total NEL of the United States and Canada. See page 24 below for the definition of NEL.

(5) The following representatives of the government representatives sector: two representatives of the United States federal government, one representative of the Canadian federal government, two representatives of state governments, and one representative of a provincial government, all of whom shall be nonvoting members of the MRC except the two representatives of state governments.

The MRC is therefore comprised of 26 voting members when at full complement (or more if the election of additional Canadian members has been necessary in accordance with Article VIII, §4 of the Bylaws). The members of the MRC from each sector are nominated from, and elected by, the NERC members in that sector pursuant to the processes specified in Article VIII, §3 of the NERC Bylaws, which generally call for election of the two candidates from each sector receiving the highest numbers of votes in the sector. The members of the MRC are elected annually (or between annual elections if needed to fill a vacancy).[82]

In summary, NERC's trustees are nominated by a nominating committee comprised of independent trustees whose terms are not expiring, members of the MRC, and possibly others. NERC's trustees are elected by a two-thirds vote of the MRC, which is a committee established pursuant to the Bylaws to fairly represent the sectors of NERC's membership and is open to any person or entity with an interest in reliable operation of the North American BPS. Thus, the NERC Bylaws provide for fair stakeholder representation in the selection of NERC's trustees.

Balanced Decision-Making in any NERC Committee or Subordinate Organizational Structure

NERC's Bylaws authorize the Board of Trustees to create standing committees of NERC and such other committees as the Board deems necessary to carry out the purposes of NERC:

> In addition to those committees specified by these Bylaws, to which the board shall appoint members in accordance with the requirements of these Bylaws, the board may by resolution create standing committees of the Corporation; and may in addition by resolution appoint such other committees as the board deems necessary to carry out the purposes of the Corporation. *The board shall appoint standing committees and other committees of the Corporation that are representative of members, other interested parties and the public, that provide for balanced decision making, and that include persons with outstanding technical knowledge and experience. All appointments of committees of the Corporation shall provide the opportunity for an equitable number of members from the United States and Canada (and from Mexico after the Corporation receives recognition by appropriate governmental authorities in Mexico as its electric reliability organization) to be appointed to each committee in approximate proportion to each country's percentage of the total NEL*. All committees shall have such scope and duties, not inconsistent with law, as are specified in these Bylaws and the Rules of

[82] NERC Bylaws Article VIII, §3.

> Procedure of the Corporation or otherwise determined by the board. (Emphasis added.)[83]

Section 1300 of the NERC ROP provides additional criteria for the creation and appointment of NERC standing committees. In creating a standing committee, the NERC Board of Trustees must approve the charter of the committee and assign specific authority to each committee necessary to conduct business within its charter.[84] Each committee shall have a defined membership composition that is explained in its charter. The specified committee membership composition can provide for balanced decision-making (i) by providing for representatives from each sector of the NERC membership, or (ii) where sector-based membership will not bring together the necessary diversity of opinions, technical knowledge and experience in a particular subject area, by bringing together a wide diversity of opinions from industry experts with outstanding technical knowledge and experience in a particular subject area.[85] Committee membership shall also provide the opportunity for an equitable number of members from the United States and Canada, based approximately on proportionate NEL.[86]

The NERC ROP require that committee members shall be selected in a manner that is open, inclusive, and fair.[87] Unless otherwise stated in the NERC ROP or approved by the NERC Board of Trustees, all committee member appointments are to be approved by the board, and committee officers are to be appointed by the Chairman of the Board.[88]

Further, the NERC ROP require that all NERC committees and other subgroups (except for those organized on other than a sector basis because sector representation will not bring together the necessary diversity of opinions, technical knowledge, and experience in a particular subject area) must ensure that no two stakeholder sectors are able to control the vote on any matter,

[83] NERC Bylaws Article VII, §1. "Committees specified by these Bylaws" include the MRC and the Nominating Committee for the NERC Board of Trustees (discussed above under "fair stakeholder representation in the selection of NERC's trustees"), and the Personnel Certification Governance Committee (PGCC) provided for in Article XII of the Bylaws. The purpose of the PGCC is to provide oversight to the policies and processes used to implement and maintain the integrity and independence of the NERC System Operator Certification Program. NERC Bylaws Article XII, §1. The members of the PGCC are appointed by the Board from candidates nominated by a nominating task force; nominations and appointments are to take into account the need to include representatives of all geographic regions of North America on the PGCC. *Id*., Article XII, §2. In addition to the aforementioned committees, NERC standing committees include the Standards Committee, Compliance and Certification Committee, Critical Infrastructure Protection Committee, Operating Committee, Planning Committee, and the Reliability Issues Steering Committee.

[84] ROP §1301.

[85] ROP §1302.

[86] ROP §1302.

[87] ROP §1303.

[88] ROP §1303.

and no single sector is able to defeat a matter.[89] Any committees and subgroups organized on other than a membership-sector basis must be reported to the NERC Board of Trustees and the MRC, along with the reason for constituting the committee or subgroup in the manner chosen. The ROP provide that for any committee or subgroup organized on other than a membership-sector basis, a reasonable opportunity for additional participation (as members or observers) shall be provided for sectors not represented on the committee or subgroup (subject to any reasonable restrictions as may be necessary to accomplish the mission of the committee or subgroup).[90] Additionally, a reasonable opportunity must be provided for membership from sectors desiring to participate in any committees and subgroups pertaining to development of, interpretation of, or compliance with Reliability Standards.[91]

The NERC ROP provide that NERC standing committees may appoint subgroups using the same principles as specified in §1302 of the ROP (summarized in the immediately preceding paragraph).[92]

The provisions of §§1301 and 1302 of the NERC ROP regarding committee composition reflect revisions to these provisions that were approved or directed by the Commission in its October 30, 2006 order on the *NERC ERO Governance Compliance Filing*.[93]

The requirement for balanced decision-making is also applicable to the Reliability Standards development process, and is discussed below under criterion 5, "The ERO has established rules that provide reasonable notice and opportunity for public comment, due process, openness and balance of interests in developing Reliability Standards, and otherwise exercising its duties."

C. Criterion 3 - The ERO has established rules that allocate equitably reasonable dues, fees and charges among end users for all statutory activities.

NERC's Bylaws require that the funding mechanism used to recover its net annual budget requirement (i.e., net of fees and other revenues received by NERC from users and purchasers of NERC products and services, and net of prior-period funding surplus or deficiency) "shall consist of such assessments as determined by the [NERC] board that result in an equitable allocation of the Corporation's funding requirement among end users of the North American electric utility system as established in the Corporation's Rules of Procedure."[94] Section 1102 of the NERC ROP,

[89] ROP §1302.

[90] ROP §1302.

[91] ROP §1302.

[92] ROP §1305.

[93] *See North American Electric Reliability Corporation, Order on Petitions for Rehearing and Clarification; Order on Compliance Filing*, 117 FERC ¶ 61,126 (2006), at PP 75-87.

[94] NERC Bylaws Article XIII, §3. NERC charges users/purchasers of some of its products and services directly for the products and services, at prices that cover some or all of the cost of providing the product or service. Examples include charges to purchasers of data sets from the Generating Availability Data System, charges to candidates for

"NERC Funding and Cost Allocation," prescribes the allocation methods to be used to recover NERC's funding requirements among regions of the United States and among countries in the North American BPS. Section 1102 specifies that NEL shall be used to allocate funding requirements among interconnections and Regional Entities except in those instances in which direct assignment of costs to a particular interconnection, Regional Entity, or group of entities is appropriate; however, in the case of direct assignment, NEL must be used to allocate the directly-assigned costs within the interconnection, Regional Entity, or group of entities:

> (1) In order that NERC's costs shall be fairly allocated among Interconnections and among Regional Entities, the NERC funding mechanism for all statutory functions shall be based on NEL.
>
> (2) NERC's costs shall be allocated so that all load (or, in the case of costs for an Interconnection or Regional Entity, all load within that Interconnection or Regional Entity) bears an equitable share of such costs based on NEL.
>
> (3) Costs shall be equitably allocated between countries or Regional Entities thereof for which NERC has been designated or recognized as the Electric Reliability Organization.
>
> (4) Costs incurred to accomplish the statutory functions for one Interconnection, Regional Entity, or group of entities will be directly assigned to that Interconnection, Regional Entity, or group of entities provided that such costs are allocated equitably to end-users based on NEL.

The NERC ROP define NEL as:

> [N]et generation of an electric system plus energy received from others less energy delivered to others through interchange. It includes system losses but excludes energy required for the storage of energy at energy storage facilities.[95]

In business plan and budget filings with the Commission, actual assessments for Canadian and Mexican entities vary after taking into account polices regarding the allocation of certain compliance and enforcement costs.

D. Criterion 4 - The ERO has established rules that provide fair and impartial procedures for enforcement of Reliability Standards through the imposition of penalties in accordance with 18 C.F.R. §39.7, including limitations on activities, operations, or other appropriate sanctions or penalties.

NERC has established rules that provide fair and impartial procedures for monitoring and enforcement of compliance with Reliability Standards. These rules and procedures are embodied

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certification as NERC-certified operators for examinations and for renewal of credentials, and charges to continuing education providers for certification of their education programs.

[95] ROP Appendix 2.

primarily in §400 of the NERC ROP, the NERC CMEP (Appendix 4C to the ROP), and individual Regional Entity CMEPs (which conform generally to the NERC CMEP), all of which have been approved by the Commission. These rules and procedures were discussed in detail above under criterion 1, relating to the ERO's ability to develop and enforce Reliability Standards that provide for an adequate level of reliability of the BPS. As discussed above under criterion 1, §400 of the ROP, and the NERC uniform CMEP, include provisions for avoidance of conflicts of interest on the part of the CEA personnel conducting compliance monitoring processes, provisions for notice to registered entities and opportunity to respond to compliance monitoring processes, and provisions allowing registered entities to engage in settlement discussions with the CEA concerning notices of alleged violations, proposed penalties or sanctions, and mitigation plans.

In addition, Attachment 2, *Hearing Procedures*, to the uniform CMEP contains detailed due process procedures for the conduct of hearings before the CEA hearing body, when requested by the registered entity, concerning a disputed notice of alleged violation and/or proposed penalty or sanction, disputed mitigation plan provisions, or disputed remedial action directive. The *Hearing Procedures*, which were initially approved by the Commission in two orders, subject to various specific compliance requirements,[96] are based on, and in most respects are quite similar to, the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure[97] and to the rules of practice and procedure used by many state public utility commissions.

In 2013, the Regional Entity representatives to the ERO Legal Group developed *Hearing Body Manual – Guidance for Conducting Hearings at the Regional Entities* (Hearing Body Manual) to provide practical guidance to hearing body members at the eight Regional Entities regarding the hearing process. The Hearing Body Manual outlines the specific duties of the hearing officer and the hearing body and discusses the standard of review that should govern the hearing body's consideration of the hearing officer's decisions throughout the hearing process. The particulars of the hearing process, including the roles of the hearing officer and the hearing body, are set forth in Attachment 2 to the CMEP. To the extent that there is a conflict between the Hearing Body Manual and the CMEP, the CMEP, as applicable, prevails.

The remainder of this discussion of NERC's compliance with criterion 4 addresses NERC's rules and procedures for the determination and imposition of penalties for violations of Reliability Standards.

Section 215(e)(6) of the FPA, and §39.7(g) of the Commission's regulations,[98] requires that any penalty imposed for violation of a Reliability Standard shall (a) bear a reasonable relation to the seriousness of the violation; and (b) take into consideration the efforts of the user, owner or

[96] *Order Addressing Revised Delegation Agreements*, 122 FERC ¶61,245 (2008); *Order Accepting Compliance Filings, Subject to Conditions*, 125 FERC ¶61,330 (2008).

[97] 18 C.F.R. Part 385.

[98] 18 C.F.R. §39.7(g).

operator to remedy the violation in a timely manner.[99] This fundamental requirement is embodied in §401.7 of the NERC ROP and in §3.8 of the NERC *Sanction Guidelines*, Appendix 4B to the ROP. Section 39.7(c) of the Commission's regulations[100] requires that NERC or a Regional Entity may, after notice and opportunity for hearing, impose a penalty on a user, owner or operator of the BPS for a violation of a Reliability Standard if NERC files a notice of penalty and record of the proceedings with the Commission and serves a copy on the user, owner or operator. The notice of penalty must contain: (i) the name of the entity on whom the penalty is imposed; (ii) identification of each Reliability Standard violated; (iii) findings of fact with respect to any act or practice resulting in violation of the standard; (iv) a description of the penalty imposed; (v) the record of the proceeding; and (vi) any other matters NERC or the Regional Entity may find relevant.[101] The penalty may not take effect earlier than the 31st day after NERC files the notice of penalty and record of proceeding with the Commission,[102] and it is subject to review by the Commission on its own motion or on application of the user, owner or operator.[103] Section 5.9 of the NERC CMEP provides for the filing of a notice of penalty with the Commission, and for a 30-day period to run before the penalty becomes effective, in accordance with 18 C.F.R. §39.7(d) through (e).[104]

Section 39.7(g) of the Commission's regulations[105] requires the ERO to submit for Commission approval penalty guidelines that set forth a range of penalties for violations of Reliability Standards, and specifies that a penalty imposed by the ERO or a Regional Entity must be within the range set forth in the penalty guidelines. The NERC *Sanction Guidelines* comprise the penalty guidelines established by NERC, which the Commission has approved pursuant to §39.7(g).

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[99] 18 C.F.R. §39.7(g)(1) also specifies that a penalty may be monetary or non-monetary, and may include, but is not limited to, a limitation on an activity, function, operation, or other appropriate sanction, including being added to a reliability watch list composed of major violators that is established by the ERO, a Regional Entity or the Commission.

[100] 18 C.F.R. §39.7(c).

[101] 18 C.F.R. §39.7(d).

[102] 18 C.F.R. §39.7(e).

[103] 18 C.F.R. §39.7(e).

[104] Certain instances of noncompliance with the Reliability Standards may be resolved outside of the notice of penalty process set forth in the NERC CMEP. Beginning in September 2011, NERC began tracking certain lesser-risk remediated possible violations in the FFT program. Following the Commission's *Order Accepting with Conditions the Electric Reliability Organization's Petition Requesting Approval of New Enforcement Mechanisms and Requiring Compliance Filing*, 138 FERC ¶ 61,193 (2012), the Commission considered all FFT matters closed sixty days after the FFT informational filing was submitted to the Commission unless the Commission sought to review a specific matter. In June 2013, the Commission approved expanding the scope of the FFT Program to include a limited pool of moderate risk issues (in addition to the minimal risk issues already permitted under the program), as well as issues with ongoing mitigation activities, provided the mitigation would be completed within 90 days. In addition, the Commission approved the practice of publicly posting FFT matters on a common website in lieu of a monthly informational filing to the Commission. The Commission indicated that it would consider an FFT matter closed 60 days following the public posting. *Order on Compliance Filing*, 143 FERC ¶ 61,253 (2013).

[105] 18 C.F.R. §39.7(g)(2).

Under the *Sanction Guidelines*, penalties are to be commensurate to the reliability impact of the violation and to those levied for similar violations, while still reflecting unique facts and circumstances related to the violation or the violator. NERC is charged with ensuring "acceptable similarity" in penalties for comparable violations.[106]

Significantly, however, the *Sanction Guidelines* also state, "Any provisions within a settlement regarding Penalties or sanctions can supersede any corresponding Penalties or sanctions that would otherwise be determined pursuant to these Sanction Guidelines."[107] As such, the negotiation of settlements and determination of penalties involve compromise and the weighing of multiple considerations to arrive at a penalty agreeable to the Regional Entity and the registered entity. Even with this available flexibility, NERC still evaluates the facts and circumstances of every violation that is part of a settlement to ensure that the penalty for that violation, and for the group of violations in the settlement, is within a range of reasonableness that displays consistency.

When evaluating every violation, NERC starts with a base penalty amount that is provided by the VRF/VSL matrix. If the registered entity has a previous violation of a same or similar Reliability Standard Requirement, then the penalty may be aggravated.[108] NERC next considers the violation time horizon for the violation, with multipliers applied to the penalty based on the effect on operations. The highest multiplier applies to real-time operations, while long-term planning is on the opposite end of the spectrum. The registered entity's ability to impact reliability determines the next multiplier, with small facilities or entities having their penalty reduced by a significant amount. A multiplier can be applied based on the condition of the BPS at the time of the violation, with aggravation for a violation occurring during stressed conditions.[109] Among the mitigating factors in penalty determination are the quality of the registered entity's internal compliance program, the degree of the registered entity's cooperation in resolution of the violation, and whether the registered entity self-reported the violation.[110]

NERC will aggregate the results of the violation-by-violation analysis for comparison with the penalty included in the settlement submitted by the Regional Entity. NERC also evaluates how the penalty for the violations in the instant settlement compares to penalties for similar violations included in settlements that have already been approved by NERC and subject to review by the Commission. The evaluation of settlements provides an evolving store of knowledge to use when considering new settlements submitted to NERC. In the end, if the penalty included in the settlement falls within a range of reasonableness for penalties associated with violations involving similar reliability risks, similar entities, and similar facts and circumstances, then the penalty is deemed consistent enough for approval by NERC.

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[106] *Sanction Guidelines* §1.

[107] *Sanction Guidelines* §2.1.

[108] *Sanction Guidelines* §§3.1 and 3.2.

[109] *Sanction Guidelines* §2.7; *see also* §3.2.

[110] *Sanction Guidelines* §3.3.

E. Criterion 5 - The ERO has established rules that provide reasonable notice and opportunity for public comment, due process, openness, and balance of interests in developing Reliability Standards, and otherwise exercising its duties.

NERC has established rules that provide for reasonable notice and opportunity for public comment, due process, openness, and balance of interests in developing Reliability Standards, and otherwise exercising its duties. With respect to the development of Reliability Standards, NERC's Bylaws require that:

> The Corporation shall develop Reliability Standards pursuant to procedures and processes that shall be specified in the Rules of Procedure of the Corporation. The Rules of Procedure shall provide for the development of Reliability Standards through an open, transparent, and public process that provides for reasonable notice and opportunity for public comment, due process, and balancing of interests and is designed to result in Reliability Standards that are technically sound. Participation in the process for developing Reliability Standards shall not be limited to members of the Corporation but rather shall be open to all persons and entities with an interest in the reliable operation of the BPS.[111]

NERC's process for developing and modifying Reliability Standards, which the Commission accepted as meeting the criteria for certifying NERC as the ERO pursuant to §215 of the FPA and §39.3(b) of the Commission's regulations,[112] is embodied in §300 of the NERC ROP and the SPM, Appendix 3A to the ROP. Section 304 of the ROP states that NERC shall develop Reliability Standards in accordance with the NERC SPM. The SPM sets forth the detailed process steps for development and approval of a new Reliability Standards or revision to a Reliability Standard.

Section 304 of the NERC ROP sets forth NERC's "Essential Principles for the Development of Reliability Standards," which include openness, transparency, consensus-building, fair balance of interests, due process, and timeliness:

> 1. **Openness** — Participation shall be open to all persons who are directly and materially affected by the reliability of the North American BPS. There shall be no undue financial barriers to participation. Participation shall not be conditional upon membership in NERC or any other organization, and shall not be unreasonably restricted on the basis of technical qualifications or other such requirements.
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> 2. **Transparency** — The process shall be transparent to the public.

[111] NERC Bylaws Article IX, §2.

[112] *ERO Certification Order*, 116 FERC ¶61,062, at PP 239, 241, 250.

3. **Consensus-building** — The process shall build and document consensus for each standard, both with regard to the need and justification for the Reliability Standard and the content of the Reliability Standard.

4. **Fair Balance of Interests** — The process shall fairly balance interests of all stakeholders and shall not be dominated by any two segments as defined in Appendix 3D, *Development of the Registered Ballot Body*, of these Rules of Procedure, and no single segment, individual or organization shall be able to defeat a matter.

5. **Due Process** — Development of Reliability Standards shall provide reasonable notice and opportunity for any Person with a direct and material interest to express views on a proposed Reliability Standard and the basis for those views, and to have that position considered in the development of the Reliability Standards.

6. **Timeliness** — Development of Reliability Standards shall be timely and responsive to new and changing priorities for reliability of the BPS.

Section 305 of the NERC ROP specifies that "NERC Reliability Standards shall be approved by a Registered Ballot Body prior to submittal to the [NERC] Board and then to [a]pplicable [g]overnmental [a]uthorities for their approval," and that "[a]ny person or entity may join the Registered Ballot Body to vote on Reliability Standards." The RBB is organized on an industry segment basis, and persons or organizations joining the RBB must select membership in the appropriate segment (subject to periodic review by NERC).[113] The RBB segments and the criteria for membership in each segment are set forth as follows:[114]

- Segment 1: Transmission Owners
- Segment 2: Regional Transmission Organizations and Independent System Operators
- Segment 3: Load-Serving Entities
- Segment 4: Transmission Dependent Utilities
- Segment 5: Electric Generators

[113] ROP §305.

[114] ROP Appendix 3D at 2-3. The segments of the RBB are different from the NERC membership segments established by Article II, §4 of the NERC Bylaws (discussed above under criterion 2). The Commission approved the use of segments for the RBB that are different from the NERC membership segments. *North American Electric Reliability Corporation, Order on Petitions for Rehearing and Clarification, Order on Compliance Filing*, 117 FERC ¶ 61,126 (2006), at P 30.

- Segment 6: Electricity Brokers, Aggregators, and Marketers
- Segment 7: Large Electricity End Users
- Segment 8: Small Electricity Users
- Segment 9: Federal, State, and Provincial Regulatory or other Government Entities
- Segment 10: Regional Entities

Section 306 of the ROP provides for the standards development process to be overseen by a Standards Committee, which is an elected body comprised of two members of each segment of the RBB and two officers elected to represent the interests of the industry as a whole.[115] The Standards Committee is to ensure stakeholder interests are fairly represented in the Reliability Standards development process. Section 308.2 of the ROP specifies that proposed Reliability Standards or revisions to Reliability Standards shall be submitted to the NERC Board of Trustees for approval after being approved by the RBB pool voting on the standard.

The NERC SPM sets out the detailed steps in the process for developing and approving Reliability Standards or revisions to Reliability Standards. The process is based on the procedures of the ANSI and other standards-setting organizations in the United States and Canada.[116] The standards development process is intended to develop consensus on both the need for and content of a proposed standard.[117] As detailed in the SPM, the process includes the following key elements:

- Nomination of a proposed standard, revision to a standard, or withdrawal of a standard, using a SAR, which may entail appointing a SAR drafting team.[118]
- Public posting of the SAR to allow interested persons and entities to review and comment on the need for the proposed standard and the expected outcomes and impacts from implementing it, and to identify if there is stakeholder consensus on the need, scope and applicability of the standard proposed by the SAR.[119]

[115] Election of the members of the Standards Committee is governed by the *Procedures for Election of Members of the Standards Committee*, Appendix 3B to the ROP.

[116] SPM §§1.4, 10.0, 13.0, and 16.0. ANSI accredited NERC's Reliability Standards development process in 2003.

[117] SPM §§1.4. 3.8, 3.10, and 4.0.

[118] SPM §§4.0, 4.2, and 4.3.

[119] SPM §§4.0, 4.1, and 4.2.

- Review of the public comments in response to the SAR and prioritization of proposed standards, leading to authorization to develop standards for which there is a stakeholder consensus-based need.[120]

- Appointment of a standard drafting team to draft the new or revised standard. The appointed standard drafting team is to have the expertise, competencies and diversity of views needed to develop the standard. The appointment process includes a public solicitation for nominees.[121]

- Drafting the new or revised standard. The standard will be drafted by the standard drafting team with the assistance and administrative support of the NERC standards process manager (a NERC professional staff member), who will review the draft standard for consistency of quality and completeness and to ensure the standard is within the scope and purpose identified in the SAR.[122]

- Public posting of the draft standard to allow interested parties to review and comment on it, to receive specific comments from interested parties on the text of the standard, to assess stakeholder consensus on the draft standard, and to determine if the draft standard should be modified to increase consensus.[123]

- Field testing (if any) of the draft standard and its measures.[124]

- Analysis of public comments and field test results (if any) by the standard drafting team, giving consideration to the written views and objections of all participants, to determine if there is consensus the proposed standard should go to ballot, or requires further work.[125]

- Balloting of the standard by the industry stakeholder ballot pool formed from the RBB for purposes of balloting the new or revised standard.[126] (The voting process is described below.)

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[120] SPM §§4.0, 4.1, 4.2, and 4.3.

[121] SPM §§4.0, 4.3, and 4.4.

[122] SPM §§4.0 and 4.4.

[123] SPM §§4.0, 4.5, and 4.7.

[124] SPM §§4.0 and 6.0.

[125] SPM §§4.0, 4.5, 4.6, 4.7, 4.12, and 6.0.

[126] SPM §§4.0, 4.7, 4.8, and 4.9.

- Re-balloting of the standard to consider specific comments by those submitting negative votes with comments.[127]

- Vote by the NERC Board of Trustees to approve or reject the standard that has been approved by the ballot pool. The NERC Board of Trustees may adopt or reject a Reliability Standard that has been approved by the ballot pool, but may not modify the standard; however, if the NERC Board of Trustees chooses not to adopt a proposed standard, the board shall provide its reasons.[128]

- Submission of the RBB-approved and board-approved Reliability Standard to the Commission and other applicable governmental authorities for approval.[129]

As provided in the SPM, voting on a proposed Reliability Standard or revision to a standard is done by the RBB ballot pool formed for that standard, and is tallied on a weighted segment basis. At least 30 days prior to the start of a ballot, the NERC standards process manager issues a notice to the entities in the RBB advising them of the upcoming ballot on the new or revised standard, so that entities may elect to join the ballot pool for balloting the standard. Any member of the RBB may join (or leave) the ballot pool for the standard until the ballot period begins.[130] The balloting is conducted electronically with voting allowed during a specified ballot period, typically 10 days.[131] Approval of a proposed standard or revision to a standard requires both (i) a quorum, which is established by at least 75 percent of the members of the ballot pool submitting a response with an affirmative vote, a negative vote, or an abstention,[132] and (ii) affirmative votes by a two-thirds majority of the weighted segment votes.[133] The calculation of the weighted segment voting results is described in detail in the SPM.[134]

The foregoing demonstrates that NERC's rules provide reasonable notice and opportunity for public comment, due process, openness, and balance of interests in the development of

[127] SPM §§4.0, 4.13, and 4.14. Voters on the first ballot are allowed to submit comments with affirmative ballots and reasons for their votes with negative ballots (although inclusion of a statement of reasons with a negative ballot is not required).

[128] SPM §§4.0, 4.15, and 4.16.

[129] SPM §§4.0, 4.16, and 4.17.

[130] SPM §4.8.

[131] SPM §§4.0 and 4.9.

[132] SPM §4.10.

[133] SPM §§4.10 and 4.11. For this purpose the number of votes cast is the sum of the affirmative and negative votes cast by the ballot pool, excluding abstentions, non-responses and negative votes without comments.

[134] SPM §§4.10 and 4.11.

Reliability Standards. In finding that NERC met the statutory and regulatory criteria to be certified as the ERO, the Commission found NERC's Reliability Standards development process met the ERO certification requirement that the ERO candidate have rules providing for reasonable notice and opportunity for public comment, due process, openness, and balancing of interests in developing Reliability Standards.[135]

Other NERC rules provide for reasonable notice and opportunity for public comment, due process, openness, and balance of interests in the exercise of NERC's duties other than developing Reliability Standards. As discussed under criterion 2 above, NERC's Bylaws provide for its trustees to be elected by the MRC, which (again per the NERC Bylaws) is comprised of representatives of the sectors of the NERC membership as defined in the Bylaws. The Bylaws also provide that amendments to the Bylaws must be adopted by majority vote of both the Board of Trustees and the MRC, conducted after at least 10 days and no more than 60 days' notice of the vote on the proposed amendment. Additionally, the NERC membership may adopt new Bylaws, or alter, amend, or repeal amendments adopted by vote of the board and the MRC, by vote of two-thirds of the sectors voting on the alteration, amendment, repeal or adoption.[136]

The Bylaws further provide that revisions to the NERC ROP may be proposed by: (i) any 50 members of NERC, which must include members from at least three membership sectors; (ii) the MRC; (iii) a committee of NERC to whose function and purpose the ROP to be amended pertains; or (iv) an officer of NERC. A proposed revision to the NERC ROP must be posted on the NERC website for public comment for a minimum of 45 days prior to the NERC Board of Trustees vote on the proposed revision.[137]

The NERC Bylaws require that notice of meetings of the NERC Board of Trustees and of the MRC, and notice of calls for action without a meeting by the board or the MRC, along with all non-confidential materials to be considered by the board or MRC at a meeting or in an action without a meeting, shall be posted on the NERC website at least 24 hours prior to the meeting or within 24 hours after the call for action without a meeting.[138] The ROP provide that notice of meetings of NERC committees, and all non-confidential materials relating to the meeting, shall be posted on the NERC website at approximately the same time(s) the notice and materials are provided to the committee members.[139] Additionally, the Bylaws require that, except for discussions of certain specified non-public topics, meetings of the NERC Board of Trustees and of the MRC shall be open to the public (subject to reasonable space limitations).[140] Similarly, the

[135] *ERO Certification Order* at P 250.

[136] NERC Bylaws Article XIV, §1.

[137] NERC Bylaws Article XI, §2.

[138] NERC Bylaws Article V, §§4 and 6; Article VIII, §§10 and 12.

[139] ROP §1304.1.

[140] NERC Bylaws Article V, §4; Article VIII, §10.

NERC ROP require that, except for discussions of certain specified non-public topics, meetings of NERC standing committees shall be open to the public (subject to reasonable space limitations).[141]

With respect to the preparation of NERC's annual business plan and budget, the NERC Bylaws provide that NERC shall post a draft business plan and budget for comment by the NERC membership, the MRC, and the NERC standing committees for at least 30 days prior to the board meeting at which the annual business plan, budget and funding requirement is to be approved for submission to the Commission. The Board shall also consult with the members of the MRC on the proposed business plan and budget before it is adopted.[142] Should a supplemental or modified budget or assessment be considered for adoption during the course of the year, the Bylaws require that the procedures for posting, receipt of comments, and consultation with the MRC shall be followed to the extent possible in the board's judgment in light of the exigency of the circumstances necessitating preparation and approval of the supplemental or modified budget, funding and assessment.[143]

With respect to compliance monitoring and enforcement, as discussed above under criteria 1 and 4, the NERC CMEP and Regional Entity CMEPs, the NERC *Hearing Procedures* (Attachment 2 to the CMEP), and the NERC *Sanction Guidelines*, provide for reasonable notice to and due process for users, owners, and operators of the BPS in the conduct of compliance monitoring and enforcement activities of NERC and the Regional Entities. These activities include the implementation of the compliance monitoring processes, the conduct of hearings on disputed notices of alleged violations, proposed penalties, disputed mitigation plan components and disputed remedial action directives, and the imposition of penalties and sanctions for violations of Reliability Standards.

Finally, as discussed above under criterion 2, the NERC Bylaws and ROP require members to be selected for NERC standing committees and other committees and subgroups so as to (subject to specified exceptions) provide for balanced decision making, such that no two stakeholder sectors can control the voting on the committee and no single stakeholder sector is able to defeat a matter; and to provide the opportunity for an equitable number of members from the United States and Canada.

F. Criterion 6 - The ERO has established rules that provide appropriate steps to gain recognition in Canada and Mexico.

As stated in its Certificate of Incorporation, one of the corporate purposes of NERC is "to act as the electric reliability organization for the United States as certified by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and for Canada and Mexico as recognized by applicable government and regulatory authorities in such countries, all pursuant to law." The efforts of NERC to seek recognition in Canada and Mexico are described below.

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[141] ROP §1304.1.

[142] NERC Bylaws Article XIII, §4; *see also* ROP §1103.1.

[143] NERC Bylaws Article XIII, §5.

Canada

Under the Constitution of Canada, regulation of electricity is primarily within the jurisdiction of each province. Canada does not have a 'FERC-equivalent' with plenary jurisdiction over electricity matters, although the National Energy Board (NEB) does have jurisdiction over international power lines. Accordingly, beginning before its certification as the ERO for the United States and continuing to the present time, NERC has devoted significant efforts to developing relationships with each of the relevant provincial authorities, as well as the NEB. Where possible, NERC has devoted efforts attempting to obtain recognition as the electric reliability organization. NERC's progress in this regard is described below.

Alberta

Reliability Standards

The Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) is the independent system operator, a statutory corporation pursuant to Alberta's *Electric Utilities Act*, *2003* (EUA).[144] AESO's statutory mandate requires that it direct the operation of the Alberta interconnected electric system, plan for the future of the transmission system, and operate the wholesale electricity market in the province.

Pursuant to the Alberta *Transmission Regulation* (made pursuant to the EUA),[145] Alberta Reliability Standards include reliability standards[146] enacted by WECC, NERC, or any similar entity that is recognized by the AESO, to the extent that these reliability standards are adopted by the AESO in accordance with the *Transmission Regulation*. The AESO also has the authority under the *Transmission Regulation* to adopt other reliability standards subject to certain process requirements.

In order for a reliability standard to be adopted in Alberta, the *Transmission Regulation* requires that the AESO consult with those market participants that it considers likely to be directly affected by one or more reliability standards and make a recommendation to the Alberta Utilities Commission to approve or reject the reliability standards being considered for approval. The Alberta Utilities Commission must follow the AESO's recommendation unless an interested person satisfies the Alberta Utilities Commission that the recommendation of the AESO is either "technically deficient" or "not in the public interest." When the AESO considers NERC Reliability Standards for adoption in Alberta, the AESO is required to determine whether the NERC

[144] Alberta's EUA is available at: http://www.qp.alberta.ca/documents/Acts/E05P1.pdf.

[145] Alberta's *Transmission Regulation* is available at: http://www.qp.alberta.ca/documents/Regs/2007_086.pdf.

[146] In this context, where not capitalized, the phrase "reliability standards" refers to standards relating to reliability generally, whether or not they were developed or approved by NERC.

Reliability Standards can be applied in Alberta, including whether approval would be appropriate for the Alberta electric energy market framework.[147]

The AESO's *Alberta Reliability Standards Program Work Plan* is intended to help manage and track the adoption of NERC Reliability Standards in Alberta. It was last revised in June 2014, and it reflects a risk-based prioritization approach.[148] The Alberta Reliability Standards, as approved, bear the same identifiers as the original NERC Reliability Standards (COM, BAL, FAC, etc.), but have an "AB" added to the name.[149]

An Alberta Reliability Standard may incorporate modifications from the original NERC Reliability Standard to recognize the physical characteristics of the Alberta system or for other reasons.[150]

When presented to the Alberta Utilities Commission by the AESO for approval, a proposed Alberta Reliability Standard will contain an explanation for any proposed modifications, which are not intended to change the intent or substance of the NERC Reliability Standards. Where there have been changes from a NERC Reliability Standard to an Alberta Reliability standard, it is noted in a quarterly update report that is provided to WECC and to NERC.

Effective January 1, 2014, the AESO assumed all responsibilities related to the functions of a Reliability Coordinator, effective January 1, 2014. The AESO has indicated that it remains an active member and supporter of the WECC (the former Reliability Coordinator for the AESO), and it looks forward to a strong working relationship with the proposed independent WECC RC, Peak Reliability. Additional Alberta Reliability Standards will be adopted, and this work is underway.

Data Sharing

Under §8.4 of the WECC/AESO membership and operating agreement (MOA), if WECC determines that the AESO is not in compliance with an Alberta Reliability Standard, WECC must promptly refer the matter to the Market Surveillance Administrator (MSA). Pursuant to the

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[147] Alberta has developed an Alberta Functional Model that integrates with the Alberta regulatory and market framework. The Alberta Functional Model defines entity types that perform functions that impact the reliability of the transmission system. Functional entity types are used to identify if an Alberta Reliability Standard is applicable to that functional type.

[148] The *Alberta Reliability Standards Program Work Plan* can be found at: http://www.aeso.ca/rulesprocedures/25052.html. Alberta Reliability Standards currently in effect and their effective dates are listed on the AESO website at: http://www.aeso.ca/rulesprocedures/17006.html. A number of NERC Reliability Standards have been rejected as not being applicable to entities in Alberta. These are listed at: http://www.aeso.ca/rulesprocedures/16426.html.

[149] An example of a current Alberta Reliability Standard is BAL-001-AB-0a, Real Power Balancing Control Performance.

[150] *See* Project Charter for Alberta Reliability Standards Implementation at p.1, available at: http://www.aeso.ca/downloads/ARS_Project_Charter_2011-12-05_final.pdf.

WECC/MSA services agreement, WECC, on behalf of the MSA, will monitor AESO's compliance with Alberta Reliability Standards and report its findings to the MSA.

Sections 2.13, 6.1, and 6.5 of the WECC/MSA services agreement address WECC's ability to report possible violations[151] to NERC. Under §2.13, NERC and FERC are not allowed to participate in or observe WECC's actions taken according to the WECC/MSA services agreement, without the express approval of the MSA. Section 6.1 establishes that all records pertaining to WECC's services will be considered confidential and should be treated as strictly confidential at all times.[152]

Based on its agreement with the MSA, WECC is prohibited from disclosing information related to the AESO's compliance with Alberta Reliability Standards without the permission of the MSA. However, as noted in the NERC/WECC/AESO memorandum of understanding (MOU),[153] disclosing information related to confirmed contraventions would occur as such information is made public by the Alberta Utilities Commission. In addition, as there is value to the North American electric industry of receiving information on lessons learned from such contraventions, the AESO will work with NERC and WECC to provide information on lessons learned as made public by the Commission.

Compliance

The NERC/WECC/AESO MOU commits the AESO to appropriate compliance monitoring and enforcement "in a manner determined in Alberta." With regard to entities (other than the AESO) that are subject to Alberta Reliability Standards, the AESO carries out its mandate to monitor compliance according to a compliance monitoring plan. Matters of noncompliance with an Alberta Reliability Standard must be referred by the AESO to the MSA for consideration and possible action.

The Alberta Utilities Commission adopted specified penalties for contraventions of Alberta Reliability Standards effective November 2010. If warranted, the MSA is empowered by §52 of the *Alberta Utilities Commission Act* to issue a notice of specified penalty for contravention of an Alberta Reliability Standard. Specified penalties are defined in AUC Rule 027 and range from $500 to $25,000, depending upon the severity of the contravention and the applicable Alberta

[151] The terms "possible violation," confirmed violation," and "violation" are not defined in Alberta. Rather, Alberta uses the terms "suspected contravention" and "contravention."

[152] Section 6.5 is even more explicit with respect to WECC's authority to share information with NERC and mandates the following:

> WECC further acknowledges that this Agreement clearly stipulates that in no event will Confidential Records received or generated by WECC in respect of the Services or this Agreement be disclosed or made available to persons outside WECC, including to any representative of FERC, NERC or any other person, without the express written approval of the MSA.

[153] MOU between NERC, WECC, and AESO, effective July 15, 2010, at p. 7, available at: http://www.nerc.com/files/NERC-WECC-AESO_MOU_Executed%20Version_071510.pdf.

Reliability Standard.[154] Specified penalties can be appealed to the Alberta Utilities Commission. Alternatively, the MSA can pursue an administrative penalty before the Alberta Utilities Commission. The maximum administrative penalty amount is $1 million per day on which a contravention occurs or continues.

British Columbia

Reliability Standards

The British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC) is an independent, quasi-judicial regulatory agency that operates under and administers the *Utilities Commission Act*.[155] The BCUC adopts or rejects reliability standards in British Columbia and is responsible for the administration of the Mandatory Reliability Standards Program. The British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority (BC Hydro), a provincial crown corporation, is a regulated integrated utility and transmission provider that acts as a balancing authority and applicant for Reliability Standards to the BCUC.

To provide the necessary information required for determinations and in accordance with the *Utilities Commission Act*, BC Hydro submits a *Mandatory Reliability Standard Assessment Report* to the BCUC assessing the new and revised reliability standards adopted in the United States by FERC within the annual assessment period (December 1 to November 30). The assessment report is developed in consultation with Registered Entities in the Mandatory Reliability Standards Program. Further, in consultation with stakeholders regarding the estimated time required for the entities to implement and come into compliance with the reliability standards, BC Hydro suggests effective dates for each of the Reliability Standards assessed. After a public comment process, the BCUC reviews BC Hydro's analysis and then may either approve or reject Reliability Standards. The BCUC does not have authority to alter or amend a standard. To date no standards have been rejected, although the provincial process can lead to delays before a FERC-approved Reliability Standard is adopted.

In Order G-171-10, issued on November 25, 2010, the BCUC approved an annual Implementation Plan created by WECC for 2011 that includes "a list of minimum [R]eliability [S]tandards to be actively monitored, methods to be used for monitoring, an Audit Plan, Self-Certification Program and Schedule, Periodic Information Submittal requirements and Exception Reporting process."[156] The BCUC has also issued orders approving annual Implementation Plans for subsequent years.[157]

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[154] The specified penalties for contravention of Alberta Reliability Standards are available at: http://www.auc.ab.ca/rule-development/rule-027-specified-penalties-for-reliability-standards/Pages/default.aspx.

[155] The *Utilities Commission Act* is available at: http://www.bclaws.ca/Recon/document/ID/freeside/00_96473_01.

[156] Order No. G-171-10, issued by the BCUC, at p. 1, available at: http://www.bcuc.com/Documents/Orders/2010/DOC_26511_G-171-10_MRS-2011-Implementation-Plan.pdf.

[157] *See*, e.g., Order No. R-39-13, available at: http://www.bcuc.com/Documents/Orders/2013/DOC_38047_R-39-13_BC-Reliability_2014-Implementation-Plan.pdf (approving the Implementation Plan for the 2014 calendar year).

The standards in effect in British Columbia are generally listed in an attachment to the most recent order approving new or amended standards. NERC Reliability Standards and WECC regional Reliability Standards effective in British Columbia are also listed on the WECC website.[158] British Columbia has vested the BCUC with authority to levy monetary penalties for violations.

Data Sharing

WECC's relationship with the BCUC is governed by the Administration Agreement between the parties (dated October 8, 2009), the BCUC's *Rules of Procedure for Reliability Standards in British Columbia* (BCUC ROP), and BCUC's compliance monitoring program.[159] Under §3.2 of the Administration Agreement, WECC is required to immediately advise the BCUC and an applicable entity who has provided information to WECC if that information has been requested by NERC or a foreign government agency, unless disclosure of the request is prohibited by law. Therefore, WECC can only disclose confidential information related to possible violations if the BCUC approves the disclosure or by compulsion of law.

Under §6.3.1 of the BCUC ROP, the BCUC, in its discretion and upon request, may designate information as restricted.[160] If such designation is made, §3.6 of the Administration Agreement and the BCUC ROP prohibit WECC from transmitting the information outside of British Columbia. WECC can review the restricted information only at the offices of the applicable entity or at the BCUC. The applicable entity is not required to give WECC a copy of the restricted documents.

Under §3.1 of the Administration Agreement, WECC shall maintain the confidentiality of the confidential information and shall not disclose it even under conditions of confidence, except as provided in the Rules of Procedure, namely with BCUC approval. Section 3.1.1(ii) also prohibits WECC from disclosing documents or portion of documents that would potentially identify the source of the information. Finally, WECC cannot disclose any information if the BCUC directs WECC to keep it confidential.

Compliance

Under a contract with the BCUC, WECC performs compliance oversight for the province, including registration, monitoring and auditing functions and activities. However, the violations, enforcement, and penalty assessment functions remain with BCUC. Until recently, the BCUC had no monetary sanctions authority. BCUC now has authority to assess fines of up to $1 million per day. The process for imposing penalties for confirmed violations of reliability standards is under development.

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[158] *See* http://www.wecc.biz/Standards/BCApproved%20Standards/Forms/AllItems.aspx.

[159] *See* Attachments 1 and 2 to Order No. G-123-09, issued by the BCUC, available at: http://www.bcuc.com/Documents/Orders/2009/DOC_23219_G-123-09_BCUC%20MRS.pdf.

[160] *See* http://www.bcuc.com/Documents/MRS/Rules-of-Procedure.pdf.

Manitoba

Reliability Standards

The *Manitoba Hydro Act* establishes the framework for Manitoba Hydro to adopt NERC Reliability Standards by authorizing Manitoba Hydro, subject to Lieutenant Governor in Council approval, to adopt:

> in whole or in part, any standards, rules, terms, conditions, guidelines or schedules, which are related to the planning, design or operation of generation or transmission facilities within an integrated regional power grid, established by [the North American Electric Reliability Council, Mid-Continent Area Power Pool or…] an industry organization, regional transmission group, regulatory body or other association or group or any other person.[161]

The *Manitoba Hydro Amendment and Public Utilities Board Amendment Act (Electricity Reliability)*[162] and its implementing regulations, which came into force on April 1, 2012, set the basis for the adoption of mandatory and enforceable NERC Reliability Standards in Manitoba. This legislation gives the Public Utilities Board of Manitoba (PUB) the authority to make determinations of noncompliance with Reliability Standards, to impose sanctions, and to remand a standard to NERC for reconsideration.

On April 1, 2012, all then-current NERC Reliability Standards became mandatory and enforceable in Manitoba. These standards are listed in Schedule 1 to the *Reliability Standards Regulation*.[163] The province reserved the right to adopt new or amended standards by regulation. The government is consulting with stakeholders as to the best process for considering and approving standards for application in Manitoba.

Compliance

The *Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program Province of Manitoba*, based on the NERC CMEP, was adopted as Schedule 2 to the *Reliability Standards Regulation*. MRO and NERC, as compliance bodies, will monitor Manitoba Hydro's compliance with NERC Reliability Standards. If a compliance body alleges that a violation of standards has occurred in Manitoba, it must apply to the PUB with a recommended enforcement action for a determination on whether a standard has been violated. MRO also makes recommendations to PUB regarding the imposition

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[161] *See The Manitoba Hydro Act*, C.C.S.M. c.H190, s.16.3(1)(a), available at: http://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/statutes/ccsm/h190e.php. The bracketed language above was stricken in *The Manitoba Hydro Amendment and Public Utilities Board Amendment Ac*t (dated June 11, 2009), and replaced with "an industry organization."

[162] Statutes of Manitoba 2009, c. 17.

[163] Available at: http://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/regs/annual/2014/098.pdf.

of associated penalties or sanctions. The PUB will decide whether a violation of a standard has taken place and the penalty, if any, which should apply for noncompliance. The PUB can impose a penalty, with enforcement through a board order. When the PUB issues an order confirming a violation, NERC may make this fact and any attached penalties public.

NERC or MRO, in advising the PUB that they believe a violation has occurred, is also to advise on appropriate remedial actions, sanctions, or penalties.

Data Sharing

The compliance program requires timely data from registered entities to effectively monitor compliance with Reliability Standards.

All findings by PUB related to electricity reliability proceedings are made public through the issuance of orders. These orders will include the name of the registered entity, the Reliability Standard(s) and requirements(s) violated, whether the PUB agrees with MRO's findings and recommendations, and any penalties or sanctions imposed.

When the PUB issues an order confirming a violation, NERC may make this fact and any attached penalties public. The mitigation plan will not be made public until there is a confirmed violation. Similarly, final audit reports will be released to the public, but only after any alleged violations have become confirmed violations. Lastly, while compliance investigations are confidential, confirmed violations resulting from a compliance investigation will be made public.

New Brunswick

Reliability Standards

On October 3, 2008, NERC, the Minister of Energy of the Province of New Brunswick, and the New Brunswick System Operator (NBSO) signed a MOU that recognized NERC's role as the ERO and found that NERC is a "standards authority" within the meaning of the *New Brunswick Electricity Act*. NERC, NPCC, and NBSO have signed an MOU under which NERC and NPCC would monitor compliance and carry out enforcement as to NBSO. Under the MOU, NBSO was to monitor and enforce compliance with Reliability Standards by those entities within New Brunswick as a part of its market rules.

In October 2013, New Brunswick's legislation that amends how Reliability Standards are approved, monitored, and enforced received Royal Assent and was proclaimed (i.e., became effective). The *New Brunswick Electricity Act*[164] led to the amalgamation of NBSO with the NB Power Group of Companies. The system operation functions performed by NBSO are now performed within the vertically integrated New Brunswick Power Corporation (NBPC). In addition to its responsibility to comply with reliability standards applicable to its function, NBPC is also responsible for making filings to the New Brunswick Energy and Utilities Board (NBEUB) to update Reliability Standards, maintain a list of BPS elements, and to make recommendations on

[164] The *New Brunswick Electricity Act* is available at: http://laws.gnb.ca/en/ShowPdf/cs/2013-c.7.pdf.

compliance registrations. The NBSO's role in the adoption, monitoring, and enforcement of North American Reliability Standards has been transferred to the NBEUB.

The NBEUB may adopt FERC-approved NERC Reliability Standards that have been filed by NBPC. NERC Reliability Standards are filed and adopted with an accompanying NB Appendix to describe the specific application of the standard in New Brunswick. The NBEUB posts proposed Reliability Standards on its website for a 60-day review period prior to adoption. If the proposed Reliability Standard contains substantive revisions to the FERC-approved version, or if there are substantive comments received during the review period, the NBEUB may hold a hearing and may determine to approve, not approve, or remand the proposed Reliability Standard back to NBPC. A list of enforceable Reliability Standards is available on the NBEUB's website.[165]

Data Sharing

Confidentiality and public disclosure is governed by Part 7 of the *New Brunswick Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program* (NB CMEP) – Schedule A to the *Reliability Standards Regulation – Electricity Act*.[166] Any information that a registered entity provides to the NBEUB, NPCC, or NERC may be marked as confidential and may not be released to a third party without the written consent of the registered entity. The regulation provides for the public disclosure of finalized audit reports, confirmed violations, penalties, sanctions, and settlement agreements, including the name of the registered entity. The NBEUB is required to keep all CIP information confidential in accordance with §1500 of the NERC ROP.

Pursuant to the MOU, NERC provides information relevant to New Brunswick on issues relating to reliability, Reliability Standards, and compliance with Reliability Standards.

Compliance

The NBEUB implements a compliance monitoring system for reliability standards that is based on the requirements of the NERC compliance program. The NB program is documented as the NB CMEP – Schedule A to the *Reliability Standards Regulation – Electricity Act*. As a recognized compliance body under the regulations, NPCC assists the NBEUB with compliance monitoring activities according to a service agreement the NBEUB has executed with NPCC. The NBEUB will initiate enforcement action if it has reason to believe that a violation of a reliability standard has occurred. NBEUB requires that the entity take action to remove the risk the violation poses to the reliability of the BPS and to implement a plan that will prevent a future occurrence of the violation. Registered entities are subject to financial penalties and sanctions for violations of adopted reliability standards. A penalty matrix, provides ranges for penalties corresponding to VRFs and VSLs, is provided in the *Reliability Standards Regulation*.

[165] *See* http://www.nbeub.ca/index.php/en/electricity/reliability-compliance/118.

[166] New Brunswick's *Reliability Standards Regulation – Electricity Act* is available at: http://laws.gnb.ca/en/ShowPdF/cr/2013-66.pdf.

Nova Scotia

Reliability Standards

The Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board (NSUARB) is an independent, quasi-judicial body which exercises general supervision over all electric utilities operating as public utilities within the Province of Nova Scotia, pursuant to the *Nova Scotia Public Utilities Act*.[167] Nova Scotia Power Incorporated (NPSI) is a public utility in Nova Scotia and is a member of NERC and NPCC. The Nova Scotia Department of Energy is responsible for energy and electricity policy in the province.

NERC has signed two separate MOUs with entities in Nova Scotia: one with NSUARB, and one with NSPI.[168]

NERC submits standards to NSUARB and NSPI for approval; each organization may approve, modify, remand or dismiss the standard as not applicable, though final approval authority rests with NSUARB. NSUARB has a quarterly review process allowing the submission, by NERC, of standards already approved by FERC. NSUARB will only process an application after FERC has approved or remanded the Reliability Standard in the United States.[169] NERC made an initial filing of Reliability Standards on June 30, 2010 along with the *Glossary of Terms Used in NERC Reliability Standards*. Nova Scotia approved this filing on July 20, 2011. None of the proposed standards were changed or rejected.

On September 2, 2011, NERC made its first quarterly filing to Nova Scotia that included a list of Standards approved by FERC in the period of time since the June 30, 2011 filing. This filing was approved.

In June 2012, the NSUARB proposed an expedited process for its review of NERC quarterly filings. This was approved for implementation in August 2012. With respect to the quarterly filing, NSPI and NPCC have 10 days to comment if they wish. At the end of the comment period, the NSUARB will decide if, based on any comments, a more rigorous review is required. If a more rigorous review is deemed required it will be undertaken; otherwise, the NSUARB will issue its decision. To date, all filings have been approved without additional review.

Under the MOU with NPSI, NSPI agrees to comply with NERC's Reliability Standards. NPSI also committed to review and provide recommendations on the adoption of Reliability Standards.

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[167] The *Nova Scotia Public Utilities Act* is available at: http://nslegislature.ca/legc/statutes/public%20utilities.pdf.

[168] The NSUARB and NERC signed an MOU on December 22, 2006, in which NERC and the NSUARB agreed to a cooperative relationship to improve the reliability of the North American BPS. On May 11, 2010, NERC, NPCC, and NSPI signed an MOU which memorializes the working relationship between the three entities to improve reliability of the grid in Nova Scotia and North America. Both MOUs are available at: http://www.nerc.com/filingsorders/ca/pages/canadian-mous.aspx.

[169] The date of the order is considered the effective date for the adopted Reliability Standards.

Data Sharing

The MOU states that NSPI will provide NPCC all information respecting reporting requirements in the CMEP for NERC Reliability Standards.

Under the MOU, NERC has agreed to share relevant information on issues related to reliability compliance with the NSUARB. Examples of such information include:

(1) Compliance audits and spot checks;

(2) Readiness evaluations;

(3) Disturbance reports;

(4) Reliability assessments and benchmarking information; and

(5) Reports by regional reliability organizations, where applicable.[170]

There is also a data sharing requirement relevant to the Reliability Standards process. The MOU with NSUARB calls for NERC to submit all NERC Board of Trustees-approved Reliability Standards to the NSUARB. NERC also agreed to notify NSUARB immediately if a Reliability Standard has been remanded in another jurisdiction.

With respect to enforcement matters, the MOU states that the NSUARB and NERC will work together to establish a system for disclosure by NERC of violations to provide for assessment and reporting by NERC of inter-region reliability risks to or from entities outside of Nova Scotia where coordinated action is required to address those risks.

Compliance

Compliance is mandatory in Nova Scotia. NPCC as the regional Entity maintains the list of all market participants of the BES who must comply with approved reliability standards. NPCC provides recommendations to NSPI and may also identify organizations that may be candidates for registration and assign them to the compliance registry. The registry is based on the NERC functional model and registry criteria. The NSUARB will monitor compliance and accept compliance information and recommendations from NERC. NERC, NPCC and NSUARB may all suggest compliance violation; proceedings shall be conducted under the NSUARB's direction and control. NERC may recommend a particular penalty for any violation, but NSUARB will be responsible for determining if a violation occurred and what penalties should be imposed.

NSPI is subject to NERC's CMEP as implemented by NPCC.

[170] *See* MOU between the NSUARB and NERC at pp. 2-3.

Ontario

Reliability Standards

The Ontario Minister of Energy is responsible for the legislation that governs the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) and the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) and for energy and electricity policy in the province. The IESO of Ontario is a not-for-profit corporate entity established under the *[Ontario] Electricity Act, 1998*,[171] and is subject to the oversight authority of the OEB. The OEB is responsible for regulating the electricity sector, and it has the legislative authority to stay or revoke the operation of a reliability standard in Ontario and refer it back to NERC or NPCC for further consideration.

On October 25, 2006, the OEB and NERC signed an MOU[172] setting forth the mutual understanding of each party's responsibilities with respect to reliability in the Province of Ontario. The MOU states that Ontario's legislative framework does not expressly contemplate approval of NERC Reliability Standards, By-laws or Rules of Procedure. The MOU recognizes that, under the Ontario Electricity Act, one of the IESO's objectives is to participate in the development of standards relating to the transmission system and to enforce those standards. The MOU confirms that NERC Reliability Standards are referenced generically in the Market Rules written and administered by the IESO, and they are considered in effect in Ontario upon expiration of the remand period. On November 28, 2006, the Ontario Ministry of Energy formally recognized NERC as the entity named as a "standards authority" in the *Electricity Act, 1998*. Subsequently, in 2008, the *Electricity Act, 1998* was amended, allowing for NPCC to be recognized as a standards authority.

An MOU between the IESO, NPCC, and NERC was signed on November 29, 2006 and amended on February 5, 2010. This MOU documents the roles of the parties in conformance with the Ontario reliability framework and commits the IESO to carry out a compliance enforcement program for Ontario entities. The MOU also acknowledges that the NERC Rules of Procedure have effect in Ontario, provided they do not conflict with the established reliability and compliance framework in Ontario. The amended MOU includes provisions for investigations, organization registration, and NERC certification.[173] The IESO is subject to NERC's CMEP processes in accordance with the MOU. Monitoring and enforcement activities, with the exception of financial sanctions, are performed by NPCC.

While there continues to be no formal approval of NERC Reliability Standards in Ontario, there is a process for a Reliability Standard to be rejected or remanded. This process provides for market participants, the IESO, or the OEB itself to initiate a review that could result in a standard

[171] Ontario's *Electricity Act, 1998* is available at: http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws_statutes_98e15_e.htm.

[172] Both the 2006 MOU and the 2010 MOU described in the following paragraph are available at: http://www.nerc.com/filingsorders/ca/pages/canadian-mous.aspx.

[173] In general, such NERC compliance processes do not involve direct participation by Ontario market participants.

being remanded or revoked for application in the province. Only Reliability Standards approved by the NERC Board of Trustees on or after May 14, 2008 are subject to this process.

Ontario was the first jurisdiction in North America to adopt NERC Reliability Standards as mandatory and enforceable. Until July 2011, a NERC Reliability Standard became effective on the date specified by the NERC Board of Trustees when it approved the standard. Because of the uncertainties in the timing of FERC approvals, a standard typically came into effect earlier in Ontario than in adjoining U.S. jurisdictions. An Ontario Market Rule amendment effective July 8, 2011 addressed this mismatch. Under this Market Rule,[174] a NERC Reliability Standard will become effective when it is declared mandatory and enforceable in the U.S., unless the OEB remands the Reliability Standard or otherwise stays its enforceability. In addition, any Reliability Standard approved by the NERC Board of Trustees under NERC Rule 321 (i.e., a standard responsive to a regulatory directive that has not been approved by the NERC RBB) must be approved by IESO before it can comes into effect in Ontario.

To date, Ontario has neither remanded nor modified any NERC Reliability Standards. Information regarding Reliability Standards in Ontario can be found on the IESO's website.[175]

Data Sharing

Under the MOU, NERC will provide the OEB with information relevant to Ontario on issues related to compliance with NERC Reliability Standards, including reports on:

(1) Compliance audits and spot checks;

(2) Readiness audits;

(3) Disturbance reports;

(4) Reliability assessments and benchmarking information; and

(5) Reports by regional reliability organizations, where applicable.

The MOU also calls for NERC to inform the OEB of Reliability Standards approved by NERC and submitted to appropriate regulatory authorities, and to notify the OEB of NERC Reliability Standards that are remanded to NERC in any jurisdiction outside of Ontario. The MOU states that the IESO is the only Ontario entity directly accountable to NERC for its own compliance and will be accountable to NERC for compliance by all Ontario entities with NERC Reliability Standards.

In the MOU, there is also an undertaking that, subject to confidentiality requirements, the IESO will advise NERC of the functional responsibilities of Ontario entities.

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[174] *See Market Rules for the Ontario Electricity Market*, ch. 5, Bulk Power System Reliability, available at: http://ieso-public.sharepoint.com/Documents/marketRules/mr_marketRules.pdf.

[175] *See* https://www.ieso.ca/imoweb/ircp/reliabilityStandards.asp.

Compliance

The IESO is subject to NERC's CMEP, with the exception that the IESO is not subject to financial sanctions.

Compliance enforcement within Ontario, i.e., of Ontario market participants, is conducted by the IESO's Market Assessment and Compliance Division, which is "ring-fenced" from the rest of the organization. The IESO is subject to assessments of compliance with NERC Reliability Standards, including audits performed by NPCC. The MOU provides NPCC and NERC the right to draw their own conclusions with respect to a compliance investigation of Ontario entities, but with limited authority to impose financial sanctions on the IESO only.

The IESO carries out a compliance enforcement program and can issue a monetary order, finding, or remedial action with respect to a violation of a Reliability Standard in Ontario, subject to appeal to the OEB. The IESO has delegated enforcement accountability to the Market Assessment and Compliance Division, which exercises independent discretion in terms of enforcement decision-making.

The Market Assessment and Compliance Division establishes and executes procedures and programs for monitoring, investigating, and imposing sanctions, including financial penalties, against market participants and the IESO itself. The MOU acknowledges the Market Assessment and Compliance Division as the enforcement body in Ontario for Reliability Standards with full sanctioning powers as afforded under the Market Rules for breaches committed by the IESO and Ontario market participants.

In the event that a violation is confirmed under the Market Rules, the name of the responsible entity is made public. The Market Assessment and Compliance Division has the authority to levy sanctions for reliability violations. These sanctions may include financial penalties and are subject to appeal to the OEB. The Market Assessment and Compliance Division has established sanctions guidelines similar to those of NERC using severity/impact criteria. It has authority for "Extraordinary Financial Penalties" under certain circumstances to assess penalties of up to $1 million per occurrence. The OEB can impose administrative penalties of up to $20,000 per day.

Québec

Reliability Standards

The Régie de l'énergie du Québec (Régie) is an independent agency established under the *Act Respecting the Régie de L'Énergie* (Régie Act) to regulate the province's electricity and natural gas sectors. On December 8, 2006, NERC and the Régie signed an MOU that contemplated a future amendment to Québec's reliability legislation to grant the Régie the power to adopt and enforce NERC standards and allow for NERC funding and oversight in the province of Québec.[176]

[176] NERC-Canadian MOUs are available at: http://www.nerc.com/filingsorders/ca/pages/canadian-mous.aspx.

The MOU noted that §73.1 of the Régie Act provides that the "electric power carrier," or Hydro-Québec, will establish reliability standards for its electric power transmission system and submit them to the Régie for approval. According to the MOU, the standards will become mandatory after approval by the Régie.

On December 13, 2006, Québec implemented *An Act Respecting the Implementation of the Québec Energy Strategy and Amending Various Legislative Provisions*,[177] which grants the Régie jurisdiction over a mandatory reliability standards framework in the Province of Québec. This act formalizes the ability of the Régie to approve reliability standards after reviewing an evaluation of the relevance and impact of the proposed standards. Under the act, the Régie may request that the Reliability Coordinator modify a standard or submit a new one. Further, the Reliability Coordinator must submit guidelines to the Régie describing criteria to be taken into account in determining sanctions for noncompliance with reliability standards and identify owners or operators that will be subject to the standards approved by the Régie.

On June 2, 2009, the RC filed an application seeking the adoption of 95 NERC Reliability Standards applicable in Québec, in French and English, along with an evaluation of the relevance and impacts of standards filed with the Régie. The filing also called for the approval of Registers of Entities and of Facilities, and approval of a *Glossary of Terms Used in NERC Reliability Standards*, among other things. The entities' and facilities' registers, as filed for approval, also provide interpretations regarding standard applications within Québec, and among other matters, a BES definition for the Québec Interconnection that is more stringent than NPCC's BPS definition.

In a partial decision issued on May 13, 2011, the Régie approved the content of the submitted NERC Reliability Standards.[178] In addition, the Régie accepted the Main Transmission System to be the system that defines the transmission and generation facilities to which Reliability Standards are applicable (TO, GO, GOP, TOP). The partial decision also called for a number of changes in how the standards and appendices are presented and for a review of the translation of the standards into French. The Régie is working to ensure the French version of the standards is as close in meaning to the English version as possible. The Régie will establish a timetable for filing of revised versions of the standards in English and French for final adoption. Accordingly, no NERC Reliability Standards have been formally adopted nor made effective in Québec.

The second agreement among NERC, the Régie, and NPCC regarding implementation of mandatory Reliability Standards in Québec has been developed, and the agreement is under consideration by the Québec provincial government. The Régie has issued a decision to adopt a second group of Reliability Standards for Québec, which brings the total number of adopted standards in Québec to 35. Following public hearings which took place in October 2013, it is expected that the Régie will issue a decision concerning a third group of standards. Hydro-Québec

[177] Available at: http://www2.publicationsduquebec.gouv.qc.ca/dynamicSearch/telecharge.php?type=5&file=2006C46A.PDF.

[178] A list of these approved Reliability Standards is available at: http://www.regie-energie.qc.ca/audiences/3699-09/Demande_3699-09/B-1_HQCME-2Doc1_3699_02juin09.pdf.

TransÉnergie, the Québec RC, has initiated a consultation process on 18 NERC Reliability Standards that will be filed with the Régie once its decision on the third group of standards is issued. This filing is expected before the end of 2014. The review of the Sanction Guide proposed by Hydro-Québec TransÉnergie and the determination of Reliability Standards enforcement dates remains pending.

Data Sharing

Under the MOU, NERC has agreed to share relevant information on issues related to reliability compliance with the Régie. The MOU further states NERC will be invited to participate in compliance audits and readiness evaluations done in Québec. Under the MOU, NERC and the Régie also agreed to discuss issues relating to: (i) Reliability Standard approval and remand; (ii) penalties for noncompliance with standards; and (iii) funding. For instance, NERC has agreed to notify the Régie when a new or modified standard is approved in the U.S. or remanded by any other jurisdiction outside of Québec. Additionally, although it is recognized that NERC cannot impose financial penalties for violations of Reliability Standards in Québec, NERC has agreed to inform the Régie of any violations and of the corresponding amount of penalties associated with such a violation in the United States.

Compliance

The Régie is responsible for compliance and enforcement. If NERC or NPCC determines that an entity subject to a Reliability Standard is not in compliance with the Reliability Standard, it shall report to the Régie on its findings and may recommend the application of a sanction. Ultimately, the Régie will determine if there has been a violation and will determine any appropriate penalty.

The RC must submit guidelines to the Régie describing criteria to be taken into account in determining sanctions for noncompliance with Reliability Standards and identify owners or operators that will be subject to the standards approved by the Régie. The intent, once all agreements are in place, is that NPCC and NERC will act as the Régie's agents in developing and delivering a comprehensive CMEP, subject to the approval of the Régie. As the first limited list of mandatory standards have only recently come into effect, and as the governmental authorities have not approved the agreement covering compliance arrangements, there has been limited compliance activity under the formal Québec regime.

The agreements note that NERC cannot impose financial penalties, but should recommend to the Régie what would be an appropriate sanction for a particular violation. The RC did submit a sanctions guide to the Régie as required. However, the regulator decided to postpone considering this until the second agreement covering compliance monitoring is approved by the governmental authorities. Under the provincial regime, the Régie may impose, if appropriate, a sanction that may not exceed $500,000 per day and set a deadline for payment.

Saskatchewan

Reliability Standards

Pursuant to *The Power Corporation Act*,[179] Saskatchewan Power Corporation (SaskPower) has the authority to adopt, set, and administer standards for the planning, design, or operation of transmission lines, equipment, or other facilities within the Saskatchewan integrated regional power grid, and to maintain a membership in an integrated regional power organization. NERC, MRO, and SaskPower entered into an MOU that became effective on February 3, 2009 and was amended on January 15, 2012.[180] The MOU reflects the intent of Saskatchewan to support common North American BPS standards and to describe the protocols to achieve such a goal. For purposes of the MOU, NERC, and MRO are recognized to be Saskatchewan's electric Reliability Standard setting bodies.

Reliability Standards approved by the NERC Board of Trustees are automatically adopted in Saskatchewan, unless one of the following two conditions applies. First, if a particular standard has been remanded by any jurisdiction, the Reliability Standard will not be applicable in Saskatchewan. Second, a Reliability Standard will not be applicable in Saskatchewan if is remanded, set aside, or a variance has been requested. Under the MOU, once the Reliability Standard is adopted, compliance with the standard is required in Saskatchewan.

Data Sharing

The MOU between MRO, SaskPower, and NERC does not have an explicit provision regarding public disclosure of violations.

Compliance

Under SaskPower's legislative authority, the oversight unit within SaskPower serves as the monitoring, compliance, and enforcement authority for the province. MRO currently performs on-site compliance audits for SaskPower. While not delegating its reliability authority, SaskPower aligns its compliance program, to the degree reasonable, to the compliance and monitoring processes established by NERC and MRO.

The process includes, but is not limited to, the following three functions:

(1) Oversight (including remand, set aside, and compliance findings);

(2) Standards development (including the coordination of assessments, communication, and internal education); and

[179] Available at: http://www.qp.gov.sk.ca/documents/English/Statutes/Statutes/P19.pdf.

[180] NERC-Canadian MOUs are available at: http://www.nerc.com/filingsorders/ca/pages/canadian-mous.aspx.

(3) Compliance and enforcement (including management of an internal and external auditing function, which will give Saskatchewan the ability to make formal findings of compliance and noncompliance and to order and enforce mitigation plans to be implemented).

The oversight unit within SaskPower would make any determination of a violation. There is no provision for financial or other sanction. The oversight unit can impose a mitigation plan on a noncompliant entity.

National Energy Board

Reliability Standards

NERC and the NEB signed an MOU in 2006. The MOU recognizes NERC as the ERO. In the MOU, NERC and the NEB commit to coordinate in the promotion of a reliable North American BPS.

The NEB regulates the construction and operation of international power lines in accordance with, among other things, the *National Energy Board Act* and the *National Energy Board Electricity Regulations*.[181] The NEB has authority under its legislative framework to take certain enforcement measures in the case of noncompliance to the conditions of a permit or a certificate that was issued for an international power line.

While initially the NEB did not have an authority to make Reliability Standards mandatory and enforceable on international power lines, this was changed with the passage of NEB's *General Order MO-036-2012 for Electricity Reliability Standards* and five amending orders for Electricity Reliability Standards in December 2012 (NEB General Order).[182]

The provisions of the NEB General Order contain twelve Reliability Standards requirements that correspond to the main categories of Reliability Standards developed by NERC. The requirements are defined broadly so that they may include regional variations and can be harmonized with provincial regulatory frameworks as they relate to Reliability Standards.

In the NEB General Order, the NEB did not itself adopt any NERC Reliability Standards. Rather, the NEB General Order requires that international power line owners file with the NEB a list of Reliability Standards adopted by the provincial system to which the international power line connects. The NEB General Order requires international power line owners or permit holders to identify these Reliability Standards and to keep the NEB advised of any changes. Accordingly, there is no list of the NEB-approved Reliability Standards, nor does the NEB make determinations of effective dates. The NEB also committed to working with the provinces, utilities and other reliability authorities including NERC to avoid, to the extent possible, the generation of duplicate

[181] NEB maintains a list of acts and regulations that set forth its mandate, responsibilities, and powers at: http://www.neb-one.gc.ca/clf-nsi/rpblctn/ctsndrgltn/lstctsndrgltn-eng.html.

[182] The NEB General Order is available at: http://www.neb-one.gc.ca/clf-nsi/rpblctn/ctsndrgltn/rrggnmgpnb/lctrcty/lctrcty-eng.html.

reporting requirements. However, international power line owners are required to submit to the NEB reports of noncompliance with Reliability Standards.

Data Sharing

NERC and the NEB have committed to exchange of experience, information and data relating to the development and compliance with Reliability Standards as applicable to international power lines. The MOU commits NERC to informing and seeking input from the NEB on proposed changes to NERC's Bylaws or ROP. The MOU also commits NERC to inform the NEB when a SAR has been approved and assigned to a drafting team, and to notify NEB when a Reliability Standard is approved.

Under the MOU, NERC commits to notify the NEB at the stage of its development process where the Standards Committee approves a SAR and assigns it for development by a drafting team. The NEB agrees to inform NERC about any changes in its regulatory processes to allow formal approval of NERC Reliability Standards.

Compliance

Consistent with its approach to adopting standards, the NEB has not imposed its own additional compliance monitoring and enforcement regime. The NEB General Order requires international power line permit holders to provide the NEB with certain compliance information, based on the compliance program of the jurisdiction where the international power line is located. In 2012, legislation was passed to provide the NEB with authority to establish a system of Administrative Monetary Penalties (AMP) through regulations in order to promote compliance with the *National Energy Board Act*. The penalties can be up to $100,000 per day for violations levied on companies. Lesser amounts can be levied on individuals. The NEB's regulations on how the AMP would be applied came into force in mid-2013.

There currently is no specific provision that violations would be made public.

Mexico

Baja California

Reliability Standards

The Comisión Federal de Electricidad (CFE), through the Centro Nacional de Control de Energia (CENACE), and the Area de Control Baja California (ACBC) have entered into a MOA with WECC. The MOA provides that WECC assist CENACE and ACBC in monitoring compliance with Mexico Reliability Standards for Baja California, Mexico. CENACE has approved the following Mexico Reliability Standards:

- BAL-001-MX-0 (Real Power Balancing Control Performance)
- BAL-006-MX-0 (Inadvertent Interchange)

- CIP-001-MX-0 (Sabotage Reporting)
- INT-001-MX-0 (Interchange Information)
- INT-003-MX-0 (Interchange Transaction Implementation)
- PER-001-MX-0 (Operating Personnel Responsibility and Authority)
- PER-002-MX-0 (Operating Personnel Training)
- PER-003-MX-0 (Operating Personnel Credentials)
- VAR-002-WECC-MX-0 (Automatic Voltage Regulators (AVR))
- VAR-501-WECC-MX-0 (Power System Stabilizer (PSS))

CFE participates in the NERC Reliability Standards and WECC regional standards development process to develop standards.

Compliance

WECC uses a compliance monitoring program[183] to monitor and assess compliance with Mexico Reliability Standards applicable to Designated Entities,[184] consistent with the applicable law of Mexico and relevant agreements. If there is any conflict between the MOA and the CMP, the MOA prevails.

WECC does not have enforcement or registration/designation authority for CFE. WECC provides compliance monitoring, reviews mitigation plans and completed mitigation plans, and provides assessment recommendations with respect to alleged violations.

[183] The 2014 implementation plan for Mexico Reliability Standards, together with other CFE-related documents and compliance information, is available at: http://www.wecc.biz/compliance/Baja_CFE/Pages/Baja-English.aspx.

[184] "Designated Entities" are the Mexican equivalent of registered entities in the United States.

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
DOCKET NO. RR14-___

NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY CORPORATION

ATTACHMENT 2

TO

FIVE-YEAR ELECTRIC RELIABILITY ORGANIZATION PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT REPORT

JOINT REGIONAL ENTITY SELF-ASSESSMENT

JULY 21, 2014

Attachment 2

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Appendix A: Description of Regional Entities

Appendix B: Regional Entity Responses to Specific Concerns Raised in the Commission's September 16, 2010 Order on the Three-Year ERO Performance Assessment

Appendix C: Regional Entities' Satisfaction of Statutory and Regulatory Criteria

INTRODUCTION

The Regional Entities are pleased to have the opportunity to submit jointly a self-assessment of their performance for 2009 through 2013, to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission or FERC), as part of the *Five-Year Electric Reliability Organization (ERO) Performance Assessment Report* prepared by the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC).[1] While their corporate structures may vary, the Regional Entities are uniformly committed to working together and with the ERO to ensure the reliability of the bulk power system (BPS) in the U.S., and, where applicable, in Canada and Mexico. They are likewise dedicated to create seamless implementation of the law and policies administered by the Commission and the ERO. In light of the commonality of these overarching objectives, under the leadership of the Regional Entity Management Group (REMG), the Regional Entities prepared this 2014 Joint Regional Entity Self-Assessment (JRESA), which they respectfully request that the Commission accept.

The main purpose of this self-assessment is to demonstrate that the Regional Entities continued during the assessment period to satisfy the statutory and regulatory criteria for certification as part of the ERO. In this regard, in its order accepting the ERO's Three-Year Performance Assessment, the Commission explicitly directed that future assessments of the Regional Entities include a separate section assessing each Regional Entity's satisfaction of those criteria.[2] This self-assessment also provides an update on issues and concerns raised in the 2009 JRESA, specifically with respect to regional Reliability Standards, organization registration and certification, the compliance monitoring and enforcement program, and additional statutory functions.[3]

A. Satisfaction of Statutory and Regulatory Criteria

Section 215(e)(4) of the Federal Power Act (FPA), 16 U.S.C. §824o(e)(4), as reiterated in §39.8 of the Commission's regulations, 18 C.F.R. §39.8 (2013), provides that a Regional Entity must satisfy the following criteria to be delegated "authority for the purpose of proposing reliability standards to the ERO and enforcing reliability standards:"

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[1] The eight Regional Entities are: (i) Florida Reliability Coordinating Council, Inc. (FRCC); (ii) Midwest Reliability Organization (MRO); (iii) Northeast Power Coordinating Council, Inc. (NPCC); (iv) ReliabilityFirst Corporation (ReliabilityFirst or RF); (v) SERC Reliability Corporation (SERC); (vi) Southwest Power Pool Regional Entity (SPP RE) — an independent and functionally separate division of Southwest Power Pool, Inc. (SPP); (vii) Texas Reliability Entity, Inc. (Texas RE or TRE); (viii) and Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC). A description of each of the individual Regional Entities can be found at Appendix A.

[2] *See North American Electric Reliability Corporation*, Order on the Electric Reliability Organization's Three-Year Performance Assessment, 132 FERC ¶ 61,217 (2010), at P 36. The Commission also discussed specific concerns regarding each of the individual Regional Entities in the order on the three year assessment. *Id*. PP 198-244. The responses of the individual Regional Entities to those concerns can be found at Appendix B.

[3] The instant self-assessment will not repeat the discussion on the framework of self-regulation and delegation, found at pp. 12-18 of the 2009 JRESA, as that discussion was more appropriate for an assessment of the initiation of the reliability paradigm; however, opportunities to improve that structure are discussed *infra* pp. 6-8.

(1) The Regional Entity is governed by an independent board, a balanced stakeholder board or a combination independent and balanced stakeholder board.

(2) The Regional Entity meets the requirements otherwise applicable to the ERO in FPA §215(c)(1)(2), 16 U.S.C. §824o(c)(1)(2), namely that it (a) has the ability to develop and enforce reliability standards that provide for an adequate level of reliability of the bulk-power system; and (b) has established rules that (i) assure its independence of the users and owners and operators of the bulk-power system, while assuring fair stakeholder representation in the selection of its directors and balanced decision-making in any ERO committee or subordinate organization structure, (ii) allocate equitably reasonable dues, fees, and other charges among end users for all activities, (iii) provide fair and impartial procedures for enforcement of reliability standards through the imposition of penalties, (iv) provide for reasonable notice and opportunity for public comment, due process, openness, and balance of interests in developing reliability standards and otherwise exercising its duties, and (v) provide for taking appropriate steps to gain recognition in Canada and Mexico.

(3) The Regional Entity operates under a delegation agreement that promotes effective and efficient administration of bulk-power system reliability.

Each of the eight Regional Entities continued to satisfy the statutory and regulatory criteria during the assessment period, as demonstrated with specificity on Appendix C and summarized briefly here.

The Regional Entities met the first criterion by being governed by an independent board (SPP RE and WECC (as of January 1, 2014)), a balanced stakeholder board (FRCC and SERC), or a combination independent and balanced stakeholder board (MRO (as of January 1, 2013), NPCC, RF, TRE, and WECC (during the assessment period)).

The Regional Entities fulfilled the next requirement to develop and enforce Reliability Standards that provide an adequate level of reliability of the BPS by working closely with NERC and stakeholders in the development of continent-wide standards and in the implementation and improvement of the Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program (CMEP). In particular, although each Regional Entity had a regional Reliability Standards Development Procedure (RRSDP), with the exception of WECC, they developed few regional Reliability Standards during the assessment period. They preferred to support NERC's efforts to develop continent-wide standards and focus their resources primarily on monitoring compliance with, and enforcement of, the mandatory Reliability Standards. Illustratively, during the assessment period, the Regional Entities conducted 2,358 compliance audits and 1,612 compliance spot checks, and processed 4,740 self-reports. They discovered nearly 6,900 violations or possible violations of the mandatory Reliability Standards, and submitted through NERC 5,128 confirmed violations in 633 Notices of Penalty (NOPs) to the Commission. They also explored ways to approach their compliance and enforcement responsibilities with a greater emphasis on

measuring the risk of noncompliance on the reliability of the BPS. In this regard, in collaboration with NERC, they developed the Reliability Assurance Initiative (RAI).[4]

The Regional Entities also established rules to ensure impartiality in the conduct of their business and due process in the performance of their compliance and enforcement functions, and, where applicable, took the appropriate steps to gain recognition in and otherwise work with entities in Canada and Mexico. To start with, they followed the NERC Rules of Procedure (ROP), as approved by the Commission, and adopted additional procedures and policies for their own areas. Thus, for example, they all relied on NERC ROP *Sanction Guidelines*, Appendix 4B, CMEP, Appendix 4C, and *Hearing Procedures,* Attachment 2 to Appendix 4C to carry out their compliance, enforcement, and hearing responsibilities fairly and impartially. They augmented those rules with policies and procedures to prevent conflicts of interest in the operation of their boards of directors or trustees, the exercise of their statutory duties, and the activities of their employees and contractors. They also followed NERC's lead, again as approved by the Commission, in equitably recovering their funding from end users through a formula based on net energy for load (NEL), and developed annual business plans and budgets for Commission approval to assure that they properly and adequately accounted for those funds. As noted, while they generally forwent the development of regional Reliability Standards during the assessment period, the Regional Entities participated in the development and improvement of the NERC Reliability Standards while maintaining their RRSDPs in the event they were needed. Finally, three of the Regional Entities with international footprints—MRO, NPCC, and WECC—made appropriate arrangements with Canadian border provincial authorities and utilities to coordinate the oversight of Canadian and U.S. reliability efforts, and WECC entered into a memorandum of understanding with the Mexican energy regulator under which WECC acts as a compliance monitor for certain activities in Baja California, Mexico.

Finally, the Regional Entities satisfied the statutory and regulatory criterion for maintaining their delegated authority by operating under agreements with NERC that promoted effective and efficient administration of BPS reliability. As described by the Commission when it first approved NERC's delegation agreements with the Regional Entities (RDAs) in 2007, NERC delegated authority under those agreements to the Regional Entities to audit, investigate, and otherwise ensure that users, owners, and operators of the BPS comply with NERC's mandatory Reliability Standards, subject to ERO oversight.[5] The RDAs further addressed regional Reliability Standards development, registration of entities that must comply with Reliability Standards, and other services supporting NERC's functions, including reliability assessments, event analysis, and training and education. In October 2010, the Commission again approved (revised) RDAs between NERC and each of the eight Regional Entities.[6]

[4] Regional activity and actions in regard to standards development and the CMEP, in particular RAI, are discussed later in greater detail under those headings.

[5] *See North American Electric Reliability Corp.*, 119 FERC ¶ 61,060, *order on reh'g,* 120 FERC ¶ 61,260 (2007).

[6] *See North American Electric Reliability Corporation*, 133 FERC ¶ 61,061 (2010), *order on reh'g*, 134 FERC ¶ 61,179, *order on compliance filing*, 137 FERC ¶ 61,028 (2011).

Subsequently, the Commission also approved other changes to specific regional agreements.[7] In brief, the Regional Entities functioned during the assessment period under RDAs with NERC that were comprehensively reviewed and ultimately approved by the Commission to promote effective and efficient administration of BPS reliability.

As a separate but related matter, each of the Regional Entities underwent at least one extensive audit by the Commission staff during the assessment period. Most of these audits evaluated the Regional Entities' budget formulation, administration, and execution, and focused on the costs and resources used to achieve program objectives in fulfilling the duties delegated to them by the ERO under FPA §215.[8] The final audit reports concluded that the Regional Entities had policies, procedures, and controls that facilitated their carrying out, in an effective and efficient manner, their responsibilities under their RDAs and bylaws, as well as their budget obligations. Several other audits more closely examined the structures of the regional organizations, and made recommendations in particular with respect to separation of functions.[9] In all of these proceedings, during the assessment period, the Regional Entities completed or were in the process of completing the corrective actions suggested by the Commission or its staff. The Regional Entities believe that the overall conclusions and recommendations in the Regional Entity audits underscore that they satisfied the statutory and regulatory criteria for maintaining the authority delegated to them by the ERO.[10]

B. Achievements

Closely intertwined in the Regional Entities' satisfaction of the statutory and regulatory certification criteria during the assessment period were their achievements as individual organizations and as a group united by common goals. Their individual achievements are partly set forth in Appendix C, and discussed or referenced throughout this document. Their joint achievements are, by definition, likewise discussed throughout this document. These achievements in particular reflect the work and oversight of the REMG, an organization composed of the executives of the eight Regional Entities to provide strategic guidance in the execution of their RDAs, consistent with maintaining and enhancing reliability across North

[7] *See*, e.g. *North American Electric Reliability Corporation*, Docket Nos. RR13-7-000 (Aug. 19, 2013) (TRE), RR13-5-000 (June 12, 2013) (MRO), RR12-12-000 (Oct. 24, 2012) (RF), RR12-4-000 (June 12, 2012) (FRCC), and RR12-2-000 (March 1, 2012) (WECC) (unpublished delegated letter orders).

[8] *See* delegated letter orders and final audit reports issued in *North American Electric Reliability Corporation*, Docket Nos. FA12-14-000 (May 9, 2013) (MRO), FA12-7-000 (May 9, 2013) (RF), PA12-10-000 (June 28, 2013) (NPCC), FA12-6-000 (June 11, 2013) (SERC), PA11-2-000 (October 5, 2011) (SPP RE), and PA12-9-000 (July 10, 2013) (WECC) (unpublished delegated letter orders).

[9] *See Florida Reliability Coordinating Council, Inc*., 131 FERC ¶ 61,262 (2010); *Western Electricity Coordination Council*, 132 FERC ¶ 61,149 (2010); *Texas Regional Entity*, 130 FERC ¶ 61,025 (2010).

[10] NERC also audited the Regional Entities during the assessment period, in accordance with the Commission's direction in Order No. 672. *See Rules Concerning Certification of the Electric Reliability Organization; and Procedures for the Establishment, Approval and Enforcement of Electric Reliability Standards*, Order No. 672, FERC Stats. & Regs. ¶ 31,204 (2006), at P 773. Specifically, NERC developed a program to audit the Regional Entities' adherence to the NERC ROP, the CMEP, and the requirements of the Regional Delegation Agreements. *See* generally http://www.nerc.com/pa/comp/Audits%20of%20Regional%20Entities%20DL/Forms/AllItems.aspx.

America for the benefit of all BPS users, owners, and operators. The REMG aims to attain that objective by promoting information sharing, transparency, and consistency with and among the Regional Entities while assuring efficient and effective use of resources to execute their delegated functions. In addition, the REMG combines the Regional Entities' efforts with the ERO Executive Management Group (ERO EMG), which was chartered originally in April 2010, and likewise dedicated to provide guidance and direction in the execution of the RDAs.

As particularly relevant to the rest of this self-assessment, in the summer of 2012, the REMG held its first strategic retreat, and decided upon three priorities: (i) to ensure that their work, especially in the audit area, follows professional standards and as a result fosters consistency among the Regional Entities; (ii) to reserve enforcement for serious matters, rather than using enforcement for every corrective action resulting from a violation; and (iii) to scale their work towards risk to reliability and move away from a prescriptive, mechanical approach. Soon after this retreat, as discussed in greater detail below, the Regional Entities took steps to make these priorities a reality. With NERC's participation, they engaged a third-party consulting firm to perform a review of the Regional Entities' auditing practices, to identify areas to improve consistency among the Regional Entities, and to increase the rigor in the conduct of their work. Within a relatively short time, by the end of the assessment period, NERC and the Regional Entities made substantial progress on implementing the consulting firm's major recommendations to develop a standardized audit process checklist, to publish an auditor handbook, and to create an audit training program around these tools. The Regional Entities also worked closely with NERC and the registered entities to pursue the related second and third priorities of reserving enforcement for serious matters and directing their compliance and enforcement efforts to identifying risk to the BPS. In this regard, they continued to examine ways to improve the timeliness and effectiveness of their CMEP processes, including improvements in self-reporting and enhancements to the Find, Fix, Track and Report (FFT) program, and prepared analyses and initiated pilot programs to find better ways to gauge the risk that registered entities posed to reliability, and to scale their monitoring and enforcement efforts accordingly. As a result, the Regional Entities believe that a solid foundation was laid during the assessment period to advance to the next phase of the ERO Enterprise's maturation as captured conceptually in RAI.[11]

C. Improvement Opportunities

Notwithstanding the solid foundation for the continued effective functioning of the ERO Enterprise, the Regional Entities, in tandem with NERC, are committed to exploring ways to improve their operations and their contribution to the reliability of the BPS. In this regard, they have identified certain elements essential to improved operations of the ERO Enterprise on which they plan to focus in the months ahead. Specifically, they plan to pursue: (i) clarifying and refining roles and responsibilities; (ii) coordinating strategic planning and operational decision-making; (iii) continuing to improve consistency; (iv) sharing tools and infrastructure for delegated functions; and (v) coordinating communications.

[11] Toward the end of the assessment period, the reliability community began to use the expression "ERO Enterprise" to represent the combined efforts of NERC and the Regional Entities.

The undertaking to clarify and refine roles and responsibilities is especially important to the Regional Entities as it is critical to the smooth operation of the self-regulated model. At its core, the ERO Enterprise must exercise effective and well-coordinated reliability oversight that mitigates reliability risks to the BPS. Accordingly, NERC and the Regional Entities have identified objectives on which they will concentrate to clarify and refine roles and responsibilities within the ERO Enterprise. For example, NERC will consider including in its review of Regional Entity business plans adequacy of resources and alignment of the plans for achieving delegated function objectives and outcomes described in the three-year plan. For their part, the Regional Entities will work in a coordinated fashion to support NERC in the development of comprehensive functional program designs and controls; adapt existing regional programs for delegated functions to conform to emerging program designs provided by NERC; and ensure Regional Entity staffs meet qualification and training requirements.

In addition, NERC and the Regional Entities will strive to better coordinate their strategic and business planning, e.g., by developing and maintaining a joint three-year strategic plan for the ERO Enterprise describing the goals and deliverables for statutory functions, a plan that should guide the development of each Regional Entity's annual business plans. Along the same lines, NERC and Regional Entities intend to develop and transparently report results based on a common set of performance measures focused on BPS reliability outcomes and effectiveness of the statutory programs. Furthermore, they hope to better coordinate operational decision-making within the ERO Enterprise.

Lastly, at this time, NERC and the Regional Entities plan to focus on better achieving consistency, sharing tools and infrastructure for delegated functions, and coordinating external and cross-ERO Enterprise communications. Specifically, with NERC leading, the ERO Enterprise will explore developing a core set of methods, practices, procedures, and tools to support unified implementation of the major statutory functions of NERC. The Regional Entities and NERC will also examine developing ERO Enterprise IT applications, where appropriate, to support common processes, to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of Regional Entities' practices, to increase the consistency of the interface with registered entities, and to facilitate NERC's oversight function. Finally, all parties of the ERO Enterprise plan to continue the joint board coordination to ensure oversight and accountability of all elements of the enterprise, and to continue refining and expanding coordinated outreach to government entities in the U.S. and Canada, stakeholders, and media.

The Regional Entities believe that this coordinated effort with NERC to improve the self-regulation model will result in more clarity around the roles and responsibilities between them and among them which in turn will lead to better coordination of goals, more uniform work processes and tools, and performance measures across the enterprise, along with an understanding that all parties comprising the ERO Enterprise must be vested in each other's success. These improvements will also create higher levels of productivity, less duplication, and greater efficiency in the oversight and execution of statutory functions and mitigation of BPS reliability risks. The Regional Entities look forward to working with NERC and the stakeholders in their continual pursuit of opportunities to improve their operations that will promote the reliability of the nation's BPS.

D. Regional Reliability Standards

The 2009 JRESA provided a brief overview of the regional Reliability Standards process and scope, and reviewed what had been achieved to date.[12] The following provides an update on that overview and review and additional information on the Regional Entities' progress in developing regional Reliability Standards.

1. Regional Reliability Standards Processes

FPA §215(d), 16 U.S.C. §824o(d), requires the ERO to develop mandatory and enforceable Reliability Standards that are subject to Commission review and approval. Once approved, the Reliability Standards may be enforced by NERC, subject to Commission oversight, or by the Commission independently. A Regional Entity may also develop a Reliability Standard for Commission approval to be effective in that region only. In Order No. 672, the Commission stated that:

> As a general matter, we will accept the following two types of regional differences, provided they are otherwise just, reasonable, not unduly discriminatory or preferential and in the public interest, as required under the statute: (1) a regional difference that is more stringent than the continent-wide Reliability Standard, including a regional difference that addresses matters that the continent-wide Reliability Standard does not; and (2) a regional Reliability Standard that is necessitated by a physical difference in the Bulk-Power System.[13]

In addition, FPA §215(d)(3), 16 U.S.C. §824o(d)(3), provides that the ERO "shall rebuttably presume that a proposal from a Regional Entity organized on an interconnection-wide basis for a reliability standard or modification to a reliability standard to be applicable on an interconnection-wide basis is just, reasonable, and not unduly discriminatory or preferential, and in the public interest."[14]

In October 2010, as noted earlier, the Commission approved revised RDAs between NERC and each of the eight Regional Entities.[15] As relevant here, Exhibit C to the revised RDAs includes each Regional Entity's current RRSDP.[16] These procedures provide the process that each Regional Entity uses to develop regional Reliability Standards that are proposed to NERC for adoption, and, where applicable, regional variances if the Regional Entity is organized

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[12] *See* 2009 JRESA, at pp. 19-20.

[13] *Rules Concerning Certification of the Electric Reliability Organization; and Procedures for the Establishment, Approval and Enforcement of Electric Reliability Standards*, Order No. 672, FERC Stats. & Regs. ¶ 31,204, at P 291, *order on reh'g*, Order No. 672-A, FERC Stats. & Regs. ¶ 31,212 (2006).

[14] *See also* 18 C.F.R. §39.5(b) (2013).

[15] *See North American Electric Reliability Corporation*, 133 FERC ¶ 61,061 (2010).

[16] *See* http://www.nerc.com/AboutNERC/Pages/Regional-Entity-Delegation-Agreements.aspx.

on an interconnect-wide basis. While the RRSDP's are not identical, each contains important common attributes that advance the development of regional Reliability Standards consistent with the objective of a uniform reliability program.[17] Illustratively, participation in the development of a regional Reliability Standard must be open to all organizations that are directly and materially affected by the Regional Entity's system, with no constraints based on financial capability, technical expertise or membership in the organization. The RRSDP must strive to have an appropriate balance of interests and may not be dominated by any two interest categories and no single interest category can defeat a matter. All entities with a direct and material interest in the BPS in the region may participate by expressing a position and its basis, having that position considered, and having the right to appeal. The RRSDP must also provide for reasonable notice and opportunity for public comment, and provide that all actions material to the development of any standards be transparent.[18] Under these circumstances, it can be fairly stated that during the assessment period, each of the Regional Entities fulfilled the obligation to provide an open, fair, balanced, and inclusive process for the development of regional Reliability Standards as demonstrated by the approval of those processes at the Commission, NERC, and regional levels.

NERC understandably focuses on the development of continent-wide standards as consistent with the goal of a reliable BPS, and, from the inception of the program, the Commission, NERC, and the Regional Entities anticipated that the Regional Entities would develop relatively few regional Reliability Standards to address unique situations with specific or more stringent requirements in a particular interconnection or geographic region which the continent-wide standards may not address. In fact, that has been proven to be the case. Since the Commission issued Order No. 693 in 2007, outside of WECC, the Commission has approved only seven regional Reliability Standards.[19] The regional Reliability Standards in effect as of the end of the assessment period are listed in Table 1.

[17] The Regional Entities regularly review their RRSDPs to ensure they are adequate to develop regional Reliability Standards consistent with Commission's directives and NERC's ROP *Standard Processes Manual* at Appendix 3A. *See,* e.g., *North American Electric Reliability Corporation*, Docket Nos. RR13-5-000 (June 12, 2013) (MRO), RR12-12-000 (Oct. 24, 2012) (RF), RR14-1-000 (Jan. 31, 2014) (SPP RE) , RR12-2-000 (March 1, 2012) (WECC) (unpublished delegated letter orders).

[18] In this regard, NERC maintains on its website a current overview of regional Reliability Standards under development, with detailed information on the status of the proceeding. *See* http://www.nerc.com/pa/Stand/Pages/RegionalReliabilityStandardsUnderDevelopment.aspx.

[19] WECC developed the most regional Reliability Standards because of a mandatory program it had in place prior to the approval of NERC as the ERO and the delegation to WECC. Under this program, called the Reliability Management System (RMS), WECC was required to translate existing reliability criteria into regional mandatory standards. *See,* e.g., *North American Electric Reliability Corporation*, 119 FERC ¶ 61,260 (2007) (describing the RMS and approving WECC-BAL-STD-002-0,WECC-IRO-STD-006-0, WECC-PRC-STD-001-1, WECC-PRC-STD-003-1, WECC-PRC-STD-005-1, WECC-TOP-STD-007-0,WECC-VAR-STD-002a-1,and WECC-VAR-STD-002b-1).

Regional Reliability Standards – Table 1	
Regional Entity	**Regional Reliability Standards (Description)** **FERC Docket Number, Citation**
FRCC	None
MRO	None
NPCC	**PRC-002-NPCC-01** (Disturbance Monitoring Equipment) RD11-8-000, 137 FERC ¶ 61,043 (2011). **PRC-006-NPCC-01** (Automatic Underfrequency Load Shedding) RM12-12-000, Order No. 775, 142 FERC ¶ 61,128 (2013).
RF	**BAL-502-RFC-02** (Planning Resource Adequacy Analysis, Assessment and Documentation) RM10-10-000, Order No. 747, 134 FERC ¶ 61,212 (2011).
SERC	**PRC-006-SERC-01** (Automatic Underfrequency Load Shedding Requirements) RM12-9-000, Order No. 772, 141 FERC ¶ 61,243 (2012).
SPP RE	None
TRE	**CIP-001-2a** (Regional Variance) (Cyber Security – Sabotage Reporting) RD11-6-000, Delegated Letter Order, August 2, 2011. **IRO-006-TRE-1** (Transmission Loading Relief) RD12-1-000, 139 FERC ¶ 61,169 (2012). **BAL-001-TRE-1** (Real Power Balancing Control) RD13-12-000, 146 FERC ¶ 61,025 (2014).
WECC	**FAC-501-WECC-1** (Transmission Maintenance) **VAR-002-WECC-1** (Automatic Voltage Regulators) **VAR-501-WECC-1** (Power System Stabilizer) **PRC-004-WECC-1** (Protection System and Remedial Action Scheme Misoperation) RM09-9-000, Order No. 751, 135 FERC ¶ 61,061 (2011). **IRO-006-WECC-1** (Qualified Transfer Path Unscheduled Flow Relief) RM09-19-000, Order No. 746, 134 FERC ¶ 61,199 (2011). **BAL-004-WECC-02** (Automatic Time Error Correction) (replacing BAL-004-WECC-1) RD13-11-000k, Delegated Letter Order (Oct. 16. 2013). **TOP-007-WECC-1** (System Operating Limits) RM09-14-000, Order No. 752, 135 FERC ¶ 61,062 (2011). **BAL-002-WECC-2** (Contingence Reserve) (replacing BAL-STD-002-2) RM13-13-000, Order No. 789, 145 FERC ¶ 61,141 (2013).

Indeed, while the Regional Entities believe that they should still have the authority to develop regional Reliability Standards under the conditions laid out by the Commission and

maintain their RRSDP's accordingly, with the exception of WECC, they are no longer actively engaged in developing regional standards.[20] Rather, they prefer to avoid duplicating NERC efforts, and concentrate their relevant resources on working with NERC and stakeholders to develop clear, reasonable, and technically sound continent-wide standards in a timely and efficient manner, and to ensure that regional concerns are addressed in the continent-wide standards. To this end, and as further discussed later under §D.3 below, Prioritization of Standards Work, the Regional Entities are actively encouraging awareness and participation in the NERC standards process by stakeholders in their areas, by educational outreach efforts, and through participation in the NERC Standards Committee and related subcommittees. They also have standards committees or groups that analyze the draft ERO standards to determine their quality and effectiveness, and to ensure the reliability objective is adequate and cost effective.

2. Regional Fill-in-the-Blank Standards and Regional Criteria

The 2009 JRESA agreed with stakeholders' concerns about the effect on reliability of the outstanding and incomplete "fill-in-the-blank" reliability standards projects.[21] During the assessment period, the ERO Enterprise made considerable progress to respond to the Commission's directives on those standards. This was accomplished in large part by greater collaboration and cooperation between NERC and the Regional Entities. Furthermore, the Regional Entities believe now that the appropriate resolution to the issue of fill-in-the-blank standards is the timely development of continent-wide NERC Reliability Standards.[22] Accordingly, as a general matter, the Regional Entities are no longer planning to develop Regional Reliability Standards to address the "fill-in-the blank" standards; however, they may pursue any unaddressed reliability gaps that new continent-wide standards may not cover.

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[20] Illustratively, during the assessment period, FRCC stayed work on four regional Reliability Standards (PRC-003-FRCC-01, PRC-002-FRCC-01, PRC-006-FRCC-01, and PRC-024-FRCC-01) in large part because of related activities at the national level. MRO developed four regional Reliability Standards, but found them unnecessary before even submitting them to the board. RF worked on a number of regional Reliability Standards (e.g., MOD-024-RFC-01, MOD-025-RFC-01, EOP-007-RFC-01, and PRC-002-RFC-01) that it subsequently, using its RRSDP, converted to Regional Criteria, which are essentially RF board-approved good utility practices. In August 2012, RF also suspended work on drafting efforts for PRC-006-RFC-01 and PRC-012-RFC-01. SPP RE developed one board-approved regional Reliability Standard (PRC-006-SPP-01), but withdrew the FERC filing in August 2013, because a continent-wide standard eliminated the need for it.

In contrast, WECC maintained and continued to develop regional Reliability Standards during the assessment period for two primary reasons: (i) the Western Interconnection has some unique characteristics and concerns; and (ii) several of the current WECC regional Reliability Standards projects are required by the initial FERC orders approving the WECC regional Reliability Standards as part of the transition from the RMS program. *See supra* note 19. *See* generally http://www.wecc.biz/Standards/Development/Pages/default.aspx.

[21] As explained in the 2009 JRESA, at p. 19, when the Commission approved 83 Reliability Standards in Order No. 693, it withheld a decision on certain standards that referred to Regional requirements that were not specifically noted within the standards. These were referred to as "fill-in-the-blank," meaning the entity had to refer to a Regional document for the answer of what level of performance was required.

[22] In this regard, for example, the Commission's approval of Reliability Standard PRC-006-1 addressed an area of significant concern with respect to under-frequency load shedding. *See Automatic Underfrequency Load Shedding and Load Shedding Plans Reliability Standards*, Order No. 763, 139 FERC ¶ 61,098 (2012).

3. Prioritization of Standards Work

While NERC is responsible in the first instance to develop the continent-wide standards, the Regional Entities clearly have a stake in that process, because they are ultimately responsible for enforcing compliance with those standards. Accordingly, during the assessment period, the Regional Entities supported NERC in response to the Commission's concerns to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the standards development process and to improve the quality of the resulting Reliability Standards. As now discussed, the Regional Entities are encouraged by the advances that NERC made in this regard.

First, the Regional Entities support NERC's objective to transform the current set of Reliability Standards in 2014 through 2015 to high quality, technically sound, results-based, cost-effective standards, which collectively will help ensure the reliable operation of the North American BPS. They especially appreciate NERC's piloting of the Cost Effective Analysis Process (CEAP), which is intended to evaluate the cost effectiveness of standards under development.

Second, the Regional Entities appreciate NERC's development of the *Weekly Standards Bulletin*, which helps the registered entities and other stakeholders to keep apprised of standards development. Along the same lines, the Regional Entities believe that the quarterly *Analyses of NERC Standards Process Results* were also very helpful for a better understanding of, and provides insight to, the development of continent-wide standards.[23]

Third, the Regional Entities are encouraged by the Commission's approval of revisions to the NERC *Standard Processes Manual*, ROP Appendix 3A, finding that those revisions are reasonable and allow for greater flexibility and efficiency in the process.[24] The Commission highlighted that the revisions recognize the need for highly qualified standards drafting teams that include technical writers, legal and compliance resources, and rigorous and highly trained project management.[25] The Regional Entities, which are in daily contact with the stakeholders who must deal with the intricacies of compliance with the standards, agree that well-trained personnel are needed to ensure the quality and effectiveness of the mandatory Reliability Standards, and believe that NERC has made significant strides to achieve that objective.

Fourth, the Regional Entities are encouraged by NERC's response to the Commission's March 2012 invitation to suggest retirement of requirements within standards, and the Commission's approval of NERC's proposal to withdraw 34 requirements within 19 Reliability Standards, and the additional withdrawal of 41 Commission directives that NERC develop

[23] NERC submitted these analyses pursuant to FERC directives, including the order on the three-year assessment. *See Order on the Electric Reliability Organization's Three-Year Performance Assessment*, 132 FERC ¶ 61,217 (2010), at P 85.

[24] *See North American Electric Reliability Corporation*, 143 FERC ¶ 61,273 (2013), at P 18.

[25] *Id.*

modifications to Reliability Standards.[26] These actions signal a cooperative effort that will help alleviate some of the complexity and frustration that has plagued the development of standards for many years and ease compliance burdens on the registered entities. Along the same lines, the Regional Entities commend NERC's creation of the Standards Independent Experts Review project in 2012. During the assessment period, this group assessed the current non-Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP) Reliability Standards to determine which requirements should be retired and to grade the remaining requirements for content and quality. More important, this group identified gaps where risks to reliability are not adequately addressed in the current set of standards, including outage coordination, governor frequency response, situational awareness models, and clear three-part communications.

Finally, the Regional Entities commend the NERC Board of Trustees (NERC Board) for forming the Reliability Issues Steering Committee (RISC) in August 2012. Through its efforts, RISC is helping to move the ERO Enterprise toward a more efficient standards development program and a sensible prioritization of the work to produce reasonable and effective standards and identify any emerging risks to reliability.

E. Organization Registration and Certification

The 2009 JRESA discussed the subject of compliance registry within the context of the CMEP.[27] While the topic fits there, it also lends itself to a separate discussion, as set out below.

1. Organization Registration

The Regional Entities and NERC are required to identify and register all entities that meet the criteria as laid out in the NERC ROP *Statement of Compliance Registry Criteria*, Appendix 5B.[28] The Regional Entities review and evaluate registration requests and changes and make registration recommendations to NERC when a request or change may affect the NERC Compliance Registry (NCR). NERC is responsible for registering those entities and establishing and maintaining the NCR of the BPS owners, operators, and users that are subject to approved Reliability Standards.[29]

As pointed out in the 2009 JRESA, the registration of BPS users, owners and operators has been a very successful aspect of the Regional Entities' obligation to monitor and enforce the

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[26] *See Electric Reliability Organization Proposal to Retire Requirements in Reliability Standards*, Order No. 788, 145 FERC ¶ 61,147 (2013).

[27] *See* 2009 JRESA, at pp. 21-23. The 2009 JRESA used the term "Compliance Registry" whereas this section will use the current term "Organization Registration" and also discuss Organization Certification.

[28] *See* http://www.nerc.com/FilingsOrders/us/RuleOfProcedureDL/Appendix_5B_RegistrationCriteria_20140701_updated_20140602.pdf. *See* generally ROP §500, http://www.nerc.com/FilingsOrders/us/RuleOfProcedureDL/NERC_ROP_Effective_20140701_without_Appendices.pdf.

[29] *See* http://www.nerc.com/pa/comp/Pages/Registration-and-Certification.aspx.

Reliability Standards.[30] The Regional Entities believe that continued to be the case during the assessment period, as evidenced by the acceptance by the *vast* majority of the registered entities of their inclusion in the NCR. Indeed, as of December 31, 2013, relatively few registered entities, just 47 out of over 1,850 registered entities in the U.S., appealed their registrations by the Regional Entities to the NERC Board, and only nine of those appeals were filed after January 1, 2009.[31] The NERC Board upheld the Regional Entities' decisions, except in one case, and remanded aspects of another appeal directing the Regional Entity to consider whether two entities should be jointly registered.[32] And in two instances, the NERC Board simply asked the Regional Entity to supply more information on an entity's status.[33] Most important, as of December 31, 2013, only eleven registered entities appealed the NERC Board decisions upholding the Regional Entities' registrations to the Commission.[34]

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[30] *See* 2009 JRESA, at p. 21.

[31] The number "47" does not refer to the actual number of appeals. Twenty-two of the 47 registrants were involved in just eight appeals of FRCC registrations, five of which concerned the same types of county resource recovery facilities. (No appeal of an FRCC registration has been filed since January 1, 2009.) The other appeals to the NERC Board were filed regarding the registration decisions of MRO (1), RF (8), SERC (6), SPP RE (1), TRE (4), and WECC (5). *See* http://www.nerc.com/pa/comp/Pages/Decisions-on-Appeals.aspx.

[32] In NERC Docket RA080012, on January 16, 2013, the BOT remanded to SERC the issue of whether Louisiana Generating should be registered as a Distribution Provider. In NERC Docket RA080002, on August 19, 2008, the BOT remanded to RF an appeal of Cordova Energy Co, LLC, to consider whether Cordova and Constellation Energy Commodities Group, Inc. should be jointly registered.

[33] The NERC Board directed these requests to SERC regarding the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Ft. Worth District (in NERC Docket RA080011) and the North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation (in NERC Docket RA080007).

[34] The Commission denied four, granted six, and denied in part and granted in part one of those appeals.

See the following orders where the Commission denied registrants' appeals: *City of Holland, Michigan Board of Public Works*, 139 FERC ¶ 61,055 (2012), *order on reh'g*, 145 FERC ¶ 61,054 (2013 (denying appeal of RF's decision to register entity as a transmission owner and a transmission operator), *appeal pending sub. nom. City of Holland, Michigan Board of Public Works v. FERC*, No. 13-1306 (D.C. Cir. Dec. 16, 2013); *Cedar Creek Wind Energy, LLC and Milford Wind Corridor Phase I, LLC*, 135 FERC ¶ 61, 241 (2011), *order on reh'g*, 137 FERC ¶ 61,141 (2011), *order on compliance filing*, 139 FERC ¶ 61,214 (2012) (denying appeal of two entities of their registration by WECC as transmission owners and transmission operators); *Southeastern Power Administration*, 125 FERC ¶ 61,294 (2008) (affirming SERC's registration of SEPA as a transmission operator and resource planner).

See the following orders where the Commission granted registrants' appeals: *South Louisiana Electric Cooperative Association*, 144 FERC ¶ 61,050 (2013), *order on reh'g*, 145 FERC ¶ 61,232 (2013) (granting appeal of entity registered by SERC as a distribution provider and load-serving entity for lack of sufficient document); *Direct Energy Services, LLC, Sempra Energy Solutions LLC, and Strategic Energy, L.L.C*, 121 FERC ¶ 61,274 (2007), *order on compliance filing*, 123 FERC ¶ 61,016 (2008) (granting appeals of three entities which objected to their registration as load serving entities and directing NERC to submit a plan to address a possible gap in reliability because of inconsistent registration of certain types of entities); *Mosaic Fertilizer, LLC and City of Tampa, Florida*, 121 FERC ¶ 61,058 (2007) (remanding case to NERC for reconsideration of FRCC's registration or to provide further explanation for underlying decision).

See the following orders where the Commission denied in part and granted in part a registrant's appeal: *U.S. Department of Energy, Portsmouth/Paducah Project Office*, 139 FERC ¶ 61,054, *order on reh'g*, 141 FERC ¶ 61,108 (2012) (granting the appeal of DOE and finding that its Portsmouth facility should not be registered as a

While some individual registration cases were challenging, the organization registration program remained steady during the assessment period. The means by which new registered entities were discovered, for example, were similar to the original means, including self-registrations, compliance audits, public websites, independent system operator (ISO), and regional transmission organization (RTO) memberships (where relevant), information provided by other registered entities, exchange of information between Regional Entities (e.g., through the Regional Registration and Certification Functional Group), Energy Information Administration data, questionnaires, and, of course, word of mouth. The average time to process uncontested entity requests to register or de-register for a function (measured from the time the entity makes the request to the time the request is approved by NERC) likewise stayed the same, or even improved, during that period, taking as little time as three to five business days, or longer up to 90 days if complications arose, such as entity trying to change its registration during an audit. The greatest, albeit not that great, movement within the program was the changes in the number of functions (as opposed to entities) for which entities are registered, as reflected in Table 2.

Trends in the Activation and Deactivation of Functions – Table 2

Regional Entity	Registered Entities		Registered Functions		Trends in the Activation and Deactivation of Functions in the Regions during Assessment Period
	2009	2013	2009	2013	
FRCC	71	69	240	244	FRCC processed approximately 20 function activations, most of which were associated with changes to generating facility functional responsibilities such as a vendor accepting generator owner (GO) and generator operator (GOP) compliance responsibilities and new joint registration organizations (JROs); 14 function deactivations, most of which were associated with the same generation functional responsibility change and with distributor provider (DP) functional responsibilities being accepted by GO and TO; and 10 entity name changes.
MRO	118	134	435	453	MRO, which had registered 435 functions as of 1/1/09, had 453 registered functions at year-end 2013, for an increase of four percent.

load-serving entity on the basis of the evidence submitted) (Commissioner Norris dissenting); *U.S. Department of Energy, Portsmouth/Paducah Project Office*, 124 FERC ¶ 61,072 (2008) (affirming RF's registration of DOE facility as a transmission owner, transmission operator and distribution provider, but remanding to NERC the issue of whether it functions as a load-serving entity).

Trends in the Activation and Deactivation of Functions – Table 2					
Regional Entity	**Registered Entities**		**Registered Functions**		**Trends in the Activation and Deactivation of Functions in the Regions during Assessment Period**
	2009	**2013**	**2009**	**2013**	
NPCC	287	301	576	602	The number of registered entities in NPCC fluctuated slightly during the assessment period. At the end of the period, the number had risen to 301. The ultimate increase in the number of entities was due to the number of new GOs, GOPs, and purchasing-selling entities (PSEs) outpacing the delisting of GOs, GOPs, and PSEs.
RF	358	343	677	686	RF experienced very little change in the registration of new entities, and hence functions, during the assessment period. The majority of registry work involved name or ownership changes. A notable trend during the assessment period was the deactivation of GOs and GOPs that owned or operated blackstart resources. This deactivation may have occurred due to the compliance obligations and costs associated with owning and operating blackstart resources. RF is concerned by this trend, as it appears that the costs of compliance may be creating a perverse incentive for registered entities to dispose of blackstart resources, which are important to bulk electric system (BES) reliability.
SERC	227	244	643	694	SERC continued to see considerable change associated with PSE and GO/GOP functions, mostly due to changes in ownership or corporate structure. SERC also registered several new wind farms and a few new generating facilities. SERC's deactivations typically occurred when there was a change in ownership of an asset. Several BAs were deactivated in December 2013 as a result of integration into the MISO BA. Name changes occurred regularly. SERC anticipates most DPs/load serving entities (LSEs) connected via radial tie lines to request deactivation following the BES definition revisions and FERC's South Louisiana Electric Cooperative Association decision. SERC noted a particular challenge with deactivation–the inability to deactivate a registered entity that has an open enforcement action. There

Trends in the Activation and Deactivation of Functions – Table 2					
Regional Entity	**Registered Entities**		**Registered Functions**		**Trends in the Activation and Deactivation of Functions in the Regions during Assessment Period**
	2009	**2013**	**2009**	**2013**	
					appears to be no mechanism to transfer a function to an acquiring registered entity, even if the new owner has agreed to accept the compliance responsibility and mitigation of the prior issues. During the assessment period, SERC's Compliance Database Management Functional Group began seeking a solution to this limitation.
SPP RE	117	140	379	438	SPP RE registered 117 new functions and deactivated 66 functions during the assessment period. Over half of the activations were GO and GOP, due in large part (60%) to construction of new generation. A large majority of the de-activations were due to sales and mergers, which also led to some name changes.
TRE	216	224	337	440	TRE registered 37 percent of the entities in the ERCOT footprint for at least two functions. Registration deactivations occurred only for the GO, GOP, LSE, PSE, and transmission Oowner (TO) functions, the majority of which occurred during 2011 and 2012, and consisted mostly of the GO, GOP, and PSE functions.
WECC	471	474	1,258	1,250	Since January 1, 2010, WECC processed 239 registration requests, all of which were accepted and approved by NERC. WECC is forecasting that most DPs/LSEs connected via radial tie lines will request deactivation following the BES definition revisions. To help prepare for this anticipated influx, WECC introduced business process management software for the WECC Compliance Registration Process in 2013. Entities now complete a web-based registration form on the WECC.biz site that requires the entity to provide additional information and answer specific questions based on their request. The system delivers the information to a WECC engineer for review while updates are provided automatically to the applicant via template emails. Everything from the original application to the engineer's review notes and correspondence emails

Trends in the Activation and Deactivation of Functions – Table 2					
Regional Entity	**Registered Entities**		**Registered Functions**		**Trends in the Activation and Deactivation of Functions in the Regions during Assessment Period**
	2009	**2013**	**2009**	**2013**	
					are managed by the system thereby decreasing the processing time.
TOTALS	**1,865**	**1,929**	**4,545**	**4,807**	

Another important part of the Regional Entities' organization registration functions pertains to the joint registration organization (JRO) and coordinated function registration (CFR), both of which are intended to define the responsibilities and accountability among entities separately registered for the same function. Revisions to NERC ROP §507 and the addition of §508, approved by the Commission on June 10, 2010, helped to clarify the operations of both types of registrations during the assessment period.[35]

Specifically, ROP §507 allows an entity to register as a JRO on behalf of one or more of its members or related entities for one or more functions for which such members or related entities would otherwise be required to register, and, thereby, accept on behalf of such members or related entities all compliance responsibility for that function or those functions including all reporting requirements. Many of the registered entities that use the §507 process are cooperatives, municipalities, and other publicly owned utilities. For example, the Illinois Municipal Electric Agency is a JRO in RF, and accordingly is registered as a DP, LSE, and TO on behalf of certain of its municipal members.[36] As of end of the assessment period, all but two (NPCC and WECC) of the Regional Entities had registered a total of 30 JROs.[37] Otherwise, after the initial implementation, the program was fairly static, with few entities registering as JROs or changing their JRO status. For example, during the assessment period, (i) FRCC processed four JRO changes; (ii) FRCC, SERC, and TRE registered a few JROs; (iii) MRO registered one new JRO; and (iv) SPP RE registered no new JROs.

NERC ROP §508 allows multiple entities to register using a CFR for one or more Reliability Standard(s) or for one or more Requirements or sub-Requirements with particular Reliability Standard(s) applicable to a specific function. The Registration of the CFR is the complete Registration for each entity, and each entity must take full compliance responsibility for those standards or requirements or sub-requirements it has registered for in the CFR. For example, in 2010, TRE registered 13 entities as TOPs through CFR agreements. Each CFR is an agreement between ERCOT ISO and one other transmission entity that allocates responsibility

[35] *See North American Electric Reliability Corporation*, Docket No. RR10-8-000 (June 10, 2010) (unpublished delegated letter order).

[36] *See* the compliance audit report at http://www.nerc.com/pa/comp/Audit%20Repots%20DL/2013_public_RFC_MRRE_IMEA.pdf.

[37] *See* the *JRO Member Listing* Excel spreadsheet at http://www.nerc.com/pa/comp/Pages/Registration-and-Certification.aspx.

for TOP requirements between ERCOT ISO and that entity. The CFRs are updated regularly to account for changes in the body of applicable NERC Reliability Standards.[38]

As of end of the assessment period, 184 registered entities took advantage of coordinating their registered functions pursuant to ROP §508.[39] This represented 44 coordination agreements in all Regional Entities but one (FRCC), some of which crossed regional lines. For example, one CFR involved 31 registered entities located in three different Regional Entities (MRO, RF, and SERC). TRE had the largest number of registered entities (73) in the CFR program with 17 CFR arrangements. As was true for the JROs, with the exception of TRE, there was little activity in the CFR program during the assessment period. For example, MRO saw only one JRO convert to a CFR; SPP RE had just one new CFR register; NPCC had two new CFRs register; RF and SERC had a few new CFRs register; and WECC had three new CFR changes. In TRE, in 2010, 60 entities were registered as LSEs in a CFR agreement, and 14 entities were certified and registered as TOPs in a CFR agreement with ERCOT ISO. Since that time, TRE accepted additional CFR registrations.

Notwithstanding the Regional Entities' overall success in registering entities to ensure sufficient coverage of the BPS, the 2009 JRESA listed five areas where improvements could be made to the process of organization registration.[40] As now discussed, in the Regional Entities' opinion, these areas were largely and appropriately resolved during the assessment period by FERC-approved changes to the NERC ROP and by other Commission actions, or were overtaken or resolved by other events or activities.

a. The Scope of the Registration Criteria

FERC-approved changes to NERC ROP Appendix 5B addressed, at least in part, the issue of whether the registration criteria appropriately capture the users, owners, and operators of the BPS to ensure reliability. The current version (effective July 1, 2014) of the *Statement of Compliance Registry Criteria* (contained in ROP Appendix 5B) reflect review by NERC and the Regional Entities, in consultation with the stakeholders. This review aimed to determine if there should be a different threshold for materiality to the reliability of the BES and to determine if the compliance resources could be better prioritized by changes to the registration criteria.[41] Along these same lines, the Regional Entities supported the efforts of the Registration and Certification Functional Group, working with the NERC Board-appointed Compliance and Certification Committee's Organization Registration and Certification Subcommittee, to develop proposed changes to the registry criteria.

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[38] To assist in this process, each Regional Entity's website includes a link to NERC's website to access its *Requirement Applicability List for Coordinated Functional Registration*. *See* http://www.nerc.com/pa/comp/Pages/Registration-and-Certification.aspx.

[39] *See supra* note 37.

[40] *See* 2009 JRESA, at pp. 21-23.

[41] *See North American Electric Reliability Corporation*, 141 FERC ¶ 61,241 (2012) (approving revisions to NERC ROP).

Also, during the assessment period, the ERO's activities to address the scope of the registration criteria became entwined with the Order No. 773 proceeding, in which the Commission modified the BES definition to remove regional discretion, and established a bright-line threshold that includes all facilities operated at or above 100 kV.[42] Order No. 773 also approved revisions to the NERC ROP to create an exception process to add elements to, or remove elements from, the BES on a case-by-case basis, and established a process pursuant to which an entity may seek a determination by the Commission whether facilities are "used in local distribution" as set forth in the FPA. As relevant here, while recognizing that the registration criteria and the BES definition have different applications (to entities and facilities, respectively), the Regional Entities believe that Order No. 773 addresses many of the concerns that were raised in 2009. The new BES definition and exception process, for example, may resolve the issue of small entities whose facilities are not necessary for the reliable operation of the BES. Currently, the Regional Entities are working with NERC to review and offer corresponding revisions to the *Statement of Compliance Registry Criteria* in NERC ROP Appendix 5B, and develop an application and database for the BES definition exception process (BESnet) to promote efficiency and consistency in the implementation of the new definition.

b. Re-examination of Functional Model Definitions

The 2009 JRESA noted commenters' concerns about the Reliability Functional Model, namely that it is conceptual whereas registered entities have (for historical or business reasons) often aligned their operations differently.[43] To address these concerns, that self-assessment discussed increasing the granularity of registration so it would focus on the requirement level, instead of the standard level, but it also recognized that redefining the terms of various functions may be impractical as it would unlikely resolve the immense diversity of organizational structures in the industry. While NERC and the Regional Entities spent some time at first to examine these ideas, they appropriately put the exercise on hold during the assessment period in light of the significant amount of work required to create and implement the new BES definition and the exception process. Also, the Order No. 773 effort may serve the same purpose and provide an increase in granularity as contemplated by the suggestions made in 2009 to revisit the Functional Model. Finally, NERC and the Regional Entities plan to start in 2014, to review and

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[42] *See Revisions to Electric Reliability Organization Definition of Bulk Electric System and Rules of Procedure*, Order No. 773, 141 FERC ¶ 61,236 (2012), *order on reh'g and clarification*, Order No. 773-A, 143 FERC ¶ 61,053 (2013), *order on reh'g and clarification*, 144 FERC ¶ 61,174 (2013), *appeal pending sub nom. People of the State of New York, et al. v. FERC*, No. 13-2316 (2nd Cir. filed June 12, 2013); *see also Revision to Electric Reliability Organization Definition of Bulk Electric System*, Order No. 743, 133 FERC ¶ 61,150 (2010), *order on reh'g*, Order No. 743-A, 134 FERC ¶ 61,210 (2011). On June 6, 2013, the Commission extended the effective date of the new definition, until July 1, 2014. *See Revisions to Electric Reliability Organization Definition of Bulk Electric System and Rules of Procedure*, Order Granting Extension of Time, 143 FERC ¶ 61,231 (2013), *order on reh'g*, 146 FERC ¶ 61,070 (2014). On March 20, 2014, the Commission approved NERC's proposed revised definition of "bulk electric system." *See North American Electric Reliability Corporation*, Order Approving Revised Definition, 146 FERC ¶ 61,199 (2014).

[43] *See* http://www.nerc.com/pa/Stand/Functional%20Model%20Archive%201/Functional_Model_V5_Final_2009Dec1.pdf . The Reliability Functional Model is not approved by the Commission, and is not used by every Regional Entity.

clarify relationships between the functional model and the NERC ROP registration and certification directives (including Registry Criteria).

c. Oversight of Multi-Regional Entities

As pointed out in the 2009 JRESA, there are instances where an entity owns or operates BES facilities in two or more regions and thus is subject to multiple compliance programs, and there are businesses that have operations in all eight Regional Entities. To address the challenges raised by these situations, several of the Regional Entities partnered during the assessment period to coordinate more effectively their compliance and enforcement efforts with respect to multi-regional registered entities (MRREs). In particular, they developed a lead region model, in which the Regional Entities decide which one will lead the compliance and enforcement efforts for a given MRRE. For example, RF, MRO, and SERC agreed that RF would be the lead Regional Entity for Mid-continent Independent System Operator (MISO) due to the location of its headquarters and load, and the complex seams issues between the MISO and PJM Interconnection markets, while RF and MRO agreed that MRO would be the lead Regional Entity for American Transmission Company (ATC) due to the majority of ATC's transmission being located within MRO's footprint. In addition, during the assessment period, the Regional Entities worked closely with NERC to improve the coordination of compliance monitoring, mitigation, and enforcement without requiring change to the registration process. To this end, toward the end of the period, the Regional Entities developed *Recommended Guidelines for Multi-Region Entity Coordination*, which the ERO Executive Management Group approved in April 2014 for implementation across the ERO. Efforts are currently underway to develop template agreements between the affected Regional Entities and the notification to registered entities.

d. Transfer of Registered Entities between Regional Entities

Changes to NERC ROP §1208, approved by the Commission during the assessment period, on October 21, 2010, adequately addressed the issue of the appropriate conditions for the transfer of a registered entity from one Regional Entity to another.[44] In the order approving the changes, the Commission agreed with NERC that a registered entity does not have a right to choose the Regional Entity that will be its Compliance Enforcement Authority.[45] The Commission explained:

> In addition, as the Commission stated in Order No. 672, it is important that the footprint of a Regional Entity makes sense from a reliability perspective and does not overlap with another regional footprint. The Commission explained that any change in size, scope or configuration of a Regional Entity would constitute an amendment to the Delegation Agreement, and any such amendment would be

[44] *See North American Electric Reliability Corporation*, 133 FERC ¶ 61,061 (2010) (approving revised Delegation Agreements and changes to ROP, including §1208 governing Regional Entity transfer requests); *see also Nebraska Public Power District, et al*., 136 FERC ¶ 61,047, *order on reh'g*, 137 FERC ¶ 61,144 (2011) (denying NPPD's request to transfer from MRO to SPP RE).

[45] 133 FERC ¶ 61,061, at P 72.

> subject to review by the ERO and approval by the Commission. This process, under which the Commission must approve any change to the boundary of a Regional Entity to which the ERO has agreed, indicates that boundary changes should be carefully considered and should serve to improve the effectiveness or efficiency of the Regional Entities' and NERC's administration of reliability, and should not merely benefit an individual registered entity.[46]

The Regional Entities believe that ROP §1208 will assist them in maintaining a more stable structure for enforcing the reliability standards, and will therefore promote consistency of results.

e. Applicability of Reliability Standards to Federal Entities

The Commission's orders with respect to Southeastern Power Administration, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Southwestern Power Administration generally resolved the related issues of: (i) the registration status of U.S. government agencies; (ii) compliance by those agencies with the Reliability Standards; and (iii) the application of penalties to those agencies found in violation of the Reliability Standards.[47] These decisions will greatly assist the Regional Entities in their efforts to ensure that such major users, owners and operators of the BES are held accountable for their actions regarding the reliability of that system.[48]

2. Organization Certification

Organization Certification is the process by which NERC and the Regional Entities ensure that an applicant to be a reliability coordinator (RC), balancing authority (BA), or transmission operator (TOP) has the tools, processes, training, and procedures to demonstrate its ability to meet the Requirements and sub-Requirements of all of the Reliability Standards applicable to the function(s) for which it is applying, thereby demonstrating the ability to become certified and then operational. The specific requirements for this process are found in the NERC ROP Organization Registration and Certification Programs (§500), and *Organization*

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[46] *Id.*

[47] *See Southeastern Power Administration, 125 FERC ¶ 61,294 (2008)* (affirming SERC's registration of SEPA as a transmission operator and resource planner*); North American Electric Reliability Corporation*, 133 FERC ¶ 61,214 (2010), *order on reh'g*, 137 FERC ¶ 61,044 (2011); *North American Electric Reliability Corporation*, 129 FERC ¶ 61,033 (2009), *order dismissing reh'g*, 130 FERC ¶ 61,002 (2010) (collectively, affirming TRE's and SPP RE's decisions to register the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and finding that any other federal entity that uses, owns or operates the BPS must comply with mandatory Reliability Standards); *North American Electric Reliability Corporation*, 140 FERC ¶ 61,048, *order on reh'g*, 141 FERC ¶ 61,242 (2012) (finding that SWPA was liable for a $19,500 penalty imposed by SPP RE for violating Reliability Standards), *appeal pending sub nom. Southwestern Power Administration, et al.* v. *FERC*, No. 13-1033 (D.C. Cir. Feb. 15, 2013).

[48] The implication of these decisions on the Regional Entities' workload is apparent from the statistics in NERC's May 8, 2013 PowerPoint presentation titled on *Key Compliance and Enforcement Metrics and Trends*. At that time, there were 419 open federal entity possible violations under review, of which 373 or 89% were "on hold" because the legal issues had not been resolved. Fortunately, the registered entities had mitigated or were in the process of mitigating 86 percent of the possible violations.

Registration and Certification Manual (Appendix 5A), and are also set out in the *ERO Certification and Review Procedure* manual (updated May 12, 2014).[49] Accordingly, the Regional Entities must organize certification teams that are subject to certain training requirements to ensure the accuracy of the certifications.[50] As is true of the registration process generally, the organization certification process ran smoothly during the assessment period. In that time, the Regional Entities certified 53 entities, conducted 68 reviews, and received only three objections to a Regional Entity's certification team's decision.[51]

F. Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program

The 2009 JRESA discussed the Regional Entities' implementation of the CMEP, covering ten topics: (i) compliance registry; (ii) consistency and use of discretion in application of penalties; (iii) CMEP consistency; (iv) compliance audit consistency; (v) consistency in interpretation of Reliability Standards; (vi) compliance caseload backlog; (vii) treatment of minor violations; (viii) compliance information management tools; (ix) compliance process transparency (within the ERO and the Regional Entities and between the ERO and its registrants); and (x) the hearings and appeals process.[52] The following updates that discussion, and provides additional information on the Regional Entities' progress to implement and improve the CMEP.[53]

1. Development and Status of the Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program

During the assessment period, the Regional Entities made significant progress and improvements in the implementation of the CMEP. This is important because the CMEP represents the Regional Entities' primary responsibility under the FPA and the Commission's regulations. FPA §215(a)(7), 16 U.S.C. §824o(a)(7), defines "regional entity" in the first instance as "an entity having enforcement authority" under the relevant statutory provisions. §39.1 of the Commission's regulations, 18 C.F.R. §39.1, repeats that definition. Accordingly, during the assessment period, the Regional Entities devoted the majority of their resources to oversee compliance with and enforcement of the mandatory Reliability Standards.

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[49] *See* http://www.nerc.com/pa/comp/Pages/Organization-Certification.aspx.

[50] *Id.* pp. 5-6

[51] These numbers break down by Regional Entity as follows:

	FRCC	MRO	NPCC	RF	SERC	SPP RE	TRE	WECC
Number of Certifications	0	1	3	5	10	3	18	13
Number of Reviews	4	7	4	11	17	4	4	17
Number of Appeals	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2

[52] *See* 2009 JRESA, at pp. 21-31.

[53] The update to the section on Compliance Registry, included in the CMEP discussion in the 2009 JRESA, is found in the previous section of this self-assessment.

The Commission explained NERC's and the Regional Entities' roles in regard to the CMEP in its 2007 order accepting the initial RDAs and approving the original formulation of the CMEP.[54] In brief, NERC relies on the Regional Entities to enforce the NERC Reliability Standards with BES owners, operators, and users through approved RDAs. Regional Entities are responsible for monitoring compliance of the registered entities within their regional boundaries, assuring mitigation of all violations of approved Reliability Standards, and assessing penalties and sanctions for failure to comply. For that purpose, the CMEP specifies monitoring processes, including: (i) compliance audits; (ii) self-certification; (iii) spot checking; (iv) investigations; (v) self-reporting; (vi) periodic data submittals; and (vii) complaints.[55] It also includes procedures for enforcement actions, mitigation of violations, and remedial action directives, data retention, and confidentiality matters. In addition, the CMEP obligates each Regional Entity to establish and maintain a hearing body to conduct and render hearings concerning disputes over findings of alleged violations, proposed penalties, and mitigation plans.[56]

The Regional Entities have unwaveringly taken their compliance monitoring and enforcement responsibilities very seriously. In the beginning, they especially relied on their experience in conducting audits, and worked closely with NERC and the Commission's enforcement staff to structure their enforcement activities to ensure that the registered entities complied with the reliability standards. In addition, they increased their staffs to have adequate resources. More resources were necessary in part because the Regional Entities, while recognizing that they had discretion to determine appropriate remedies, conducted their enforcement programs with the understanding that they should investigate every possible violation of a standard or one of its requirements and compile a record sufficient to support any remedy chosen for a violation.[57] This was true regardless of the severity of the violations or the risk they posed to reliability. This was true even if the violations were simply a matter of documentation deficiencies.

No one in the reliability community, including FERC and NERC staff and the personnel at the Regional Entities and the registered entities, anticipated the number of violations that the Regional Entities would ultimately discover. When the 2009 JRESA was submitted to the Commission, the Regional Entities had amassed a significant backlog of over 1,700 violations. Clearly, as NERC and the Regional Entities recognized, this was an unacceptable situation.

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[54] *See North American Electric Reliability Corporation, et al*., Order Accepting ERO Compliance Filing, Accepting ERO/Regional Entity Delegation Agreements, and Accepting Regional Entity 2007 Business Plans, 119 FERC ¶ 61,060 (2007).

[55] Early in the program, the monitoring processes also included "exception reporting," which was eliminated by a change in the NERC ROP, approved by the Commission in December 2012. *See North American Electric Reliability Corporation*, Order Conditionally Approving Revisions to North American Electric Reliability Corporation Rules of Procedure, 141 FERC ¶ 61,241 (2012).

[56] *See* 119 FERC ¶ 61,060 (2007), at P 26.

[57] *See generally Rules Concerning Certification of the Electric Reliability Organization; and Procedures for the Establishment, Approval, and Enforcement of Electric Reliability Standards*, Statement of Administrative Policy on Processing Reliability Notices of Penalty and Order Revising Statement in Order No. 672, 123 FERC ¶ 61,046 (2008); Guidance on Filing Reliability Notices of Penalty, 124 FERC ¶ 61,015 (2008).

Within the following year, after many discussions and meetings between and among FERC, NERC, and Regional Entity staffs, and stakeholders, NERC and the Regional Entities were on their way to figuring out how to reduce that backlog, and, more to the point, to address the overarching issue of how much discretion the Regional Entities could exercise in the implementation of the CMEP.

In Fall 2009, several months after NERC had submitted its Three-Year ERO Performance Assessment Report, the Commission took three actions that set the stage for NERC and the Regional Entities to improve their implementation of the CMEP: (i) it provided further guidance on filing proposed penalties, and stated the agency's willingness to consider an abbreviated format for submitting certain types of NOPs;[58] (ii) it issued Order No. 728, which delegated to the FERC Enforcement Director authority to allow routine NOPs to become effective and to stay the effectiveness of NOPs when it was necessary to seek further information;[59] and (iii) it issued an order allowing 564 proposed penalties (labeled the "omnibus filing") to become effective by operation of law.[60]

In 2009 through 2012, the Commission issued additional orders providing direction to the members of the reliability community on what was expected of them and what they could expect from the Commission. These orders covered a variety of issues, including the importance of a mitigation record,[61] the implications of a registered entity's repeat violations and violations by its affiliates,[62] the Regional Entities' responsibility to examine a registered entity's compliance program when determining an appropriate remedy,[63] the need for Regional Entities to consider load loss and harm to customers resulting from violations of Reliability Standards in their penalty assessments for these violations,[64] and the recovery of penalties from third-parties doing business in RTOs and ISOs.[65]

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[58] *See* Further Guidance Order on Filing of Reliability Notices of Penalty, 129 FERC ¶ 61,069 (2009).

[59] *See* Delegations for Notices of Penalty, Order No. 728, 129 FERC ¶ 61,094 (2009). Subsequently, the Commission transferred the delegation from the Director of the Office of Enforcement to the Director of the Office of Electric Reliability. *See* Delegation of Authority Regarding Consideration of Notice of Penalty, Order No. 795, 146 FERC ¶ 61,083 (2014).

[60] *See North American Electric Reliability Corporation*, Order on Omnibus Notice of Penalty Filing, 129 FERC ¶ 61,119 (2009).

[61] *See North American Electric Reliability Corporation*, Order Accepting Notices Of Penalty, 126 FERC ¶ 61,014 (2009).

[62] *See North American Electric Reliability Corporation*, Notice of No Further Review and Guidance Order, 132 FERC ¶ 61,182 (2010).

[63] *See* Delegated Letter Order, 133 FERC ¶ 62,037 (2010). *See also North American Electric Reliability Corporation*, 134 FERC ¶ 61,146 (2011).

[64] *See Northern American Electric Reliability Corporation*, 134 FERC ¶ 61,209 (2011), *order on reh'g and clarification*, 139 FERC ¶ 61,248 (2012).

[65] *See Reliability Standard Compliance and Enforcement in Regions with Regional Transmission Organizations or Independent System Operators*, Order Providing Guidance on Recovery of Reliability Penalty Costs by Regional Transmission Organizations and Independent System Operators, 122 FERC ¶ 61,247 (2008); *see also PJM*

The omnibus filing eventually led to the Regional Entities' compiling processed violations on spreadsheets entitled Administrative Citation NOPs, an approach approved by the Commission in March 2011.[66] The Commission's statements at that time provide the status of NERC's and the Regional Entities' implementation of the CMEP:

> The Commission recognizes that NERC and the Regional Entities expend substantial efforts and resources monitoring compliance with the Reliability Standards and building adequate records to support findings of violations for Commission review. On numerous occasions, the Commission has encouraged NERC and the Regional Entities to develop flexible approaches and more streamlined processes to achieve efficiency in the enforcement process, especially with regard to more minor violations. NERC has adopted an Abbreviated Notice of Penalty format and a Deficiency Notice of Penalty format that have been successful at increasing efficiency. Based upon this filing, we believe that NERC's Administrative Citation Notice format will be a successful tool in improving efficiency of NERC's enforcement process, thereby reducing the time and resources expended by the Regional Entities, NERC, and Commission staff while still achieving transparency and consistency in penalty determinations for violations that are appropriate for this format. We also commend NERC for promptly following through with its intent to institute the Administrative Citation process.
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> We encourage NERC's continued use of the Administrative Citation Notices of Penalty format. We also encourage, particularly in the early stages of this process, the ongoing consultation between our staff and NERC prior to filing to determine what violations are appropriate for inclusion in an Administrative Citation Notice of Penalty and the appropriate amount of detail and description necessary to ensure that the Administrative Citation process continues to be a success.[67]

Six months later, in September 2011, Administrative Citation NOPs transitioned into Spreadsheet NOPs (SNOPs). Candidates for inclusion in an SNOP are those violations that posed minimal or moderate risk to the reliability of the BPS. In all cases, the SNOP sets forth whether the violations have been mitigated, certified by the respective registered entities as mitigated, and verified by the Regional Entity as having been mitigated. During the assessment period, the Regional Entities processed and submitted through NERC 5,128 confirmed violations in NOPs to the Commission, using the Administrative Citation NOP format for 296 and the

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Interconnection, L.L.C., Order Accepting Tariff Revisions and Requiring Compliance Filing, 124 FERC ¶ 61,260 (2008) and *Midwest Independent Transmission Operator, Inc*., Order Conditionally Accepting Proposed Tariff Revisions, 128 FERC ¶ 61,229 (2009).

[66] *See North American Electric Reliability Corporation*, Notice of No Further Review of Initial Administrative Citation Notice Of Penalty, 134 FERC ¶ 61,157 (2011).

[67] *Id.* PP 7-8 (footnotes omitted).

SNOP format for 1,428 of those violations. For the 27 months from September 30, 2011 to December 31, 2013, the use of SNOPs alone represented 58% of the total number of NOPs submitted to the Commission.[68]

The next phase in the evolution of the ERO Enterprise's implementation of the CMEP is reflected in the FFT program, which started as the centerpiece of NERC's Compliance Enforcement Initiative (CEI). Details of this program during the assessment period are found primarily in two Commission orders—one issued in March 2012 and one issued in June 2013—and the NERC filings addressed by those orders.[69] Candidates for FFT treatment are possible violations that pose minimal or moderate risk to reliability and have been fixed. A certification of completion of the mitigation activities is submitted, at least within 90 days from the date the FFT is filed or posted, by the respective registered entity for every FFT submission.[70]

Again, the Commission's statements in these FFT orders are evidence of the progress made by NERC and the Regional Entities in the implementation of the CMEP. In the March 2012 order, the Commission explained,

> While the FFT initiative represents a significant change in the paradigm for monitoring and enforcing compliance with Reliability Standards, we agree with NERC that this change is warranted at this time. After several years of experience with the current program, we agree that NERC and the Regional Entities should have the flexibility to more efficiently process and track lesser risk violations in order to focus their resources on issues that pose the greatest risk to reliability.[[71]]

In its June 2013 order, the Commission found, "[b]ased on the information provided in NERC's filing… the FFT program is improving the ability of NERC and its Regional Entities to more efficiently process lesser-risk possible violations, enabling them to reduce the backlog of pending enforcement cases and focus on issues of greater importance to bulk-power system reliability."[72] Notably, in that order, the Commission explained that its staff had reviewed a

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[68] *See* http://www.nerc.com/pa/comp/CE/Pages/Enforcement-and-Mitigation.aspx.

[69] *See North American Electric Reliability Corporation*, Order Accepting with Conditions the Electric Reliability Organization's Petition Requesting Approval of New Enforcement Mechanisms and Requiring Compliance Filing, 138 FERC ¶ 61,193 (2012); *North American Electric Reliability Corporation*, Order on Compliance Filing, 143 FERC ¶ 61,253 (2013).

[70] Originally, as approved by the Commission, the FFT program only pertained to possible violations with minimum risk; however, in the June 2013 order, the Commission approved NERC's proposal to expand coverage to possible violations that pose moderate risk to reliability, subject to NERC's submitting a report by June 20, 2014, justifying a continuation of the expansion of the program. The Commission likewise approved NERC's proposal to allow FFT treatment even before mitigation is completed provided it is completed within 90 days of the time when the FFT is filed or posted. *See* 143 FERC ¶ 61,253, at PP 32-34, 36-37.

[71] 138 FERC ¶ 61,193, at P 2 (footnote omitted).

[72] 143 FERC ¶ 61,253, at P 27.

sample of 100 FFT issues out of approximately 820 FFT issues filed with the Commission between September 2011 and September 2012, and determined that the Regional Entities properly treated those possible violations under the FFT program.[73]

As recognized by the Commission, the Regional Entities generally believe that the FFT program significantly improved the processing of violations of the reliability standards during the assessment period, and enabled them to focus resources and attention on more serious and complex matters.[74] During the assessment period, they processed total of 1,762 possible violations using the FFT procedures, which, in 2012 and 2013, respectively, represented 48% and 43% the total number of violations and possible violations processed by the Regional Entities. In addition, the FFT program had a positive impact on processing time, which was a major concern identified by the registered entities in 2009. In this regard, between January 1, 2012 and September 30, 2013, the average time for disposing of FFTs was 7.4 months as compared to 10.7 months for SNOPs and 13.1 months for NOPs.[75]

The Commission spoke favorably of the FFT program after its review in 2013, and encouraged NERC to continue to improve the program and report back to the Commission by June 20, 2014. Specifically, the Commission directed NERC to monitor the Regional Entities' eligibility determinations; requested more specificity regarding the FFT program's impact on BPS reliability; encouraged NERC to continue to work with the Regional Entities to improve and better coordinate their risk assessments; and stressed that NERC should continue its outreach to the Regional Entities to encourage the use of self-reports by the registered entities.[76] For their part, to a certain extent in response to the Commission's review, the Regional Entities elicited from focus groups other specific issues that they believed needed to be addressed in general or in certain Regional Entities as NERC and they continued to refine the program. These included overall processing time, the full mitigation plan requirement, insufficient information on content and process, no centralized information collection (particularly for MRREs), and inadequate communication during the process. The Regional Entities are committed to continue working closely with NERC and registered entities to address these issues and to bring about continuous improvement in the FFT program and related efforts.[77]

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[73] *Id.* P 31. Between December 6, 2013 and December 16, 2013, in Docket No. RC11-6-000, *et al*., all eight Regional Entities responded to the Commission's annual FFT survey to collect data on the effectiveness and efficiency of the FFT program. Each response included data, correspondence, and other supporting information used by the Regional Entity staffs to evaluate and conclude that the previously submitted possible violations identified by FERC staff qualified for FFT treatment. The Commission's response to these filings was still pending at the end of the assessment period.

[74] *See* Attachment A to NERC's Report in Docket No. RC11-6-004, for information from each Regional Entity on the impact of the FFT program on its region. *See* also 143 FERC ¶ 61,253, at PP 8-9 (describing the information gleaned from Attachment A).

[75] *See* the PowerPoint presentation titled *Key Compliance and Enforcement Metrics and Trends,* Compliance Committee Meeting, November 6, 2013, at slide. 5.

[76] *See* 143 FERC ¶ 61,253, at PP 28-30.

[77] Indicative of the progress made to date is reflected in the Key Compliance Monitoring Index (KCMI) compiled by NERC, which reported that as of the end of 2012, 5,115 confirmed violations were processed for the period beginning June 18, 2007. Of these violations, 85 percent had minimal impact to reliability, 13 percent had moderate

The ERO Enterprise's next advancement in CMEP implementation is RAI. Started in late 2012, RAI is intended to transform the current compliance and enforcement program into one that is forward-looking, focuses on high reliability risk areas, simplifies compliance for registered entities, and creates alternative paths outside of enforcement to resolve minor matters. Accordingly, RAI has three main goals:

(1) Develop enforcement incentives to recognize positive behavior that contribute to higher accountability and improved performance and discourage poor performance;

(2) Design and scope compliance programs that recognize risk to reliability, including consideration of an entity's management controls and corrective action programs used to meet the reliability standards; and

(3) Reduce unnecessary compliance and enforcement activities while gaining efficiencies.

As much if not more than any CMEP project undertaken since 2007, RAI is a collaborative and coordinated effort of the ERO, the Regional Entities, and the registered entities, without regard to ownership, but rather with an objective of working on a common set of deliverables.

A statement made at the July 9, 2013 FERC Reliability Technical Conference accurately portrays the situation in which the Regional Entities find themselves daily in their efforts to enforce the reliability standards, and serves as a backdrop to RAI:

> Simply put, we know the current zero tolerance approach is not sustainable for the long term….[O]ur current processes tend to be backward-looking, and we need to move to a space where we're more forward-looking to really assess an entity's ability to stay in compliance and meet or exceed the reliability standards.[78]

As further discussed at the conference, RAI would not allow "small stuff" to be "swept under the rug." The "small stuff" matters. The expectation is that the registered entities would have management practices in place to resolve the "small stuff" before it becomes a reliability risk in the form of a material violation of a Reliability Standard. To this end, the Regional Entities would look to how well a registered entity meets the reliability objectives of the standards, and whether any identified violations rise to the level that needs enforcement. It would allow Regional Entities to, among other things, better tailor the scope of audits and other

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impact, and 2 percent had serious impact. Furthermore, the five-year assessment of the KCMI indicated that the risk to BPS reliability based on the number of violations of NERC Reliability Standards trended lower from 2008 to 2012. *See* NERC's *State of Reliability 2013* report (May 2013), http://www.nerc.com/pa/RAPA/PA/Performance%20Analysis%20DL/2013_SOR_May%2015.pdf, at p. 6.

[78] Testimony of Mark Rossi, Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, NERC, Transcript of Reliability Conference (July 9, 2013), Docket Nos. AD13-6-000, *et al.*, at p. 86.

compliance monitoring activities based on an entity's risk (e.g., size, complexity of operations, and effectiveness of internal controls).[79] It would also provide for the determination of the nature of enforcement actions to be based on risk and the presence of internal controls. For example, a single missing record (out of hundreds) for maintaining and testing protection systems that is proactively identified and recorded by the registered entity as part of its normal management practices might not rise to an enforcement matter. While the matter would be part of the entity's compliance record, it would likely not require an enforcement filing. Traditional methods of enforcement and application of penalties, however, would still be used in connection with matters that pose a serious or substantial risk to the BPS. For those matters, the full NOP or SNOP would remain available.[80]

Starting in March 2013, several Regional Entities and registered entities became engaged in pilot programs as the initial steps towards full RAI implementation. In this regard, the Regional Entities appreciate that the Commission has previously recognized the value of pilot projects, pointing out that "[n]o matter how good the data suggesting that a regulatory change should be made, there is no substitute for reviewing the actual results of a regulatory action."[81] With this in mind, each pilot project endeavored to further define the risk-based approach and develop effective tools, training, procedures, and policies to allow the ERO Enterprise to deploy these concepts in a consistent manner across all Regional Entities. The ERO Enterprise intends to keep the Commission apprised of the progress of the pilot projects, and will make appropriate revisions and submit any necessary filings with the Commission to establish a common framework throughout the ERO Enterprise.

In sum, in the ERO Enterprise's opinion, there are significant benefits to be gained through RAI, including better alignment to a culture of reliability. RAI would give credit to entities that demonstrate strong management practices and a culture of complying with the reliability standards. Similarly, the program would focus compliance monitoring on areas that pose the greatest risk to reliability, thereby enabling and encouraging an entity to address areas of higher risk by strengthening management practices around those risks. This in turn should result in a more effective program addressing risks to reliability consistent with internal control approaches used in other areas of the corporation.[82]

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[79] *Id.* pp. 86-87.

[80] *See* Reliability Assurance Initiative, *White Paper [No. 5] Change State Element No. 4 - Redesign of the Enforcement Strategy* (March 13, 2013), at p. 4, located at http://www.nerc.com/pa/comp/Pages/Reliability-Assurance-Initiative.aspx.

[81] Order No. 637, FERC Stats. & Regs. ¶ 31,091 (2000), at p. 31,279. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit agrees: "For at least 30 years this court has given special deference to agency development of such experiments, precisely because of the advantages of data developed in the real world." *Interstate Natural Gas Association of America v. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission*, 285 F.3d 18, 24 (D.C. Cir. 2001).

[82] *See* generally http://www.nerc.com/pa/comp/Pages/Reliability-Assurance-Initiative.aspx. In this regard, the Regional Entities appreciate the Commission's recognition of the RAI's potential benefit. Toward the end of the assessment period, the Commission noted that "…the [RAI] process when fully developed may afford a consistent, informed approach that provides incentives for entities to develop robust internal control programs." *Version 5 Critical Infrastructure Protection Reliability Standards*, Order No. 791, 145 FERC ¶ 61,160 (2013), at P 73 (footnote omitted).

Along with developing the RAI toward the end of the assessment period, NERC and the Regional Entities focused on three other major areas: (i) the development of a single ERO-wide audit process checklist and associated auditor handbook to ensure the use of more consistent processes and procedures by the staff in the field; (ii) the implementation of the FFT enhancements approved by the Commission in its June 20, 2013 order in Docket No. RC11-06-004; and (iii) the improvement in the self-reporting processes, including reducing the burden and cost of self-reporting. The Regional Entities, as part of the ERO Enterprise, made the following progress in each of these areas:

a. Development of Single ERO-Wide Audit Process Checklist and Associated Auditor Handbook

As the Regional Entities recognized in 2009, work was needed to ensure the consistency of compliance audits.[83] Accordingly, as discussed below, they worked on numerous projects within their own regions and across regions to improve their major tool to ensure compliance with the mandatory Reliability Standards. As relevant here, in September 2012, the Regional Entities engaged an outside firm to assess the current state of regional compliance audit procedures and underlying processes, and make recommendations that could lead to more consistent audit practices across the Regional Entities and better position them to adapt to future regulatory changes and demands. This engagement dovetailed with the development of the white papers and other conceptual documents underlying RAI, and naturally became part of the larger effort to revisit the CMEP paradigm. The outside firm produced its assessment (referred to as the Third-Party Assessment) in February 2013, and recommended that the Regional Entities:

(1) Develop a single set of standardized audit methodology documents to be used across the ERO, after aligning their existing audit methodologies;

(2) Deploy a pilot program to assess and implement the standardized audit checklist; and

(3) Roll out a robust training program to provide the audit community with sufficient growth opportunities and ultimately guide auditors in the interpretation and optimal application of the audit guidance and checklist.

Subsequently, with NERC's support and cooperation, during the assessment period, the Regional Entities produced a standard *Compliance Auditor Checklist* and completed the first version of a common *Compliance Auditor Handbook*, as found in the *ERO Enterprise Compliance Auditor Manual*.[84] Also, certain Regional Entity staffs participated in pilot or

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[83] *See* 2009 JRESA, at p. 25.

[84] *See* http://www.nerc.com/pa/comp/ERO%20Enterprise%20Compliance%20Auditor%20Manual%20DL/ERO_Enterprise_Compliance_Auditor_Manual_version_1.pdf.

comparable programs to see how the audit process checklist worked in the field, and collaborated with their colleagues in other Regional Entities to fashion appropriate training materials. The Regional Entities firmly believe that the use of the audit process checklist and handbook will create a standardized process that will improve efficiencies and drive consistency while ensuring that audits conform to professional auditing standards, particularly the Generally Accepted Government Accounting Standards (GAGAS).

b. Implementation of FFT Enhancements

As noted earlier, in the June 2013 FFT order, the Commission approved, with conditions, four enhancements to the FFT program.[85] The Commission permitted an expansion of the program by allowing FFT treatment for a "limited pool" of possible violations involving moderate (in addition to minimal) risk, subject to NERC's filing a report by June 20, 2014, justifying the continuation of the expanded FFT program; allowed the inclusion of possible violations as FFTs even if the mitigation was not yet completed, provided the mitigation was completed within 90 days from the date the FFT is filed or posted; permitted the Regional Entities to publicly post FFTs on a common website on the last business day of each month instead of NERC submitting a monthly informational filing to the Commission; and agreed with NERC's proposal to review a representative sample of FFTs during the 60-day window following the Regional Entities' monthly posting of FFTs on NERC's website instead of reviewing each FFT before public posting. In July 2013, immediately after the issuance of the June 2013 order, the Regional Entities began implementing the approved FFT enhancement applicable to them. Specifically, they included FFTs where mitigating activities had not yet been completed, submitted monthly FFT compilations to NERC for posting on its website, and evaluated possible violations involving moderate risk for processing as FFTs.[86]

c. Improvement in the Self-Reporting Process

As NERC President and CEO Gerry Cauley pointed out at the July 9, 2013 FERC Technical Conference, two-thirds of all violations at that time were self-reported.[87] Nevertheless, at that conference and in other forums such as the FERC FFT proceedings and NERC and regional meetings with the registered entities, the need to improve the self-report process was often stressed. Accordingly, the Regional Entities took steps to meet that need. To start with, as mentioned earlier, they identified areas for potential improvements. These included a lack of sufficient information on content in self-reports both in the details of the violation and the risk assessment information. In addition, there was a perception in certain cases of a lack of centralized information collection (particularly for MRREs), and the registered entity complaints on the combination of long overall processing time and a lack of communication throughout the process.

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[85] *See* 143 FERC ¶ 61,253 (2013). The Commission rejected one of NERC's proposals, to eliminate senior officer certification. *Id*. P 17.

[86] *See* http://www.nerc.com/pa/comp/CE/Pages/Enforcement-and-Mitigation.aspx for the FFT postings.

[87] *See* Transcript of Reliability Conference (July 9, 2013), Docket Nos. AD13-6-000, *et al*., at p. 135. Self-reports in this context also includes self-certifications.

Next, the Regional Entities worked together, with NERC, and with a focus group of registered entities to start putting in place enhancements to the self-report process. These included:

(1) Additional guidance on processing and the content of self-reports;

(2) Points of contact at the Regional Entity for additional guidance;

(3) An improved intake form that has the capability of augmenting information and cross-referencing information already provided, and a centralized process for MRREs; and

(4) Aggregation of minimal risk issues by selected registered entities in selected Regional Entities to allow training on risk assessment and mitigation development.

Significantly, by the end of the self-assessment period, with input from the industry focus group, NERC and the Regional Entities completed a draft of the *ERO Self-Report User Guide*, which was posted for broader stakeholder comment in January 2014. As explained in the posting, this user guide should provide registered entities with valuable information and insight on what to do to facilitate disposition of possible noncompliance by the ERO Enterprise.[88] Subsequently, in April 2014, NERC posted a revised *ERO Self-Report User Guide* with the express purpose of enhancing the Registered Entities' understanding of the information necessary for NERC and the Regional Entities to provide efficient and timely resolution of instances of potential noncompliance.[89]

2. Updates to the 2009 Joint Regional Entity Self-Assessment

As described above, the 2009 JRESA addressed nine separate CMEP topics, in addition to the compliance registry. Four involved achieving consistency within the program (consistency and use of discretion in application of penalties, CMEP consistency, consistency in interpretation of reliability standards, and compliance audit consistency), four dealt with enforcement issues (caseload backlog, treatment of minor violations, information management tools, and process transparency), and one reviewed the hearing and appeals process. Because the previous discussion on the progress made by NERC and the Regional Entities on streamlining and improving the CMEP addresses or otherwise touches on most of these topics, the following will not repeat relevant parts of that discussion here. Rather, it will provide updates to specific topics and issues that were raised by the Commission, NERC, the Regional Entities themselves, or stakeholders, in 2009. The discussion is organized under the topics of: (i) Consistency; (ii) Compliance Monitoring; (iii) Enforcement; and (iv) Hearings and Appeals.

[88] *See* http://www.nerc.com/pa/comp/Pages/Reliability-Assurance-Initiative.aspx.

[89] *See* http://www.nerc.com/pa/comp/Reliability%20Assurance%20Initiative/ERO%20Self-Report%20User%20Guide%20(April%202014).pdf.

a. Consistency

In the 2009 JRESA, the Regional Entities identified consistency as an overarching issue in their discussion of the CMEP. That discussion, of course, reflects their recognition that the Commission has repeatedly tasked NERC to ensure consistency of compliance across the Regional Entities, and the NERC ROP explicitly provide that NERC must have a program to monitor the compliance enforcement efforts of each Regional Entity to achieve that objective. Accordingly, in 2009, the Regional Entities examined the issue from several different perspectives. Taken as a whole, these examinations break down into an understanding of the concept of consistency as a general matter and the efforts of the Regional Entities to achieve consistency within their own regions and across regions. To reiterate, what is now described is in addition or complementary to the ERO Enterprise's efforts to develop the RAI.

Consistency as a General Matter

The Regional Entities are committed to working within their own areas, across regions, and with NERC to meet the Commission's expectation that their compliance monitoring and enforcement endeavors adhere to the same principles, course, and form. That said, they also are aware, and urge the Commission and NERC to recognize, that consistency does not necessarily mean exactness in results. Indeed, the adoption of a risk-based approach to the CMEP, as introduced in NERC's 2011 through 2013 annual CMEP Implementation Plan,[90] will naturally result in different treatment of different entities and different outcomes of compliance and enforcement activities. Specifically, for example, penalty consistency does not mean the same penalty for specific alleged violations across all Regional Entities, because the risk posed by a specific alleged violation varies depending on the characteristics of the Regional Entity's footprint, the registered entity and its geographical location and interconnection, as well as other pertinent facts and circumstances. Instead, in the Regional Entities' opinion, penalty consistency must focus on the need for a uniform methodology to ensure that the penalty for each violation (i) is consistent with the risk posed by that violation, and (ii) encourages the appropriate behavior to improve the reliability of the BES.

Consistency of Remedies <u>Within</u> the Regions

While sensitive to consistency in their work generally, the Regional Entities expended considerable resources and paid special attention during the assessment period to ensure that their determinations on appropriate remedies for violations of the mandatory reliability standards were consistent within their own regions. For that purpose, they all used internal case management systems, which were similar in that they involved methodical comparisons of the violations to actual penalties assessed for violations of the same or similar standards or requirements within the Regional Entity; directed their staffs to coordinate and otherwise participate in regular meetings of the regional stakeholder compliance committees; required review or "sign off" by senior regional managers; and stressed internal training and regular

[90] *See*, e.g., *ERO Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program 2013 Implementation Plan* (revised December 27, 2012) at http://www.nerc.com/pa/comp/Resources/Pages/default.aspx?View={cb5b1d3f-f5b7-421d-8266-0bcf6a06fc08}&SortField=Date&SortDir=A.

communications with and outreach to their registered entities. They also developed other specific means for achieving the objective of consistent remedial determinations, such as compiling and posting frequently asked questions (FAQs), using surveys, involving technical experts to address risk and harm, assigning a single point of contact for each registered entity, and separating their compliance and enforcement staffs.

Consistency of Remedies and Other Matters Across the Regions

The Regional Entities made substantial progress during the assessment period to improve CMEP consistency by increasing their interaction with each other. Notable accomplishments in this regard were made by the REMG, which proactively and persistently stressed the importance of information sharing, transparency, and consistency within and among Regional Entities, and working collaboratively with NERC. In addition, as mentioned earlier, several of the Regional Entities partnered to coordinate more effectively their compliance and enforcement efforts with respect to MRRE. In this regard, they developed a lead region model, in which the Regional Entities decide which one will lead the compliance and enforcement efforts for a given MRRE.[91] Further, the Regional Entity staffs regularly met with each other to promote consistency with CMEP processes and provide subject matter experts, as needed, to the same end, and conducted compliance workshops to which the registered entities from other regions were welcomed. They also collaborated on improving data management tools and the various forms used by the Regional Entities and the registered entities, including the self-report and the self-certification forms and, as discussed in greater detail below, the reliability standards audit worksheets (RSAWs).

Finally, and as apparent from the previous discussion of the developments in the CMEP during the assessment period, the Regional Entity staffs actively participated in NERC-led committees, task forces, and working groups. For example, the Regional Entities actively participated during the assessment period is the Enforcement Sanctions and Mitigation Working Group (ESMWG). This group reviews one or two Regional Entity enforcement processes during an in-person meeting, and then shares its review to help identify best practices and highlight areas where consistency could be improved. NERC Enforcement staff also participates in these meetings and is present for discussions regarding variations in approach to enforcement and mitigation responsibilities. Additionally, the ESMWG conducts periodic "risk assessment" exercises whereby each Regional Entity is asked to review particular fact patterns and descriptions of mitigating activities and assign the appropriate level of risk. Regional Entities are further asked to highlight any assumptions that are made or to identify additional information that would assist in the assignment of the risk posed by the particular facts and circumstances. Not only do these exercises provide value in driving consistency in assessment of risk, they highlight areas of improvement in the drafting of descriptions of violations, mitigating activities, and risk assessments. By becoming involved in in-depth analyses and discussions of potential and actual risk, the Regional Entities aim to continuously improve the final enforcement product.

[91] For example, RF, MRO, and SERC agreed that RF would be the lead Regional Entity for MISO", while RF and MRO agreed that MRO would be the lead Regional Entity for ATC".

b. Compliance Monitoring

During the assessment period, the Regional Entities steadfastly used their major tool to monitor compliance with the mandatory Reliability Standards—compliance audits of the registered entities. They also used other compliance monitoring tools, including: (i) spot checks; (ii) self-reports; (iii) self-certifications; and (v) periodic data submittals. The Regional Entities' extensive compliance monitoring efforts, specifically with respect to compliance audits, spot checks, and self-reports, can be seen in Table 3.[92]

Compliance Monitoring Activities – Table 3									
		FRCC	**MRO**	**NPCC**	**RF**	**SERC**	**SPP RE**	**TRE**	**WECC**
Compliance Audits	2009	22	25	66	49	55	46	24	90
	2010	19	20	56	52	49	47	50	92
	2011	20	18	68	84	79	92	53	101
	2012	34	18	56	99	73	72	74	150
	2013	22	21	78	90	55	42	64	165
Total		**117**	**102**	**324**	**374**	**279**	**299**	**265**	**598**
Spot Checks	2009	40	64	40	147	45	90	1	8
	2010	12	27	51	57	24	14	53	32
	2011	61	8	30	30	11	17	45	16
	2012	5	1	120	3	0	6	43	0
	2013	5	0	483	2	0	3	12	6
Total		**123**	**100**	**724**	**239**	**80**	**130**	**154**	**62**
Self-Reports	2009	73	12	31	56	92	54	8	313
	2010	63	44	75	264	194	106	88	140
	2011	80	90	120	262	208	154	105	220
	2012	30	50	90	325	211	83	76	184
	2013	21	60	78	240	216	109	73	162
Total		**267**	**256**	**344**	**1,147**	**852**	**505**	**350**	**1,019**

The 2009 JRESA primarily focused on compliance audits, and the following discussion will be tailored accordingly. Importantly, during the assessment period, the Regional Entities completed the first three-year cycle of such audits for registered entities (registered in 2007 or 2008) performing the RC, BA, and TOP functions on schedule in 2010, and the six-year cycle for those registered entities not performing one of the three certified functions on schedule in 2013. Some Regional Entities also completed a portion of the second 3-year audits during the assessment period.

[92] The CMEP also once included Exception Reporting, which was removed by the revisions to the NERC ROP, approved by the Commission on December 20, 2012. *See* 141 FERC ¶ 61,241 (2102). The Regional Entities review self-certifications for all registered entities at least once annually. Some Regional Entities also require monthly self-certifications for certain Reliability Standards and Requirements. Periodic data submittals happen continuously, with certain information due to the Regional Entities on a monthly basis, other data on a quarterly basis.

The 2009 JRESA touched mainly on three topics related to Compliance Audits—the effectiveness of the RSAWs, the adequacy of audit training, and the status of NERC and FERC observers in regional audits. These will be taken up in turn.

Reliability Standards Audit Worksheets

As a general matter, the Regional Entities believe that RSAWs are helpful in their conduct of compliance audits. For example, they provide a means for recording the conduct of the audit, including detailed auditor notes and findings, and can be linked to the registered entity's evidence that can then be more easily reviewed. Registered entities appear to appreciate them, and use them extensively to prepare for an audit. Nevertheless, all of the Regional Entities believe that the RSAWs could be improved, and are pleased that their staffs are involved in the task force for that purpose. They are concerned, among other things, that the RSAWs attempt to meet multiple diverse needs, with the result being that no need is met fully or effectively; lack sufficient detail or granularity to be effective in guiding the conduct of the audit; constitute nothing more at times than a restatement of the requirement and provide little meaningful guidance to the auditor or the audited entity; and are generally cumbersome to use. As a consequence, some of the Regional Entities have developed alternate or supplemental tools to augment the RSAWs, e.g., with detailed data requests and inventory workbooks. Of course, in the Regional Entities' opinion, the audit process checklist and auditor handbook, described earlier, will help alleviate many of the Regional Entities' current concerns.

Adequacy of Audit Training

Without question, the Regional Entities are mindful of the importance of adequate audit training, both of their own staffs and for their registered entities. Accordingly, during the assessment period, they routinely encouraged, if not required, their staffs to attend or otherwise participate in relevant training sponsored by NERC (e.g., semi-annual ERO auditor workshops, GAGAS performance audit training, fundamentals of audits training, audit team leader training, compliance investigations training, *Crucial Conversations* training, and gathering quality evidence online training) or provided by third-party vendors; conducted their own in-house training; and regularly held compliance workshops for their registered entities.[93] In addition, they stressed the importance of their staffs continuing their education in specialized areas, such as cybersecurity, and maintaining or adding to their professional accreditations. As a result, the Regional Entities are confident that during the assessment period they assembled highly trained and professional audit staffs, which some of them supplemented with outside consultants with corresponding qualifications and credentials and with industry subject matter experts, to carry out their compliance monitoring obligations.[94]

[93] A good overview of NERC's training can be found in its filing submitted in compliance with the Commission's initial order on the FFT program in Docket No. RC11-6-003, on October 12, 2012, and accepted by Delegated Letter Order, on February 25, 2013.

[94] The Regional Entities' Cyber Infrastructure Protection auditor qualifications are discussed in greater detail below under §F.3, Additional Statutory Functions.

The Regional Entities will steadfastly continue these efforts, which complement and otherwise support the development of RAI. In this regard, the Third-Party Assessment suggested ways for improving auditor training, which are currently under active consideration by the ERO Enterprise. These suggestions include:

(1) Understanding and inventorying audit training over the past 2 to 3 years;

(2) Identifying initial pockets of excellence that could be leveraged;

(3) Preparing an initial listing and profile of known trainings and certifications that should be embedded within an on-going training program;

(4) Reconfirming and defining key trainings that include content related to auditing and understanding the technical aspects of the NERC requirements;

(5) Determining which professional certifications are best suited for audit professionals;

(6) Developing a program that includes all desired training and certifications;

(7) Assigning a target audience, delivery method, importance, approximate course length and frequency for each item in the training program;

(8) Establishing a method to track employee completion which will report data on progress per employee, office and region;

(9) Developing a process for proactive monitoring and continued improvements in the current training program;

(10) Creating individual annual training requirements for each employee based on gaps in their current skill sets and their expressed interests; and

(11) Tracking training and certification completion status and periodically reporting progress.

Status of NERC and FERC Observers in Regional Audits

The final compliance audit topic addressed in the 2009 JRESA concerned the uncertainty of the scope of participation by NERC and FERC observers in regional audits, even though as a general matter the Regional Entities found benefit in the observers' feedback. The Regional Entities believe that this uncertainty was largely resolved during the assessment period by Commission-approved changes to the NERC ROP Appendix 4C, §3.1.5.3, which clearly sets forth the role of audit observers, stating that "[c]ompliance Audit observers and attendees are not

Compliance Audit team members and do not participate in conducting the Compliance Audit or in making Compliance Audit findings and determinations."[95]

c. Enforcement

The 2009 JRESA touched on four specific enforcement-related topics in addition to issues of consistency—caseload backlog, treatment of minor violations, process transparency, and information management tools. As these topics overlap with each other and previously discussed topics, the following will combine the updates. As an initial matter, the Regional Entities want to stress that they continue to view communication and transparency in the enforcement process to be imperative to ensure a fair and effective implementation of the CMEP. They also believe that RAI is a positive step in that direction, and are committed to working with NERC and other members of the reliability community to make RAI a reality to advance BES reliability. In particular, RAI will support the goal of approaching the enforcement of the reliability standards on the basis of risk, as the initiative calls for evaluating registered entities' internal controls and processes, an evaluation that will enable the Regional Entities to create risk profiles. Once known, those risk profiles will assist the Regional Entities in both their compliance monitoring and enforcement activities, and eventually help reduce the time to final resolution of compliance issues.

The Regional Entities experienced a significant increase in the number of new violations discovered during the assessment period, in large part because of the introduction of the CIP mandatory Reliability Standards in 2010. Indeed, with the exception of the last year, NERC reported that the number of violations consistently trended upward during the assessment period, generally for all Regional Entities. This trend can be seen by Regional Entity on Table 4. NERC also reported that the CIP Reliability Standards were consistently the most frequently violated since 2010.[96]

New Violations during Assessment Period – Table 4						
	2009	**2010**	**2011**	**2012**	**2013**	**Total**
FRCC[97]	184	103	135	68	61	**551**
MRO	60	103	196	166	139	**664**
NPCC	43	99	130	213	66	**551**
RF	123	469	565	505	240	**1,902**
SERC	187	312	309	300	285	**1,393**
SPP RE	132	254	291	173	191	**1,041**
TRE	14	51	430	197	169	**861**

[95] *See* 141 FERC ¶ 61,241 (2012).

[96] *See* the PowerPoint presentation titled *Key Compliance and Enforcement Metrics and Trends* (February 2014), http://www.nerc.com/gov/bot/BOTCC/Compliance%20Committee%202013/Presentations%20--%20February%205,%202014.pdf, at slide 15.

[97] There is a slight difference between the FRCC number of violations in Table 4 and those found in NERC's assessment of the Regional Entities. FRCC's numbers here reflect the year in which the violations were discovered whereas the other numbers reflect the year the violations were reported to NERC.

New Violations during Assessment Period – Table 4						
	2009	**2010**	**2011**	**2012**	**2013**	**Total**
WECC	571	550	807	818	437	**3,183**
TOTALS	**1,314**	**1,941**	**2,863**	**2,440**	**1,588**	**10,146**

Notwithstanding the generally steady increase in new violations during the assessment period, the Regional Entities were able to meet their objectives, stated in the 2009 JRESA, to clear out what was described there as a backlog of violations, improve the time of processing violations (especially minor violations), and, generally speaking, establish stable workloads of enforcement cases. In particular, the Regional Entities' significant reduction in their pre-2012 caseload by the end of the assessment period can be seen on Table 5.[98]

[98] As NERC reported in its 2014 business plan and budget proposal:

> As of June 30, 2013, approximately 85% of the active non-CIP violations and 72% of the active CIP violations were discovered since January 1, 2012 (i.e., were discovered in the preceding 18 months). At June 30, 2013, there were no active non-CIP violations that were discovered prior to January 1, 2010 and only 12 active non-CIP violations that were discovered in 2010. There were only 16 active violations that were discovered in 2009 and 91 active CIP violations that were discovered in 2010. Further, for the 12 months ended June 30, 2013, the number of violations dismissed or filed with the Commission exceeded the number of new violations opened by 680 violations.

Request for Acceptance of 2013 Business Plans and Budgets of NERC and Regional Entities and for Approval of Proposed Assessments to Fund Budgets, Docket No. RR13-9-000 (submitted on August 23, 2013), at p. 104.

Reduction in Pre-2012 Violations Caseload – Table 5			
	Total violations open at the end of 2011	**Total violations open at the end of 2011 still open at end of 2013**	**Percentage of Reduction**
FRCC	95	0	100%
MRO	151	14	93%
NPCC	221	0	100%
RF	429	21[99]	95%
SERC	575	25	96%
SPP RE	233	6	97.4%
TRE	283	0[100]	100%
WECC	65	0	100%

The Regional Entities accomplished these objectives in the first instance by gaining more experience, expanding their enforcement staffs, increasing their outreach to registered entities, and focusing on improved efficiency. They also accomplished this by working with Commission staff, NERC, and the stakeholders in the development of the CEI, in particular the Administrative Citation NOPs, the SNOPs, and the FFTs.[101] As mentioned above, in 2012 and 2013, respectively, the use of SNOPs represented 48% and 43% of the total number of violations and possible violations submitted to the Commission. For the same years, the use of FFTs represented 38% and 43% of the total number of violations and possible violations processed by the Regional Entities.[102] Moreover, for violations and possible violations discovered after January 1, 2012 and filed by September 30, 2013, the average processing time for SNOPs and FFTs was 10.7 months and 7.4 months, respectively.[103] As the Commission can appreciate from the management of its own enforcement cases, as reported in its Enforcement staffs' annual reports, this represents a very respectable and acceptable time to process violations of the law.

[99] This number excludes Federal entity violations which are on hold due to legal issues.

[100] This number excludes one case involving two violations that is on appeal.

[101] The Regional Entities also credit the registered entities in the improvement in the processing of violations, namely that as they also gained experience through compliance and enforcement activities, they obtained a better understanding of how to comply with the standards and thereby were able to facilitate both activities.

[102] *See* the PowerPoint presentation titled *Key Compliance and Enforcement Metrics and Trends* (February 2014), http://www.nerc.com/gov/bot/BOTCC/Compliance%20Committee%202013/Presentations%20--%20February%205,%202014.pdf, at slide 10. For the period July 1, 2012 to June 28, 2013, this breaks down by region as follows:

	WECC	TRE	SPP RE	SERC	RF	NPCC	MRO	FRCC
FFT	25%	54%	44%	43%	41%	60%	57%	45%
SNOP	37%	23%	28%	38%	28%	39%	39%	40%
NOP	38%	23%	28%	19%	32%	1%	4%	15%

[103] *See* the PowerPoint presentation titled *Key Compliance and Enforcement Metrics and Trends* (November 2013), http://www.nerc.com/gov/bot/BOTCC/Compliance%20Committee%202013/CC_Presentations_Nov_2013_Complete.pdf, at slide 5.

At the same time as they were working to reduce their pre-2012 caseload and otherwise improve their processing of violations of the mandatory Reliability Standards, the Regional Entities endeavored to strictly oversee the completion of plans to mitigate those violations, because, axiomatically, timely mitigation is imperative for BPS reliability. Toward the end of the assessment period, they were able to improve the average times of two major milestones to less than a year, or significantly less than a year—the time from discovery of the violation to the registered entity's submittal of mitigation activities and the time from the discovery of a violation to the registered entity's completion of mitigation activities. This can be seen by Regional Entity for September 2012 through September 2013 in Table 6.

Average Times for Submittal and Completion of Mitigation Plans – Table 6		
	Average time from discovery of a violation to the registered entity's submittal of mitigating activities	**Average time from discovery of a violation to the registered entity's completion of mitigating activities**
FRCC	5.6 months	10.2 months
MRO	5 months	9 months
NPCC	3 months	3.4 months
RF	5.6 months	6.4 months
SERC	11 months	9 months
SPP RE	6.4 months	10.2 months
TRE	8 months	6 months
WECC	4.6 months	5.6 months

The Regional Entities achieved another 2009 enforcement goal during the assessment period by compiling and sharing with each other and the reliability community "lessons learned" from their enforcement proceedings. Accordingly, they were able to improve their own operations and help the registered entities to understand better how to comply with the mandatory Reliability Standards. They did this by: (i) creating webpages;[104] (ii) producing training videos; (iii) issuing newsletters with information on frequently violated standards and violation processing metrics;[105] (iv) publishing cases and dismissal notes;[106] (v) developing and sharing compliance guidance statements;[107] (vi) compiling other relevant written materials such as FAQs;[108] (vii) holding frequent compliance calls with registered entities; (viii) conducting

[104] *See*, e.g., http://www.texasre.org/StakeholderOutreach/LessonsLearned/Pages/Default.aspx; and http://www.serc1.org/Documents/Compliance/Statistics%20and%20Lessons%20Learned/2012/SERC%20Lessons%20Learned%20July%202012.pdf.

[105] *See*, e.g., https://rfirst.org/Pages/Newsletter.aspx.

[106] *See*, e.g., http://www.midwestreliability.org/02_compliance/Enforcement%20Case%20Notes/2013%20Case%20Notes/MRO%20Case%20Notes%202nd%20Quarter%202013.pdf.

[107] *See*, e.g., https://www.npcc.org/Compliance/Compliance%20Guidance%20Statements/Forms/Public%20List.aspx.

[108] *See*, e.g., https://www.frcc.com/FAQ/default.aspx.

numerous workshops, seminars, conferences, webinars, and open forums;[109] (ix) including detailed discussions in their compliance committee meetings; and (x) participating in trade and other industry conferences and conventions. Indeed, in the last three years of the assessment period (2011 through 2013), the Regional Entities' workshops and equivalent training programs attracted more than 30,000 attendees.[110]

Critical in the Regional Entities' enforcement activities is their use of information management tools. During the assessment period, they all changed or significantly improved or enhanced those tools. They did not, however, use the same tools (and there was no single, integrated compliance information system approach in place for them and NERC). Rather, they used one of two different integrated systems to manage compliance information received from registered entities. Five of the Regional Entities (RF, MRO, SPP RE, TRE, and WECC) used the web-based Compliance Data Management System (webCDMS), and three of the Regional Entities (SERC, NPCC, and FRCC) used the Compliance Issue Tracking System (CITS).[111] NERC used the Compliance Reporting and Tracking System (CRATS) to aggregate regional compliance data from webCDMS and CITS. While each system has its advantages, NERC and the Regional Entities plan to look to the feasibility of a common platform in the near future.

d. Hearings and Appeals

From the inception of the CMEP, the Regional Entities recognized the importance of providing sufficient process to registered entities which allegedly violated the mandatory Reliability Standards. Indeed, the Commission stressed more than once that the Regional Entities must have procedures in place to enable a registered entity to be heard in a trial-type hearing, and that NERC must have procedures in place to allow a registered entity to appeal a regional decision to the NERC Board and ultimately to the Commission.[112] Accordingly, the ERO Enterprise spent considerable time during the assessment period in developing and refining the *Hearing Procedures* laid out in Attachment 2 to NERC ROP Appendix 4C, and each Regional Entity issued its own CMEP hearing procedures, either incorporating or adopting by reference the procedures in Attachment 2. Many of the Regional Entities also provided training on the hearing procedures, including conducting a mock hearing, for their staffs, hearing bodies, or stakeholders.

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[109] *See*, e.g., http://www.wecc.biz/Training/Pages/default.aspx.

[110] This broke down by Regional Entity as follows: FRCC (2,176), MRO (1,219), NPCC (1,650), RF (1,260), SERC (4,019), SPP RE (2,451), TRE (2,924), and WECC (14,658). WECC had almost half of the attendees because it held routine open WebEx calls with pre-set agendas with the time dedicated for questions and answers.

[111] The Regional Entities also used a variety of other programs, such as SharePoint document management system and MK Insight materials repository system.

[112] *See*, e.g., *North American Electric Reliability Corporation, et al*., Order Accepting ERO Compliance Filing, Accepting ERO/Regional Entity Delegation Agreements, and Accepting Regional Entity 2007 Business Plans, 119 FERC ¶ 61,060 (2007), at PP 134-165*; North American Electric Reliability Corporation, et al.*, Order Addressing Revised Delegation Agreements, 122 FERC ¶ 61,245, at PP 74-138, *order on compliance filing*, 125 FERC ¶ 61,330 (2008), at PP 58-60.

Toward the end of the assessment period, with active participation by the Regional Entities, NERC proposed changes to *Hearing Procedures*, which the Commission approved on December 20, 2012.[113] Among other things, the Commission agreed with NERC's proposal to allow third-party interventions under a strict standard, namely that the intervener must have a direct and substantial interest in the outcome of the alleged violation, proposed penalty or sanction, mitigation plan, or remedial action directive.[114] The Regional Entities agree that the codification of this standard will facilitate the resolution of enforcement proceedings, especially in those regions with RTOs or ISOs, where a third-party may be allocated all or a portion of a penalty and where the Commission's objective of getting to the "root cause" of the violation is critical to such allocation.[115]

Even though all of the Regional Entities established hearing procedures and organized their resources to accommodate hearings, just three of them conducted a total of only five hearings during the assessment period.[116] RF conducted one regular hearing and one fast-tracked hearing, both of which were ultimately resolved by settlement. SPP RE conducted two regular hearings, one of which is pending resolution in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit,[117] and one for which a settlement was pending before the NERC Board of Trustees Compliance Committee as of December 31, 2013. TRE conducted one hearing, at the end of which its board of directors issued a confidential decision, in January 2013, and submitted the matter to the NERC Board where it was pending as of December 31, 2013. At this time, in light of the relatively little activity under the current ROP, the Regional Entities believe that they should

[113] *See North American Electric Reliability Corporation*, Order Conditionally Approving Revisions to North American Electric Reliability Corporation Rules of Procedure, 141 FERC ¶ 61,241 (2012), at PP 108-110.

[114] *Id*. P 110. *See also Monongahela Power Co., et al*., 135 FERC ¶ 61,226 (2011) (authorizing FirstEnergy to intervene in an RF hearing).

[115] *See generally Reliability Standard Compliance and Enforcement in Regions with Regional Transmission Organizations or Independent System Operators,* Order Providing Guidance on Recovery of Reliability Penalty Costs by Regional Transmission Organizations and Independent System Operators, 122 FERC ¶ 61,247 (2008); *see also PJM Interconnection, L.L.C.,* Order Accepting Tariff Revisions and Requiring Compliance Filing, 124 FERC ¶ 61,260 (2008) and *Midwest Independent Transmission Operator, Inc.,* Order Conditionally Accepting Proposed Tariff Revisions, 128 FERC ¶ 61,229 (2009).

[116] The Regional Entities also received very few complaints and conducted very few investigations (as that term is defined in the CMEP) during the assessment period as follows:

	FRCC	MRO	NPCC	RF	SERC	SPP RE	TRE	WECC
Complaints	2	1	6	4	4	1	3	0
Investigations	0	3	3	3	3	3	3*	1

*One of TRE's investigations involved a 2011 winter event that led to a FERC/NERC staff report, *Report on Outages and Curtailments During the Southwest Cold Weather Event on February 1-5, 2011*. *See* http://www.ferc.gov/legal/staff-reports/08-16-11-report.pdf.

[117] *See Southwestern Power Administration, et al. v. FERC*, No. 13-1033 (D.C. Cir. Feb. 15, 2013).

obtain more experience with hearings and appeals before any significant changes are made to Attachment 2.[118]

3. Additional Statutory Functions

The 2009 JRESA identified four other functions which are primarily the ERO's responsibility but which require the active involvement, cooperation, and assistance of the Regional Entities—Reliability Assessment, Event Analysis, Situation Awareness, and Critical Infrastructure Protection.[119] In regard to Reliability Assessment, Event Analysis, and Situation Awareness, NERC and some industry members expressed concerns about the Regional Entities' performance. In regard to Critical Infrastructure Protection, the Regional Entities noted a concern they had. As now demonstrated, during the assessment period, the Regional Entities successfully took steps to address and otherwise allay the concerns of NERC and the industry members, and had its own concern satisfactorily addressed as well.[120]

a. Reliability Assessment

FPA §215(g), 16 U.S.C. §824o(g), provides that "[t[he ERO shall conduct periodic assessments of the reliability and adequacy of the bulk-power system in North America." Section 39.11 of the Commission's regulations, 18 C.F.R. §39.11 (2013), additionally directs the ERO to conduct such assessments and provide reports to the Commission and other designated entities. Accordingly, NERC prepares the annual *Long-Term Reliability Assessment*, *Summer Assessment*, *Winter Assessment*, and special assessments as needed. To this end, as can be gleaned from the NERC's *Reliability Assessment Guidebook* (version 3.1), NERC relies heavily on the Regional Entities to prepare these reports.[121] Indeed, as anticipated in the 2009 JRESA, the finalization of this guidebook during the assessment period adequately responded to the issues raised during the preparation of the Regional Entities' first performance assessment.[122] Nonetheless, the Regional Entities are committed to continue working with NERC to improve data collection and validation, and to foster greater alignment across the regions in the conduct of high quality, timely, and independent assessments that support the ERO Enterprise's valuation of reliability.

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[118] Notably, the Commission approved a major change to the TRE hearing procedures in August 2013, allowing TRE to change its hearing process, which previously provided for the Texas Public Utility Commission to serve as the hearing body, to be the same as used by the other seven Regional Entities. *See North American Electric Reliability Corporation*, Docket No. RR13-7-000 (August 19, 2013) (unpublished delegated letter order).

[119] *See* 2009 JRESA, at pp. 32-33.

[120] Additionally, as budget matters were discussed at various places in the 2009 JRESA, this section concludes with a brief overview of Regional business plans and budget activities during the assessment period.

[121] *See* http://www.nerc.com/pa/RAPA/rg/ReliabilityGuidelines/Reliability_Assess_Guidebook_3_1Final.pdf.

[122] Concerns at that time included data checking and validation, process and procedures, stakeholder/member involvement, and overall quality and timeliness.

b. Event Analysis

In the 2009 JRESA, the Regional Entities agreed with industry members that work needed to be done on the process of timely conducting, and disseminating information gathered from, event analyses performed by NERC and the Regional Entities.[123] Without question, the ERO Enterprise made tremendous strides during assessment period to address these concerns and otherwise improve the very critical reliability function of analyzing events and distributing lessons learned to the entire reliability community. For their part, the Regional Entities significantly contributed to this effort by helping to organize and actively participating in the voluntary ERO event analysis program.

By way of background, following the creation of the NERC Event Analysis Working Group (EAWG) and two industry trials in 2010, NERC approved an industry-wide event analysis program in February 2012, and revised it in 2013.[124] This voluntary program recognizes the need to establish an appropriate level of review for the events which occur on the BPS based on their varying levels of significance, while still providing otherwise unrealized lessons to be learned from both major and minor occurrences. To complete this effort, the registered entity, the Regional Entity, and NERC staff collaborate to prepare an event analysis report, identify root cause and contributing causes, perform a formal "cause-coding" analysis, and publish lessons learned gathered from the disturbance. The process also encourages registered entities to establish a liaison between their internal event analysis and compliance functions for development of a registered entity compliance self-assessment report separate from the event analysis report. During the assessment period, this integration of industry engagement and the collaborative review of disturbances greatly improved the effectiveness, consistency, and timeliness of event analyses performed by NERC and the Regional Entities.

The following shows the progress made by the voluntary ERO event analysis program, developed by NERC, the Regional Entities, and stakeholders. Between October 2010 and December 31, 2013, registered entities submitted 469 event reports through the program, two-thirds of which were classified as Category 1.[125] Generally, the registered entities were very

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[123] The *Report on Outages and Curtailments During the Southwest Cold Weather Event of February 1-5, 2011, Causes and Recommendations* (August 2011) (2011 Southwest Cold Weather Event) neatly summarizes the event analysis process:

> Registered entities are required to report the occurrence of defined bulk power system disturbances and unusual occurrences to the appropriate Regional Entity and to NERC. The Regional Entity and/or NERC in turn undertakes various levels of analysis to determine the causes of the events, assure tracking of corrective actions to prevent recurrence, gather information needed to assess compliance, and provide lessons learned to the industry. The event analysis process also provides input for training and education, reliability trend analysis efforts and Reliability Standards development, all of which support continued reliability improvement.

http://www.ferc.gov/legal/staff-reports/08-16-11-report.pdf, at p. 23.

[124] *See* http://www.nerc.com/pa/rrm/ea/EA%20Program%20Document%20Library/Final_ERO_EA_Process_V2.1.pdf. The EAWG eventually transitioned to the NERC Event Analysis Subcommittee.

[125] A Category 1 event includes, among other things, an unexpected outage, contrary to design, of three or more BPS elements caused by a common disturbance. *See* generally *Electric Reliability Organization Event Analysis Process*,

supportive of the process and worked with the Regional Entities' staffs to improve the quality of the reports, even providing subject matter experts to participate in calls to ensure that the reports were completely understood to more effectively assign categories and cause codes. The Regional Entities' staffs, in turn, were fully committed to the success of the lessons learned aspect of the program, and attempted to keep the registered entities up to date on the program and to help develop meaningful lessons learned. As is well known, during the assessment period, the two most notable event analyses were performed by NERC and FERC staffs with respect to the 2011 Southwest Cold Weather Event and the 2011 Arizona-Southern California Outages.[126] In both matters, the reports provided valuable information and recommendations that were closely examined by the other Regional Entities for application in their areas.[127]

c. Situation Awareness

The 2009 JRESA touched briefly on situation awareness, and took note that NERC and the Regional Entities were actively participating with FERC to enhance situation awareness by having RCs provide near-real-time operating information for their respective footprints to the Commission, NERC and the Regional Entities in order to permit the Commission to "measure the health" of the Interconnections and to monitor parameters which might warn of a developing crisis. The Regional Entities cautioned in 2009 that the communication protocols should be followed in order to prevent this effort from exposing system operators to distracting inquiries during emergency situations. Since then, as now explained, the efforts underway in 2009 were largely successful and the Regional Entities' concerns were satisfactorily addressed.

During the assessment period, FERC, NERC, and Regional Entity staffs worked together to develop a near-real time situation awareness visualization tool called SAFNR (**S**ituation **A**wareness for **F**ERC, **N**ERC, and the **R**egional Entities). SAFNR version 1 was implemented in June 2009. SAFNR version 2, which provides enhanced situation awareness with increased

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Appendix E: Categorization of Events (February 2012) at http://www.nerc.com/pa/rrm/ea/EA%20Program%20Document%20Library/ERO_Event_Analysis_Process_Document_Version_1_Feb_2012.pdf. There was only one Category 5 event during the assessment period—Hurricane Sandy in 2012.

The events covered by the reports break down by Regional Entity as follows:

FRCC	MRO	NPCC	RF	SERC	SPP RE	TRE	WECC
25	41	69	47	42	13	69	163

[126] *See* n. 125 and *Arizona-Southern California Outages on September 8, 2011, Causes and Recommendation*s (April 2012) (2011 Arizona-Southern California Outages) http://www.ferc.gov/legal/staff-reports/04-27-2012-ferc-nerc-report.pdf. *See also Arizona Public Service Company*, Order Approving Stipulation and Consent Agreement, 148 FERC ¶ 61,009 (2014) (approving first settlement in 2011 Southwest Blackout case between FERC's Office of Enforcement, NERC, and Arizona Public Service Company).

[127] For example, in light of the recommendations in the Arizona-Southern California Outages report, SPP RE staff conducted a survey of entities regarding operational planning and real-time situational awareness, and worked with the SPP RTO and the SPP Event Analysis Working Group to craft training materials. In addition, the SPP RTO implemented a daily benchmark process of the "next day" models to validate load forecasting and generation dispatch assumptions as well as voltage performance. Also in consideration of the recommendations in that report, WECC launched an initiative to improve modeling of remedial action schemes and relays.

trending capability, was completed in late 2012. As contemplated in the 2009 JRESA, SAFNR calls for U.S. RCs to provide system conditions via the internet to FERC, NERC, and the Regional Entities thereby allowing them to monitor continuously operating conditions and emerging reliability events on the BPS. In addition to the near-real time monitoring capabilities of SAFNR, the RCs send situation awareness reports every morning to the Commission, NERC, and the Regional Entities. These reports include an overview of weather conditions, transmission line and generation outages, and operating reserves. Furthermore, the Regional Entities participate in weekly situation awareness and event analysis conference calls with NERC. From the Regional Entities' perspective, the combination of SAFNR, the daily situation awareness reports, and the weekly calls with the ERO, give them a good overview of what is happening on the BES. And, of course, they are in regular communication with the registered entities within their footprints, in particular the RCs, and provide those entities with the means to contact them or receive pertinent information from them at all times with respect to any incidents or events on the grid.[128]

d. Critical Infrastructure Protection

The 2009 JRESA posited only one issue with respect to CIP, namely that the Commission should approve a pending proposal to amend the NERC ROP to provide that any Technical Feasibility Exception (TFE) requests (from the coverage of the CIP Reliability Standards) be submitted in the first instance to the Regional Entities, rather than to NERC.[129] Early in the assessment period, the Commission approved the proposed amendment, thus mooting the issue raised in 2009.[130] More recently, in September 2013, the Commission approved what NERC described as the first comprehensive review of the TFE process since it was originally developed and approved.[131] The Commission explained that NERC and the Regional Entities had processed by that time over 3,800 TFE requests in the past three years, including over 1,300 TFE requests in 2011, experience that supported NERC's proposal to streamline the process for submitting, reviewing, and approving or disapproving TFE requests, and for modifying approved TFEs.[132] The Regional Entities are pleased that the Commission

[128] For example, WECC established a web portal to allow BAs and TOPs access to actual RC real-time state estimator, contingency analysis, and other situational awareness-enhancing tools. NPCC introduced the *Emergency Preparedness Conference Call Procedures* to enable the RCs in its footprint, and, as circumstances may require, their counterparts in neighboring Regional Entities, to rapidly communicate the status of current operating conditions, facilitate the procurement of assistance during emergency conditions, and identify potential physical or cyber threats to the system.

[129] TFE requests primarily arise with respect to long-life equipment in place that is not readily compatible with a modern environment where cyber security issues are a concern. *See Mandatory Reliability Standards for Critical Infrastructure Protection*, Order No. 706, 122 FERC ¶ 61,040 (2008), at P 180.

[130] *See North American Electric Reliability Corporation*, Order Approving Technical Feasibility Exception Procedures and Ordering Compliance Filing, 130 FERC ¶ 61,050 (2010).

[131] *See North American Electric Reliability Corporation,* Order Approving Revisions to Electric Reliability Organization's Rules of Procedure and Directing Compliance Filing, 144 FERC ¶ 61,180 (2013), *order on compliance*, Docket No. RR13-3-001 (January 30, 2014) (unpublished letter order).

[132] *Id.* P 12.

approved NERC's proposed amendments, which will help reduce TFE processing times while maintaining the integrity of the CIP mandatory Reliability Standards.

In addition, during the assessment period, the Regional Entities significantly expanded the number and the expertise of their staffs, in particular their auditors, to verify compliance with the CIP mandatory Reliability Standards. They uniformly hired personnel with relevant credentials and experience. For example, SPP RE's audit team (as of mid-2013) had over 94 years of information technology, cybersecurity, and IT audit experience, including 52 years of experience in the electricity sector, and FRCC required (as of mid-2013), as a condition of employment, five years of experience in cybersecurity practices, information technology, auditing practices, implementation of NERC Reliability Standards, or other equivalent experience. Moreover, by the end of the assessment period, many of the Regional Entities' employees held active certifications recognized by the U.S. Department of Defense Directive 8570 (e.g., Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA), Certified Information Systems Security Specialists (CISSP), Certified Ethical Hacker (CEH), and Network +). They also sought out personnel who understood energy management systems (EMS) and supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) systems and several of them augmented their staffs' expertise with contractors who held similar credentials and experience.

Needless to say, the Regional Entities recognize the incredibly important role that cybersecurity plays in the fulfillment of their statutory responsibilities.[133] Accordingly, during the assessment period, they uniformly expended considerable resources and effort to organize their CIP programs and to enforce the mandatory CIP Reliability Standards. Several also initiated on-site visits at their registered entities to assess their physical security, to discuss with those entities the intricacies of complying with the CIP Reliability Standards, and to explore best industry practices with respect to cybersecurity. In addition, the Regional Entities improved their own technology to be able to handle the transport and storage of the especially sensitive information that they collect in CIP compliance audits and investigations.

Finally, during the assessment period, Regional Entities participated in two NERC Grid Security Exercises (GridEx), which use best practices from the Department of Homeland Security, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology. Six Regional Entities (MRO, NPCC, RF, SERC, TRE, and WECC) joined 70 industry and government organizations in the 2011 GridEx, on November 16, 2011 through November 17, 2011, and six Regional Entities (FRCC, MRO, NPCC, RF, SERC, and TRE) joined more than 200 industry and government organizations, either as full participants or as observers, in the 2013 GridEx on November 13, 2013 through November 14, 2013. The 2011 GridEx was designed to validate the readiness of the Electricity Sub-sector to respond to a cybersecurity incident, strengthen registered entities' crisis response functions, and provide input for internal security program improvements. Overall, the exercise was widely regarded across industry and government as a critical imperative in preparing the BPS for a disruptive cyber event.[134] The 2013 GridEx gave participants the opportunity to check the readiness of their crisis

[133] *See* 16 U.S.C. §§824o(a)(3) and (4).

[134] *See 2011 NERC Grid Security Exercise After Action Report* (March 2012) at http://www.nerc.com/pa/CI/CIPOutreach/Documents/NERC%20GridEx%20AAR%2016Mar2012%20Final.pdf.

action plans through a simulated security exercise to self-assess response and recovery capabilities, and to adjust actions and plans as needed, while communicating with industry and government information sharing organizations.[135]

4. Budget

The 2009 JRESA mentioned various budget matters but did not include a separate section on the topic. The significant progress made in this area during the assessment period by the Regional Entities under NERC leadership calls for at least a brief discussion here. Also, as related generally in the Introduction and specifically by each Regional Entity in Appendix C, the Regional Entities are required by FPA §215 to establish rules that "allocate equitably reasonable dues, fees, and other charges among end users for all activities," an obligation that obviously necessitates that they function under a business plan and a budget. The Regional Entities first approached these budget responsibilities during the assessment period by developing, in collaboration with NERC, and proposing annual business plans and budgets, in accordance with Commission orders, ERO rules, and NERC business planning and budgeting policies and instructions. For this purpose, they used NERC forms for business plan and budget submittal and adhered to NERC's schedule for preparation of the business plan and budget and related financial statements. They likewise followed NERC's prescribed system of accounts (except to the extent that NERC permitted a departure from the prescribed system of accounts).

The Regional Entities made significant progress in the development and submission of their annual business plans and budgets partly as a result of their active participation in the Regional Entity Budget Group (REBG), which transitioned during the assessment period to the ERO Finance Group (EROFG). This group reviewed templates, budget processes, schedules and deadlines, account classifications, financial reporting, and accounting changes. Members of the group were able to share information concerning benefits, salaries, policies, and procedures that are used in the day-to-day accounting activities in the regions. The Regional Entities also took advantage of the opportunity to preview their preliminary annual budgets for Commission staff, and receive feedback generally and with respect to staffing needs and extraordinary items. They further worked with NERC to develop long term resource and financial planning, and to formulate a set of "common assumptions," which helped to clarify expectations. As a consequence of the concerted efforts made by NERC, the Regional Entities, and the EROFG, the regional budget process significantly improved during the assessment period, progressing from a level of some uncertainty to a level of considerable predictability regarding needed resources and anticipated expenses.[136]

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[135] *See Grid Security Exercise (GridExII) After-Action Report* (March 2014) available at: http://www.nerc.com/pa/CI/CIPOutreach/GridEX/GridEx%20II%20After%20Action%20Report.pdf. The Regional Entities were also represented at the "tabletop" of executives from government, industry, and NERC, which took place after the 2013 exercise.

[136] An excellent overview of the progress made by the ERO Enterprise during the last year of the assessment period in preparing the Regional Entities' 2014 business plans and budgets can be found in NERC's *Request for Acceptance of 2014 Business Plans and Budgets of NERC and Regional Entities and for Approval of Proposed Assessments to Fund Budgets*, Docket No. RR13-9-000 (submitted on August 23, 2013), at pp. 24-30. *See also*

CONCLUSION

The ERO Enterprise significantly matured during the assessment period, building on the foundation of the first three years of the program in which the ERO and the Regional Entities had to set up and organize their operations to implement a sweeping new set of Federal laws, regulations, policies and practices under the oversight of the Commission. Those first three years were truly a time of learning and adjusting to the new paradigm. The next five years, the current assessment period, were a time to learn from experience and explore ways to improve, refine, and stabilize the program. The Regional Entities successfully contributed to those objectives in several ways. They worked more closely and productively with the ERO and with each other. They reached out to and trained their registered entities and other stakeholders. They actively participated in FERC proceedings to keep the Commission informed and to help craft orders and policies that appropriately advance reliability. They continuously examined ways to be more efficient and effective in exercising their compliance enforcement authority and to better gauge the risk that noncompliance posed to reliability. Finally, at all times, they met their statutory obligations to be impartial, develop reasonable and technically sound standards, enforce those standards with due process, operate within sound business plans and budgets, coordinate their efforts in North America, where applicable, and function under RDAs that promote effective and efficient administration of BPS reliability.

North American Electric Reliability Corporation, Order on 2014 Business Plan and Budget of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation and Ordering Compliance Filing, 145 FERC ¶ 61,097 (2013).

Appendix A
Description of Regional Entities

A Regional Entity is an organization that has been delegated certain statutory functions of the Electric Reliability Organization (ERO). The ERO and each Regional Entity consummate the delegation through the execution of a Delegation Agreement, which must be approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission or FERC) in the U.S. By entering into such an agreement, the Regional Entity becomes subject to the jurisdiction of the FERC and the rules of procedure of the ERO.

In July 2006, when the Commission certified the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) as the ERO, it also accepted NERC's proposal to delegate certain ERO functions to designated Regional Entities, as well as NERC's proposed *pro forma* Delegation Agreement.[137] In April 2007, NERC entered into separate Delegation Agreements with eight Regional Entities, through which NERC delegated certain ERO functions. Specifically, NERC delegated authority to the Regional Entities to audit, investigate, and otherwise ensure that users, owners, and operators of the BPS comply with NERC's mandatory Reliability Standards, subject to ERO oversight.[138] Further, the Delegation Agreements addressed: (i) Regional Reliability Standards development; (ii) registration of entities that must comply with Reliability Standards; and (iii) other services supporting NERC's functions, including reliability assessments, event analysis, and training and education. In October 2010, the Commission approved a revised *pro forma* Delegation Agreement, and revised Delegation Agreements between NERC and each of the eight Regional Entities.[139] Subsequently, the Commission also approved other changes to specific Delegation Agreements.[140]

As shown in Figure 1, the existing eight Regional Entities provide full geographic coverage for the jurisdictional scope of NERC as the international ERO.

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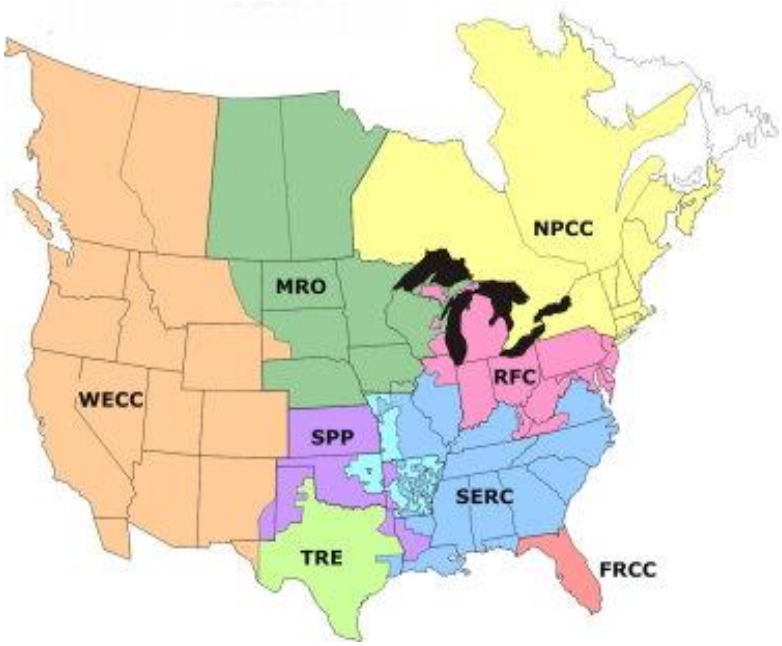
[137] *See North American Electric Reliability Corporation*, Order Certifying North American Electric Reliability Corporation as the Electric Reliability Organization and Ordering Compliance Filing, 116 FERC ¶ 61,062, *order on reh'g*, 117 FERC ¶ 61,126 (2006).

[138] *See North American Electric Reliability Corp.*, 119 FERC ¶ 61,060, *order on reh'g,* 120 FERC ¶ 61,260 (2007).

[139] *See North American Electric Reliability Corporation*, 133 FERC ¶ 61,061 (2010), *order on reh'g*, 134 FERC ¶ 61,179, *order on compliance filing*, 137 FERC ¶ 61,028 (2011).

[140] *See*, e.g. *North American Electric Reliability Corporation*, Docket Nos. RR13-7-000 (Aug. 19, 2013) (TRE), RR13-5-000 (June 12, 2013) (MRO), RR12-12-000 (Oct. 24, 2012) (RF), RR12-4-000 (June 12, 2012) (FRCC), and RR12-2-000 (March 1, 2012) (WECC) (unpublished delegated letter orders).

Figure 1 — Map of Regional Entities within NERC



Each of the Regional Entities is briefly described below.

Florida Reliability Coordinating Council, Inc. (FRCC) was formed in 1996. Its sole purpose is to ensure and enhance the reliability and adequacy of the BPS in Florida. Since becoming a Regional Entity, FRCC has made significant changes in its governance and organizational structure. FRCC amended its bylaws to create two membership divisions — Regional Entity Division (statutory functions) and Member Services Division (non-statutory functions), added a new General Sector to its membership sectors, added new employees strictly dedicated to the compliance and standards functions, and made changes in its organizational reporting structure. All staff members are independent of registered entities, and the organization is governed by a balanced stakeholder board. FRCC has also implemented internal controls in its accounting procedures to ensure there is no cross subsidization of funds between statutory and non-statutory activities.

Midwest Reliability Organization (MRO) was formed from the former Mid-Continent Area Power Pool (MAPP) Regional council and a portion of Mid-America Interpool Network (MAIN) as a new corporation for the purpose of becoming a Regional Entity under the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and the Bilateral Principles. The region spans eight states and two Canadian provinces. MRO's bylaws provide for members from the following industry sectors: municipal utilities, cooperatives, investor-owned utilities, federal power marketing agency, Canadian Crown Corporations, and independent power producers. MRO's bylaws also allow for adjunct members that are not eligible to belong to an industry sector and have a material interest in reliability issues in the MRO region. Membership is at no cost. MRO is independent of all BPS owners, operators, and users, and has no shared employees with any third party. MRO performs only responsibilities delegated from the ERO and similar functions in the Canadian provinces of Saskatchewan and Manitoba. MRO's board of directors (MRO Board) represents a hybrid

governance structure with both independent and stakeholder directors. The stakeholder directors represent the industry sectors noted above; two independent directors are elected by the entire membership. MRO's hybrid board is structured so that no two sectors can control a vote. The MRO Board has adopted procedures to ensure that it carries out its responsibilities in a non-discriminatory manner, free of conflicts.

Northeast Power Coordinating Council, Inc. (NPCC) was established as the voluntary, international regional reliability organization for Northeastern North America in January 1966. NPCC is a not-for-profit corporation with a Regional Entity division that performs the statutory functions delegated by NERC and a Criteria Services division that establishes, monitors, and enforces compliance with regionally-specific criteria. The NPCC geographic region includes the State of New York and the six New England states as well as the Canadian provinces of Ontario, Québec and the Maritime provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. Overall, NPCC covers an area of nearly 1.2 million square miles, populated by more than 55 million people. In total, from a NEL perspective, NPCC is approximately 45% U.S. and 55% Canadian. With regard to Canada, approximately 70% of Canadian NEL is within the NPCC region. NPCC's board of directors consists of seven stakeholder voting sectors that each consist of a maximum of two directors per sector, an independent sector consisting of two independent directors, an independent board chair with voting rights to preclude board deadlocks, and the President and CEO. Within NPCC, no two sectors can control and no one sector can block action.

ReliabilityFirst Corporation (RF) was formed from parts of the former East Central Area Reliability Council (ECAR), MAIN, and the Mid-Atlantic Area Council (MAAC) Regional reliability councils on January 1, 2006. The organization was specifically designed to address changes required by the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and to support the ERO in a self-regulating model by which the industry participants establish their own standards and independent Regional Entities determine compliance to those standards. The organization was modified from top to bottom compared to the legacy reliability councils it replaced, and exists solely to serve as a FERC-approved Regional Entity performing only those functions delegated to it by NERC as the ERO. All ReliabilityFirst staff are independent of registered entities, the organization is governed by a hybrid board of directors, which includes both independent and balanced industry sector directors, and the organization is funded (through the ERO) by all load-serving entities in the footprint as opposed to members (membership is free.)

SERC Reliability Corporation (SERC) was incorporated in April 2005, replacing the Regional reliability council previously in existence since 1969. The new organization was redesigned to meet FPA §215 and FERC criteria for delegating statutory authorities and responsibilities. SERC's scope includes only statutory functions delegated by NERC. The organization does not perform any registered entity functions and has no business affiliations with any registered entities. SERC adopted new bylaws, approved by FERC in April 2007, that provide for a balanced stakeholder board with seven sectors. All SERC staff are independent of registered entities. The organization is funded through the ERO. Membership is free and open to all owners, operators, and users in the SERC region.

Southwest Power Pool Regional Entity (SPP RE) has made fundamental governance and organizational changes necessary to carry out its delegated responsibilities. In response to

the Energy Policy Act of 2005, Southwest Power Pool, Inc. (SPP), created a new department to perform all compliance activities over SPP registered entities. SPP RE began engaging NERC to lead SPP audits in 2007. In April 2007, FERC approved changes to the SPP bylaws creating three independent trustees to manage all SPP RE delegated activities. These trustees, initially elected in June 2007, are required to be independent of SPP members and customers, and registered entities in the region. In March 2009, SPP RE hired a general manager, reporting directly to the three independent trustees, to oversee the execution of the Regional Entity strategic direction and direct the day-to-day operations, including all compliance and enforcement activities. The general manager oversees only delegated statutory functions. All reporting relationships between SPP RE employees and SPP employees have been terminated.

Texas Reliability Entity, Inc. (Texas RE or TRE) is a non-profit Texas corporation that was formed to serve as the Regional Entity for the Electric Reliability Council of Texas, Inc. (ERCOT) region, and to preserve and enhance reliability in the region. Effective July 1, 2010, Texas RE took over the duties of the previous Regional Entity, the Texas Regional Entity, an independent division of ERCOT. Texas RE also performs non-statutory activities as the Reliability Monitor for the ERCOT region pursuant to its July 1, 2010, agreement with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT) and ERCOT (the ISO in the region). As Reliability Monitor, Texas RE monitors and reports to the PUCT regarding market participants' compliance with electric reliability-related ERCOT Protocols, Operating Guides, and Texas rules (ERCOT Regional Rules). The ERCOT region is the geographic area located within the state of Texas that operates under the jurisdiction of the PUCT and is not synchronously interconnected with any electric utilities operating outside of Texas. The ERCOT region includes approximately 85 percent of Texas load and 75 percent of the Texas land area.

Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC) is the successor to the Western Systems Coordinating Council (WSCC), which was formed in 1967. WECC, established in April 2002, continues to be responsible for promoting and coordinating electric system reliability among industry stakeholders as had been done by WSCC since its formation. On July 20, 2006, pursuant to FPA §215, NERC was certified as the ERO in the U.S. Included in this certification was a provision for the ERO to delegate authority for the creation and enforcement reliability to Regional Entities such as WECC. WECC is geographically the largest and most diverse of the eight Regional Entities that have Delegation Agreements with NERC. WECC's service territory extends from Canada to Mexico. It includes the provinces of Alberta and British Columbia, the northern portion of Baja California, Mexico, and all or portions of the 14 Western states between. Due to the size and diverse characteristics of the region, WECC and its members face unique challenges in coordinating the day-to-day interconnected system operation and the long-range planning needed to provide reliable electric service across nearly 1.8 million square miles. Membership in WECC is open to all entities with an interest in the operation of the BPS in the Western Interconnection. All meetings are open and anyone may participate in WECC's standards development process.

On June 27, 2013, the WECC board of directors (WECC Board) approved the bifurcation of the company into a Regional Entity (WECC) and a Reliability Coordination Company (Peak Reliability). This decision—which is the culmination of a year of work by various WECC board committees, staff, WECC members, and WECC stakeholders—signals a major landmark in the

history of the organization. Under this new structure the reliability coordinator and interchange authority functions in the Western Interconnection became a separate company from WECC. When established, Peak Reliability will provide core and other associated reliability coordination services within the Western Interconnection. As anticipated, the Commission approved the relevant documents by the end of December 2013; however, as there were outstanding compliance filings, the bifurcation was not finalized during the assessment period. Nevertheless, WECC and Peak Reliability began operating as separate entities in many respects by that time.

Appendix B
Regional Entity Responses to Specific Concerns Raised in the Commission's September 16, 2010 Order on the Three-Year ERO Performance Assessment

In the order on the Electric Reliability Organization's Three-Year Performance Assessment (2010 Order), the Commission discussed several specific concerns regarding Regional Entity activities including: (i) compliance monitoring and enforcement issues concerning all Regional Entities; (ii) NERC's evaluation of each Regional Entity compliance program; (iii) SPP independence; and (iv) WECC's voting structure.[141] The first topic has been addressed throughout the 2014 JRESA. The other three region-specific topics are addressed below (italicized paragraphs come from the 2010 Order).

NERC's Evaluation of Each Regional Entity

222. *With respect to **FRCC**, NERC states that FRCC needs to improve its timeliness in: (1) reporting alleged violations to NERC; (2) issuing notices of alleged violation; (3) confirming violations and issuing notices of confirmed violation or entering into settlement agreements; and (4) obtaining Board of Trustees Compliance Committee approval of confirmed violations. NERC relates that FRCC recently has increased its compliance program staffing and, as of the Performance Assessment filing date, had the second lowest number of registered functions per full-time equivalent (FTE) committed to compliance of any Regional Entity.*

The FRCC improved its timeliness in all aspects of the compliance and enforcement processes during the assessment period. Notices of alleged violations, notices of confirmed violations and settlements were handled by the FRCC Compliance Enforcement staff. In January 2010, FRCC created a new position of manager of compliance enforcement, promoted a senior auditor to that position, and added two new enforcement positions, an enforcement specialist and a compliance legal assistant. The enforcement specialist position was filled in January 2010, and the legal assistant was filled in May 2010. Subsequently, the FRCC added two more enforcement positions, both CIP enforcement specialists. With the increased enforcement staff, the FRCC worked steadily to improve all of its processes. Additionally, FRCC developed internal processes and goals to support and facilitate the processing of alleged violations, as follows:

- Created enforcement processing checklists;
- Developed violation and mitigation plan responsibility flowcharts;
- Developed enforcement procedures;
- Created annual success plan goals for enforcement team members;
- Implemented departmental caseload goal;
- Developed internal enforcement processing metrics;
- Collaborated with other Regional Entities in a Consortium Users Group (CUG) to improve data base management tool;
- Automated database reporting tools which improved efficiency;

[141] *North American Electric Reliability Corporation, et al*., 132 FERC ¶ 61,217 (2010) at PP 198-244.

- Implemented a secure vault system for registered entity CIP data, which eliminated onsite reviews; and
- Compiled with NERC requests to complete processing of all violations through 2011 to NERC goals.

223. *NERC views **MRO** as an effective Regional Entity. NERC indicates that MRO should improve by providing accurate statements of fact for each violation and assess penalties according to the facts of each situation. NERC has concerns about several of MRO's compliance processes, which NERC has not yet reviewed or approved. NERC states that although these methods may be effective, they are not consistent with NERC practices and could lead to inconsistency with other regions.*

NERC's 2009 assessment alluded to two situations which occurred in that year. The first involved the issuance by FERC of a formal notice extending the time for consideration of a NOP (NP09-21-000), in which FERC requested additional information and clarification of certain facts. While MRO was the first of the Regional Entities to receive such a formal notice, similar notices were subsequently issued to all of the Regional Entities. In some instances, the Commission issued multiple requests to the same region. In only one instance, during the assessment period, did the Commission undertake its own review of a regional enforcement determination (WECC decision in Turlock, FERC Docket No. NP10-18-000), which was ultimately affirmed. MRO has not received any other formal requests from FERC for additional information and clarification.

Also in 2009, the NERC BOTCC remanded an enforcement action because MRO characterized a self-certification as a self-report in its determination. This was a simple administrative error, which MRO appreciates being found by NERC. Subsequently, MRO worked with NERC staff to develop a process whereby NERC staff works with Regional Entity staff to ensure agreement with or clarification of discrepancies prior to presenting enforcement actions to the BOTCC for approval. At the time, the MRO self-certification process was a manual process, which then required MRO compliance staff to enter the information into the data management system (CDMS). In this instance, MRO compliance staff entered the self-certification into the CDMS application as a self-report without indicating that the possible violation was actually identified through the self-certification process. This was the only instance where such an error occurred and it did not change the enforcement determination.

Finally, MRO believes that NERC's concerns about several of MRO's compliance processes, which NERC stated may be effective, were due to NERC's misunderstanding MRO's practices at the time. Shortly before the submission of the 2009 JRESA, MRO adopted its three-step process for activities within the CMEP: (i) Compliance Monitoring, (ii) Risk Assessment and Mitigation, and (iii) Enforcement, each performed by its own personnel within MRO. Compliance Monitoring staff conducts audits and spot checks of compliance with Reliability Standards by registered entities. Risk Assessment and Mitigation undertakes an independent review of the facts and circumstances surrounding each violation discovered by Compliance Monitoring, and determines whether sufficient evidence supports each possible violation. Risk Assessment and Mitigation works with the registered entity to develop an effective mitigation plan in the event that a violation is confirmed. Confirmed violations move to the Enforcement

department staff, who review recommendations made by Risk Assessment and Mitigation staff, verify all relevant facts, and evaluate appropriate enforcement actions. The factual review conducted by Risk Assessment and Mitigation and Enforcement staff is intended to ensure a consistent, accurate application of the NERC Reliability Standards. The three-step process also provides for segregation of duties, establishing independence among those making the findings, those assessing risk, and those determining and negotiating penalties and sanctions. MRO believes that this process provides a high level of assurance that determinations are accurate, fair and non-discriminatory.

224. *NERC views **NPCC** as effective in that it is processing and completing identified violations in a timely manner. However, NERC is concerned that NPCC's low level of alleged violations per registered reliability function may indicate that NPCC is not identifying all violations that are occurring. NERC points out that, among the Regional Entities, NPCC had the second highest number of FTEs committed to the compliance program and the highest ratio of registered functions per compliance FTE as of the Performance Assessment filing date. NERC states that it will continue to work with NPCC to improve its process for compliance violation investigations.*

NPCC continues to have a low level of alleged violations per registered reliability function; however, the ratio is in line with several of the other Regional Entities. NPCC credits in part its low level of alleged violations per registered reliability function to its thorough outreach and communication both on an individual basis and through workshops and other forums with the registered entities within its region. Such outreach assists the registered entities in their compliance activities and enhances reliability. In addition, by the end of the assessment period, while NPCC had the lowest number of full-time equivalents (FTEs) committed to the compliance program and the highest ratio of registered functions per compliance FTE, it supplemented its compliance program with independent contractors that perform many of the compliance duties. In this manner, NPCC has been able to build a very cost effective compliance program. NPCC welcomes ERO-wide collaboration on improvements to the process for compliance violation investigations and other process related issues, and is actively involved in RAI-related projects, including running pilots on analyzing registered entities' internal controls, the auditor check list and workbook, and the transition from CIP version 3 to version 5 Reliability Standards.

225. *NERC and its outside auditing firm independently audited **RF's** compliance program and found no material deficiencies. NERC observes that RF was the first Regional Entity to receive approval from the NERC Board of Trustees Compliance Committee for a notice of penalty that imposed a non-zero dollar penalty. NERC notes that RF does need to find ways to increase its efficiency with respect to conducting enforcement activities.*

Since 2009, ReliabilityFirst has taken several steps to increase its efficiency with respect to conducting enforcement activities.

First, ReliabilityFirst has internal violation processing goals that are tied to its overall corporate goals. Second, enforcement staff members hold regular meetings to discuss their plans to meet these violation processing goals. At these meetings, enforcement staff members provide

projected timeframes for the resolution of their matters, and are held accountable to those timeframes. Third, ReliabilityFirst has held formal and informal meetings to better focus enforcement staff on how to tailor their fact gathering efforts and resolving documents to only relevant information. As a result, enforcement staff became more efficient at resolving violations in a shorter amount of time. Fourth, ReliabilityFirst has focused its efforts on those violations that pose the greatest risk to reliability, and expedited its processing of lesser risk violations via the FFT process. To date, ReliabilityFirst has processed approximately 330 FFTs. (Even prior to the FFT process, ReliabilityFirst followed an internal "fast track" process, where it expedited the processing of minimal risk violations in a separate internal process from its other violations.)

ReliabilityFirst's efforts to increase its efficiency in the enforcement process were successful, and to date, ReliabilityFirst has processed over 1,400 alleged violations through NERC and the Commission. The volume of compliance work at ReliabilityFirst has increased significantly since the 2009 self-assessment,[142] but ReliabilityFirst has nevertheless become more efficient at processing violations. As a result, ReliabilityFirst has not only kept up with its caseload, but has simultaneously refined its approach to better focus its efforts on high risk violations and ensuring that major reliability enhancements result from their corresponding enforcement actions. ReliabilityFirst staff's focus on high risk violations is fundamental to regulatory effectiveness as it is critical to prevent staff at the Regional Entities from spending unnecessary amounts of time on minimal risk issues, so they can focus on the high risk issues that are critical to reliability.

226. *NERC views **SERC** as an effective Regional Entity. NERC audited SERC's compliance program and did not find any material deficiencies, but urges SERC to improve on its timeliness in issuing notices of alleged violation. NERC notes that SERC continues to use industry volunteer subject matter experts in addition to its own staff on compliance audits.*

SERC made significant progress during the assessment period to address the concerns raised in 2009. For example, in order to improve violation processing cycle time, SERC staff developed a comprehensive plan that included increasing productivity, improving process and tools, and reviewing staffing levels. This plan was unanimously approved by the SERC Board Executive Committee.[143] Furthermore, SERC implemented process improvements in order to

[142] In 2009, ReliabilityFirst received 169 new violations, and in 2010, this number jumped to 453 violations. In 2011, ReliabilityFirst received 514 violations, in 2012, ReliabilityFirst received 549 violations, and as of August 9, 2013, ReliabilityFirst received 520 violations.

[143] In 2011, SERC removed some collateral duties from Enforcement staff to ensure a focus on violation processing and reduced the ancillary meetings attended by Enforcement staff by 50%. In 2011, SERC developed a corporate metric focused on improving violation processing time, increasing the average number of determinations completed per FTE from 1.4 determinations per month to 4 determinations per month. In 2012, SERC developed a corporate metric focused on improving violation processing to continue its work towards achieving a 12-month violation processing cycle time for Planning and Operations issues. In 2013, SERC developed a corporate metric focused on improving CIP violation processing to continue its work towards achieving a 12-month violation processing cycle time while maintaining a 12-month or less violation processing cycle time for Planning and Operations issues. In addition, SERC provides an ongoing interface and training for Enforcement, legal, and audit staff to allow for discussion of lessons learned and feedback to improve violation assessments and risk statements.

streamline the enforcement process and ensure that SERC has the necessary information to conduct a thorough and timely assessment. These improvements included automation of notification and letters, increased use of requests for information, seminars and outreach, simplified review steps for violation processing, continued use of streamlined enforcement processing (FFT and SNOP), and expanded capabilities for access to CIP evidence and data.

In addition to the increased focus on productivity and process improvements, SERC also has worked to implement organizational efficiencies. To this end, SERC restructured Enforcement staff after a review of other regional structures. Enforcement now reports directly to the vice president and chief program officer, which removes a redundant reporting structure and serves to elevate Enforcement in the organization, given its priority at SERC. SERC has also reviewed its staffing levels and has increased the number of Enforcement staff focused on CIP issues based on the increase in CIP possible violations reported to the region.

As a final matter, with respect to SERC's use of volunteer industry subject matter experts, during the assessment period, the Commission reviewed SERC's use of volunteer industry subject matter experts (ISMEs) on compliance audits as part of its audit of SERC (FERC Docket No. FA12-6-000). FERC found that SERC's use of ISMEs was consistent with the NERC ROP, but did recommend that SERC: (i) revise its process, procedures, and controls regarding ISME participation in compliance activities and ensure SERC has an adequate and detailed set of policies governing ISMEs' participation in compliance activities; and (ii) ensure greater awareness of SERC's ongoing training and education programs and use the feedback from ISME participation in compliance activities to better focus these outreach programs. SERC has committed to implement the recommendations contained in the FERC audit report.

227. *As of the filing date of the Performance Assessment, NERC views* ***SPP Regional Entity*** *as less effective in administering its compliance program than some other Regional Entities. NERC commends SPP Regional Entity for its ability to accurately identify high risk violations, but is concerned about SPP Regional Entity's ability to process alleged violations to completion in a timely manner and its situational awareness capabilities. NERC notes that SPP Regional Entity has been unaware of events that occurred within its footprint, while NERC and the Commission were aware of those events. NERC states that among the Regional Entities, SPP Regional Entity stands eighth in FTEs committed to the compliance program and second in the number of registered functions per compliance FTE.*

SPP RE has significantly reduced the amount of time it takes to process alleged violations to completion. Prior to January 1, 2009, SPP RE's average time to process alleged violations to completion was 24 months, compared to 9.2 months (as of June 30, 2013). The reduction is due to a number of factors, including developing internal Enforcement procedures, streamlining internal Enforcement processing procedures, and increasing the Enforcement staff.[144] SPP RE staff members have also taken several steps to increase their awareness of system events within the region. These steps include SPP RE staff's registering to receive NERC Reliability Coordinator Information System information and *NERC Alerts*, and their receiving and reviewing the *SPP RTO Daily Operations Report*, the *NERC Situational Awareness Morning*

[144] Since January 1, 2009, SPP RE has increased its Enforcement staff from one FTE to ten FTEs and one part-time employee, and has steadily decreased the number of registered functions per compliance FTE to 11.62 (2013 figure).

Report, and the NERC BPS *System Awareness Daily Report*. In addition, SPP RE participates on weekly situational awareness calls with NERC staff, and has increased its outreach through workshops, webinars, newsletters, and personal communication to encourage reporting of events.

228. *NERC rates **TRE** as an effective Regional Entity, commending TRE for focusing on identifying higher risk violations and noting that TRE excels in processing alleged violations through completion. NERC does have questions about a contrast between TRE's high percentage of "failure to perform" violations and low number of violations TRE has recommended for a non-zero dollar penalty. NERC states that it will continue to explore these concerns with TRE.*

In 2007 and 2008, Texas RE recommended zero-dollar penalties in most cases because the Reliability Standards were new and registered entities were still learning how to comply with them. In 2009, in an effort to deter noncompliance, Texas RE began recommending more non-zero dollar penalties for "failure to perform" violations. However, in 2010 Texas RE implemented the Administrative Citation NOP process and by 2012 Texas RE adopted the FFT program. Using the Administrative Citation process and FFT processes, Texas RE stopped recommending monetary penalties for issues involving "failure to perform" if the issues presented low risk to reliability and had been mitigated.

231. *NERC states that **WECC** is "one of the less effective Regional Entities" to date, but notes that WECC made significant progress in the spring of 2009, particularly with respect to processing a backlog of violations. NERC points out that although, as of the Performance Assessment filing date, WECC had the highest level of FTEs committed to the compliance program among the Regional Entities, WECC had the fourth highest ratio of registered functions to compliance FTEs. NERC notes that, due to the violations processing backlog, WECC cancelled all compliance audits scheduled for the fourth quarter of 2008 without coordinating with NERC. According to NERC, WECC also took several other unilateral actions, including issuing compliance bulletins containing Reliability Standards interpretations and/or guidance. NERC indicates that it will continue to work with WECC to resolve these issues. NERC also suggests that WECC create stronger separation between its compliance encouragement efforts and its enforcement activities, examine its staffing levels and compliance processes and stay focused on processing violations to completion. (Footnote omitted.)*

WECC has thoughtfully and thoroughly addressed each of the areas of concern identified in the Three-Year ERO Performance Assessment and the 2010 Order. First, WECC cleared all of its pre-2012 violations caseload by December 31, 2013. As reported to the NERC Board in September 2013, WECC has a caseload index of 8.3 months, ranking third among the Regional Entities.[145] Second, WECC completed all audits contemplated in its annual Implementation Plans. Specifically, during the assessment period, WECC conducted 598 audits and 62 spot checks. The number of audits increased from 90 in 2009 to 165 in 2013, an increase of 83

[145] The caseload index refers to a NERC metric that computes the number of months that it takes to clear the violations that are either in the Regional Entity's inventory, NERC's inventory, or the ERO's inventory based upon the respective average monthly processing rate over the preceding 12-month period. This metric is used to evaluate the efficiency of processing violations over time.

percent. Third, WECC developed and maintains a highly qualified Compliance staff, which increased from 31 to 57 during the assessment period. To further improve its compliance capabilities, in 2013, WECC launched an audit tracking system to assure timely audit completion and document integrity. WECC's internal metric for providing final audit reports to registered entities is 60 days after the close of the audit, a goal which was met 97 percent of the time. Fourth, WECC enhanced, streamlined and documented all of its Enforcement processes, an effort aided by using dedicated subject matter experts and tools such as FFT and expedited settlement agreements. As a result, by the end of the assessment period, WECC was able to process violations from intake through filing with NERC in less than five months, on average. Fifth, WECC successfully implemented new IT solutions and systems, and provided extensive training to registered entities on the new systems. Sixth, WECC expanded and enhanced its compliance encouragement and outreach efforts while ensuring "adequate separation between compliance encouragement efforts and its enforcement activities." This was accomplished in part by personnel changes and strengthening the role of the director of stakeholder outreach. Finally, WECC worked collaboratively with the other Regional Entities and NERC to bring forward the Omnibus proposal; proposed Rules of Procedure changes to streamline TFE processing; developed new registration system tools; and actively participated in several ongoing NERC IT projects, lending expertise and practical experience.

SPP Independence

In the 2010 Order, the Commission laid out its initial concerns about the possible conflicts of interest between SPP RE and SPP RTO, and emphasized the heavy burden on SPP RE to demonstrate a strong separation of functions between the two organizations.[146] As a consequence, the Commission had required NERC to provide an appropriate discussion of SPP RE's bylaws in its first performance assessment. In response to NERC's submission, the Commission generally found that SPP RE had achieved sufficient separation from SPP RTO, citing in particular SPP RE's efforts to ensure that its standards development process was not unduly influenced by the RTO.[147] While the Commission's analysis in the 2010 Order does not necessarily require a further response at this time, SPP RE would like to point out that the Commission's second audit of SPP RE, which was finalized in 2011, reinforced the adequacy of Regional Entity's separation from the RTO.[148] Among other things, the second audit report described how SPP RE's general manager is the primary contact between NERC and SPP RE, with responsibility for administering SPP RE's programs under the Delegation Agreement. The report also described how SPP RE is governed by three independent trustees who operate separately from the SPP RTO board of directors, and that SPP RE trustees have autonomy over decisions in fund allocation and approval of SPP RE's budget, as well as oversight of SPP RE decisions on regional Reliability Standards, compliance enforcement actions, and penalties. In addition, as the report set out, SPP RE's organizational structure makes it independent from the

[146] *See* 132 FERC ¶ 61,217 (2010), at P 232.

[147] *See id*. PP 237-241.

[148] *See generally Audit of Regional Entity Operations at Southwest Power Pool (SPP) for Compliance with its Bylaws, Delegation Agreement, Membership Agreement, and its Independence as an Regional Entity*, Final Audit Report, Delegated Order (October 5, 2011).

RTO in its performance of CMEP functions while linking with shared resources to use their expertise when performing delegated functions outside of the CMEP. Finally, the report detailed how SPP RE has reduced its reliance on shared staff and increased the number of FTEs since January 1, 2009.[149]

WECC Voting Structure

In the 2010 Order, the Commission took note of some initial concerns that NERC had regarding the effectiveness of WECC's stakeholder voting structure, but that those concerns had been largely allayed by changes to WECC's bylaws and its process for developing and approving regional Reliability Standards.[150] WECC continues to improve its regional Reliability Standards development process. For example, on March 1, 2012, the Commission approved WECC's revised RRSDP, which call for voting by eligible members of the WECC Ballot Body rather than by a lead Standing Committee of WECC. In addition, WECC has developed a web-based system for balloting, and make all the proceedings of the standards drafting teams available using WECC's website. Available information includes notification of meetings, team meeting agenda and minutes, draft and final documents and supporting documents. Finally, WECC strives for continuous improvement and is always open to feedback from the various committees, standards drafting teams, and stakeholders at large.

[149] *See id*., at pp. 5-7.

[150] *See* 132 FERC ¶ 61,217 (2010), at P 243.

Appendix C
Regional Entities' Satisfaction of Statutory and Regulatory Criteria

During the 2009 through 2014 assessment period, all eight Regional Entities continued to satisfy the three sets of criteria set out in FPA §215(e)(4), 16 U.S.C. §824o(e)(4), as reiterated in §39.8 of the Commission's regulations, 18 C.F.R. §39.8 (2013), to maintain the authority delegated to them by the ERO, as approved by the Commission, to propose and enforce mandatory Reliability Standards. The three sets of criteria are:

1. The Regional Entity is governed by an independent board, a balanced stakeholder board or a combination independent and balanced stakeholder board.

2. The Regional Entity meets the requirements otherwise applicable to the ERO in FPA §215(c)(1) and (2), 16 U.S.C. §824o(c)(1)(2), namely that it (a) has the ability to develop and enforce reliability standards that provide for an adequate level of reliability of the bulk-power system; and (b) has established rules that (i) assure its independence of the users and owners and operators of the bulk-power system, while assuring fair stakeholder representation in the selection of its directors and balanced decision-making in any ERO committee or subordinate organization structure, (ii) allocate equitably reasonable dues, fees, and other charges among end users for all activities, (iii) provide fair and impartial procedures for enforcement of reliability standards through the imposition of penalties, (iv) provide for reasonable notice and opportunity for public comment, due process, openness, and balance of interests in developing reliability standards and otherwise exercising its duties, and (v) provide for taking appropriate steps to gain recognition in Canada and Mexico,

3. The Regional Entity operates under a delegation agreement that promotes effective and efficient administration of bulk-power system reliability.

Specifically, the eight Regional Entities continued to satisfy the statutory and regulatory criteria for their delegated authority as follows:

Florida Reliability Coordinating Council, Inc. (FRCC)

1. **FRCC "is governed by an independent board, a balanced stakeholder board or a combination independent and balanced stakeholder board."** The FRCC board of directors (FRCC Board) is a balanced stakeholder board. The FRCC Board has a minimum of sixteen (16) members, who are allocated among the region's six sectors, and the chief executive officer (CEO). The sector representation is as follows: (i) three directors from the Suppliers Sector; (ii) two directors from the Non-Investor Owned Utility Wholesale Sector; (iii) two directors from the Load Serving Entity Sector (one Municipal and one Cooperative); (iv) three directors from the Generating Load Serving Entity Sector; (v) three directors from the Investor Owned Utility Sector; and (vi) two directors from the General Sector. FRCC's CEO is an ex-officio non-voting director. Directors are elected by their sector and serve two-year terms.

2. **FRCC meets the requirements of Federal Power Act Section 215 (c)(1)(2), because**:
   a. **FRCC is able to develop and enforce reliability standards that provide for an adequate level of reliability of the bulk power system**. The FRCC has a RRSDP that is based on the set of common attributes that provide for an open, balanced, fair, transparent and inclusive process. During the assessment period, FRCC placed two standards development projects on hold awaiting the completion of NERC standards development projects, and terminated one project as NERC's continent-wide standard was determined to be sufficient for FRCC reliability needs. Finally, the FRCC Registered Ballot Body and FRCC Board approved one project, which was nevertheless held in abeyance while the adequacy of the NERC continent-wide standard was evaluated, and will be withdrawn if the NERC Reliability Standard is determined to be sufficient for FRCC's needs. FRCC prefers the development of continent-wide standards, but will follow its RRSDP should a need arise for a more stringent standard or a standard to cover an area that NERC standards do not.

      Compliance monitoring and enforcement of Reliability Standards is carried out by FRCC compliance staff which grew during the assessment period. FRCC enforcement staff began reporting directly to the vice president and executive director of standards and compliance in 2012, while the monitoring staff continued to report to the director of compliance. FRCC implemented this separation to provide more independence in enforcement decisions.

      FRCC took additional steps to enforce reliability standards and provide an adequate level of reliability for the BPS. For example, its Compliance staff developed approximately 30 detailed internal procedures for all aspects of the compliance process, which were regularly reviewed and updated. These procedures helped promote consistent and effective application of its internal procedures and ensured that it met the obligations in the NERC ROP. In addition, FRCC upgraded its compliance portal application in 2012, to provide needed enhancements to protect security of the application and data held within the application along with providing some desired improvements in the use of many of its components.

      FRCC improved its enforcement caseload processing during the assessment period, and also experienced a reduction of new violations in the last two years of that period. FRCC attributes the reduction in new violations in part to increased understanding of the registered entities in what the requirements mean and what their compliance expectations are. In addition to this reduction, FRCC worked hard to streamline its enforcement activities to utilize the available processes and were able to reduce its caseload index to approximately 6.5.

   b. **FRCC has established rules that:**
      i. **Assure its independence of the users and owners and operators of the bulk-power system, while assuring fair stakeholder representation in the selection of its directors and balanced decision-making in any ERO committee or subordinate organization structure.** During the assessment period, FRCC implemented an annual employee recital and disclosures, which

includes a copy of the *FRCC Conflict of Interest Policy* and a process where each employee signs a *Conflict of Interest Questionnaire*, a *Disclosure Statement of Stock Ownership of FRCC Member Companies* and a *Non-Disclosure Acknowledgement*. As previously described, the governance of the FRCC is performed by a balanced stakeholder board, which assures fair stakeholder representation while also practicing balanced decision making where no one sector can block or no two sectors can pass any decision.

ii. **Allocate equitably reasonable dues, fees, and other charges among end users for all activities.** The funding for the FRCC Regional Entity division is allocated among the FRCC load serving entities (LSEs) through a formula which is based on NEL. Each entity reports, on an annual basis, the NEL for the previous year. After the FRCC reviews this information, it is provided to NERC as part of the business plan and budget development process. The FRCC develops an annual budget each year, which is based on common assumptions that have been developed collaboratively by NERC and the eight Regional Entities, and which provides for the resources to carry out all of its delegated functions. The budget and accompanying LSE assessments are approved by the FRCC Board, the NERC Board, and the Commission.

iii. **Provide fair and impartial procedures for enforcement of reliability standards through the imposition of penalties**. The FRCC has adopted the NERC CMEP, Appendix 4C to the NERC ROP. This is the primary document that the FRCC uses to provide fair and impartial procedures for enforcement. With respect to the calculation of penalties, the FRCC consistently uses the penalty calculator tool provided by NERC in order to provide a consistent application of the penalty and sanctions guidelines. In addition, the FRCC Board and their alternates are required to sign a *Code of Conduct* that obligates each of them to act in the best interest of FRCC and refrain from involvement in any situation where there is an actual or potential conflict of interest. In addition, since the FRCC Board is a balanced stakeholder board, FRCC does not allow members of the board to participate directly in settlement discussions with FRCC on behalf of their registered entities to avoid any conflict of interest or undue influence situation.

iv. **Provide for reasonable notice and opportunity for public comment, due process, openness, and balance of interests in developing reliability standards and otherwise exercising its duties**. FRCC has a RRSDP that is based on the required set of common attributes that provide for an open, balanced, fair, transparent and inclusive process. The process has the following characteristics:

- Due Process – Any entity that is directly and materially affected by the reliability of the FRCC BPS has a right to participate in this process.

- Openness – Participation is open to any entity that is directly and materially affected by the reliability of the FRCC BPS. Participation is not conditional upon membership in the FRCC. All FRCC RRSDP meetings will be open and noticed on the FRCC website.

- Balance – The FRCC RRSDP process shall have a balance of interests and shall not be dominated by any two interest categories and no single interest category shall be able to defeat a matter.

The FRCC also provides reasonable notice and opportunity for public comment in its compliance monitoring and enforcement activities as required by the CMEP and the NERC ROP.

v. **Provide for taking appropriate steps to gain recognition in Canada and Mexico**. This criterion is not applicable to the FRCC region.

3. **FRCC operates under a delegation agreement that promotes effective and efficient administration of bulk-power system reliability**. On June 12, 2012, the Commission approved the amended and restated FRCC Delegation Agreement which incorporated benefits of NERC's and FRCC's mutual experience and lessons learned while operating under the predecessor agreement. The revised Delegation Agreement provides for more efficient and effective execution of responsibilities that promote the reliability of the BES. These responsibilities include: (i) development and proposal of Reliability Standards; (ii) enforcement of compliance with Reliability Standards; (iii) certification of BPS entities; (iv) registration of owners, operators, and users of the BPS; (v) reliability assessment and performance analysis; (vi) event analysis and reliability improvement; (vii) training and education; and (viii) situation awareness and infrastructure security.

Midwest Reliability Organization (MRO)

(1) **MRO "is governed by an independent board, a balanced stakeholder board or a combination independent and balanced stakeholder board.**" During most of the assessment period, MRO was governed by a balanced stakeholder board. On June 25, 2012, the Commission approved MRO's proposal to change from a balanced stakeholder board to a combination independent and balanced stakeholder board. MRO's two independent board members were elected for terms beginning January 2013; they bring cyber and data security expertise to the MRO Board's set of executive and technical skills and expertise.

(2) **MRO meets the requirements of Section 215 (c)(1)(2) of the Federal Power Act, because**:

a. MRO is able to develop and enforce reliability standards that provide for an adequate level of reliability of the bulk power system. MRO supports the development of continent-wide standards to maintain the reliable operations of the BES as opposed to regional Reliability Standards, particularly in the Eastern Interconnection, and decided during the assessment period to forego the development of regional

standards. Nevertheless, MRO has a RRSDP manual, which is found in Exhibit C to its Delegation Agreement with NERC, and a stakeholder Standards Committee comprised of subject matter experts in the event there was a need for a regional Reliability Standard in the future.

MRO also has the requisite staff both in terms of number of people and expertise, and adequate processes and procedures, to enforce the operating and CIP Reliability Standards. Notably, during the assessment period, MRO split the CMEP function into three distinct steps with their own assigned personnel— (i) Compliance Monitoring, (ii) Risk Assessment and Mitigation, and (iii) Enforcement. Compliance monitoring staff conducts audits and spot checks of compliance with reliability standards by registered entities. Risk Assessment and Mitigation undertakes an independent review of the facts and circumstances that surround each violation discovered by Compliance Monitoring, and determines whether sufficient evidence supports each possible violation. Risk Assessment and Mitigation also works with the registered entity to develop an effective and comprehensive mitigation plan in the event that a violation is confirmed. Confirmed violations move to the Enforcement department staff, who review recommendations made by Risk Assessment and Mitigation staff, verify all relevant facts, and evaluate appropriate enforcement actions.

The factual review conducted by Risk Assessment and Mitigation and Enforcement staff is intended to ensure a consistent, accurate application of the NERC reliability standards. The three-step process also provides for segregation of duties, establishing independence among those making the findings, those assessing risk, and those determining and negotiating penalties and sanctions. As a result of this approach, registered entities in the MRO region accept responsibility in 90% of all violations and settlements are reserved only for the more complicated compliance matters (thus, expediting less serious violations and lowering administrative costs).

b. MRO has established rules that:

i. **Assure its independence of the users and owners and operators of the bulk-power system, while assuring fair stakeholder representation in the selection of its directors and balanced decision-making in any ERO committee or subordinate organization structure.** In particular, MRO assures the independence of the users and owners and operators of the BPS by establishing processes and procedures for the conduct of its work. For example, by having a three-step process to implement the CMEP, MRO assures that its internal work is subjected to review and validation. MRO also has specific policies that prevent stakeholder conflicts of interest and prevent stakeholders from participating in its CMEP work. In addition, all MRO members elect the two independent directors; the remaining directors are elected by his or her sector.

ii. Allocate equitably reasonable dues, fees, and other charges among end users for all activities. MRO's funding requirements are equitably allocated in a manner similar to the one used by the other Regional Entities. Each year,

MRO develops an annual business plan and budget that describes in detail the resources MRO needs to carry out its delegated functions. The annual business plan and budget is reviewed and approved by the MRO Board and then submitted to NERC and ultimately filed with the Commission for approval. Assessments are made to MRO's LSEs through a formula which is based on NEL. MRO does not charge additional fees to be a member or to participate in its training. The annual business plan and budget as well as annual audits by independent auditors and periodic audits by FERC help ensure that MRO's expenses and assessments to end users are reasonable.

iii. **Provide fair and impartial procedures for enforcement of reliability standards through the imposition of penalties**. To ensure fair and impartial procedures, as described above, MRO has implemented a three-step approach to fulfill its delegated responsibilities under the CMEP. MRO Compliance Monitoring staff conducts compliance monitoring activities, including audits, self-certifications, and spot checks. Risk and Mitigation staff is responsible for scoping MRO's compliance monitoring work under RAI. Risk and Mitigation staff also works with the entity to develop a thorough, comprehensive, and effective mitigation plan, not only to resolve the concern but to prevent recurrence of the noncompliance. MRO Enforcement staff completes the process by reviewing any recommendations from MRO Risk Assessment and Mitigation staff, verifying that all relevant facts have been gathered, and evaluating the possible violation for the appropriate enforcement action.

There are many factors which may affect a penalty determination. MRO does not utilize the penalty calculator/SIV tool for most minimal risk concerns, as those violations are currently resolved through the FFT process and under RAI, they will be primarily resolved as compliance exceptions outside the enforcement process. The penalty calculator/SIV tool is used as a resource for violations that pose greater risk. As a result of the extensive risk assessment conducted by MRO Risk Assessment and Mitigation staff, Enforcement is able to make fair, accurate and reasonable enforcement decisions scaled on the risk posed by an individual violation – the greater the risk, the greater the penalty and scrutiny of review and approval.

In addition MRO has policies and procedures to avoid conflicts of interest in its CMEP work. Those policies and procedures provide:

(1) No MRO director or member of MRO committees may participate in any way in compliance violation investigations, compliance audits, reports, sanction determinations, or other matters within the CMEP.

(2) An MRO director or member of an MRO committee may engage in actions on behalf of his or her employer regarding a compliance monitoring and enforcement matter undertaken by MRO; however,

that director or member of an MRO committee must recuse himself or herself from any board or committee decisions, meetings, and actions related to that compliance monitoring and enforcement matter. Potential concerns about the participation of a MRO director or member of an MRO committee are brought to the attention of the president and CEO who will seek an appropriate resolution of the matter with the advice and counsel of the independent directors.

iv. **Provide for reasonable notice and opportunity for public comment, due process, openness, and balance of interests in developing reliability standards and otherwise exercising its duties**. MRO does not have any regional Reliability Standards and does not anticipate developing any regional Reliability Standards because of its strong support for continent wide, or at least interconnection wide, standards. Nevertheless, MRO has a RRSDP manual which has been approved by NERC and FERC. This RRSDP manual is based on the set of common attributes that provide for an open, balanced, fair, transparent and inclusive process, and includes specific provisions relating to the process for the opportunity to comment and be heard.

v. **Provide for taking appropriate steps to gain recognition in Canada**. MRO operates under provincial Manitoba regulations which were adopted in 2012. Prior to the adoption of regulations, MRO had a memorandum of understanding with Manitoba Hydro.

During the assessment period, MRO also had a memorandum of understanding with Saskatchewan Power Corporation and NERC governing MRO's work in Saskatchewan, Canada.

(3) **MRO operates under a delegation agreement that promotes effective and efficient administration of bulk-power system reliability**. MRO has adopted principles associated with the theory of a "Highly Reliable" organization in its approach to its delegated responsibilities, an approach that has positioned MRO and its registered entities to move to the risk based approach contemplated by RAI. These principles recognize risk, and emphasize self-monitoring with strong corrective action programs. The approach has fostered greater engagement with registered entities to solve technical problems and resulted in a corporate theme—clarity, assurance, and results (CAR). Clarity sets clear expectations for registered entities on the technical requirements of the standards. Assurance measures performance against these key requisites. Results can be seen in improved reliability. For example, MRO leveraged the technical expertise of subject matter experts on stakeholder-led committees to develop application guides for NERC standards that provide clear expectations of compliance. While these application guides are not authoritative, they provide much needed direction on compliance requirements. As a result, MRO has seen a measurable drop in the frequency and severity levels of violations in higher risk standards, beginning with the most violated Reliability Standard several years ago, PRC-005.

Additionally, during the assessment period, an MRO stakeholder-led committee developed an internal controls and procedures framework for use by registered entities to strengthen their internal compliance programs. These types of guidelines provide the necessary clarity to industry to assure that key reliability requirements are met. This has now become part of a pilot project under RAI.

Registered entities, too, need to provide assurance to MRO staff that they understand the requirements and have established sustainable management practices to detect, correct, report, and prevent problems. For example, MRO staff sampled self-reported violations from 2013. In 90% of these violations, the registered entity's assessment of risk matched MRO's staff assessment of risk. When registered entities and MRO staff view risk the same way and accept responsibility, they have greater day-to-day, sustainable assurance.

Northeast Power Coordinating Council, Inc. (NPCC)

1. **NPCC "is governed by an independent board, a balanced stakeholder board or a combination independent and balanced stakeholder board."** On October 17, 2011, the Commission approved NPCC's proposal to change its board to a hybrid (combination independent and balanced stakeholder) board. That change became effective on January 1, 2012. NPCC's board of directors consists of seven stakeholder voting sectors that each consist of a maximum of two directors per sector, an independent sector consisting of two independent directors, an independent board chair with voting rights to preclude board deadlocks, and the president and CEO. Within NPCC, no two sectors can control and no one sector can block action.

2. **NPCC meets the requirements of Section 215(c)(1)(2) of the Federal Power Act, because:**
    a. **NPCC is able to develop and enforce reliability standards that provide for an adequate level of reliability of the bulk power system.** NPCC has developed a RRSDP that provides the design-basis approach to a consensus building process by which NPCC may develop regional Reliability Standards and regional variances to be proposed to the ERO for adoption, under delegated authority by the FERC and the Canadian provincial regulatory and/or governmental authorities. This procedure contains common attributes that provide for an adequate level of reliability to provide for an open, balanced, fair, transparent, and inclusive standards development process. NPCC's RRSDP sets forth the structure for developing reliability standards that provide for an adequate level of reliability.

    Illustratively, during the assessment period, NPCC developed a disturbance monitoring regional Reliability Standard, PRC-002-NPCC-01, to ensure that adequate disturbance data is available to facilitate BES event analyses. The Reliability Standard addresses a specific recommendation from the *August 14, 2003 Blackout Final NERC Report - Conclusions and Recommendations* (July 13, 2004) regarding the use of time-synchronized data recorders.[151] Substantively, the Reliability Standard outlines the basic requirements for the type, location and capability of

[151] *See* http://www.nerc.com/pa/rrm/ea/Pages/Blackout-August-2003.aspx.

equipment to be placed on the power system to enable the analysis of grid disturbances effectively and efficiently. The Reliability Standard is intended to fill the reliability gap related to disturbance monitoring and reporting by establishing enforceable disturbance monitoring and reporting requirements for the NPCC region.

Compliance and enforcement activities are carried out by the NPCC compliance staff and are independent of all users, owners and operators of the international BPS and from the hearing officer. Compliance and enforcement activities are governed in the U.S. by the Delegation Agreement between NERC and NPCC, delegating portions of NERC's authority as the ERO to NPCC. In addition, pursuant to an agreement between NPCC and WECC that was approved by the Commission, NPCC assumed responsibility for the CMEP with respect to the WECC RC function and the WECC IA function from January 1, 2012 through the end of the assessment period.

Examples of NPCC's efforts to monitor compliance with, and enforcement of, the reliability standards include its use of extensive pre-audit data collection and pre-audit conference calls with the registered entities. NPCC staff thoroughly reviews the first round of data submittals, and via questions, routinely collects a second round of data from the registered entity before the audit is performed. From these pre-audit activities, NPCC is able to conduct a more targeted audit. This results in an efficient and effective audit for both NPCC and the registered entity. This efficiency also permits the auditors to drill down into other areas and to make recommendations to the registered entity for enhanced reliability performance. In addition, during the assessment period, developed an enforcement dashboard, highlighting the regional caseload index and the status of mitigation plans associated with high risk violations among other compliance parameters. The enforcement dashboard is an informational tool to both management and to the industry.

NPCC amended its hearing procedures to provide for a hearing body comprised of an independent hearing officer and two independent directors. As a result of the amendments, the hearing body will always be comprised of independent members and will not have stakeholder members to assure enforcement of reliability standards provides for an adequate level of reliability.

b. NPCC has established rules that:

i. **Assure its independence of the users and owners and operators of the bulk-power system, while assuring fair stakeholder representation in the selection of its directors and balanced decision-making in any ERO committee or subordinate organization structure**. The rules and procedures contained in the Delegation Agreement, ROP, amended and restated NPCC bylaws, and other NPCC committee governance documents assure the independence of the users and owners and operators of the BPS while assuring fair stakeholder representation and balanced decision-making at the same time. Fair stakeholder representation and participation is assured by NPCC's committees, subcommittees, task forces and other groups as the board of directors may deem appropriate. Industry technical experts from

within the membership also provide valuable input to the board through various working groups and task forces as well as the committees.

ii. **Allocate equitably reasonable dues, fees, and other charges among end users for all activities.** The allocation of dues, fees, and other charges by NPCC is governed by Article XIII of its bylaws. Funding of Regional Entity division activities are undertaken pursuant to FPA §215 in accordance with the funding provisions and procedures of that law and related FERC regulations and orders. The NPCC board of directors approves the annual Business plan and Budget in time for submission to the ERO and to FERC for approval. NPCC funds reliability activities in Canadian provinces pursuant to the mechanisms established by the applicable Canadian provincial regulatory authority. Budgets for the costs of reliability activities are allocated equitably based on the NEL and other relevant factors consistent with applicable law, the Delegation Agreement, and any agreements with Canadian provincial authorities. NPCC members are not assessed an annual membership fee. For NPCC's Criteria Services division, which establish and monitor regional-specific non-statutory criteria, full members that perform the balancing authority function are assessed and pay based upon a NEL. Special assessments for Criteria Services may be separately budgeted to full members that perform the balancing authority function or upon Full Members with full members' consent.

iii. **Provide fair and impartial procedures for enforcement of reliability standards through the imposition of penalties**. The NERC ROP is the primary document that NPCC uses to provide fair and impartial procedures for enforcement. Additionally, NPCC has in place *Conflict of Interest Guidelines* that require each NPCC director, officer, and employee to avoid and refrain from involvement in situation where there is an actual conflict of interest, disclose any actual or potential conflicts of interest that may arise, recuse himself or herself from participation in any action involving an actual or potential conflict of interest, and refrain from voting on any actions where there is an actual or potential conflict of interest. In addition, NPCC's *Code of Conduct*, which applies to its officers, board of directors, employees, and all participants of NPCC committees, task forces, and working groups, requires each individual to recognize conflicts of interest that may arise and to take steps to disclose such conflicts of interest and to refrain from voting and/or influencing others with respect to such conflicts of interest. With respect to penalties, NPCC consistently uses the penalty calculator tool for consistency in penalty calculation determinations

iv. **Provide for reasonable notice and opportunity for public comment, due process, openness, and balance of interests in developing reliability standards and otherwise exercising its duties**. NPCC follows a RRSDP that provides that participation in the development of a regional Reliability Standard shall be open to all organizations that are directly and materially

affected by the NPCC BPS reliability, that there shall be no undue financial barriers to participation, that participation shall not be conditioned upon membership in NPCC or unreasonably restricted on the basis of technical qualifications or other such requirements. Meetings of drafting teams are open to the NPCC members and others.

Compliance and enforcement activities are carried out by the NPCC compliance staff and are independent of all users, owners and operators of the international BPS and from the hearing officer. Compliance and enforcement activities are governed in the U.S. by the Delegation Agreement between NERC and NPCC, delegating portions of NERC's authority as the ERO to NPCC. NPCC's hearing procedures provide for a hearing body comprised of an independent hearing officer and two independent directors.

v. **Provide for taking appropriate steps to gain recognition in Canada and Mexico**. NPCC has MOUs in place with the Northeastern Canadian provinces (New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Ontario, and Quebec). At the end of the assessment period, NPCC was in the process of updating and revising MOUs to respond to recent Canadian legislative and regulatory changes and initiatives.

3. **NPCC operates under a delegation agreement that promotes effective and efficient administration of bulk-power system reliability**. Effective January 1, 2012, NPCC executed an amended and restated Delegation Agreement, which delegated to NPCC certain activities pursuant to FPA §215. These delegated activities include certification of BPS Entities, registration of owners, operators, and users of the BPS as responsible for compliance with requirements of Reliability Standards, developing assessments of the reliability of the BPS, developing and maintaining, and collecting data in support of the development and maintenance of, reliability performance metrics and assessments of risks to the reliable operation of the BPS, conducting and coordinating event analysis, providing training and education to registered entities, and gathering and assessing situation awareness information. NERC has also delegated NPCC the authority to propose Reliability Standards, regional variances, or modifications thereof to NERC and to develop regional Reliability Standards. In summary, the Delegation Agreement promotes the effective and efficient administration of the BPS by clearly identifying the delegation of authority provided to NPCC.

ReliabilityFirst Corporation (RF)

1. **RF "is governed by an independent board, a balanced stakeholder board or a combination independent and balanced stakeholder board**." RF is governed by a combination independent and balanced stakeholder board, which consists of 14 directors: (i) three are independent directors; (ii) three are at-large directors elected by all the industry sectors voting together as a single class; and (iii) eight are elected by their industry sectors (suppliers elect two directors, transmission companies elect two directors, RTOs elect one

director, small LSEs elect one director, medium LSEs elect one director, and large LSEs elect one director).

2. **RF met the requirements of Section 215 (c)(1) (2) of the Federal Power Act, because**:
   a. **RF is able to develop and enforce reliability standards that provide for an adequate level of reliability of the bulk power system**. Although RF no longer develops regional Reliability Standards in order to avoid duplication with the NERC continent-wide Reliability Standards, RF has adopted a RRSDP, and has otherwise proved its ability to develop regional Reliability Standards, as illustrated by its development of RF's BAL-502-RFC-02 (Planning Resource Adequacy Analysis, Assessment and Documentation), which was approved by the Commission on March 17, 2011.

      RF has sufficient staff with the requisite expertise to conduct compliance audits, investigations, spot checks, and other compliance reviews, and to enforce Reliability Standards as demonstrated in part by its performing over 290 audits and over 200 spot checks during the assessment period, and ensuring the mitigation of over 1,400 alleged violations of those standards. These enforcement activities have resulted in tangible improvements to the reliability of the BPS. To enhance its risk-determination process in enforcement, RF developed a "Risk-Harm" process which, among other things, provided for technical experts to answer a series of questions about the risk and harm posed by each violation using a common scale to ascertain a quantified risk assessment for each violation. Additionally, for serious violations of the NERC Reliability Standards, RF works with registered entities to implement substantial "above and beyond" activities to enhance reliability on their system and on the BPS.

   b. **RF has established rules that**:
      i. **Assure its independence of the users and owners and operators of the bulk-power system, while assuring fair stakeholder representation in the selection of its directors and balanced decision-making in any ERO committee or subordinate organization structure.** As described earlier, RF is governed by a combination independent and balanced stakeholder board. Pursuant to RF's bylaws, no two industry sectors can control any RF decision and no single industry sector can veto any RF decision. This hybrid board structure assures RF's independence, while still assuring fair stakeholder representation and balanced decision-making. To further assure RF's independence of the users, owners and operators of the BPS, RF has the following protections in place:

         - First, RF adopted the NERC CMEP, Appendix 4C to the NERC ROP, which provides fair and impartial procedures for the monitoring and enforcement of Reliability Standards.

         - Second, all RF employees and contractors sign and must adhere to non-disclosure and confidentiality agreements and conflict of

interest forms, and RF employees, contractors, and directors are governed by the RF *Conflict of Interest Policy*, the RF *Code of Business Conduct and Ethics*, and §1500 of the NERC ROP.

- Third, to ensure the independence of its staff and eliminate any potential conflicts of interest, RF does not allow stakeholder participation in its compliance or enforcement activities (i.e., a registered entity staff member may not be on an RF audit or compliance investigation team).

- Fourth, RF does not allow its industry sector directors to participate in settlement discussions with RF on behalf of their registered entity.

ii. **Allocate equitably reasonable dues, fees, and other charges among end users for all activities**. The funding for RF's activities is equitably allocated among its end users and recovered through a formula based on NEL. Each year, RF develops an annual business plan and budget, which describes the adequate resources needed for RF to carry out its delegated functions. The annual business plan and budget and the assessments to the end users must be approved by the Commission. The annual business plan and budget process, the Commission's approval of the assessments, and periodic financial audits by the Commission all ensure that RF's expenses and assessments to end users are reasonable.

iii. **Provide fair and impartial procedures for enforcement of reliability standards through the imposition of penalties.** RF has adopted the NERC CMEP, Appendix 4C to the NERC ROP, which provides fair and impartial procedures for the enforcement of Reliability Standards within RFC's geographic boundaries. Additionally, RF maintains the RF *Conflict of Interest Policy* and the RF *Code of Business Conduct and Ethics* to ensure the integrity and independence of its compliance and enforcement staff. To assess fair, impartial, and consistent penalties, RF follows the *Sanction Guidelines*, as set out in ROP Appendix 4B.

iv. **Provide for reasonable notice and opportunity for public comment, due process, openness, and balance of interests in developing reliability standards and otherwise exercising its duties.** Although RF no longer develops regional Reliability Standards, RF's RRSDP provides for reasonable notice and opportunity for public comment, due process, openness, and balance of interests in the development of Reliability Standards.

The RRSDP includes public notice and a comment period for any proposed standard, due consideration of those public comments, and a ballot of interested stakeholders. Participation in the standards development process is open to all entities that are directly and materially affected by reliability in the

RF region, and there are no undue financial barriers to participation. The standards development process is balanced: it may not be dominated by any two interest categories, and no single interest category shall be able to defeat a matter.

RF provides for reasonable notice and opportunity for public comment, due process, openness, and balance of interests in its CMEP activities. A registered entity has the right to receive notice when it is placed on the NCR, and may appeal their registration to NERC and to the Commission.

The CMEP requires RF to provide notice to a registered entity when it determines that the registered entity has violated a Reliability Standard, and the registered entity has an opportunity to respond. If a registered entity wishes to contest an alleged violation of a Reliability Standard or a penalty, it may request and receive a hearing, and may appeal the hearing decision to NERC. A registered entity also has the right to request a hearing to contest a twice-rejected mitigation plan or a remedial action directive.

At the conclusion of an enforcement matter, NERC publicly files a NOP with the Commission, which promotes openness and the opportunity for public comment. The ERO balances the interest in openness with the concern for the security of critical infrastructure information, and as such, all sensitive critical infrastructure information is redacted from all public NOP filings.

v. **Provide for taking appropriate steps to gain recognition in Canada and Mexico.** This criterion is not applicable to RF, as its geographic boundaries do not include any portion of Canada or Mexico.

3. **RF operates under a delegation agreement that promotes effective and efficient administration of bulk-power system reliability**. Effective January 1, 2011, RF executed an amended and restated regional Delegation Agreement with NERC, which delegated to RF certain activities pursuant to FPA §215. These delegated activities include: (i) certification of BPS entities; (ii) registration of owners, operators, and users of the BPS responsible for compliance with the requirements of Reliability Standards; (iii) reliability assessment and performance analysis; (iv) event analysis and reliability improvement; (v) training and education; (vi) situational awareness and infrastructure security; (vii) the development and proposal of Reliability Standards to NERC; (viii) monitoring of compliance with Reliability Standards; and (ix) enforcement of compliance with Reliability Standards. These delegated activities are necessary for the effective administration of BPS reliability. RF only performs those activities delegated to it under the Delegation Agreement. This ensures that RF is not distracted by any other activities, and in turn promotes the efficiency and effectiveness of the corporation's efforts to improve reliability.

SERC Reliability Corporation (SERC)

1. **SERC "is governed by an independent board, a balanced stakeholder board or a combination independent and balanced stakeholder board**." SERC is governed by a balanced stakeholder board. Stakeholders are classified by the SERC Board Executive Committee in one of seven sectors (investor-owned utility sector, federal/state sector, cooperative sector, municipal sector, marketer sector, merchant electricity generator sector, and ISO-RTO sector). SERC's bylaws establish voting rules that ensure that no two sectors are able to approve a decision and that no one sector can veto a decision.

2. **SERC met the requirements of Section 215 (c)(1)(2) of the Federal Power Act, because**:
   a. **SERC is able to develop and enforce reliability standards that provide for an adequate level of reliability of the bulk power system**.

      Standards: The SERC RRSDP defines the process for the development, revision, reaffirmation, and withdrawal of regional Reliability Standards. The SERC RRSDP requires any proposed regional Reliability Standard to be more stringent than a continent-wide Reliability Standard, whether the regional Reliability Standard addresses matters that the continent-wide Reliability Standard does not or the regional Reliability Standard is necessitated by a physical difference in the BPS within the SERC region. SERC regional Reliability Standards are required to provide for as much uniformity as possible with continent-wide reliability standards. Proposed SERC regional reliability standards are subject to approval by NERC and FERC prior to becoming mandatory and enforceable within the SERC region.

      SERC has one FERC-approved regional Reliability Standard, PRC-006-SERC-01, which addresses automatic underfrequency load shedding requirements. SERC currently is not developing any additional Regional Reliability Standards because the continent-wide NERC Reliability Standards are presently adequate for the SERC region. SERC also participates in the NERC Standards Committee, hosts biannual meetings of the SERC Standards Committee, and hosts specific commenting sessions for NERC Standards Projects as NERC requests comments, all of which involve the discussion of proposed changes to NERC Reliability Standards.

      Compliance: SERC's authority to monitor reliability standards is based on the authority granted in its Delegation Agreement with NERC. SERC has the expertise on staff to conduct compliance audits, investigations, spot checks and other compliance reviews for the Operating, Planning, and CIP Reliability Standards. SERC develops and posts an annual CMEP implementation plan that is complementary to the NERC CMEP, but also addresses reliability issues specific to the SERC region. SERC builds upon the NERC actively monitored list and incorporates additional Standards or Requirements that relate to the SERC region's BES. SERC utilizes off-site and on-site audits, spot checks, and other compliance monitoring methods to assess registered entity compliance with NERC Reliability Standards. Compliance prepares detailed reports on each audit and makes

recommendations to Enforcement about possible violations of NERC Reliability Standards.

Enforcement: Over the past five years, SERC has demonstrated its ability to enforce Reliability Standards by processing approximately 800 alleged violations originating from audits, spot checks, self-certifications, complaints, self-reports, and compliance investigations following the requirements of the CMEP and NERC ROP. Enforcement staff conducts a thorough assessment of all possible violations to determine whether there is a sufficient basis to allege a violation. If a sufficient basis exists, Enforcement staff determines the complete scope of the violation and the actual and potential risk to the reliability of the BPS. Enforcement staff reviews the registered entity's mitigating activities to ensure that the entity corrects the noncompliance and prevents recurrence. Enforcement staff also participates in settlement negotiations with the registered entity. If a registered entity challenges the findings of the violation and/or penalty, Enforcement staff would prosecute the case before the Board Compliance Committee, which acts as SERC's hearing body. SERC's processing of possible violations has improved because of increased resources and improved tools such as FFT and the SNOP filing mechanisms.

b. SERC has established rules that:

i. **Assure its independence of the users and owners and operators of the bulk-power system, while assuring fair stakeholder representation in the selection of its directors and balanced decision-making in any ERO committee or subordinate organization structure**. SERC's bylaws allow each SERC member company to appoint a director to SERC's board. The SERC Board Executive Committee is made up of 12 sector representatives from among the directors. All directors, alternate directors, and board committee representatives are required to comply with SERC's standards of conduct policy that prohibits participation in decisions that could pose a conflict of interest.

SERC's bylaws establish voting rules that ensure that no two sectors are able to approve a decision and that no one sector can veto a decision. These voting rules assure SERC's independence of the users, owners, and operators of the BPS. In addition, SERC has adopted the NERC CMEP, Appendix 4C to the NERC ROP, which provides fair and impartial procedures for the monitoring and enforcement of Reliability Standards. In addition, SERC employees and contractors sign non-disclosure and confidentiality agreements and conflict of interest forms.

ii. **Allocate equitably reasonable dues, fees, and other charges among end users for all activities**. SERC develops a budget annually that will accomplish all delegated duties. The budget is reviewed and approved by SERC's board before going to NERC and FERC. The budget is paid by all registered entities based on their proportionate share, based on the NEL. Pursuant to §202 of the NERC ROP, NEL is the net generation of an electric

system plus energy received from others less energy delivered to others through interchange. It includes system losses but excludes energy required for the storage of energy at energy storage facilities. Each entity reports the energy generated on an annual basis for the previous year. After verification by SERC, this data is provided to NERC. NERC produces an allocation of the budgets to each appropriate region.

iii. **Provide fair and impartial procedures for enforcement of reliability standards through the imposition of penalties**. SERC has adopted without exception the NERC CMEP, Appendix 4C to the NERC ROP, and the associated *Sanction Guidelines*, ROP Appendix 4B, which provide fair and impartial procedures for the enforcement of Reliability Standards within the SERC region. SERC maintains a *Conflict of Interest Policy* to ensure the integrity and independence of its compliance and enforcement staff. To ensure consistency and remain fair, unbiased and balanced in assessing penalties, SERC follows the *Sanction Guideline*s of NERC, utilizes the NERC penalty tool to develop a proposed penalty, and compares the proposed penalty with similarly situated violations that have been filed with and approved by FERC. All proposed penalties are reviewed and approved by a technical peer group, legal counsel, the director of enforcement, and the SERC CEO or vice president.

iv. **Provide for reasonable notice and opportunity for public comment, due process, openness, and balance of interests in developing reliability standards and other exercising its duties**. The SERC RRSDP requires SERC to provide for reasonable notice and opportunity for public comment, due process, openness, and balance of interests in development reliability standards.

SERC provides for reasonable notice and opportunity for public comment, due process, openness, and balance of interests in its CMEP activities. A registered entity has the right to receive notice when it is placed on the NCR, and may appeal its registration to NERC and to the Commission.

The CMEP requires SERC to provide notice to a registered entity when it determines that the Registered Entity has violated a Reliability Standard, and the registered entity has an opportunity to respond. If a registered entity wishes to contest an alleged violation of a Reliability Standard or a penalty, it may request and receive a hearing, and may appeal the hearing decision to NERC. A registered entity also has the right to request a hearing to contest a twice-rejected mitigation plan or a remedial action directive.

At the conclusion of an enforcement matter, NERC publicly files a NOP with the Commission, which promotes openness and the opportunity for public comment. The ERO balances the interest in openness with the concern for the

security of critical infrastructure information, and as such, all sensitive critical infrastructure information is redacted from all public NOP filings.

v. **Provide for taking appropriate steps to gain recognition in Canada and Mexico**. The SERC region does not extend into any part of Canada or Mexico. Thus SERC has no need to establish rules that provide for taking appropriate steps to gain recognition in Canada or Mexico.

3. **SERC operates under a delegation agreement that promotes effective and efficient administration of bulk-power system reliability**. On January 1, 2011, SERC executed an amended and restated regional Delegation Agreement with NERC, which delegated to SERC certain activities pursuant to FPA §215. FERC approved this Delegation Agreement on June 12, 2012. These delegated activities include: (i) certification of BPS entities; (ii) registration of owners, operators, and users of the BPS responsible for compliance with the requirements of Reliability Standards; (iii) reliability assessment and performance analysis; (iv) event analysis and reliability improvement; (v) training and education; (vi) situational awareness and infrastructure security; (vii) the development and proposal of Reliability Standards to NERC; (viii) monitoring of compliance with Reliability Standards; and (ix) enforcement of compliance with Reliability Standards. These delegated activities are necessary for the effective administration of BPS reliability. SERC only performs those activities delegated to it under the Delegation Agreement.

Southwest Power Pool Regional Entity (SPP RE)

1. **SPP RE "is governed by an independent board, a balanced stakeholder board or a combination independent and balanced stakeholder board**." SPP RE is governed by three independent Regional Entity trustees. These trustees have autonomy over decisions in fund allocation and SPP RE budget approval, as well as oversight of SPP RE decisions on regional standards, compliance enforcement actions, and penalties. SPP RE's general manager reports directly to the SPP RE trustees. Only the trustees and certain SPP RE staff members have authority to make compliance and enforcement decisions.

2. **SPP RE met the requirements of Section 215 (c)(1)(2) of the Federal Power Act, because:**
   a. **SPP RE is able to develop and enforce reliability standards that provide for an adequate level of reliability of the bulk power system**. SPP RE is not actively developing any reliability standards at this time; however, it does have a RRSDP if the need for such standards were to arise.[152] The RRSDP allows for a fair and open process for adoption, approval, revision, reaffirmation, and deletion of a regional Reliability Standard. Due process is the key to ensuring that the Reliability Standards are developed in an environment that is equitable, accessible and responsive to the requirements of all interested and affected parties. SPP RE supports development of continent-wide

[152] *SPP RE Regional Reliability Standards Development Process Manual* (SPP RRSDP Manual), version 0 became effective October 2, 2007. A petition, in Docket No. RR14-1-000, to update the SPP RRSDP manual was filed by NERC with FERC on December 20, 2013. A 10-day comment period ended on January 10, 2014 with no comments being received.

Reliability Standards at NERC and any regional Reliability Standard developed by SPP RE will go beyond, add detail to, or cover matters not addressed in the NERC Reliability Standards.

Moreover, SPP RE is able to enforce reliability standards by the implementation of the CMEP. Illustratively, during the assessment period, SPP RE experienced a dramatic reduction in the average time to process violations to completion, a dramatic increase of self-reported violations, a dramatic reduction in average time for issuance of final on-site compliance audit reports, and a dramatic reduction in average time for issuance of a notice of possible violation (NPV). Specifically, prior to January 1, 2009, SPP RE's average time to process alleged violations to completion was 24 months, compared to 9.2 months during 2013. In 2009, only 3.1 % of incoming possible violations came from either self-reports or self-certifications, compared to 68.4% in 2013. In 2008, the average time to issue a final on-site compliance audit report to registered entities was 152 days, compared to 54 days during 2013. Prior to January 1, 2009, the average days for SPP RE to issue an NPV was 20.5 days, compared to 3.6 days in 2013.

b. SPP RE has established rules that:

i. **Assure its independence of the users and owners and operators of the bulk-power system, while assuring fair stakeholder representation in the selection of its directors and balanced decision-making in any ERO committee or subordinate organization structure**. SPP is governed by an independent board of directors and has an extensive organizational group structure comprised of stakeholders that represent the membership's diversity. SPP's bylaws provide for fair stakeholder representation and balanced decision-making. SPP RE does not have a separate committee structure or bylaws; however, it is an independent unit of SPP. and reports to its Regional Entity Trustees (SPP RE Trustees). In addition, SPP RE's employees are subject to standards of conduct, its employees and contractors are screened for conflicts of interest, and its compliance monitoring teams must agree to maintain strictly the confidentiality of their auditing efforts.

ii. **Allocate equitably reasonable dues, fees, and other charges among end users for all activities**. SPP RE follows the common assumptions developed by NERC and the Regional Entities to guide its budget projections. As such, SPP RE allocates projected statutory costs to end users via an annual assessment fee based on the SPP RE's registered entity's NEL. At the end of each budget cycle, a reserve balance is determined by taking the difference between the monies collected from end users through the assessment fee and the statutory costs incurred. This reserve balance is then used to offset the next year's funding requirement in addition to any penalty monies received during a twelve-month period. The annual assessment fee is adjusted at the beginning of each budget year (January 1).

iii. **Provide fair and impartial procedures for enforcement of reliability standards through the imposition of penalties**. The following, generally

describes the steps the SPP RE enforcement attorneys follow for penalty determinations, which are outlined in SPP RE's internal processes and procedures:

Step 1: Utilizing the NERC penalty determination framework tool (Penalty Tool), the enforcement attorney determines a suggested penalty amount for the violation. Note: Although not procedurally codified, once the SPP RE enforcement attorney member has calculated a preliminary penalty via the Penalty Tool, the enforcement attorney compares the proposed penalty (when possible) with similarly situated previous violations that have been filed and subsequently approved by FERC. Furthermore, enforcement attorneys implement guidance from *Sanction Guidelines*, ROP Appendix 4B, the NERC CMEP, ROP Appendix 4C, and FERC orders as to how the enforcement attorneys should assess factors such as load loss and repeat/similar/affiliate violation history.

Step 2: The enforcement attorney submits its proposed penalty amount, the Penalty Tool, notice(s) of alleged violation and proposed penalty or sanction and/or settlement documents, and any other information relevant to the proposed penalty to the sanctions review team (SRT), which consists of the SPP RE general manager, the manager of enforcement, and the director of compliance.

Step 3: The SRT reviews the information presented by the enforcement attorney and collectively either approves the proposed penalty amount or determines the appropriate penalty amount for the violation or violations. **Note:** Penalties in excess of $250,000 are required by procedure to receive additional approval of the SPP RE Trustees.

iv. **Provide for reasonable notice and opportunity for public comment, due process, openness, and balance of interests in developing reliability standards and otherwise exercising its duties**. The SPP RE RRSDP includes steps for a fair and open standards process that is open to all regional stakeholders. Any entity within the SPP RE or SPP RTO region has a right to participate by: (a) expressing a position and its basis; (b) having that position considered; (c) voting through a segment-weighted balanced process; and (d) having the right to appeal.

v. **Provide for taking appropriate steps to gain recognition in Canada and Mexico.** This criterion does not apply to SPP RE.

3. **SPP RE operates under a delegation agreement that promotes effective and efficient administration of bulk-power system reliability**. The Delegation Agreement between SPP RE and NERC grants SPP RE the authority to carry out certain statutory activities, including: (i) certification of BPS entities; (ii) registration of owners, operators, and user of the BPS as responsible for compliance with requirements of Reliability Standards; (iii) reliability assessment and performance analysis; (iv) event analysis and reliability improvement; (v)

training and education; and (vi) situational awareness and infrastructure security. This delegation of authority has promoted the effective and efficient administration of the BPS. Through its delegated authority from NERC, SPP RE has successfully implemented the NERC CMEP, and is working with NERC and the other Regional Entities to improve both the effectiveness and efficiency of the program. As evidence of the success of the early program, SPP RE's region successfully navigated nine consecutive quarters without a reportable transmission vegetation contact.

SPP RE has also, in combination with the other Regional Entities and NERC, greatly enhanced the functionality of the electronic tool (webCDMS), used by registered entities to report compliance issues. Enhancements to webCDMS have allowed both the Regional Entities and registered entities to realize efficiency gains through the automation of processes such as: (i) self-reports, (ii) self-certifications, (iii) submission of mitigation plans, (iv) exchange of mitigation information, (v) mis-operations reporting, (vi) analysis of prior violations, and (vii) violation processing in general. Furthermore, the SPP RE compliance audit teams utilize a risk-based assessment to determine the scope of the compliance audit, and adjust the scope of compliance audits based on violation history and the particular risk presented by certain registered functions. To further improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the program going forward, SPP RE is working with NERC and the other Regional Entities to shift the focus of the ERO Enterprise to those areas of the BPS that present the greatest risk to reliability. To that extent, SPP RE is an active participant in the RAI process.

In addition, since January 1, 2009, SPP RE has steadily increased its outreach efforts. SPP RE has held annual workshops since 2009 and attendance has increased each year. SPP RE staff has made incremental improvements to the workshops, such as inviting more guest speakers from outside the SPP RE footprint including FERC Commissioners, NERC Board members, and Department of Homeland Security staff, adding break-out sessions to give registered entities a smaller setting to ask questions and voice concerns, and refining both advance and on-site preparations to ensure the workshops run smoothly and on-time. In 2011, workshop attendees began providing feedback via evaluation forms following the workshops; feedback has generally been very favorable. In 2011, SPP RE began publishing monthly newsletters and implemented an e-news format that is easily readable on handheld devices. In 2012, SPP RE created a video training webpage and began filming and publically posting training videos in-house and at workshops. The feedback from the training videos has been generally positive and benefits not only registered entities in the SPP RE footprint, but registered entities across all Regional Entities.

Texas Reliability Entity, Inc. (TRE or Texas RE)

1. **TRE "is governed by an independent board, a balanced stakeholder board or a combination independent and balanced stakeholder board**." Texas RE currently has a combination independent and balanced stakeholder board. From 2007 to 2010, the Regional Entity for the ERCOT region was Texas Regional Entity, Inc., an independent division of the Electric Reliability Council of Texas, Inc. (ERCOT, the ISO for the region). During that time, Texas RE shared the same board of directors as ERCOT ISO.

To ensure that the Regional Entity would remain independent from all registered entities, including ERCOT, a new Texas non-profit corporation called Texas Reliability Entity, Inc. (Texas RE), was formed to take over the functions as Regional Entity effective July 1, 2010. As part of this process, Texas RE separated its board of directors from ERCOT ISO. Texas RE is now governed by a combination independent and balanced stakeholder board consisting of nine members: (i) four independent directors; (ii) two industry-affiliated directors; (iii) the Texas RE CEO; and (iv) two ex-officio non-voting directors (the Public Utility Commission of Texas Chairman or delegate, and the Public Counsel from the Office of Public Utility Counsel). The independent directors are elected by Texas RE membership to serve staggered three-year terms. The two-industry-affiliated directors may not be from the same market sector and may not concurrently serve on the ERCOT ISO board of directors.

2. **TRE met the requirements of Section 215 (c)(1) (2) of the Federal Power Act, because**:
   a. **TRE is able to develop and enforce reliability standards that provide for an adequate level of reliability of the bulk power system.** Texas RE follows the requirements as defined by the NERC ROP, including the CMEP, and by the Delegation Agreement with NERC, including TRE's current RRSDP, and has used these documents to develop standards and to audit and enforce compliance with the standards.

      Standards Development: Texas RE participates in the NERC Standards Committee and develops, comments and votes on Reliability Standards. Texas RE also hosts quarterly meetings of the Reliability Standards Committee (RSC) and twice-monthly meetings of the NERC Standards Review Subcommittee (NSRS). Changes and proposed changes to NERC Reliability Standards are discussed in these forums. Texas RE created one major regional Reliability Standard (BAL-001-TRE) and several minor regional Reliability Standards (CIP-001 regional variance and IRO-0006-TRE) designed to improve reliability. The major regional Reliability Standard, BAL-001-TRE, was designed to maintain Interconnection steady-state frequency within defined limits in the ERCOT region. It requires individual generation facilities to operate with properly configured governors in service to meet frequency response performance requirements.

      Compliance: Between January 1, 2009 and December 31, 2013, Texas RE successfully completed more than 260 audits of registered entities for compliance with Reliability Standards. Texas RE uses the complete list of NERC-approved actively monitored Reliability Standards and Requirements as the minimum audit scope. Audit staff also investigates possible violations of the Reliability Standards arising from BPS disturbances, outages, self-reports, and complaints. Texas RE requires all Compliance employees, not just the auditors, to complete NERC scheduled basic training classes for auditors so that all employees have an understanding of the significance of the auditing process. In addition, Texas RE has developed a robust CIP compliance and audit program. All current CIP auditors have earned Department of Defense 8570 recognized certifications (e.g., CISSP, CEH, CISA, and Network+).

Enforcement: In addition to the auditing program, Texas RE has implemented a separate Enforcement program with a dedicated staff. The Enforcement group processes alleged violations originating from audits, spot checks, self-certifications, complaints, and self-reports. This includes managing settlement negotiations, supporting legal staff in contested case hearings, and reviewing and approving mitigation plans. Texas RE has been successful in streamlining the Enforcement process since 2009 by implementing a new webCDMS data management system and implementing new processes such as the FFT program.

b. TRE has established rules that:

i. **Assure its independence of the users and owners and operators of the bulk-power system, while assuring fair stakeholder representation in the selection of its directors and balanced decision-making in any ERO committee or subordinate organization structure.** Texas RE has adopted bylaws to assure its independence from industry while assuring fair stakeholder representation in selection of its directors and balanced decision-making in its committees. Its bylaws first provide that Texas RE membership is voluntary and open to any entity that is a user, owner or operator of the ERCOT region BPS that registers as a member with Texas RE and complies with Texas RE bylaws. In addition to the structure of the board described earlier, independent directors and members of their immediate families or households may not: (1) have current or recent status (within the past two years) as a director, officer or employee of an ERCOT region NERC registered entity or ERCOT region electric Market Participant, or (2) have direct business relationships, other than as customers, with any NERC registered entity or ERCOT region electric Market Participant. The industry-affiliated directors are selected annually by the Texas RE Member Representatives Committee and each must come from a different Texas RE membership sector: System Coordination and Planning, Transmission and Distribution, Cooperative, Municipal Utility, Generation, or Load-Serving and Marketing. The Texas RE bylaws prohibit an entity from belonging to any two membership sectors, and require the board of directors and any of its committees to operate using balanced decision-making.

ii. **Allocate equitably reasonable dues, fees, and other charges among end users for all activities.** Texas RE bylaws and its Delegation Agreement with NERC provide that it will allocate equitably reasonable dues, fees, and other charges among end users for its statutory activities. Each year Texas RE produces a draft budget using templates provided by NERC, and posts the draft on its website for public comment. The budget includes the costs necessary to perform Texas RE's statutory functions under the Delegation Agreement with NERC and any expected income, such as membership fees. The budget is reviewed for reasonableness by the Texas RE Member Representatives Committee and approved by the Texas RE board of directors, NERC and FERC. Pursuant to Exhibit E to

its Delegation Agreement, assessments to fund Texas RE delegated functions and related activities are allocated to all load-serving entities in the region on the basis of NEL. Penalty monies received by Texas RE are applied as a general offset to its budget requirements for the subsequent fiscal year.

iii. **Provide fair and impartial procedures for enforcement of reliability standards through the imposition of penalties.** Texas RE has adopted and implemented the CMEP in accordance with its Delegation Agreement with NERC. Texas RE is committed to five guiding principles: (1) independence; (2) ethics and integrity; (3) inclusiveness; (4) fairness and openness; and (5) organizational effectiveness and efficiency. Texas RE strives to be fair, unbiased and balanced in its enforcement actions and imposition of penalties, and its internal procedures incorporate these concepts. After a possible violation is found by the Compliance group, the violation is reviewed and verified by a member of the Enforcement group. Penalties are calculated using the NERC *Sanction Guidelines* and are reviewed in relation to similar penalties assessed in this and other regions. In addition, all penalties are reviewed by the director of enforcement prior to issuance.

Texas RE also has implemented policies and procedures to ensure its employees act with independence, ethics, integrity, fairness, and openness. All Texas RE employees and contractors must annually sign an ethics agreement which requires them to conduct Texas RE business with total objectivity and to avoid situations in which his or her personal or financial interests conflict or appear to conflict with the interests of Texas RE. A conflict of interest arises when: (1) the personal, financial, or other interest of a Texas RE employee is significantly affected or may reasonably appear to be affected by the employee's actions or decisions in the employee's capacity at Texas RE; or (2) the action of any employee is in any way detrimental to the best interests of Texas RE. Financial interest includes any ownership, investment, or compensation interest by the employee or a member of the employee's household, and specifically includes any direct or indirect remuneration, as well as gifts or favors which are not insubstantial. An employee must immediately inform the Texas RE legal department if a conflict of interest or even the appearance of a conflict of interest might exist, to allow Texas RE management to evaluate the situation. After full disclosure by the employee, Texas RE management may agree to conditions that appropriately limit any potential influence from a conflict of interest.

Texas RE also follows the CMEP requirement to provide biographies of all potential audit team members to registered entities prior to a Compliance engagement and provide opportunity for entities to object to use of any employee where a potential conflict of interest exists. At the

end of each audit, registered entities are also provided a questionnaire which allows them to directly report to NERC any concerns they have with fairness, openness, or objectivity with respect to how Texas RE conducted the audit. In addition, Texas RE has implemented a Compliance hotline to allow anyone to report (anonymously if desired) any noncompliance by a registered entity and any ethics complaints they have concerning Texas RE.

iv. **Provide for reasonable notice and opportunity for public comment, due process, openness, and balance of interests in developing reliability standards and otherwise exercising its duties**. As part of its Delegation Agreement, Texas RE has adopted and follows a RRSDP designed to provide for reasonable notice and opportunity for public comment, due process, and balancing of interests. The RRSDP requires that proposed Reliability Standards must be drafted by a standards drafting team and be posted publicly, and it requires a public comment period prior to any vote on the standard by Texas RE membership.

Texas RE also conducts its general operations in a manner that is transparent to the public. As required by its bylaws, it posts public notices of its board and committee meetings on its public website and posts meeting materials, including draft budgets, for public review prior to the meetings. The Texas RE public website includes training materials, useful compliance information, and the contact information for key Texas RE personnel.

Texas RE also provides due process to registered entities seeking to contest a violation, penalty or sanction. Texas RE adheres to the NERC ROP and CMEP, which require Regional Entities to provide registered entities reasonable notice of possible violations, the ability to contest a violation or penalty or sanction, and the ability to appeal such matters to the NERC Compliance Committee and FERC. In August 2013, FERC approved Texas RE's request to begin using the same hearing procedures as are used by the other seven Regional Entities.

v. **Provide for taking appropriate steps to gain recognition in Canada and Mexico.** This criterion is not applicable to Texas RE.

3. **TRE operates under a delegation agreement that promotes effective and efficient administration of bulk-power system reliability**. Under its Delegation Agreement with NERC, Texas RE has promoted effective and efficient administration of the BES in the ERCOT region. Texas RE has worked with industry to create a major regional Reliability Standard (BAL-001-TRE) and several minor regional Reliability Standards (CIP-001 regional variance and IRO-006-TRE) designed to improve reliability in the ERCOT region. The major regional Reliability Standard requires individual generation facilities to operate with properly configured governors in service to meet frequency

response performance requirements. Texas RE also has successfully implemented the CMEP in the region, performing more than 260 audits since January 2009 and developing a robust CIP audit program. Since 2009, Texas RE has streamlined its Enforcement processing by implementing the webCDMS data management system in 2011 and implementing the FFT program to more quickly process lower risk violations. From 2010 to 2012, Texas RE also worked in cooperation with NERC, the other regions and industry to develop an events analysis program in which registered entities report their performance during system events and develop lessons learned to be shared with the industry. Early in the program, when Texas faced rotating outages during the 2011 Southwest Cold Weather Event, Texas RE used the framework the events analysis program provided to quickly collect and analyze information from the event and to disseminate it to FERC, NERC, and the industry.

Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC)

1. **WECC "is governed by an independent board, a balanced stakeholder board or a combination independent and balanced stakeholder board**." Since its creation, WECC has been governed by a hybrid board of directors including both non-affiliated directors and a balanced group of stakeholder directors as envisioned by the FPA §215(e)(4), 16 U.S.C. §824o(e)(4). However, on June 27, 2013, the WECC Board approved the bifurcation of the company into a Regional Entity (WECC) and a Reliability Coordination Company, Peak Reliability. This decision—the culmination of a year of work by various WECC board committees, staff, WECC members, and WECC stakeholders—signals a major landmark in the history of the organization. Under this new structure the RC and IA functions in the Western Interconnection will become a separate company from WECC. When established, Peak Reliability will provide core and other associated reliability coordination services within the Western Interconnection. As anticipated, the Commission approved the relevant documents by the end of December 2013;[153] however, as there were outstanding compliance filings, the bifurcation was not finalized during the assessment period.[154] Nevertheless, WECC and Peak Reliability began operating as separate entities in many respects by that time.

2. **WECC met the requirements of Section 215 (c)(1) (2) of the Federal Power Act, because**:
    a. **WECC is able to develop and enforce reliability standards that provide for an adequate level of reliability of the bulk power system**. WECC's authority to enforce Reliability Standards is based on the authority granted in its Delegation Agreement with NERC. FERC's approval of the Delegation Agreement conferred authority to WECC to manage and enforce compliance with FERC-approved Reliability Standards and to apply penalties up to the extent of FERC's civil penalty

[153] *See Western Electricity Coordinating Council*, Order on Petition for Declaratory Order, 143 FERC ¶ 61,239, *order on reh'g*, 145 FERC ¶ 61,202 (2013), *appeal pending sub nom. Edison Electric Institute v. FERC*, No. 14-1012 (D.C. Cir. Jan. 27, 2014).

[154] The Commission accepted the compliance filings on February 12, 2014. *See North American Electric Reliability Corporation; Western Electricity Coordinating Council*, 146 FERC ¶ 61,092 (2014), *order on reh'g*, 147 FERC ¶ 61,063 (2014), *appeal pending sub nom. Edison Electric Institute v. FERC*, No. 14-1071 (D.C. Cir. May 9, 2014).

authority. Additionally, WECC develops Regional Criteria and practices to improve the functioning and efficiency of the Western Interconnection. This combination provides a forum for addressing system-wide issues and an oversight role to promote reliable operation of the Western Interconnection.

WECC also demonstrated its ability to enforce reliability standards during the assessment period, by successfully clearing its backlog of Enforcement work; completing all audits contemplated in its annual Implementation Plans; developing and maintained highly qualified Compliance staff; enhancing, streamlining and documenting all the Enforcement processes; successfully implementing new IT solutions and systems; and expanding and enhancing its compliance encouragement and outreach efforts. Furthermore, WECC worked collaboratively with the other Regional Entities and NERC to bring forward the Omnibus proposal; proposed NERC ROP changes to streamline TFE processing; developed new registration system tools; and, actively participated in several ongoing NERC IT projects, lending expertise and practical experience.

b. WECC has established rules that:

i. **Assure its independence of the users and owners and operators of the bulk-power system, while assuring fair stakeholder representation in the selection of its directors and balanced decision-making in any ERO committee or subordinate organization structure**. WECC currently has a hybrid board comprised of member class directors and non-affiliated (independent) directors, who are subject to standards of conduct set out in WECC's bylaws. This ensures that member/stakeholder views are well-represented and that board decisions are ultimately made fairly and in the best interests of WECC as a whole. Effective January 1, 2014, WECC transitioned to an all independent director board. Accordingly, directors are directly elected by the WECC membership and members are represented on a newly created Member Advisory Committee that has direct access to the WECC Board to provide advice and recommendations regarding WECC policy and proposed board decisions. In addition, WECC staff members, and representatives from WECC member entities, routinely participate in ERO and ERO Enterprise committees and work groups.

ii. **Allocate equitably reasonable dues, fees, and other charges among end users for all activities**. The allocation of dues, fees and other charges is governed by §12.1 of the WECC bylaws, Funding of Reliability Activities. WECC funds all activities undertaken pursuant to FPA §215 in accordance with the funding provisions and procedures of that law and related FERC regulations and orders. The WECC Board approves the annual business plan and budget in time for submission to the ERO and to FERC for approval. WECC funds reliability activities undertaken pursuant to any agreements with appropriate Canadian or Mexican authorities in accordance with the provisions of those agreements. In adopting budgets for the costs of reliability activities, the WECC Board seeks an equitable allocation based upon the NEL

and other relevant factors consistent with applicable law, the Delegation Agreement and any international reliability agreements. To the extent that WECC elects to fund any activities not eligible for funding pursuant to §§12.1.1 and 12.1.2, it does so through the use of service fees, charges or dues applicable to the persons or entities that voluntarily participate in such activities.

iii. **Provide fair and impartial procedures for enforcement of reliability standards through the imposition of penalties.** WECC's Delegation Agreement with NERC is based on the NERC *pro forma* Delegation Agreement and has been reviewed and approved by FERC. As required, WECC developed an annual CMEP Implementation Plan, which identifies the NERC Reliability Standards on the actively monitored list as well as the compliance monitoring methods that will be used to enforce those standards. The plan was submitted to NERC for approval. Additionally, WECC has developed and documented all formal processes and procedures relating to enforcement activities, including penalties. In this regard, WECC uses the NERC *Sanction Guidelines* as a framework for assessing fair and reasonable penalties, and considers all facts associated with the registered entity and the alleged violation. Individuals responsible for assessing, recommending, or negotiating penalties are not otherwise involved in compliance monitoring or discovery of violations. In other words, WECC specifically segregates the duties associated with violation discovery or review and violation disposition and penalty assessment. Furthermore, WECC has a layered review approach to penalties, including non-monetary ones. Specifically, the manager of enforcement policy reviews all penalties and communicates with the director of enforcement, who then reviews and, as appropriate, approves them. WECC management reviews these processes and procedures bi-annually. Finally, WECC's enforcement staff receives regular training on all aspects of their duties to ensure consistency of application. This training is delivered in weekly staff meetings as well as at formal training sessions held at least annually.

iv. **Provide for reasonable notice and opportunity for public comment, due process, openness, and balance of interests in developing reliability standards and otherwise exercising its duties.** WECC uses the FERC-approved WECC RRSDP to develop regional Reliability Standards along with regional criteria and regional business practices. These procedures assure that the documents will be developed in a fair and open manner with contribution and review by subject matter experts and that all affected parties will have the chance to comment and vote on the documents. Illustratively, proposed standards are drafted by a standards drafting team, publicly posted, and subject to a mandatory public comment period prior to any vote.

In regard to the exercise of its other duties, WECC posts on its website notices of, and agendas and materials for, board and committee meetings. WECC

also adheres to the NERC ROP and the CMEP processes, which provide due process protections to registered entities with respect to compliance obligations and enforcement of standards violations. Accordingly, registered entities are provided reasonable notice of possible violations, and the right to contest a violation, penalty or sanction, and to appeal the Regional Entity's decisions to the NERC Board of Trustees Compliance Committee, and the Commission.

v. **Provide for taking appropriate steps to gain recognition in Canada and Mexico**. WECC has negotiated various agreements with the applicable governmental authorities for British Columbia, Canada, Alberta, Canada, and Baja, Mexico, the three international areas included in the Western Grid, as detailed below:

British Columbia:

Under the Administration Agreement (dated October 8, 2009) between the British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC) and the WECC, WECC acts as the administrator for the BCUC in carrying out certain activities relating to the Mandatory Reliability Standards program in British Columbia. Working under this agreement, WECC monitors compliance to the standards adopted in BC. WECC receives and reviews self-reports, self-certifications, and periodic data submittals; conducts audits; and reviews mitigation plans and other such activities. At the BCUC's request, WECC has set up a separate webCDMS portal, an electronic system to collect compliance data, dedicated to BCUC and its entities.

Alberta:

WECC acts as the Compliance Monitor for the Alberta Market Surveillance Administrator (Alberta MSA), under the Services Agreement (dated April 30, 2010) between the Alberta MSA and WECC, in carrying out certain activities related to Alberta Reliability Standards, specific to the Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO), in Alberta, Canada. WECC operates under the Services Agreement with the MSA, and as contemplated in the membership and operating agreement (MOA) (dated September 23, 2008) with the AESO.

Mexico:

Under the MOA (dated December 31, 2010) between Comisión Federal de Electricidad (CFE) and WECC, WECC acts as CFE's compliance monitor for certain activities in Baja California, Mexico, monitoring compliance with its mandatory Reliability Standards. The agreement between CFE and WECC requires that WECC not disclose any confidential data to anyone other than CFE. Any request from NERC or FERC to WECC for data relating to WECC activities in Mexico is directed to CFE. The CFE/WECC annual Implementation Plan, based on WECC's

recommendations and after consultation with the Area de Control Baja California (ACBC), CFE's compliance program administrator, includes a list of actively monitored standards, a description of the monitoring methods WECC uses for designated entities, and the compliance audit timeline. As with British Columbia, the Alberta MSA, and the AESO, WECC set up a separate webCDMS portal for use by CFE.

In summary, WECC does not have enforcement or registration authority for any of the international jurisdictions within the Western Interconnection. WECC provides monitoring, reviews mitigation plans and completed mitigation plans, and assessment recommendations with respect to alleged violations.

3. WECC operates under a delegation agreement that promotes effective and efficient administration of bulk-power system reliability. WECC assures the reliability and efficient administration of the Western Interconnection through a variety of activities authorized under its Delegation Agreement. To start with, during the assessment period, WECC continued to develop regional Reliability Standards, in large part due to its unique situation among the Regional Entities. Indeed, WECC has developed the most regional Reliability Standards because of a mandatory program it had in place prior to the approval of NERC as the ERO and the delegation to WECC. Under this program (called the Reliability Management System (RMS)), WECC is required to translate existing reliability criteria into regional mandatory standards. As a consequence, whereas all of the other Regional Entities have a total of seven regional Reliability Standards, WECC alone has a total of eight.[155]

WECC likewise promoted effective and efficient administration of the BPS in the Western Interconnection during the assessment period through its implementation of NERC's CMEP approved by the Commission. Illustratively, WECC successfully cleared its backlog of Enforcement work; completed all audits contemplated in its annual Implementation Plans; developed and maintained a highly qualified Compliance staff; enhanced, streamlined and documented all the Enforcement processes; successfully implemented new IT solutions and systems; and expanded and enhanced its compliance encouragement and outreach efforts. Furthermore, WECC worked collaboratively with the other Regional Entities and NERC to bring forward the Omnibus proposal; proposed ROP changes to streamline TFE processing; developed new registration system tools; and, actively participated in several ongoing NERC IT projects, lending expertise and practical experience.

As a separate matter with respect to the administration of the Western Interconnection, during the assessment period, WECC managed a comprehensive planning database, provided guidance on the analysis and modeling of the transmission system, and developed scenario

[155] These eight regional Reliability Standards are: (i) FAC-501-WECC-1 (Transmission Maintenance); (ii) VAR-002-WECC-1 (Automatic Voltage Regulators); (iii) VAR-501-WECC-1 (Power System Stabilizer); (iv) PRC-004-WECC-1 (Protection System and Remedial Action Scheme Misoperation); (v) IRO-006-WECC-1 (Qualified Transfer Path Unscheduled Flow Relief); (vi) BAL-004-WECC-01 (Automatic Time Error Correction); (vii) TOP-007-WECC-1 (System Operating Limits); and (viii) BAL-002-WECC-2 (Contingence Reserve) (replacing BAL-STD-002-2).

studies of system performance to establish operating policies and limits, and regional transmission planning. In addition, WECC performed annual assessments of 10-year loads and resources in the Western Interconnection and created a 10-year coordinated plan of system growth. WECC also provided information to NERC for their annual summer and winter assessments of the reliability of the BPS. Beginning in 2012, WECC produced an annual *State of the Interconnection* report to provide WECC's members and stakeholders with an independent assessment of data collected annually in the Western Interconnection. The goal was to develop reasonable measurements that would identify reliability trends in the Interconnection.

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
DOCKET NO. RR14-____

NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY CORPORATION

ATTACHMENT 3

TO

FIVE-YEAR ELECTRIC RELIABILITY ORGANIZATION PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT REPORT

NERC ASSESSMENT OF REGIONAL ENTITY DELEGATED FUNCTIONS

JULY 21, 2014

Attachment 3

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This **Attachment 3** is NERC's assessment of the Regional Entities' performance of their delegated functions during the five-year assessment period 2009 through 2013. Following are brief descriptions of the geographic footprints of the eight Regional Entities.

Florida Reliability Coordinating Council, Inc. (FRCC) is the Federal Energy Regulatory (FERC or Commission)-approved Regional Entity for the territory covering peninsular Florida in the Eastern Interconnection.

Midwest Reliability Organization (MRO) is the FERC-approved Regional Entity for the north central region of North America within the Eastern Interconnection. MRO's footprint spans the states of North Dakota, Minnesota, and Nebraska, the majority of the territory in the states of South Dakota, Iowa, and Wisconsin, portions of Michigan and Montana, and the Canadian provinces of Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

Northeast Power Coordinating Council, Inc. (NPCC) is the FERC-approved Regional Entity for the northeastern North American region in the Eastern Interconnection. NPCC's footprint includes the states of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont, as well as the Canadian provinces of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Ontario, and Quebec.

ReliabilityFirst Corporation (ReliabilityFirst) is the FERC-approved Regional Entity for portions of the mid-Atlantic and east central areas of the United States within the Eastern Interconnection. ReliabilityFirst's footprint includes all or portions of the states of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Ohio, Michigan, Kentucky, Tennessee, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, and the District of Columbia.

SERC Reliability Corporation (SERC) is the FERC-approved Regional Entity for the southeastern United States region within the Eastern Interconnection. SERC's footprint includes the states of Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee, and portions of the states of Arkansas, Florida, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas, and Virginia.

Southwest Power Pool Regional Entity (SPP RE) is the FERC-approved Regional Entity for the central southern United States within the Eastern Interconnection. SPP RE's footprint includes all or parts of the states of Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas. SPP RE is an independent and functionally separate division of Southwest Power Pool, Inc., one of nine independent system operators (ISOs)/RTOs in North America.

Texas Reliability Entity, Inc. (Texas RE) is the FERC-approved Regional Entity for the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) region in the Texas Interconnection. At the time of the three-year performance assessment, Texas Regional Entity, an independent division of ERCOT, performed compliance monitoring and enforcement activities for the ERCOT region. Texas RE was formed on January 1, 2010 to become the successor Regional Entity for the ERCOT region. Effective July 1, 2010, NERC delegated to Texas RE the authority and responsibility for

the continuation of all compliance monitoring and enforcement activities that it had previously delegated to Texas Regional Entity.

Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC) is the FERC-approved Regional Entity for the portions of the Western United States and Canada in the Western Interconnection. WECC's footprint extends from the provinces of Alberta and British Columbia in Canada to the northern portion of Baja California, Mexico. WECC's service territory includes all or portions of 14 states in the western United States. Geographically, WECC's territory is the largest of all the Regional Entities.

I. RELIABILITY STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT

Section 215(d) of the Federal Power Act (FPA), 16 U.S.C. §824o(d), requires NERC to develop mandatory and enforceable Reliability Standards that are subject to Commission review and approval. A Regional Entity may also develop a Reliability Standard for approval by NERC and by the Commission, to be effective in that Regional Entity only. The FPA and Commission regulations provide that the ERO shall rebuttably presume that a proposal from a Regional Entity organized on an interconnection-wide basis for a Reliability Standard or modification to a Reliability Standard to be applicable on an interconnection-wide basis is just, reasonable, and not unduly discriminatory or preferential, and in the public interest.[1] This presumption is also embodied in the Regional Delegation Agreements (RDAs), which delegate to each Regional Entity authority to propose regional Reliability Standards to NERC for approval.

In Order No. 672, the Commission stated that:

> As a general matter, we will accept the following two types of regional differences, provided they are otherwise just, reasonable, not unduly discriminatory or preferential and in the public interest, as required under the statute: (1) a regional difference that is more stringent than the continent-wide Reliability Standard, including a regional difference that addresses matters that the continent-wide Reliability Standard does not; and (2) a regional Reliability Standard that is necessitated by a physical difference in the Bulk-Power System.[[2]]

These parameters are embodied in the NERC Rules of Procedure (NERC ROP). Section 312.1 of the NERC ROP specifies that Regional Entities may propose regional Reliability Standards that set more stringent reliability requirements than the NERC Reliability Standard or cover matters not covered by an existing NERC Reliability Standard. Section 313.1 of the NERC ROP specifies that Regional Entities may develop Regional Criteria that are necessary to implement, augment, or comply with NERC Reliability Standards, but which are not Reliability Standards; or which address issues not within the scope of Reliability Standards.

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[1] FPA §215(d)(3), 16 U.S.C. §824o(d)(3), 18 C.F.R. §39.5(b).

[2] *Rules Concerning Certification of the Electric Reliability Organization; and Procedures for the Establishment, Approval and Enforcement of Electric Reliability Standards*, Order No. 672, FERC Stats. & Regs. ¶ 31,204, at P 291, *order on reh'g*, Order No. 672-A, FERC Stats. & Regs. ¶ 31,212 (2006).

Regional Reliability Standards must be approved by NERC and are then submitted by NERC to the Commission; they become enforceable as NERC Reliability Standards under §215 of the FPA in the U.S. once they are approved by the Commission. Therefore, regional Reliability Standards must meet the requirements set out by the Commission for approval of such standards, including having violation risk factors (VRFs) and violation severity levels (VSLs) that meet the criteria the Commission has set out in its various orders.

To evaluate each Regional Entity's performance during the assessment period, NERC focused on two parameters. First, NERC reviewed whether each Regional Entity has in place a regional Reliability Standards Development Procedure (RSDP) that meets applicable requirements. This portion of the evaluation was straightforward because, as described in §I.A below, each Regional Entity is required to have in place, as part of its RDA, a NERC-approved and Commission-approved RSDP that satisfies a pre-established set of attributes. During the assessment period, some of the Regional Entities developed revisions to their RSDPs, which were approved by NERC and by the Commission. Second, NERC reviewed each Regional Entity's activity, if any, in developing proposed regional Reliability Standards during the assessment period. As described in §I.B below, with the exception of WECC, the Regional Entities have, in general, suspended regional Reliability Standards development activities in favor of devoting resources and stakeholder participation to the development of, and reliance on, NERC's continent-wide Reliability Standards. However, during the assessment period, NPCC, ReliabilityFirst, SERC and Texas RE, in addition to WECC, had regional Reliability Standards approved by the Commission. The Regional Entities will continue to develop regional Reliability Standards only to the extent that NERC Reliability Standards do not address a perceived gap in reliability specific to a particular region.

A. Regional Entity Standards Development Processes

Exhibit C to each RDA contains (i) the list of NERC's common attributes of an appropriate RSDP, and (ii) each Regional Entity's current RSDP. In reviewing and approving a Regional Entity's RSDP for inclusion in Exhibit C to the RDA, NERC reviews the RSDP against the common attributes to determine whether the RSDP meets the common attributes. During the assessment period, some of the Regional Entities' RSDPs were revised and approved by NERC and then by the Commission.[3]

The RSDPs include the process that each Regional Entity uses to develop regional Reliability Standards that are proposed to NERC for adoption, and, where applicable, regional variances if the Regional Entity is organized on an interconnection-wide basis. While the RSDPs are not identical, each one must, as noted, satisfy the common attributes that advance the development of regional Reliability Standards consistent with the objective of a uniform reliability program. Among other things, participation in the development of a regional Reliability Standard must be open to all organizations that are directly and materially affected by the bulk power system (BPS) located in the Regional Entity's footprint, with no constraints based on financial capability, technical expertise or membership in the organization. The RSDP must provide for an appropriate

[3] NERC maintains on its website each Regional Entities' RSDP which lists the date of the current version. *See* http://www.nerc.com/pa/Stand/Pages/RegionalStandardsDevelopment.aspx.

balance of interests and the process must be structured so that it may not be dominated by any two interest categories and no single interest category can defeat a matter. All entities with a direct and material interest in the BPS in the Regional Entity may participate in the development of regional Reliability Standards by expressing a position and support for that position. Participating entities then will have that position considered and have the right to appeal the final outcome. The RSDP must also allow for reasonable notice and opportunity for public comment, and include language that states that all actions material to the development of any regional Reliability Standards be transparent.[4]

Based on its review and approval of the Regional Entities' RSDPs for inclusion in the RDAs and the subsequent approval by the Commission, NERC believes that during the assessment period, all of the Regional Entities met the requirements applicable to the ERO in the development of regional Reliability Standards.[5] Specifically, the Regional Entities: (i) demonstrated the ability to develop Reliability Standards that provide for an adequate level of reliability of the BPS; (ii) established rules that assure the independence of the users and owners and operators of the BPS, (iii) took action to ensure balanced decision-making in applicable committees or subordinate organization structures; and (iv) developed rules that provide for reasonable notice and opportunity for public comment, due process, openness, and balance of interests in developing Reliability Standards. During the assessment period, each Regional Entity fulfilled the obligation to provide an open, fair, balanced, and inclusive process for the development of regional Reliability Standards, as demonstrated by the approval of those processes by NERC and the Commission.

B. Review of Each Regional Entity's Standards Development Activities During the Assessment Period

NERC focuses on the development of its continent-wide Reliability Standards as consistent with the goal of a reliable BPS. The Regional Entities have developed relatively few regional Reliability Standards to address unique situations with specific or more stringent requirements in a particular interconnection or geographic region which the NERC continent-wide standards may not address. Since the Commission issued Order No. 693 in 2007, approving the initial set of NERC continent-wide Operations and Planning Reliability Standards, the Commission has approved a total of only seven regional Reliability Standards submitted by Regional Entities other than WECC.

The Regional Entities are concentrating their standards development resources on working with NERC and stakeholders to develop clear, reasonable, and technically sound continent-wide Reliability Standards in a timely and efficient manner, and to ensure that regional concerns are addressed in the continent-wide Reliability Standards. This approach also avoids duplicating NERC's efforts at the regional level. Barring the existence of a perceived region-specific gap in reliability not addressed by NERC Reliability Standards, the Regional Entities will refrain from developing further regional Reliability Standards.

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[4] NERC maintains on its website a current overview of regional Reliability Standards under development, with detailed information on the status of the proceeding.
See http://www.nerc.com/pa/Stand/Pages/RegionalReliabilityStandardsUnderDevelopment.aspx.

[5] FPA §215(c)(1) and (2); 16 U.S.C. §824o(c)(1)(2).

To this end, the Regional Entities are actively encouraging awareness and participation by stakeholders in their respective areas in the NERC standards development process, by engaging in educational outreach efforts, and through participation in the NERC Standards Committee (NERC SC) and related subcommittees. The Regional Entities also have standards committees or similar groups at the regional level that analyze the draft ERO standards to determine their quality and effectiveness and evaluate whether the reliability objective is adequate and cost effective, and to provide input on these topics in the NERC standards development process.

The following subsections provide a review of the activities of each Regional Entity in the development of regional Reliability Standards during the assessment period.

1. Florida Reliability Coordinating Council, Inc.

The most recent version of the FRCC RSDP was approved by the Commission on June 12, 2012 and is included as Appendix C to the FRCC RDA. FRCC currently has no FERC-approved regional Reliability Standards or regional variances. During the assessment period, FRCC placed two regional Reliability Standards development projects on hold awaiting the completion of NERC standards development projects, and terminated one project because NERC's continent-wide Reliability Standard was determined to be sufficient for FRCC's reliability needs. Additionally, FRCC's registered ballot body and board of directors approved one project, which was held in abeyance while the adequacy of the NERC continent-wide Reliability Standard was evaluated, and will be withdrawn if it is determined to be sufficient for FRCC's needs. FRCC prefers the development of continent-wide Reliability Standards, but will follow its regional RSDP should a need arise for a more stringent standard or a standard to cover an area that NERC Reliability Standards do not.

2. Midwest Reliability Organization

MRO supports the development of continent-wide Reliability Standards to maintain the reliable operations of the BPS, as opposed to regional Reliability Standards, particularly in the Eastern Interconnection. Therefore, MRO decided during the assessment period to forego the development of regional Reliability Standards. Nevertheless, MRO has a regional RSDP in effect. The most recent revised version of the MRO RSDP was approved by the Commission on June 12, 2013[6] and is included as Appendix C to the MRO RDA. The principal purposes of these amendments to the MRO RSDP include: (i) to provide greater alignment of MRO's standards develop procedures with the NERC *Standard Processes Manual*; (ii) to incorporate a requirement for a review of the MRO RSDP every five years; and (iii) to provide various clarifications to the process development steps in the MRO RSDP. MRO also has a stakeholder-based Standards Committee comprised of subject matter experts (SMEs) in the event there is a need for a regional Reliability Standard in the future.

[6] *North American Electric Reliability Corporation*, Docket Nos. RR13-5-000 (June 12, 2013) (unpublished letter order).

3. Northeast Power Coordinating Council, Inc.

NPCC has developed a revised RSDP that provides a results-based, consensus building approach by which NPCC may develop regional Reliability Standards and Regional Variances proposals to the ERO for adoption, under delegated authority by the Commission and the Canadian Provincial regulatory and/or governmental authorities.

During the assessment period, NPCC developed a disturbance monitoring regional Reliability Standard, PRC-002-NPCC-01, to ensure that adequate disturbance data are available to facilitate event analyses. This NPCC regional Reliability Standard addresses a specific recommendation from the August 14, 2003 Blackout final NERC report regarding the use of time-synchronized data recorders.[7] Substantively, this NPCC regional Reliability Standard outlines the basic requirements for the type, location and capability of equipment to be placed on the BPS to enable analysis of grid disturbances to be conducted effectively and efficiently. This regional Reliability Standard is intended to establish enforceable and uniform requirements for disturbance monitoring throughout the NPCC region. On October 20, 2011, the Commission issued an order approving regional Reliability Standard PRC-002-NPCC-01, the related VRFs and VSLs, implementation plan, and two associated regional definitions in the *Glossary of Terms Used in NERC Reliability Standards* (NERC Glossary).

NPCC also developed regional Reliability Standard PRC-006-NPCC-1, Automatic Underfrequency Load Shedding, during the assessment period. The purpose of PRC-006-NPCC-1 is to provide a regional Reliability Standard that ensures the development of an effective regional automatic underfrequency load shedding (UFLS) program in order to preserve the security and integrity of the BPS during declining system frequency events, in coordination with the NERC UFLS Reliability Standard characteristics. Further, this NPCC regional Reliability Standard creates a region-wide and fully coordinating single set of UFLS requirements that will serve as a last resort to preserve the BPS during a major system failure that may cause a system frequency collapse. On February 21, 2013, the Commission issued Order No. 775 approving regional Reliability Standard PRC-006-NPCC-1, the related VRFs and VSLs, implementation plan, and the effective dates proposed by NERC.[8]

4. ReliabilityFirst Corporation

ReliabilityFirst has an approved RSDP in place as Exhibit C to its RDA. ReliabilityFirst no longer develops regional Reliability Standards, in order to avoid duplication with the NERC continent-wide Reliability Standards. However, ReliabilityFirst has proved its ability to develop regional Reliability Standards, as shown by its development of regional Reliability Standard BAL-502-RFC-02, Planning Resource Adequacy Analysis, Assessment and Documentation, during the assessment period. The purpose of this standard and associated definitions is to establish common criteria based on the principle of "one day in ten years" loss of load expectation for the analysis,

[7] *See Final Report on the August 14, 2003 Blackout in the United States and Canada: Causes and Recommendations* available at: http://www.nerc.com/pa/rrm/ea/Pages/Blackout-August-2003.aspx.

[8] *Regional Reliability Standard PRC-006-NPCC-1 – Automatic Underfrequency Load Shedding*, Order No. 775, 142 FERC ¶ 61,128 (2013).

assessment, and documentation of resource adequacy for load in the ReliabilityFirst footprint and to establish requirements for planning coordinators in the ReliabilityFirst region regarding resource adequacy assessment, a subject matter not addressed in NERC's continent-wide Reliability Standards. The Commission approved regional Reliability Standard BAL-502-RFC-02 and related filings in an order issued on March 17, 2011, directing that the regional Reliability Standard and associated VSLs, VRFs, and definitions become effective on the date of that order.[9]

5. SERC Reliability Corporation

The SERC RSDP, included in Exhibit C to the SERC RDA, defines the process for the development, revision, reaffirmation, and withdrawal of SERC regional Reliability Standards. The SERC RSDP requires any proposed SERC regional Reliability Standard to be more stringent than a continent-wide Reliability Standard, whether the regional Reliability Standard addresses matters that the continent-wide Reliability Standard does not or the regional Reliability Standard is necessitated by a physical difference in the BPS within the SERC region. SERC regional Reliability Standards are required to provide for as much uniformity as possible with continent-wide Reliability Standards.

SERC has one Commission-approved regional Reliability Standard, PRC-006-SERC-01, Automatic Underfrequency Load Shedding Requirements. The purpose of this standard and the associated VSLs and VRFs is to establish consistent and coordinated requirements for the design, implementation, and analysis of automatic UFLS schemes among all applicable entities within the SERC region so that distribution providers and transmission owners may effectively mitigate the consequences of an underfrequency event. The standard effectively mitigates the consequences of an underfrequency event while accommodating differences in system transmission and distribution topology among SERC planning coordinators. The Commission approved regional Reliability Standard PRC-006-SERC-01 in Order No. 772 issued on December 20, 2012.[10]

SERC currently is not developing any additional regional Reliability Standards because the continent-wide NERC Reliability Standards are presently adequate for the SERC region.

6. Southwest Power Pool Regional Entity

SPP RE has a RSDP in place and included in Exhibit C to its RDA. During the assessment period, SPP RE developed a substantially revised RSDP. A principal objective of the revisions was to confirm the SPP RE RSDP more closely to the NERC *Standard Processes Manual*. The revised SPP RE was approved by NERC and filed with the Commission for approval in December 2013, and was approved by the Commission in an order issued January 31, 2014.[11]

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[9] *Planning Resource Adequacy Assessment Reliability Standard*, *Final Rule*, Order No. 747, 134 FERC ¶ 61,212 (2011).

[10] *Regional Reliability Standard PRC-006-SERC-01—Automatic Underfrequency Load Shedding Requirements*, 141 FERC ¶ 61,243 (2012).

[11] *Revised Southwest Power Pool Regional Entity Standards Development Process Manual*, Docket No. RR14-1-000 (January 31, 2014) (unpublished letter order).

SPP RE is not actively developing any Reliability Standards at this time. SPP RE supports development of continent-wide Reliability Standards at NERC. Any regional Reliability Standard developed by SPP RE will go beyond, add detail to, or cover matters not addressed in the NERC Reliability Standards.

During the assessment period, SPP RE developed proposed regional Reliability Standard PRC-006-SPP-1, Automatic Underfrequency Load Shedding Requirements. On November 7, 2012, the NERC Board of Trustees (NERC Board) approved the proposed standard. The purpose of the proposed standard was to ensure the development and implementation of an effective automatic UFLS program for entities in the SPP RE region in order to preserve the security and integrity of the BPS during declining system frequency events. The regional Reliability Standard was designed to develop, coordinate and document requirements for automatic UFLS programs to arrest declining frequency and assist recovery of frequency following underfrequency events in the SPP RE region. On April 26, 2013, NERC submitted the proposed standard to the Commission for approval,[12] but on December 11, 2013, NERC submitted a Notice of Withdrawal of the petition because, due to the creation and pending approval of NERC Reliability Standard PRC-024-1, changes to PRC-006-SPP-01 could be needed to account for generator trip zones that may differ between proposed regional Reliability Standard PRC-006-SPP-01 and NERC Reliability Standard PRC-024-1.[13]

7. Texas Reliability Entity, Inc.

Texas RE has a RSDP in effect and included in Exhibit C to its RDA, and has used its RSDP to develop Texas RE regional Reliability Standards. Texas RE has developed one major regional Reliability Standard, BAL-001-TRE-1, Primary Frequency Response in the ERCOT Region, and two minor regional standards (CIP-001-2a regional variance and IRO-006-TRE-1). The major regional Reliability Standard, BAL-001-TRE, was designed to maintain Interconnection steady-state frequency within defined limits in the ERCOT region; its purpose is to provide a regional Reliability Standard for the ERCOT Interconnection related to the maintenance of steady-state frequency within defined limits by balancing real power demand and supply in real-time. This proposed standard was developed to establish and maintain adequate frequency response in the ERCOT region by ensuring prompt and sufficient frequency response from resources to stabilize frequency during changes in the system generation-demand balance. Because there are physical differences present in the ERCOT system, a more stringent means of assuring frequency response performance was needed than that provided by the continent-wide NERC Reliability Standard. The Commission unconditionally approved the proposed standard by letter order on January 16, 2014 as well as the staggered implementation date requested by NERC

[12] Available at: http://www.nerc.com/FilingsOrders/us/NERC%20Filings%20to%20FERC%20DL/FINAL_Petition%20PRC-006-SPP-01_complete.pdf.

[13] *Notice of Withdrawal of the Joint Petition for Approval of Proposed Regional Reliability Standard PRC-006-SPP-01 (Underfrequency Load Shedding*), Docket No. RD13-9-000 (December 11, 2013), available at: http://www.nerc.com/FilingsOrders/us/NERC%20Filings%20to%20FERC%20DL/Final_Notice_of_Withdrawal_of_PRC-006-SPP-01_20131211.pdf.

and Texas RE.[14] (The Commission concurrently approved NERC Reliability Standard BAL-003-1, which addresses frequency response on a continent-wide basis.)

8. Western Electricity Coordinating Council

WECC uses the Commission-approved WECC RSDP to develop regional Reliability Standards along with Regional Criteria and Regional Business Practices. WECC develops Regional Criteria and Regional Business Practices to improve the functioning and efficiency of the Western Interconnection. This combination provides a forum for addressing system-wide issues and enables effective oversight to promote reliable operation of the Western Interconnection.[15]

As of the end of the assessment period, WECC had the following eight Commission-approved WECC regional Reliability Standards in effect.

- **FAC-501-WECC-1 (Transmission Maintenance)**

FAC-501-WECC-1 requires, for specified transmission paths, a highly detailed maintenance and inspection plan for all transmission and substation equipment components. This ensures that certain transmission owners of transmission paths identified by a table titled "Major WECC Transfer Paths in the Bulk Electric System" (including associated facilities) have a transmission maintenance and inspection plan (TMIP); and perform and document maintenance and inspection activities in accordance with the TMIP.[16]

- **VAR-002-WECC-1 (Automatic Voltage Regulators)**

NERC continent-wide Reliability Standard VAR-002-1a requires that generator operators operate a generator connected to the interconnected transmission system in automatic voltage control mode unless the operator has notified the transmission operator. WECC regional Reliability Standard VAR-002-WECC-1 adds an additional responsibility for compliance in the WECC region, requiring all synchronous generators within the WECC region to have their voltage regulators in service at all times, with exceptions only for specified circumstances.[17]

- **VAR-501-WECC-1 (Power System Stabilizer)**

NERC continent-wide standard VAR-002-1a requires that a generator operator notify its transmission operator when it removes power system stabilizers (PSS) from service, but does not limit the amount of time for operating generators without PSS in service. WECC regional

[14] *North American Electric Reliability Corporation*, Docket No. RD13-12-000 (January 16, 2014) (unpublished letter order).

[15] While WECC currently maintains Regional Business Practices, all of these fit within the description of Regional Criteria contained in the NERC ROP §313 (Other Regional Criteria, Guides, Procedures, Agreements, etc.). WECC is currently undertaking efforts to re-categorize its Regional Business Practices as Regional Criteria so that going forward WECC will no longer create or maintain items called Regional Business Practices.

[16] *Version One Regional Reliability Standards for Facilities Design, Connections, and Maintenance; Protection and Control; and Voltage and Reactive*, Order No. 751, 135 FERC ¶ 61,061 (2011).

[17] *Id.*

Reliability Standard VAR-501-WECC-1 is more stringent than the NERC Reliability Standard; it ensures that synchronous generators shall be kept in service in order to ensure that the generator provides the proper damping to maintain system stability when generation and transmission outages occur, and an exception is provided only for very specific conditions and for a cumulative time limit per quarter.[18]

- **PRC-004-WECC-1 (Protection System and Remedial Action Scheme Misoperation)**

WECC regional Reliability Standard PRC-004-WECC-1 sets a specific timeframe for the analysis and mitigation of all transmission and generation protection system and remedial action scheme misoperations on major WECC Transfer Paths. This standard augments requirements for certain entities found under NERC continent-wide Reliability Standards PRC-003-1 and PRC-004-1.[19]

- **IRO-006-WECC-2 (Qualified Transfer Path Unscheduled Flow Relief)**

The purpose of WECC regional Reliability Standard IRO-006-WECC-2 is to provide a regional standard that specifies the mitigation of transmission overloads due to unscheduled flow on qualified transfer paths. The standard modifies IRO-006-WECC-1 to correct references, wording, and format issues that would update the standard and bring it into compliance with NERC's drafting conventions for Reliability Standards. On December 20, 2013, NERC and WECC submitted a joint petition to the Commission seeking approval of IRO-006-WECC-2 along with an associated implementation plan and new or revised definitions in the NERC Glossary. On May 13, 2014, FERC issued a letter order approving IRO-006-WECC-2.[20]

- **BAL-004-WECC-02 (Automatic Time Error Correction)**

During the assessment period, WECC revised its regional Reliability Standard BAL-004-WECC-01, Automatic Time Error Correction, resulting in BAL-004-WECC-02. The revision was developed in response to a directive from the Commission in Order No. 723 to modify regional Reliability Standard BAL-004-WECC-01 to clarify certain terms used therein.[21] The purpose of the revised regional Reliability Standard is to maintain Interconnection frequency and to ensure that time error corrections and primary inadvertent interchange playback are effectively conducted in a manner that does not adversely affect the reliability of the Interconnection. On August 20, 2013, NERC and WECC submitted a joint petition to the Commission seeking approval of BAL-004-WECC-02 along with an associated implementation plan, new definitions in the NERC Glossary, and a regional variance to BAL-001-1.[22] The Commission unconditionally approved

[18] *Id.*

[19] *Id.*

[20] *North American Electric Reliability Corporation*, Docket No. RD14-9-000 (May 13, 2014) (unpublished letter order).

[21] *Western Electricity Coordinating Council Regional Reliability Standard Regarding Automatic Time Error Correction*, Order No.723, 127 FERC ¶ 61,176 (2009).

[22] Available at: http://www.nerc.com/FilingsOrders/us/NERC%20Filings%20to%20FERC%20DL/Petition%20for%20BAL-004-WECC-02%20and%20BAL-001-1.pdf.

the revised WECC regional Reliability Standard on October 16, 2013, and it became effective as of the date of the order.[23]

- **TOP-007-WECC-1 (System Operating Limits)**

The primary purpose of WECC regional Reliability Standard TOP-007-WECC-1 is to implement the directives in Order No. 693 approving NERC Reliability Standard TOP-007-0, and related concerns, by ensuring that actual flows and associated scheduled flows on major WECC transfer paths do not exceed system operating limits for more than 30 minutes. The Commission approved TOP-007-WECC-1 in an order issued April 21, 2014.[24] In approving TOP-007-WECC-1, the Commission ordered WECC to address the concern regarding the need for WECC to develop a means to provide consistency and transparency when making revisions to the list of major transmission paths instead of the WECC transfer path table and to modify the associated VRFs and VSLs to adequately reflect the size and scope of the actual violation. Any future modifications will be handled through the established standards process.

- **BAL-002-WECC-2 (Contingence Reserve)**

On March 25, 2009, NERC submitted to the Commission for approval WECC regional Reliability Standard BAL-002-WECC-1, Contingency Reserves, but in 2010, the Commission issued Order No. 740 wherein it remanded this standard based on concerns that WECC had not provided adequate technical support to demonstrate that the requirements of the proposed regional Reliability Standard are sufficient to ensure the reliable operation of the BPS within WECC.[25] The purpose of proposed regional Reliability Standard BAL-002-WECC-2 is to provide a regional Reliability Standard that specifies the quantity and types of contingency reserve required to ensure reliability under normal and abnormal conditions. In response to the Commission's directives in Order No. 740, WECC developed modifications to proposed regional Reliability Standard BAL-002-WECC-1. On April 12, 2013, NERC filed a petition with the Commission to approve regional Reliability Standard BAL-002-WECC-2, Contingency Reserve, and associated VRFs and VSLs. On November 21, 2013, the Commission issued Order No. 789 approving WECC regional Reliability Standard BAL-002-WECC-2, the associated VRFs, VSLs, implementation plan, the effective date proposed by NERC and WECC, and the retirement of BAL-STD-002-0 and two WECC regional definitions from the NERC Glossary. In that order, the Commission directed NERC to submit an informational filing after the first two years of implementation of the regional

[23] *North American Electric Reliability Corporation*, Docket No. RR13-11-000 (October 16, 2013) (unpublished letter order).

[24] *Version One Regional Reliability Standard for Transmission Operations*, 135 FERC ¶ 61,062 (2011).

[25] *Version One Regional Reliability Standard for Resource and Demand Balancing*, Order No. 740, 133 FERC ¶ 61,063 (2010).

Reliability Standard that addresses the adequacy of contingency reserve in the Western Interconnection.[26]

II. COMPLIANCE MONITORING AND ENFORCEMENT

The RDAs set forth the delegated authorities and responsibilities of the Regional Entities with respect to compliance monitoring and enforcement.[27] In Exhibit D to each RDA, each Regional Entity adopts the uniform NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program (CMEP; Appendix 4C to the NERC ROP) in its entirety, adopts the uniform NERC CMEP with stated differences, or adopts a separate CMEP (however, the CMEP of a Regional Entity that has deviations from or is different than the uniform CMEP must comply with the requirements of the RDA and with §403 of the NERC ROP).

The RDA gives the Regional Entities delegated authorities and responsibilities to, among other things, maintain a program of proactive monitoring and enforcement of compliance with Reliability Standards in accordance with the CMEP and the annual NERC CMEP Implementation Plan (IP);[28] report to NERC any possible violations, alleged violations or confirmed violations of Reliability Standards and the dispositions thereof; maintain violations as nonpublic until the matter is filed with the Commission as a Notice of Penalty (NOP); conduct, in a confidential manner, compliance investigations of possible violations and alleged violations; and maintain a conflict of interest policy to ensure the integrity and independence of the Regional Entity's CMEP, including the integrity and independence of the persons or decision-making bodies making final determinations in compliance enforcement actions.

In addition, the RDAs give the Regional Entities responsibilities with respect to the registration of owners, operators and users of the BPS as entities responsible to comply with mandatory Reliability Standards; and with respect to the certification of certain registered entities to perform certain reliability functions.[29]

Section 4 of the RDAs obligates the Regional Entity to comply with, among other things the NERC ROP. Provisions of the ROP applicable to compliance monitoring and enforcement functions, include, in addition to the uniform CMEP, the following ROP sections and appendices: §400, Compliance Enforcement (§403 sets forth required attributes of Regional Entity CMEPs), §500, Organization Registration and Certification, Appendix 4B, *Sanction Guidelines*, Appendix 5A, *Organization Registration and Certification Manual*, Appendix 5B, *Statement of Compliance Registry Criteria*, and Appendix 5C, *Procedure for Requesting and Receiving an Exception from the Application of the NERC Definition of Bulk Electric System* (effective July 1, 2014).

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[26] *Regional Reliability Standard BAL-002-WECC-2 – Contingency Reserve*, Order No. 789, 145 FERC ¶ 61,141 (2013).

[27] Generally, each Regional Entity's responsibilities with respect to compliance monitoring and enforcement are set forth in §6 of its RDA.

[28] Available at: http://www.nerc.com/pa/comp/Resources/Pages/default.aspx.

[29] These provisions are generally found in §7 of the RDAs.

In this §II, NERC describes and evaluates the Regional Entities' performance during the assessment period separately with respect to the three major components of their compliance monitoring and enforcement responsibilities: Organization Registration and Certification (ORC) (§II.A below), Compliance Monitoring (§II.B below), and Compliance Enforcement (§II.D below). In addition, Compliance Investigations are discussed separately in §II.C.

A. Organization Registration and Certification

NERC is ultimately responsible for devising the criteria that determine which BPS users, owners and operators are subject to approved Reliability Standards, and for maintaining the NERC Compliance Registry of organizations subject to Reliability Standards. In carrying out these responsibilities, NERC relies on the Regional Entities to apply and implement registration and certification criteria as part of the ORC program. Pursuant to the RDAs and §500 and Appendices 5A (*Organization Registration and Certification Manual*) and 5B (*Statement of Compliance Registry Criteria*) of the NERC ROP, the Regional Entities are responsible for the following registration and certification tasks:

Registration

(1) Providing NERC with timely and accurate information relating to registrations and registered entities to enable NERC to maintain a registration database that is accurate and up-to-date;

(2) Collecting data on and mapping BPS facilities and those facilities that have a material impact on the BPS within each Regional Entity's defined regional boundaries;[30]

(3) Approving or disapproving entity registration applications;

(4) Notifying NERC of each coordinated functional registration (CFR) and joint registration organization (JRO) that the Regional Entity accepts; and

(5) Maintaining a list of active CFRs and JROs.

Certification

(1) Verifying that all reliability coordinators, balancing authorities, and transmission operators (i.e., the reliability entities required to be certified to perform their reliability functions) meet the registration requirements of ROP §501.1.4;

(2) Reviewing entity certification applications for completeness and notifying NERC of applications;

[30] Each Regional Entity's boundaries are defined in Exhibit A to its RDA.

(3) Evaluating the competency of entities requiring certification to meet the NERC certification requirements;

(4) Establishing certification procedures, including (i) evaluation processes, schedules, and deadlines; (ii) expectations of the applicants and all entities participating in the process; and (iii) requirements for certification team members;

(5) Approving or denying certification team recommendations and notifying the entity and NERC of the decision; and

(6) Providing leadership to the certification team throughout the certification process.

NERC and the Regional Entities are working towards two goals for registration. First, they recognize the need for consistency between and among Regional Entities and across the continent in the application of the criteria for registering entities. Second, any entity whose facilities or operations are reasonably deemed material to the reliability of the BPS will be registered, irrespective of other considerations.

During the assessment period, the NERC ORC program increased its efforts regarding consistency and transparency. The ORC program developed and posted on NERC's website eight registration and 38 certification templates to be used by the Regional Entities and industry. The ORC program worked with the Certification and Registration Working Group to develop a prototype common registration form (CRF). The CRF requires the provision of information related to entity relationships, and will thereby provide greater assurance that all entities that should be registered are in fact registered. Further, since consistent forms are now used by each Regional Entity, entities that need to register in multiple Regional Entities should find the registration process more streamlined.

During the assessment period, the ERO experienced an incremental increase in the number of registered entities. As of January 30, 2009, NERC and the Regional Entities had registered a total of 1,860 entities for a total of 4,482 reliability functions. As of May 1, 2014, NERC and the Regional Entities have registered 1,920 entities for 4,774 reliability functions. Further, a review of the registration activity by Regional Entity shows a significant number of registrations and deactivations in four Regional Entities (NPCC, ReliabilityFirst, Texas RE, and WECC) for the following three functions: (i) generator owners; (ii) generator operators; and (iii) purchasing-selling entities. This trend is in part attributed to corporate ownership changes. The registration and deactivation activity in the remaining Regional Entities (FRCC, MRO, SERC, and SPP RE) was minimal.

The JRO and CFR mechanisms are important components of the ORC program. These vehicles are used to define the responsibilities and accountability among entities separately registered for the same function. During the assessment period, revisions to NERC ROP §507 and the addition of §508, approved by the Commission on June 10, 2010, clarified the operations of

both types of registration.[31] Specifically, revised ROP §507 allows an entity to register as a JRO on behalf of one or more of its members or related entities for one or more functions for which such members or related entities would otherwise be required to register. The registering entity thereby accepts on behalf of such members or related entities all compliance responsibility for that function or those functions including all reporting requirements. NERC ROP §508 allows multiple entities to register using a CFR for one or more Reliability Standard(s) or for one or more requirements or sub-requirements with particular Reliability Standard(s) applicable to a specific function. The CFR is the complete registration for each entity, with each entity taking full compliance responsibility for those Reliability Standards or requirements or sub-requirements applicable to the CFR.

Many of the registered entities that use the NERC ROP §507 process are cooperatives, municipalities, and other publicly-owned or member-owned utilities. As of May 1, 2014, a total of 34 JROs are registered; however, NPCC, SPP RE, and WECC have not registered any JROs.[32] Since its initial implementation, use of the joint registration option has been fairly static, with few additional entities registering as JROs or changing their JRO status. Many registered entities have, however, taken advantage of the opportunity to coordinate their registered functions pursuant to NERC ROP §508. There are a total of 44 CFR agreements, with FRCC being the only Regional Entity in which there is not a coordinated registration. Some of these coordinated registration agreements cross Regional Entity boundaries.

As the above discussion indicates, the registration and certification processes have been fairly stable during the assessment period in terms of the numbers of entities registered and certified. However, NERC has identified several initiatives or opportunities for improvement in how the Regional Entities perform their registration and certification functions. The first initiative is in the area of multi-regional registered entities (MRREs). MRREs are entities that own or operate BES facilities in two or more Regional Entity footprints. MRREs pose a consistency challenge because they are subject to multiple compliance programs. To address this challenge, during the assessment period, several Regional Entities partnered to coordinate their compliance and enforcement efforts with respect to MRREs. In particular, they developed a "lead region" model in which the involved Regional Entities select one of them to lead the compliance and enforcement efforts for a given MRRE. The purpose of this MRRE initiative is to describe the coordinated CMEP processes that will be used by NERC and the Regional Entities for a subset of registered entities that are registered in multiple Regional Entities and volunteer for this program. The MRRE process provides the opportunity for these entities to request to be accountable to one Compliance Enforcement Authority (CEA). The coordinated MRRE process provides for increased efficiencies in compliance resource allocation for NERC, the Regional Entities, and the registered entities while, maintaining the reliability of the BPS.

[31] *North American Electric Reliability Corporation*, Docket No. RR10-8-000 (June 10, 2010) (unpublished delegated letter order).

[32] *See* the JRO member listing Excel spreadsheet available at: http://www.nerc.com/pa/comp/Pages/Registration-and-Certification.aspx.

A second area of opportunity for improvement is the efficiency with which a Regional Entity is able to process registration activation and deactivation requests. This initiative is part of the risk-based registration effort described in further detail in the *Overview of NERC Activities and Accomplishments in the Five-Year Period*.

B. Compliance Monitoring

1. NERC Oversight of Regional Entity Compliance Monitoring Activities

NERC's oversight of and involvement with the Regional Entities' compliance monitoring activities is ongoing and continuous. Although this document is a five-year assessment of the Regional Entities' performance of specified functions, including compliance monitoring, NERC's ongoing oversight of and involvement with the Regional Entities' compliance monitoring activities provides a significant component of the informational and observational basis for NERC's evaluation of the Regional Entities in this area. This §II.B.1 provides an overview of NERC's oversight activities for the Regional Entity compliance monitoring programs, which is one of the key information and observation sources for NERC's assessment of the Regional Entities' performance.

At the start of the assessment period, the Regional Entity audit program consisted of Agreed-Upon Procedures (AUP) developed by NERC in collaboration with an independent third-party. The AUP oversight program operated on a three-year audit cycle.

In 2010, NERC restructured its Regional Entity oversight program. Based on NERC's observations of the audits completed under the AUP oversight program, NERC determined that conducting an AUP audit once every three years did not provide the desired level of qualitative evaluation of effectiveness of the programs within and across the Regional Entities. As a result, NERC refocused the Regional Entity audit program to move to an on-going and simultaneous evaluation of performance-based objectives to gauge the effectiveness of the Regional Entities' CMEPs. NERC staff utilized the findings, exceptions and lessons learned from the initial AUP program engagements to develop processes and procedures for the restructured audit program. The restructured Regional Entity oversight program provides for continuous oversight of each Regional Entity in focused, discrete time intervals that allows NERC to provide immediate feedback to Regional Entity compliance staff. This feedback enables Regional Entity staff to improve the consistency of its compliance processes and their application in a timelier manner.

Under NERC's current oversight model, NERC Audit Assurance and Oversight (AAO) staff and the Regional Entities conduct compliance monitoring of registered entities primarily through regular and scheduled compliance audits and random spot checks. Each Regional Entity has a compliance monitoring program that includes all the compliance monitoring methods specified in the uniform NERC CMEP, Appendix 4C to the NERC ROP.[33] NERC is responsible

[33] The compliance monitoring methods are compliance audits, self-certification, spot checks, investigations, self-reports, periodic data submittals, and complaints. *See* CMEP §3.0 (Compliance Monitoring Processes). The Regional Entities review self-certifications for all registered entities at least once annually. Some Regional Entities also require monthly self-certifications for certain Reliability Standards and requirements. Periodic data submittals occur on an ongoing basis, with certain information due to the Region Entity on a monthly basis, and other data due on a quarterly basis.

for oversight and monitoring of the Regional Entities' compliance monitoring activities, which must be carried out in accordance with the NERC ROP and the terms of the RDAs. NERC uses the following tools (each of which is described in the subsections below), to carry out its oversight and monitoring of the Regional Entities' activities:

(1) An annual review of Regional Entity CMEP IPs for approval and posting, as well as an annual review of each Regional Entity's CMEP for incorporation into the ERO's annual CMEP report;

(2) Annual assessments of compliance monitoring for selected Reliability Standards for consistency of approach through the Key Reliability Standard Spot Check (KRSSC) program;

(3) Oversight audits of selected registered entity compliance audits performed by Regional Entities, as well as periodic assessments of Regional Entity auditor capabilities;[34] and

(4) NERC training for Regional Entity CMEP personnel.

The oversight engagement of NERC AAO staff and Critical Infrastructure department (CID) staff, as well as NERC Training and Education program staff, increased over the assessment period, thereby providing an enhanced view of the Regional Entities' performance. These oversight activities are further discussed below.

a. Annual CMEP Implementation Plan

As part of NERC's annual oversight, each Regional Entity is required to develop and submit to NERC, for approval, an annual Regional Entity CMEP IP in accordance with Appendix 4C of the ROP. In its IP, each Regional Entity identifies which Reliability Standards and requirements it will actively monitor, evaluate, report, sanction and appeal during the period covered by the IP (both those Reliability Standards and requirements that NERC specifies shall be monitored, and any additional Reliability Standards and requirements the Regional Entity proposes to monitor). These IPs are submitted to NERC on the schedule established by NERC, generally on or about October 1 of the preceding year. NERC previously published the Regional Entity IPs, and its own IP, as separate documents; however, beginning with the 2014 IPs, NERC now combines its IP and the Regional Entity IPs into a single document.[35]

Each Regional Entity must also report annually to NERC regarding how the Regional Entity carried out its delegated compliance monitoring and enforcement authority in the previous year, the effectiveness of its CMEP, and changes it expects to make to correct any deficiencies

[34] Due to ongoing restructuring and transitioning pursuant to the Reliability Assurance Initiative (RAI), these compliance activities ceased in early 2013, but are scheduled to resume in the fourth quarter of 2014.

[35] *See ERO Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program 2014 ERO CMEP Implementation Plan*, version 1.1, available at: http://www.nerc.com/pa/comp/Resources/ResourcesDL/2014_ERO_CMEP_IP_v1.1_%2804012014%20posting%29.pdf.

identified. Each Regional Entity provides its annual report on a schedule established by NERC, generally on or about February 15 of the following year. The Regional Entities' annual reports, along with Regional Entity responses to an annual NERC CMEP survey, are used to prepare NERC's annual CMEP report.

b. Key Reliability Standard Spot Check Program

The KRSSC program focuses on issues that have the highest potential to result in major impacts to the BPS. Through the KRSSC program, NERC compares and contrasts the procedures Regional Entities use when auditing a set of high-risk, high-impact or frequently violated Reliability Standards. The KRSSC focuses on the observation activities of the Regional Entity compliance audit team during pre-audit work and on-site audit work, as these are the primary audit observation procedures used in gathering and analyzing evidence. Through this program, NERC seeks to identify issues that Regional Entity audit teams experience when evaluating compliance with selected Reliability Standards, as well as areas in Regional Entity audit evaluations for which additional guidance may be needed to improve evaluation processes or to promote consistency in evaluations. The objective of the KRSSC program is not to identify a minimum acceptable auditing approach or to determine the best practices for determining compliance; rather, the emphasis is upon enhancing consistency and improving auditing approaches. The KRSSC process addresses a need, which was identified early in the assessment period, to increase opportunities to share best practices among Regional Entities.

For issues identified during KRSSCs, NERC provides Regional Entities with overall recommendations and guidance as needed regarding how to remediate issues and to enhance consistency across all the Regional Entities. Regional Entities also receive individualized information through confidential appendices. NERC audit staff holds teleconferences with each Regional Entity to discuss both Regional Entity-specific results and cross-Regional Entity results. NERC's proposed best practices are intended to apply to enhance elements of the Regional Entities' auditing practices and approaches. While NERC typically derives the KRSSC recommendations and best practices from review of the auditing practices for specific Reliability Standards, many of the audit practices and approaches identified have broader applicability to other Reliability Standards.

During the assessment period, NERC conducted three KRSSCs with the Regional Entities. The three KRSSCs focused on the following Reliability Standards: EOP-005-1, PRC-005-1, CIP-001, and EOP-004 (the latter two were evaluated jointly). For each KRSSC, two registered entity compliance audits from each Regional Entity were selected based upon the potential and actual risk posed to the BPS by the audited registered entities as well as the completion date of the audits. As part of its evaluation, NERC AAO staff examined the credentials, resource levels and audit implementation methods of the individual Regional Entities in conducting their compliance audits. NERC evaluated the Regional Entities separately during this process; however, in an effort to increase consistency, NERC communicated any departure from best practices to the individual Regional Entities.

c. Oversight Audits of Regional Entity Audits of Registered Entities

NERC conducts oversight audits of selected registered entity audits being performed by Regional Entities. The purpose of an oversight audit is to determine whether the Regional Entity conducted its compliance audit and related tasks in accordance with the requirements of the NERC ROP, the CMEP and the RDAs. NERC staff members observe a Regional Entity compliance audit of a registered entity on-site at the registered entity or at the relevant Regional Entity's office. A Regional Entity audit of Operations and Planning Reliability Standards is observed by NERC AAO staff, while a Regional Entity audit of Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP) Reliability Standards is observed by NERC CID staff. The Commission may also assign auditors to participate by observing the pre-audit activities and the on-site audit, although Commission participation is not specifically a component of the NERC oversight audit. Following the oversight audit, NERC AAO staff identifies best practices and recommendations for the Regional Entity.

d. NERC Training Activities for Regional Entity Compliance Staff

Early in the assessment period, NERC and the Regional Entities identified training, education and communication as key initiatives for compliance monitoring. As a result, during the assessment period, training opportunities for Regional Entity CMEP staff (as well as for registered entities) have been increased.[36]

Training of CEA staff is a central component of NERC's compliance monitoring oversight of Regional Entities. NERC's training programs for compliance auditors are based upon the U.S. Government Accountability Office's Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards (GAGAS) for performance audits. GAGAS is primarily used by auditors of government entities and entities that receive government grants and other funding. All of NERC's CEA training material is reviewed and updated based on changes to GAGAS, the CMEP, the NERC ROP, and internal procedures, as well as feedback from experience.

From 2009 to 2013, NERC conducted the following training sessions for ERO compliance auditors:

- 18 auditor workshops and webinars
- 11 audit team leader (ATL) training sessions
- 3 CIP training sessions
- 12 compliance investigation training sessions

In addition, NERC made a total of 25 presentations at Regional Entity compliance workshops, including 18 presentations in 2012. Examples of topics presented in the auditor workshops and webinars during this period included:

- Fundamentals of NERC Compliance Audits
- GAO Auditing Standards
- Audit Scoping

[36] Regional Entity training activities provided for registered entities are described in §II.B.2.a below and in the individual Regional Entity assessments in §II.B.2.b below.

- Auditor Checklist and Handbook
- Gathering Quality Evidence
- Sampling/Random Sampling Techniques
- Quality Audit Documentation
- Conducting Performance Audits
- Find, Fix, Track, and Report (FFT) Process
- Internal Controls
- CIP Reliability Standards
- Critical Asset Identification and CIP-002 Sufficiency Reviews
- CIP Compliance

2. NERC Evaluation of Regional Entity Compliance Monitoring Programs

Subsection 2.a below discusses, on a collective basis, the Regional Entities' training and education programs for registered entity personnel. Each Regional Entity maintains, for organizational, budgeting and accounting purposes, a Training, Education, and Operator Certification program separate from its Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement and Organization Registration and Certification program. For purposes of this assessment, the Regional Entities' training, education and outreach activities are being discussed and assessed as part of the evaluation of their compliance programs because these activities are heavily focused on compliance-related topics. Subsection 2.b then evaluates each Regional Entity's compliance monitoring program on an individual basis.

a. Regional Entity Training, Education, and Outreach Programs for Registered Entity Personnel

The RDAs provide that the Regional Entity "may provide training and education to registered entities, as it deems necessary, in support of its performance of delegated functions and related activities under this Agreement."[37] Providing training for registered entities is critical to reliability for the following reasons:

(1) To ensure that registered entities understand what is required to comply with Reliability Standards, with a particular focus on the most frequently violated Reliability Standards;

(2) To equip registered entities with the tools to identify risks to reliability; and

(3) To help registered entities establish compliance programs that systematically detect, report, correct and prevent risks to reliability and therefore reduce violations.

The Regional Entities offer two types of training opportunities for registered entities. First, each Regional Entity conducts training and outreach initiatives with registered entities through its

[37] This provision is generally found in §7(e) of the RDAs.

Training, Education, and Operator Certification program. Under this program, Regional Entities offer NERC-approved continuing education program courses and activities necessary to maintain one's status as a NERC-certified system operator. The target audience of the program is BPS operating personnel, including system operations personnel, operations support personnel (engineering and information technology), supervisors and managers, and training personnel. NERC's Personnel Certification and Continuing Education staff and Training and Education staff support the Regional Entities' efforts in this area. Second, Regional Entities conduct supplemental compliance and enforcement training for registered entities, typically through workshop events. For the supplemental compliance and enforcement training and outreach for registered entities, the Regional Entity has the discretion to choose the content, delivery method, and location of such training.

Feedback from registered entities regarding the Regional Entity training workshops has been very positive, and participants have sought coverage of additional topics. To address requests from the industry for an increased level of compliance information as well as for enhanced CMEP transparency, many Regional Entities have committed more resources to training in order to engage in additional training, education and outreach activities. These increased activities have included additional workshops, newsletters to industry, and other direct communications. Much of the information covered by these increased outreach and communication activities takes the form of lessons learned.

b. Assessments of the Individual Regional Entities

As an overall evaluation, during the assessment period, the Regional Entities made meaningful progress in improving their compliance monitoring programs and their audit practices and procedures consistent with the requirements of the ROP (specifically, the CMEP, Appendix 4C) and the RDAs. Overall, the Regional Entities worked diligently to plan and complete their scheduled compliance audits during the assessment period. NERC's oversight of the Regional Entity compliance programs shows that the Regional Entities are meeting the baseline requirements of the ROP and the RDAs. NERC's oversight has also shown that there continue to be varying compliance monitoring practices across the ERO.

NERC has three main objectives for the continued evolution of the compliance monitoring program. First, the Regional Entities are revising their existing practices to better align with risk using generally accepted audit practices. Second, NERC and the Regional Entities have developed a standardized audit checklist to ensure consistent conduct of audits across the ERO. Third, NERC, in conjunction with the Regional Entities, has developed competency guidelines for compliance monitoring staff and is developing training to accompany the competency guidelines. Through RAI, the ERO Enterprise is moving away from a one-size-fits-all approach for monitoring registered entities to a compliance oversight approach that considers risk and the controls registered entities have established around compliance with Reliability Standards.

NERC AAO staff has collaborated with the Regional Entities to develop RAI pilot projects conducted by several Regional Entities. Some Regional Entities volunteered to establish pilot programs to test strategies regarding: (i) entity risk assessment; (ii) management controls (identification and testing methodology); (iii) audit scope linked to risk; and (iv) data gathering techniques (interviews, surveys, etc.) and the process for disseminating the pilot across the ERO.

The participating Regional Entities then conducted the pilot programs with registered entities within their respective footprints. Each participating Regional Entity used varying techniques with the goal of establishing a repeatable risk assessment and internal control review process, tied to Reliability Standards that could be replicated by non-participating Regional Entities.

In the individual Regional Entity assessments that follow, NERC examines how the Regional Entities satisfied the baseline requirements of the ROP and RDAs in executing their compliance monitoring responsibilities during the assessment period. NERC's review encompassed two major areas: (i) department structure and staffing, and (ii) compliance monitoring tools and audit planning. With respect to the first area, NERC examined the structure of the Regional Entity CMEP departments, the adequacy and qualifications of staff resources, and the involvement of industry SMEs and Regional Entity members, as well as the existence of policies to maintain the independence and integrity of the Regional Entity compliance staff. In the second area, NERC examined the compliance monitoring tools available to assist the Regional Entities in audit planning and execution. Elements central to these audit planning and execution efforts are validation of data accuracy, confidentiality of audit information, and quality assurance of audit findings and audit reports. In addition, for each Regional Entity compliance monitoring program, NERC reviewed the Regional Entity's guidance and training offered to industry stakeholders and its participation to date in RAI.

i. Data on Regional Entity Compliance Resources

The following two tables show the amounts of (i) budgeted direct expenses and (ii) budgeted direct full-time equivalent (FTE) staffing in each Regional Entity's CMEP in 2009 and 2014, as taken from their business plans and budgets filed with the Commission. These figures are for the Regional Entity's entire Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement and Organization Registration and Certification program.[38] As the tables show, during the assessment period, each Regional Entity significantly increased its budgeted direct expenses and its budgeted FTE staffing for its CMEP.

Regional Entity	2009 Budget	2014 Budget	Percent Increase
FRCC	$2,019,650	$4,281,909	112.0%
MRO	$2,071,510	$3,864,192	86.5%
NPCC	$2,095,204	$5,080,485	142.5%
RFC	$5,099,328	$9,788,246	92.0%
SERC	$4,805,617	$7,389,556	53.8%
SPP RE	$1,283,653	$4,258,217	231.7%
Texas RE	$1,628,935	$5,991,654	267.8%
WECC	$6,165,303	$8,592,053	39.4%

Regional Entity	2009 FTE	2014 FTE	Percent Increase
FRCC	9.26	19.26	108.0%
MRO	10.00	21.26	112.6%

[38] MRO's 2014 budgeted expense does not include the expenses for its Organization Registration and Certification activities, which MRO conducted in and budgeted under its Reliability Standards program.

NPCC	9.00	16.00	77.8%
RFC	23.00	43.00	87.0%
SERC	21.50	42.50	97.7%
SPP RE	6.00	22.10	268.3%
Texas RE	14.15	40.00	182.7%
WECC	30.00	58.00	93.3%

ii. Florida Reliability Coordinating Council, Inc.

Department Structure / Staffing / Conflict of Interest Avoidance

During the assessment period, FRCC's Compliance department was split into two sections, a Compliance Monitoring group and an Enforcement group. In October 2012, FRCC separated the reporting of these two groups to create more independence between monitoring and enforcement activities. The manager of compliance enforcement reports directly to the vice president and executive director of reliability standards and compliance while the manager of compliance audits reports to the director of compliance. In addition, in June 2014, FRCC created a third group, Risk Assessment and Mitigation. This group is focused on risk assessment, both before a compliance monitoring activity takes place, to help determine the scope of the monitoring oversight; and after a possible violation is discovered, to help to determine the risk posed by the violation so that the most efficient disposition can take place. The risk evaluation before a compliance monitoring activity takes place will include both inherent risk assessment and assessment of the registered entity's internal controls. Additionally, the Risk Assessment and Mitigation group is now the primary contact for registered entities with respect to the development, implementation and completion of mitigation plans. The manager of risk assessment and mitigation reports to the director of compliance.

While NERC does not specifically endorse a particular organizational structure for CMEP departments at the Regional Entity level, NERC supports department models that facilitate the prioritization of risk. All Regional Entities are currently evaluating the structure of their CMEP departments to similarly assess how best to organize around risk.

With the recent change just described, FRCC's Compliance Monitoring group consists of eight positions, while the Risk Assessment and Mitigation group consists of four positions. Many of FRCC's audit team members individually have over 15 years of industry experience. Five audit team members were certified or hold active NERC certifications as system operators. Between 2011 and 2012, FRCC increased its staffing to add areas of expertise.

FRCC CIP auditors are required to at least have Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP) certification or Certified Internal Security Auditor (CISA) certification and to demonstrate security background knowledge covering multiple domains including physical and network security. Each CIP auditor is required to maintain this certification by attending annual conferences and training seminars to achieve the required minimum of 20 continuing professional education hours annually. The FRCC manager of compliance audits is responsible for vetting the topics covered during these conferences and seminars.

The FRCC Compliance Monitoring group prepares its Operations and Planning auditors to be supplemental team members during CIP audit engagements by conducting training sessions for them to review NERC CIP Reliability Standards and evidence that can be used to demonstrate compliance with those Reliability Standards. The Operations and Planning auditors serve as supplemental team members for CIP audits on a rotational basis to increase their knowledge of CIP Reliability Standards.

FRCC tracks the on-going educational needs related to certifications for both CIP and Operations and Planning auditors. FRCC also develops an annual budget to support this training effort. During the assessment period, FRCC began using the *Compliance Auditor Capabilities and Competency Guide* recently developed by the ERO Enterprise,[39] as well as building a matrix to plan for and ensure training and development opportunities for the range of skills needed in the auditor positions. The FRCC audit team members participate in various auditor training sessions and workshops. FRCC audit staff members are required to attend NERC-sponsored ERO training.

Although FRCC is not presently using SMEs from outside the organization for its CIP or Operations and Planning audit engagements, FRCC has developed a procedure should it need to use such experts in the future. This procedure is titled *Procedure for the Use of Industry Volunteer Subject Matter Experts* and is posted alongside the *Nomination Form for the Industry Volunteer Subject Matter Expert Pool* on FRCC's website. This procedure guides FRCC compliance staff on the use of industry volunteer SMEs.

FRCC has adopted policies and procedures to avoid conflicts of interest in its CMEP work. During the assessment period, FRCC implemented an Annual Employee Recital and Disclosures process. Each FRCC employee receives a copy of the FRCC *Conflict of Interest Policy* and signs the *Conflict of Interest Questionnaire, Disclosure Statement of Stock Ownership of FRCC Member Companies*, and *Non-Disclosure Acknowledgement*. FRCC maintains a document titled *FRCC Auditor Objectivity, Independence and Impairment* on its public web page. This document provides, among other things, that auditors must remain free from "personal impairments to independence" that might cause auditors to limit the scope of their audit or alter audit findings.

Compliance Monitoring Tools and Procedures

FRCC utilizes a number of tools to execute its audits, several of which are highlighted in this section. FRCC uses an evidence index tool to catalogue evidence submitted throughout the audit process. FRCC references the evidence index numbers when referring to documentation during compliance audits and includes these references in its audit documentation. FRCC also developed its own tool for tracking additional evidence requests and for issuing follow-up data requests. These tools increase the efficiency of its audits by facilitating tracking. In addition to these tools, FRCC audit teams use several other standard auditor tools. For example, FRCC utilizes the RSAWs and the Regional Advanced Techniques Staff (RAT-STATS) sampling tool.

[39] *See ERO Enterprise Compliance Auditor Manual* (Auditor Manual) available at: http://www.nerc.com/pa/comp/Pages/ERO-Enterprise-Compliance-Auditor-Manual.aspx.

In 2012, FRCC developed its own risk assessment document to use as an interim step until NERC and the Regional Entity working groups create a template for ERO-wide use.

FRCC maintains copies of its *Compliance Audit Procedure*, *Spot Check Procedure*, and *Compliance Investigation Procedure* on its public web page. The procedures are reviewed periodically and updated as necessary. FRCC's Compliance Tracking and Submittal system (CTS) is also central to its compliance monitoring efforts. The database provides multiple functionality for entities registered in FRCC including:

(1) The ability to input and maintain registered entity contact information;

(2) The ability to submit and update CIP Technical Feasibility Exceptions (TFEs);

(3) The ability of FRCC Compliance staff to review draft registered entity compliance responses, such as mitigation plans, prior to submittal by the registered entity;

(4) The ability to submit compliance-related documentation; and

(5) The ability to allow the review of historical compliance submittals.

FRCC Compliance staff use a related software system called Compliance Information Tracking System (CITS) to store information related to processing of violations and mitigation plans. CITS is also used for developing reports for management, development of metrics and for supplying data to the NERC associated database.

Quality Assurance

After each compliance audit or spot check, the FRCC team involved conducts a lessons learned session focused on quality and process improvement. Action plans are developed to address these lessons learned. To ensure completeness and consistency, the manager of compliance audits reviews all audit reports before they are finalized and shared with NERC and the registered entity. FRCC Compliance staff have developed a number of internal procedures based upon the procedures and requirements identified in the NERC ROP. These procedures are reviewed on an annual basis and updated as necessary. These procedures are followed to ensure that FRCC Compliance staff implement compliance and enforcement activities in accordance with the guidance established by NERC and FERC.

Guidance and Training for Industry Stakeholders

FRCC utilizes its compliance workshops as the primary mechanism for outreach to its registered entities. In 2013, FRCC hosted two general compliance workshops (with an Operations and Planning focus) and one CIP compliance workshop. During these workshops, multiple techniques are used to increase the effectiveness of addressing current topics including use of registered entities to provide presentations on "best practices." Registered entities are encouraged to discuss compliance-related topics with auditors during small group breakout sessions. FRCC also conducts webinars on various topics of interest to registered entities throughout the year. Previous webinars covered topics such as preparing for an audit, enforcement process, audit approaches for specific Reliability Standards, the transition to Version 5 of the CIP Reliability

Standards, and the annual FRCC CMEP IP. FRCC also maintains a Frequently Asked Questions section on its website. FRCC Compliance staff participates in regular Regional Entity Committee and Compliance Forum (RECCF) meetings to disseminate the latest information regarding its compliance program to industry stakeholders. In addition FRCC CIP auditors are regularly scheduled on the agenda of the regional member services CIP Subcommittee meetings that are held monthly to address CIP monitoring processes and CIP audit approach issues.

Maintaining Confidentiality

There are strict confidentiality requirements associated with all CMEP activities.[40] FRCC follows the NERC CMEP to maintain the confidentiality of any complaint and maintains a link to NERC's complaint reporting page from the FRCC web site. FRCC ensures that its officers, directors, and employees with access to confidential data and information are under obligations of confidentiality pursuant to the *FRCC Confidentiality Policy*. Annually, all FRCC Compliance and Enforcement staff is trained on the *FRCC Confidentiality Policy*. FRCC has also implemented a secure vault system to receive electronic compliance evidence from registered entities. The vault system uses 256-bit advanced encryption standard (AES) cipher encryption to deliver evidence to FRCC. Access to the vault is restricted to Compliance staff and supporting IT staff, and CIP evidence is limited to viewing only in the vault.

Participation in RAI

FRCC Compliance staff have been involved in several aspects of RAI. FRCC provided a participant on the ERO Compliance and Enforcement Management Group (ECEMG) Manual Task Force (MTF) that developed the *Compliance Auditor Handbook* and associated *Compliance Auditor Checklist*, as found in the Auditor Manual. FRCC also provided personnel to aide in the training of auditors relative to the handbook and checklist at the ERO auditors workshop.

In January 2014, FRCC Enforcement staff began to triage and review all possible violations to determine the disposition method within 60 days on average. FRCC is participating in the piloting of an approach that allows selected registered entities to aggregate and submit periodically any possible minimum risk violations they may have for certain Reliability Standards and requirements.

FRCC Compliance staff have been involved with the pilot integration team that is reviewing the results of Regional Entity pilots concerning inherent risk assessment and internal controls evaluation to determine the ERO approach to scoping more risk-based compliance monitoring.

iii. Midwest Reliability Organization

Department Structure / Staffing / Conflict of Interest Avoidance

In 2009, MRO split its CMEP function into three distinct departments, each with its own assigned personnel: (i) Compliance; (ii) Risk Assessment and Mitigation; and (iii) Enforcement.

[40] *See* ROP §402.8 (NERC Oversight of the Regional Entity Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Programs — Confidentiality).

MRO Compliance staff conduct audits and spot checks of compliance with Reliability Standards by registered entities. Since 2009, MRO has expanded its Compliance staff from five to eight auditors, split evenly between Operations and Planning and CIP, with most of the additions being CIP auditors. MRO seeks to achieve a balance of skills in its Compliance department, including technical expertise and audit experience. This balance is achieved through hiring of staff with needed skillsets and experience (i.e., system planning, protection systems, or cybersecurity) as well as through supplemental training. Training on core skills, such as ethics or audit practices, is offered generally, while specific skill gaps or training needs are identified on an individual basis. MRO currently has Operations and Planning auditors who are all certified as either NERC system operators or registered professional engineers. CIP audit staff generally hold certifications, such as CISSP and CISA that align with Department of Defense requirements.[41]

MRO Risk Assessment and Mitigation staff undertake an independent review of the facts and circumstances surrounding each violation discovered by Compliance staff. They determine whether sufficient evidence supports each possible violation. Risk Assessment and Mitigation staff also work with the registered entity to develop an effective and comprehensive mitigation plan in the event that a violation is confirmed.

Confirmed violations move to the Enforcement department staff, who review recommendations made by Risk Assessment and Mitigation staff, verify all relevant facts, and evaluate appropriate enforcement actions. The factual review conducted by Risk Assessment and Mitigation and Enforcement staff is intended to ensure a consistent, accurate application of the NERC Reliability Standards. Through this segregation of duties, MRO seeks to establish independence among those making the findings, those assessing risk, and those determining and negotiating penalties and sanctions.

MRO has adopted policies and procedures to avoid conflicts of interest in its CMEP work and to ensure the independence of its staff. Those policies and procedures provide that:

(1) No MRO director or member of MRO committees may participate in any way in compliance violation investigations, compliance audits, reports, sanction determinations, or other matters within the CMEP.

(2) An MRO director or member of an MRO committee may engage in actions on behalf of his or her employer regarding a compliance monitoring and enforcement matter undertaken by MRO; however, that director or member of an MRO Committee must recuse himself or herself from any board or committee decisions, meetings, and actions related to that compliance monitoring and enforcement matter. Potential concerns about the participation of a MRO director or member of an MRO committee are brought to the attention of the president and chief executive officer who will seek an appropriate resolution of the matter with the advice and counsel of the independent directors.

[41] *See* Department of Defense Directive 8570.1, "Information Assurance Training, Certification, and Workforce Management" (August 15, 2004) available at: http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/corres/dir.html.

Compliance Monitoring Tools and Procedures

MRO uses 32 primary tools to execute its audits, four of which are highlighted in this section. A key guidance source for MRO is GAGAS, which provides a framework for conducting quality audits. MRO's primary audit template tool for documenting audit procedures, testing, findings and reports is its *Audit and Spot Check Process and Procedures* dated May 2012. This document consists of 31 templates and serves as a detailed roadmap and reference tool for MRO's Compliance staff to use during Operations and Planning and CIP audits as well as spot checks. The audit team also uses an FSAW audit workbook which is an MRO-specific tracking tool built on the RSAW for documenting audit work.[42] This tool facilitates evidence requests from registered entities as well as tracking of Reliability Standards to ensure that an audit proceeds in a timely fashion. This tool was updated in 2013 prior to its incorporation into the Auditor Manual.

MRO's web Compliance Database Management System (webCDMS) is also central to its compliance monitoring efforts. WebCDMS assists registered entities in documenting and submitting compliance information. The database provides multiple functionality including:

(1) Viewing Regional Entity and NERC requirements per a registered entity's function(s);

(2) Reviewing compliance information prior to submittal;

(3) Submitting compliance documentation;

(4) Generating compliance reports; and

(5) Tracking mitigation plans.

The webCDMS tool previously required each registered entity to use different logins and passwords. A recent enhancement to webCDMS provides the ability for a registered entity to logon and access webCDMS on behalf of multiple affiliated entities within a particular Regional Entity, using a single username, password, and webCARES digital certificate.

Quality Assurance

MRO relies on a number of tools to assist in its quality assurance efforts. Compliance staff perform peer reviews of audit documentation during audit fieldwork, in addition to reviews conducted by management and by non-Compliance personnel. Such reviews ensure the completeness of audit documentation and that any findings are consistent with the elements of a finding per GAGAS. In addition to audit documentation reviews, Compliance staff rely on "lessons learned" discussions and post-audit surveys of registered entities to help identify opportunities to improve compliance monitoring-related processes and to improve future interactions with registered entities. Finally, Compliance staff review audit findings with Risk Assessment and Mitigation staff to ensure consistent application of the NERC Reliability

[42] FRCC and WECC also have tools that mirror this tool.

Standards among MRO staff and across registered entities in the MRO footprint. All lessons learned are shared internally and, if more broadly applicable outside of MRO, with personnel from NERC and other Regional Entities.

Guidance and Training for Industry Stakeholders

MRO supports industry in developing compliance guidance in the form of Application Guides. Application Guides offer non-binding, training guidance regarding how to meet the requirements of existing and emerging Reliability Standards. They can include the following:

(1) Presentation materials developed by MRO member organizations who volunteer SMEs to the NERC SC;

(2) FERC comments relating to a Reliability Standard;

(3) Documentation and evidence demonstrating compliance; and

(4) References and source documents related to laws, policies, directives, instructions, Reliability Standards and guidelines.

MRO tracks the impact of Application Guides through trend analysis of Reliability Standard violations.

MRO's website contains posted compliance guidance directed to industry stakeholders, including content about internal controls, best practices for internal compliance programs, and aids to assist in compliance for specific and more challenging Requirements. Instructional materials informing stakeholders as to what they can expect and what professional audit standards they should anticipate for their compliance audits is made available on this site. Guidance is also offered to registered entities in their audit notification packets from MRO. With regard to small entities, MRO routinely communicates to the representatives of the applicable trade associations that their members should contact MRO directly with any concerns, including regulatory burden.

MRO holds at least two one-day workshops per year addressing reliability, compliance, and enforcement. In 2013, MRO also held a model building workshop to provide direction and instruction for those who are directly involved in the preparation and submittal of model data. MRO's bi-monthly newsletters have a regular column titled "Tips and Lessons Learned" which covers a wide range of topics from how to use webCDMS more effectively to changes in the procedures for requesting and processing TFEs. Occasionally, "Tips and Lessons Learned" are authored by registered entities covering topics like the CIP Version 5 transition study. MRO conducted its first webinar in 2014 and as part of its review of training initiatives, MRO will be asking its stakeholders for input on the use of webinars. MRO is not participating in any initiative with other Regional Entities to decrease or consolidate the number of announcements published for industry; however, MRO reports that in response to its stakeholder surveys, registered entities have generally encouraged MRO to communicate more, not less.

Maintaining Confidentiality

There are strict confidentiality requirements associated with all CMEP activities.[43] MRO follows the CMEP to maintain the confidentiality of any complaint and has a third-party hotline available to complainants to maintain anonymity. Complainants can contact MRO's chief compliance and ethics officer, who does not do any CMEP work, to maintain anonymity.

All data related to MRO's CMEP activities, particularly registered entity data that may be designated Critical Energy Infrastructure Information, are protected according to §1500 of the NERC ROP to ensure that confidentiality is maintained. Data is stored on a restricted network drive, to which access is granted on a need-to-know basis according to individuals' job responsibilities. Outside of the restricted drive, data may only be stored for limited periods of time on encrypted hard drives or IronKey-encrypted USB drives. When transferring data to or from registered entities, MRO makes use of a secure Enhanced File Transfer (EFT) server, which includes encryption both during transfer and while stored on the EFT server. The EFT server is also utilized for all data transfers involving NERC, FERC, or other Regional Entities.

Participation in RAI

As part of RAI, NERC has assisted with ensuring consistency among audits conducted by the Regional Entities by developing the Auditor Manual. MRO has already taken steps to follow the protocols established in the Auditor Manual. In particular, MRO has changed its protocol regarding independence of audit staff to conform to GAGAS. MRO has also indicated that it will fully adopt the Auditor Manual protocols.

iv. Northeast Power Coordinating Council, Inc.

Department Structure / Staffing / Conflict of Interest Avoidance

Activities performed pursuant to the CMEP are performed within the NPCC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement and Organization Registration and Certification (CORC) program. In total, NPCC's CORC program area consists of 16 employee positions. The CORC program is divided into two subprograms: (i) an Audits and Investigations subprogram and (ii) a Registration and Enforcement subprogram. The Audits and Investigations subprogram conducts audits, spot checks, and compliance investigations. It is comprised of eight staff employees. The Audits and Investigation subprogram utilizes approximately a dozen independent consultants in addition to NPCC employees. During an audit, spot check, or compliance investigation, the Audits and Investigation team makes a determination of whether a registered entity has any possible violations of NERC Reliability Standards, and provides NPCC enforcement staff with a final report.

The Registration and Enforcement subprogram is comprised of eight staff employees. The Registration and Enforcement subprogram reviews the audit, spot check, or compliance investigation report, and makes an independent evaluation of the facts and circumstances surrounding each possible violation identified in the report. Registration and Enforcement will

[43] *See* NERC ROP §402.8 (NERC Oversight of the Regional Entity Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Programs — Confidentiality).

determine whether sufficient evidence supports each possible violation and will work with the registered entity to develop an effective and comprehensive mitigation plan. Registration and Enforcement will also evaluate the appropriate enforcement actions, including sanctions and/or penalties.

Many NPCC audit team members individually have over 30 years of industry experience. Two audit team members are NERC-certified system operators and two are registered professional engineers. As described above, NPCC also relies on independent SME consultants who have no other industry obligations or conflicts of interest to perform compliance monitoring activities and to support any increases in its workload. NERC AAO staff recommends that NPCC consider having more audit staff become NERC-certified system operators.

NPCC audit team members participate in various auditor training sessions and workshops. All NPCC auditors attend at least one of the two annual NERC ERO compliance workshops to keep apprised of current topics and NERC initiatives affecting compliance. NPCC itself conducts four in-house auditor training sessions each year. In addition, NPCC auditors augment their training with annual required or suggested NERC training.

With respect to monitoring compliance with the CIP Reliability Standards, NPCC recruits employees with network systems protection experience. Two NPCC auditors have CISSP certifications and one auditor has physical security protection experience. NPCC examines the training that these auditors will need for the upcoming year or other future time frame and assures that its CIP auditors (both employees and consultants) receive the appropriate supplemental training, in addition to the regular training described above.

NPCC has adopted policies and procedures to avoid conflicts of interest in its CMEP work and to maintain the independence of its compliance staff. Those policies and procedures provide that each NPCC director, officer, and employee shall: (i) avoid and refrain from involvement in situations where there is an actual conflict of interest; (ii) disclose any actual or potential conflicts of interest that may arise; (iii) recuse himself or herself from participation in any action involving an actual or potential conflict of interest; and (iv) refrain from voting on any actions where there is an actual or potential conflict of interest.

Compliance Monitoring Tools and Procedures

NPCC utilizes a number of tools to execute its audits, several of which are highlighted in this section. NPCC instituted an improved process in order to facilitate its data reviews in both pre-audit and on-site phases. Its pre-audit process involves several rounds of questions and answers between NPCC and the registered entity relating to a subset of Reliability Standards within the audit scope. The NPCC auditor catalogs the data requests in an evidence tracking spreadsheet. Following this initial evidence review, NPCC provides the evidence tracking spreadsheets to the registered entity prior to on-site activities. During the on-site portion of the audit, the evidence tracking spreadsheets are used by the audit team to direct SME interviews and record additional questions and data requests determined throughout the interview process. NPCC also developed a change management process to ensure the integrity of evidence tracking spreadsheets. At the end of each day of the audit, the NPCC audit team reviews the updated evidence tracking spreadsheets with the registered entity in a debrief.

NPCC's Compliance Data Administration Application (CDAA) is central to its compliance monitoring efforts. All registered entities in NPCC are required to use the CDAA to submit self-certifications and self-reports. Information submitted into the CDAA is automatically placed into CITS. The CDAA database provides multiple functionality, including:

(1) Viewing Regional Entity and NERC requirements per a registered entity's function(s);

(2) Reviewing compliance information prior to submittal;

(3) Submitting compliance documentation;

(4) Generating compliance reports; and

(5) Tracking mitigation plans.

Quality Assurance

NPCC's audit processes are documented in its compliance procedures; these procedures are reviewed on a periodic basis.[44] Following the conclusion of every on-site and off-site audit, NPCC asks registered entities to complete a feedback form. NPCC's audit group reviews comments in order to assess how to improve its processes. NPCC chooses to include detailed information and justification for all audit conclusions in the nonpublic audit reports, including "No Finding" and "Not Applicable." NPCC performs a quality check of draft reports prior to sending them to registered entities for comment. As a result, NPCC does not always meet the 60-day timeline for issuance of audit reports. Additionally, in 2013, NPCC began assigning a minimum of two auditors, in addition to the audit manager, to each off-site audit. This allows the auditors to learn from each other and provides additional quality assurance. Prior to 2013, NPCC assigned a minimum of one auditor, in addition to the audit manager, to each off-site audit.

Guidance and Training for Industry Stakeholders

Since 2009, NPCC has provided the same level of resources for its Training, Education, and Operator Certification program. NPCC dedicated 0.1 FTE to its Training, Education, and Operator Certification program in 2009.[45] For 2013, NPCC also dedicated 0.1 FTE to this program.[46] NPCC utilizes its semi-annual standards and compliance workshops as its main mechanism for outreach to its registered entities, and these activities are budgeted in those respective program areas. NPCC also conducts webinars open to all NPCC registered entities on an as-needed basis. It also posts question-and-answer documents on its website as appropriate. NPCC responds to individual requests from registered entities, but if an individual concern can be applied to all registered entities, NPCC will post a *Compliance Guidance Statement* or clarification

[44] Available at: https://www.npcc.org/Compliance/Compliance%20Procedures/Forms/Public%20List.aspx.

[45] 2009 Business Plan and Budget, Northeast Power Coordinating Council, Inc., June 24, 2008.

[46] 2013 Business Plan and Budget, Northeast Power Coordinating Council, Inc., June 26, 2012.

to address that concern. NPCC hosts regular stakeholder-based Compliance Committee meetings to disseminate the latest information regarding the compliance program to industry stakeholders. Many of these regularly-scheduled meetings are hosted on a web conferencing platform to enable broad and cost-effective participation. NPCC also developed an internal entity guide to assist registered entities in meeting quarterly reporting requirements pursuant to PRC-004 and NERC ALR4-1.

In 2013, NPCC implemented a Physical Security Outreach program. Under this program, NPCC physical security SMEs performed physical security assessments for registered entities that have requested such assistance. NPCC has developed a new Cyber Security Outreach program for 2014.

Maintaining Confidentiality

There are strict confidentiality requirements[47] associated with all CMEP activities. NPCC follows the CMEP and §1500 of the NERC ROP to maintain the confidentiality of all confidential CMEP-related activities. Additionally, NPCC staff involved in CMEP-related activities have signed confidentiality agreements.

Participation in RAI

As part of the RAI initiative described in NERC's *Overview of NERC Activities and Accomplishments in the Five-Year Period*, NPCC participated in efforts to develop the Auditor Manual for the ERO. NPCC also participated in the RSAW Working Group to ensure commonality on audit approaches to the NERC Reliability Standards. NPCC senior management participated in the RAI workgroups charged with developing a framework for Entity Risk Assessment and Internal Control Assessment. NPCC also participates in various Regional Entity compliance and enforcement groups to further consistency in compliance applications across the Regional Entities.

v. ReliabilityFirst Corporation

Department Structure / Staffing / Conflict of Interest Avoidance

During the assessment period, three departments carried out ReliabilityFirst's CMEP functions: (i) Compliance Audits (handling audits and spot checks of compliance with Reliability Standards by registered entities);[48] (ii) Investigations and Compliance Services (handling compliance investigations, registration and certification, self-certifications and periodic data submittals, complaints, and industry training); and (iii) Enforcement (handling all aspects of

[47] *See* ROP §402.8 (NERC Oversight of the Regional Entity Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Programs — Confidentiality).

[48] Upon the implementation of the CIP Reliability Standards, Compliance Monitoring was subdivided into a CIP Compliance Audit department and an Operations and Planning Compliance Audit department.

enforcement actions, including fact and circumstance review, risk-harm assessment,[49] mitigation plan review and validation, and the negotiation and drafting of settlements and final disposition documents).

At the beginning of 2014, ReliabilityFirst reorganized its compliance structure in order to more clearly focus around risk and to support RAI. Presently, ReliabilityFirst's Compliance Monitoring group handles compliance audits, spot checks, investigations, and complaints, and is subdivided into two departments: (i) a CIP Compliance Monitoring department and (ii) an Operations and Planning Compliance Monitoring department. ReliabilityFirst created a new Reliability Assurance and Monitoring group, which is comprised of three departments: (i) Entity Development (which conducts assist visits, appraisals, certifications, and entity training); (ii) Risk Analysis & Mitigation (which conducts risk-harm assessments, handles mitigation activities, and conducts risk-based assessments, event analyses, and analytics); and (iii) Standards and Services (which is responsible for Reliability Standards, registration, self-certifications and data submittals). ReliabilityFirst's Enforcement group is now housed under Legal & Regulatory Affairs.

ReliabilityFirst's Compliance department (consisting of the Compliance Monitoring and Reliability Assurance and Monitoring groups) consists of 33 positions. Many employees within those positions have at least 15 years of industry experience. Additionally, many of ReliabilityFirst's compliance staff are registered professional engineers, and many are NERC-certified system operators. ReliabilityFirst's CIP auditors have extensive experience in information technology and cybersecurity and hold various security, audit, and IT certifications.

ReliabilityFirst requires regular training for its Compliance staff. ReliabilityFirst's Compliance Audit Procedure has specific training requirements that its audit team members must complete prior to attending an audit. ReliabilityFirst audit team participants and ReliabilityFirst observers must complete all required NERC auditor training courses. All ATLs must complete the *Fundamentals of Auditing for NERC Compliance Team Leaders* and *Gathering Quality Evidence* modules. All other audit team participants must complete the *Fundamentals of Auditing for NERC Compliance Audit Team Members* and *Gathering Quality Evidence* modules. Audit team members participate in various auditor training sessions and workshops. ReliabilityFirst sends its auditors to NERC-led training events whenever they occur. ReliabilityFirst also holds its own staff training week during which it provides on-site training to all staff members, including auditors. For example, during the 2013 ReliabilityFirst training week, ReliabilityFirst's Operations and Planning auditors received training on protection systems, while its CIP auditors received training on various cybersecurity issues. All auditors received training on the evaluation and communication of risk and using risk-based criteria in informed decision-making.

ReliabilityFirst has adopted policies and procedures to avoid conflicts of interest in its CMEP work in order to maintain the independence of its compliance staff. All ReliabilityFirst employees, contractors, and directors are governed by the ReliabilityFirst *Conflict of Interest Policy*, the *ReliabilityFirst Code of Business Conduct and Ethics*, and §1500 of the NERC ROP.

[49] To enhance its risk determination process in enforcement, ReliabilityFirst developed a risk-harm assessment process which, among other things, requests technical experts to answer a series of questions about the risk and harm posed by each violation using a common scale to ascertain a quantified risk assessment.

Its employees and contractors must sign and adhere to nondisclosure and confidentiality agreements and complete conflict of interest forms. ReliabilityFirst does not allow stakeholder participation in its compliance or enforcement activities. Further, ReliabilityFirst does not allow its industry sector directors to participate in settlement discussions with ReliabilityFirst on behalf of their Registered Entity.[50]

Compliance Monitoring Tools and Procedures

ReliabilityFirst utilizes a number of tools to execute its audits, several of which are highlighted in this section. During the assessment period, ReliabilityFirst implemented changes to its compliance monitoring processes and tools to ensure that they are consistent with NERC guidance, other Regional Entities, and GAGAS.

Most entities in the ReliabilityFirst footprint utilize an application called "Color-Code-It" to make evidence submittals which saves audit teams considerable review time and helps ensure a comprehensive and a focused audit or spot check. Use of this application also allows registered entities to organize and monitor their own compliance, maintain internal controls, and reduce the burden of compliance monitoring.

ReliabilityFirst uses a pre-audit review period to review evidence submittals, seek additional information, make compliance determinations, and develop a focused requirement listing to be addressed at the audit review. Audit reviews are typically scheduled two to three weeks prior to the audit. ReliabilityFirst believes that this improvement has provided the time to do a very comprehensive audit and maintain focus on items which need more attention or clarification.

During the assessment period, ReliabilityFirst began to develop and implement an audit management system. This system will allow ReliabilityFirst to manage audits, spot checks, and potentially other monitoring processes of an entity in one application. The software resembles a project management system and has been developed to follow the various steps of an audit checklist, such as planning, pre-audit review, production, reporting and metrics. This system provides auditors with a structured format to follow and help to ensure consistency and completeness in each audit that is performed.

ReliabilityFirst has developed and implemented a risk-based assessment process. This process was initiated in June 2011. During the risk-based assessment process, a designated cross-functional team[51] conducts a risk assessment of a registered entity and makes recommendations to help shape the scope and focus of the registered entity's upcoming compliance audits and/or spot checks. During the assessment, the team evaluates the potential impact of the registered entity on the BPS based upon various factors, including the registered entity's registration, size, location, technical characteristics (e.g., existence of special protection systems), organizational makeup, compliance history and culture, and trends and emerging risks in the industry. ReliabilityFirst implemented this process based on guidance from NERC. ReliabilityFirst will refine the risk-

[50] *See* 2014 Joint Regional Entity Self-Assessment (JRESA) Appendix 2-C at 21.

[51] This cross functional team includes representatives from the ReliabilityFirst engineering, compliance audit, compliance enforcement, and reliability assurance departments.

based assessment process further throughout 2014 to develop a comparable, repeatable process that is aligned with efforts being undertaken under RAI.

ReliabilityFirst's webCDMS system is central to its compliance monitoring efforts. ReliabilityFirst uses webCDMS as its information management tool to collect securely, track, and monitor compliance information from its registered entities. The database provides multiple functionality including:

(1) Linking Regional Entity and NERC requirements to a registered entity's function(s);

(2) Allowing registered entities to review compliance information prior to submittal;

(3) Allowing registered entities to submit compliance documentation, including self-reports, self-certifications, and mitigation plans;

(4) Allowing ReliabilityFirst and registered entities to generate compliance reports; and

(5) Allowing ReliabilityFirst to track mitigation plans.

Quality Assurance

ReliabilityFirst's quality assurance processes are contained within its internal compliance procedures, which ReliabilityFirst reviews on a periodic basis. The ReliabilityFirst Audit Procedure requires ReliabilityFirst to follow a multi-layered quality review process for its draft audit reports, which includes peer reviews and management reviews. The ReliabilityFirst Audit Procedure also requires ReliabilityFirst to ask entities to provide feedback on the audit process and any other concerns they may have, using a feedback form. ReliabilityFirst then uses the feedback and concerns for quality assurance and continuous improvement.

Guidance and Training for Industry Stakeholders

Since 2009, ReliabilityFirst increased its training resources for its Training, Education, and Operator Certification program, which provides continuing education hours through the NERC Continuing Education program. ReliabilityFirst dedicated 0.05 FTE to its Training, Education, and Operator Certification program in 2009.[52] For 2013, ReliabilityFirst increased training resources to 3.1 FTEs.[53]

ReliabilityFirst uses several different methods to communicate with and train its registered entities. ReliabilityFirst has implemented an "Assist Visit" program. Under this program, a registered entity may request a one-on-one or small group meeting where ReliabilityFirst provides guidance on compliance-related activities. Assist Visits can be in the form of a conference call, web meeting, or on-site visit, and topics can range from helping a registered entity become more

[52] 2009 Business Plan and Budget, ReliabilityFirst Corporation, August 13, 2008.

[53] 2013 Business Plan and Budget, ReliabilityFirst Corporation, June 22, 2012.

familiar with general compliance-related material and activities to specific guidance on an area of concern. ReliabilityFirst has prepared and implemented an internal policy and procedure that requires it to internally document Assist Visit training activities to extrapolate and share generic lessons learned where appropriate. The policy and procedure ensures that ReliabilityFirst documents its Assist Visit training activities in a uniform manner, which will help it better distill Assist Visits into useful lessons learned to share with ReliabilityFirst stakeholders where appropriate.

ReliabilityFirst also provides a monthly newsletter to approximately 600 compliance contacts at its registered entities. This newsletter provides registered entities with news and information relating to reliability and compliance activities. In addition, ReliabilityFirst provides a monthly compliance update letter that provides the registered entities with any changes made to the compliance monitoring schedule and the due dates of compliance submittals. ReliabilityFirst's public website provides a number of compliance and technical materials to assist registered entities in their compliance program implementation.

ReliabilityFirst also hosts bi-annual compliance workshops and periodic webinars throughout the year to train registered entities on compliance processes, reliability initiatives, and the Reliability Standards. In addition, ReliabilityFirst holds a monthly conference call with web presentation capabilities for registered entities; this monthly call is an open forum for registered entities to voice concerns, ask questions, and receive information.

Maintaining Confidentiality

ReliabilityFirst has a variety of security measures in place that are designed to protect confidential compliance information. All ReliabilityFirst laptops have encrypted hard drives, minimizing the risk of confidential information being disclosed in the event of a lost or stolen laptop. ReliabilityFirst requires employees to change the passwords on their laptops every 90 days, and requires work phones to be password protected. ReliabilityFirst's offices have physical security measures including badge readers and access badges for all employees. Visitors must be escorted by ReliabilityFirst employees in nonpublic areas of the offices.

ReliabilityFirst uses a confidential and secure extranet website to exchange documents with a registered entity during a compliance monitoring process or an enforcement action. To provide another layer of protection, ReliabilityFirst encrypts sensitive documents.

There are strict confidentiality requirements[54] associated with the investigation of any complaints regarding such potential violations of Reliability Standards. ReliabilityFirst follows the CMEP to maintain the confidentiality of any complainant and maintains a complaint reporting form on its web page.

[54] *See* NERC ROP §402.8 (NERC Oversight of the Regional Entity Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Programs — Confidentiality).

Participation in RAI

ReliabilityFirst participated in the conceptualization, development, testing, and integration of several RAI programs. ReliabilityFirst led a series of pilot programs to test the evaluation of internal controls at registered entities using an appraisal process. As part of the RAI, ReliabilityFirst participated in efforts to develop the Auditor Manual. ReliabilityFirst also participated in the RSAW Working Group to ensure commonality on audit approaches to the NERC Reliability Standards. In the enforcement area, ReliabilityFirst staff participated in the Aggregation of Minimal Risk Issues pilot program, maintaining the sole MRRE log. Additionally, ReliabilityFirst staff participated in the Enforcement Discretion pilot program and served on the *ERO Self-Report User Guide* and *ERO Enterprise Mitigation Plan Guide* drafting teams. Further, ReliabilityFirst staff participated in the process to develop improvements for the compliance and enforcement oversight of MRREs. Finally, ReliabilityFirst participates in various Regional Entity compliance and enforcement groups to further consistency in compliance applications across the Regional Entities.

vi. SERC Reliability Corporation

Department Structure / Staffing / Conflict of Interest Avoidance

SERC's CMEP function is split into two departments, (i) Compliance and (ii) Enforcement, each with its own assigned personnel. SERC Compliance staff utilize off-site and on-site audits, spot checks, and other compliance monitoring methods to assess registered entity compliance with NERC Reliability Standards. Compliance is also responsible for registering users, owners, and operators of the BPS and for certifications. Compliance staff prepare detailed reports on each audit and make recommendations to Enforcement about possible violations of NERC Reliability Standards.

SERC Enforcement staff undertake an independent review of the facts and circumstances surrounding each possible violation discovered by Compliance staff or through the other discovery methods. If a sufficient basis exists, then Enforcement staff determine the complete scope of the violation and the actual and potential risk to the reliability of the BPS. The segregation of duties between Compliance and Enforcement staff establishes independence between those making the findings and those determining and negotiating penalties and sanctions.

In 2009, SERC had six Operations and Planning auditors and two CIP auditors. In 2014, SERC has seven Operations and Planning auditors and eight CIP auditors. SERC Operations and Planning audit team members possess the education, industry experience and technical expertise in planning and real-time operations necessary to conduct audits. Several of the Operations and Planning auditors are NERC-certified system operators. Many of the SERC CIP audit team members possess physical security or information security credentials, professional engineering licenses, and/or industry experience. For Operations and Planning audits, SERC audit teams work in two groups. One group reviews audit evidence for NERC operations Reliability Standards and the other group reviews evidence for planning Reliability Standards. For CIP audits, SERC audit teams also work in two groups. One group reviews evidence for physical security Reliability Standards and the other group reviews evidence for cybersecurity Reliability Standards. Each group has a lead moderator and a scribe.

SERC uses industry subject matter experts (ISMEs) from various registered entities that are members of SERC as participants in the audit team. The ISMEs help the audit team to review evidence, and provide insight into issues that the audit team may encounter throughout the audit process. While ISMEs are involved in every aspect of the audit, including interviews of the audited entity's SMEs, they are not voting members of the audit team. ISMEs bring knowledge of the latest changes that are occurring within industry and in the individual ISME's organization. ISMEs are required to sign nondisclosure agreements and complete a conflict of interest form. SERC reviews the conflict of interest forms before assigning ISMEs to audits. If a conflict exists or there is the appearance of a conflict, SERC will assign an ISME to an audit of a different registered entity.

SERC audit team members participate in various SERC internal auditor training sessions, consultant-provided auditor training sessions, NERC auditor training modules, NERC audit team lead training, and ERO auditor workshops. NERC uses training accountability databases to confirm the credentials of audit team members. SERC requires all audit team members to complete "Just-In-Time" training if the audit team member has not completed appropriate training in the last 90 days. The purpose of this training is to refresh fundamental concepts of auditing and thereby supplement that which is required by NERC. This additional training is an excellent method to re-enforce the importance of quality evidence and documentation during the audit process.

Cross-training is also an important feature of auditor training at SERC. Early in the assessment period, SERC utilized CIP auditors as scribes during Operations and Planning audits so that the CIP auditors would have an opportunity to learn the audit process and approach with Operations and Planning Reliability Standards. SERC auditors have also participated on audit teams in other Regional Entity footprints to cross-train and learn.

To determine the skill level required for auditors, SERC relies on feedback from existing audit staff, the input and experiences of NERC and the other Regional Entities, and changes in the Reliability Standards and industry. SERC anticipates training needs by looking at gaps that exist in the audit teams and focuses training on addressing those gaps. SERC considers the direction in which the ERO and other Regional Entities are moving and, if needed, adapts its training plans and desired skill sets to address those needs. SERC also considers new or revised Reliability Standards and the audit approaches associated with them, and provides training if necessary. SERC also listens to what the auditors identify as useful training and development opportunities and allows them to pursue relevant opportunities to strengthen their skills.

SERC has a documented conflict of interest policy which applies to all SERC staff. The conflict of interest policy requires SERC staff to provide an annual update of any employment or director or officer relationships with SERC registered entities, financial interests in any businesses from the energy sector other than SERC, and any business relationships with energy sector businesses other than SERC by the SERC employee or members of the employee's immediate household. SERC personnel with a financial interest in a registered entity or any other current conflict are not allowed to review, discuss, or participate in compliance or enforcement activities.

Compliance Monitoring Tools and Procedures

SERC utilizes a number of tools to execute its audits, several of which are highlighted in this section. As an overarching procedure in completing and tracking the audit progress, SERC uses its audit event tracking spreadsheet. In this spreadsheet, SERC details the actions required to successfully administer an audit and notes the completion of milestones. Registered entities use an internet-based portal for the transmission of audit information and the audit RSAWs and pre-audit questionnaires. During on-site audits and throughout the period leading up to the audit, SERC utilizes email notifications, worksheet summaries, and spreadsheet tables for tracking the review of evidence and for delivering updates to the registered entity and audit team members. SERC also uses established ERO auditor tools, including the RAT-STATS sampling tool and RSAWs. SERC also uses a pre-populated spreadsheet to document the review status for each requirement, including data requests and follow-up questions to be asked on-site. The SERC audit team uses a tool called an audit workbook. This workbook accounts for each of the Reliability Standards and associated requirements that compose the audit scope, any outstanding data requests, and a list of ongoing findings by the audit team.

Until 2013, SERC did not perform formal pre-audit reviews. The absence of a formal pre-audit review is an area of concern because formal pre-audit reviews and the opportunity to thoroughly review documentation would provide SERC with more time to investigate exceptions to audit procedures. It also helps to ensure that sufficient evidence is collected. In 2013, SERC began conducting pre-audit reviews of evidence submittals, which allowed audit teams to better prepare for audits and seek additional information as needed before arriving on-site. Audit reviews are typically scheduled two to three weeks prior to an audit. These efforts have allowed SERC to reduce its time on-site, thereby reducing the burden on the registered entity, and ensure that the on-site audit focuses less on preliminary data collection and more on reviewing higher risk issues and areas where additional clarification is needed.

While SERC has a comprehensive process for registered entity assessment and audit scoping, the associated documentation supporting this process was not thorough until recently. Maintaining thorough audit scoping documentation is an auditing best practice per GAGAS. Adequate scoping helps justify auditng the areas that pose potential risk to the BPS. Starting in mid-2013, SERC conducts an inherent risk assessment and internal controls review (if appropriate) of the registered entity to determine the audit scope and scale. This includes a review of registered entity compliance history, events and misoperations history, registered entity specific data, regional factors affecting reliability, legal or regulatory issues affecting compliance, and public information about the reliability impact of the registered entity. Detailed audit scoping will enable SERC management to better supervise and assess audits. SERC is now actively working to build GAGAS audit principles into its audit process. SERC's sampling methodology could be improved by integrating NERC's *Sampling Methodology Guidelines and Criteria* in order to avoid inconsistency in identifying and quantifying population, sample sizes, sample selection and lack of documentation memorializing sampling procedures and to avoid incorrect conclusions.

SERC tracks mitigation plans in CITS, a compliance information tracking system used by SERC, FRCC, and NPCC. CITS allows SERC to track mitigation plans submitted by registered entities, any revisions requested by SERC, and certifications of mitigation plan completion. SERC works with registered entities to answer questions about SERC's expectations for mitigation plans

and encourages them to submit mitigation plans in a timely manner. SERC occasionally asks registered entities to submit revised mitigation plans when the proposed mitigation plan milestones would result in an extended period of noncompliance that would pose an additional risk to the reliability of the BPS.

SERC presently is unable to consolidate its compliance and reliability assessment portals because they are hosted on separate systems. SERC is exploring an enhancement to these portals that that will provide a registered entity with a summary of all forms (Compliance, Reliability Assessments, and Reliability Services) due for that entity. This will allow users to navigate between both portals to complete the required filings.

SERC develops an annual reporting schedule which identifies required periodic data submittals. Once the matrix is developed, SERC posts it to its website and Compliance Portal, and notifies its registered entities. The Compliance Portal automatically assigns the applicable periodic data submittals to each registered entity's portal site, based on the schedule, identifying the due dates. SERC monitors the submittal of each periodic data submittal using a reporting tool and issues a notification to the registered entity's designated contacts for any periodic data submittals that have not been submitted to SERC. The data received from the periodic data submittals are reviewed and any potential noncompliance issues are documented and reported to Enforcement.

Quality Assurance

SERC's internal process requires a management review within two weeks of an audit engagement, and prior to the audit exit briefings before a decision is made with respect to the registered entity's compliance with NERC Reliability Standards. The management review evaluates the significant judgments made by the audit team and the related conclusions reached in forming the overall conclusion on the engagement. SERC Enforcement staff reviews the audit team's findings of noncompliance and makes a final determination before notifying the registered entity and NERC of any possible violations.

SERC Compliance staff meet weekly and discuss lessons learned after each audit. If appropriate, a plan is developed for any areas that need changes or improvements internally. SERC also develops lessons learned as part of its outreach efforts and these are shared with registered entities. The Operations and Planning and CIP audit groups each have a point of contact for their respective areas who are made aware of any trends or important information that they feel should be communicated to SERC registered entities. A brief description and observations are written and posted quarterly on a dedicated area of the SERC website where registered entities can review it.

SERC has a document retention policy that requires audit documents be maintained for seven years. SERC has a document management system with a retention policy service that allows for the configuration of retention policies. The system also requires administrative permissions to delete documents, files, and folders.

Guidance and Training for Industry Stakeholders

Since 2009, SERC increased its training resources for its Training, Education, and Operator Certification program, which provides continuing education hours through the NERC Continuing

Education program. SERC dedicated 1.4 FTE to its Training, Education, and Operator Certification program in 2009.[55] In 2013, SERC delivered its training program through 2.41 FTEs.[56]

A catalog of all SERC outreach and training has been posted to the home page of the SERC website. Three compliance seminars are held annually with one focused exclusively on CIP topics. In addition, periodic Open Forum WebEx sessions are scheduled along with focused webinars on new and/or revised Reliability Standards and changes in regulatory policy such as the new BES definition process. Specific training on SERC policy changes and enhancement to tools offered to registered entities is also conducted on an as-needed basis. The majority of outreach events are offered via WebEx, and recordings are posted to the SERC website. Select events also offer the opportunity to attend in person and/or earn continuing education hours.

The SERC Training, Education, and Operator Certification program provides education and training necessary to understand and operate the BPS. The target audience of the program is BPS operating personnel – including system operations personnel, operations support personnel (engineering and information technology), supervisors and managers, and training personnel. The program held four system operator conferences in 2013, a wide area restoration drill, and several standard-focused webinars and workshops. The program also supports SERC staff training and development as well as the administration of records necessary to maintain status as a NERC continuing education provider. The majority of outreach events are offered via WebEx, and recordings are posted to the SERC website. Select events also offer the opportunity to attend in person and/or earn continuing education hours.

SERC outreach has conducted small entity workshops specifically focusing on topics of interest to smaller registered entities. An informal group consisting of representatives from four small entities is consulted as to what topics are appropriate and of interest to them. The annual *SERC Filing Due Dates* document is posted to the SERC website in Excel format to make it easy for entities to sort by registered function in order to determine what compliance filings are due and when. An email address (serccomply@serc1.org) is available, and publicized in all outreach materials, for entities to contact SERC with any questions they may have.

Maintaining Confidentiality

SERC has a variety of security measures in place that are designed to protect confidential compliance information. All SERC laptops have encrypted hard drives, minimizing the risk of confidential information being disclosed in the event of a lost or stolen laptop. SERC requires employees to change the passwords on their laptops every 90 days. SERC requires work phones to be password protected and these phones can be remotely wiped. SERC's offices have physical security measures including badge readers, access badges for all employees, and video cameras at all entrances and exits. Visitors must be escorted by SERC employees in nonpublic areas of the offices.

[55] 2009 Business Plan and Budget, SERC Reliability Corporation, July 9, 2008.

[56] 2013 Business Plan and Budget, SERC Reliability Corporation, July 11, 2012.

In addition, SERC implemented a Protected Entity Information (PEI) program in 2012 to handle confidential CIP information and other protected entity information. This PEI program was implemented in order to allow registered entities to provide SERC with CIP and other confidential information without SERC having to visit registered entities' sites. The PEI program protects this information using standards at least as strict as those in the CIP Reliability Standards. Access to PEI information is restricted to those SERC employees with a need to know who have taken cybersecurity awareness training within the past year and have passed SERC-initiated background checks within the previous seven years. In addition, SERC logs and controls physical access to the hardware used for the PEI program. SERC also logs and controls electronic access to the PEI information stored on that hardware, which is encrypted at rest.

Participation in RAI

A key focus of SERC's strategic plan for 2013-2015 is to develop, advocate, and support RAI. SERC has established a plan to implement audit function structural improvements to produce more effective, efficient audits that recognize BPS reliability risk. By incorporating risk principles in the planning and execution of compliance engagements, in conjunction with broader RAI outcomes, the focus of SERC and its registered entities will shift towards identification and mitigation of risks to reliability – preventing uncontrolled, unplanned cascading events. Scoping and timing of monitoring activities will move from a mechanical approach (fixed set of entities monitored for a pre-established set of Reliability Standards on a pre-defined frequency) to a risk-based approach customized around SERC-specific reliability issues and tailored to the specific registered entity. Through more extensive information analysis and dialogue with registered entities, SERC staff will seek to fully understand risk and the registered entity's management practices and controls employed to obtain reasonable assurance of the reliable operation of the BPS. Based on this more proactive review and assessment, SERC will adjust the scope and frequency of its compliance monitoring activities with respect to the specific registered entity.

Throughout 2013, SERC worked with an inter-regional team to develop the *Compliance Auditor Handbook* that describes a uniform process for implementing the *Compliance Auditor Checklist*. In addition, SERC piloted a new approach to risk assessments and auditing practices that permits more focused attention and resources on those issues that present the greatest risk to the BPS. Currently, SERC is working with all eight Regional Entities to develop a common methodology to identify and assess risk in a manner consistent with GAGAS criteria.

vii. Southwest Power Pool Regional Entity

Department Structure / Staffing / Conflict of Interest Avoidance

The SPP RE CMEP is administered by the SPP RE direct staff organized into three groups: (i) Compliance Monitoring - Operations and Planning; (ii) Compliance Monitoring - CIP; and (iii) Enforcement. The Compliance groups are responsible for registering BPS owners, operators, and users, and monitoring and assessing registered entity compliance with the approved Reliability Standards. The Compliance groups make the initial determination of a registered entity's compliance or noncompliance by performing audits, spot checks, and reviews of self-identified violations. The SPP RE Enforcement group reviews the Compliance groups' findings of noncompliance, notifies registered entities and NERC of possible violations, reviews and verifies

registered entity mitigation plans, determines proposed monetary penalties and non-monetary sanctions, and participates in settlement negotiations. To meet its RDA and ROP obligations and its goals, SPP RE has increased its Compliance and Enforcement staff and its budget.

All SPP RE auditors are required to attend various SPP RE internal auditor training sessions, consultant-provided auditor training sessions, NERC auditor training modules, NERC ATL training, and ERO auditor workshops. Out of the ten personnel assigned to the Compliance groups, one is a NERC-certified system operator, five are certified information system auditors, and four are registered professional engineers.

SPP RE requires all auditors participating in an audit to undergo a conflict of interest review to identify any potential conflicts of interest between an auditor and the registered entity. Similarly, SPP RE also created a *Contractor Conflict of Interest Audit Procedure* that establishes due diligence requirements for the review of contractor conflicts of interest, validates and documents requirements concerning gaps in contractor employment, and identifies contract consulting history.

Compliance Monitoring Tools and Procedures

SPP RE utilizes numerous tools to facilitate its audits, several of which are highlighted here. SPP RE's audit teams maintain an audit workbook to facilitate evidence request tracking. SPP RE also uses a compliance pre-audit survey, an audit opening and closing presentation template, an operator interview questions template, and a control center checklist template. For CIP audits, SPP RE has implemented the use of a Network Access Policy Tool (NetAPT), which helps auditors with the visualization of the registered entity's network architecture. SPP RE also utilizes a secure file transfer protocol (FTP) server (EFT server) to facilitate the upload and continuous protection of audit evidence.

Quality Assurance

SPP RE's audit process requires all members of the audit team to participate in the review of evidence and SME interviews. The auditors collectively determine a registered entity's compliance with NERC Reliability Standards. All audit findings are reviewed and approved by SPP RE management. After the Compliance group completes a preliminary screen of a potential noncompliance, it enters the potential noncompliance into SPP RE's webCDMS, and notifies the registered entity and NERC of the potential noncompliance. The Compliance group and the Enforcement group then convene a hand-off meeting to discuss the audit findings. If the Enforcement group determines that sufficient evidence exists to support a possible violation, then the Enforcement group sends the registered entity a notice of a possible violation. The Enforcement group conducts a thorough secondary review of all possible violations before final disposition of a registered entity's noncompliance.

Guidance and Training for Industry Stakeholders

The SPP RE Outreach staff works closely with the SPP Regional Transmission Organization (RTO) Outreach and Training staff to coordinate an array of training opportunities for all of the registered entities in the SPP RE footprint. In 2013, SPP RE and SPP RTO provided approximately 25,000 continuing education hours of training to over 1,800 participants.

Additionally, training related to Reliability Standards and compliance activities was provided to over 700 participants on webinars, over 800 participants at workshops and over 1,200 participants on conference calls.[57] All SPP RE workshops and webinars are free and open to the public. SPP RE frequently provides speakers to industry groups such as the Registered Entity SME conferences, executive conferences, and numerous SPP RTO technical groups and committees.

SPP RE continues to add to its library of training videos,[58] publish e-newsletters, and organize lessons learned educational sessions. SPP RE has worked to refine its workshop logistics and presentations, and continues to update the SPP RE webpages with relevant compliance materials. SPP RE's CIP Compliance team made an effort in 2013 to ensure registered entities undergoing a CIP audit understood that, as permitted by GAGAS, the SPP RE audit teams perform outreach activities during the course of the audit. This practice is communicated in the initial audit notice to the registered entity. The ATL periodically communicates with the registered entity during the pre-audit stage to gauge the effectiveness of outreach activities. If the entity is receptive to the outreach, this practice is reiterated during the opening audit presentation.

Maintaining Confidentiality

The SPP RE audit team strictly follows SPP RE's policies and procedures for the custody of confidential audit material. To ensure that the confidentiality of registered entity audit documents is maintained, SPP RE's uses a secure EFT server for storing the registered entity's data during the audit period. To provide yet another layer of protection, SPP RE stores all evidence documents in encrypted form.

Participation in RAI

SPP RE designated two SPP RE auditors as members of the ECEMG MTF that developed the Auditor Manual. In addition, SPP RE designated one SPP RE auditor as a member of the Pilot Evaluation Committee, and two auditors participated as observers during the ReliabilityFirst entity risk assessment pilot for American Electric Power Service Corporation. SPP RE designated three auditors as members of the RSAW Task Force RAI project, where they assisted in the development of new RSAW templates and a Compliance Application Notice conversion process for the new RSAWs. As a member of the Enforcement Functional Group, SPP RE helped draft the *ERO Enterprise Mitigation Plan Guide* and provided input during the development of the NERC Aggregation and Compliance Exception pilot programs. Internally, SPP RE has taken steps to facilitate the Compliance Exception process by adopting changes to its webCDMS and by implementing a triage process for the screening of incoming compliance issues to identify candidates for compliance exception. A SPP RE registered entity is also participating in the CIP Version 5 transition study to identify issues related to the transition from CIP Version 3 to CIP

[57] *See 2013 Compliance Outreach Report* (December 3, 2013), which was discussion item 3H at the December 10, 2013 SPP RTO Board of Directors/Members Committee meeting, available at: http://www.spp.org/publications/BODAGD&BKGD121013.pdf.

[58] SPP RE's video library received the Bronze Quill Award of Merit from the International Associated of Business Communications, Arkansas Chapter (April 2014), available at: http://vimeopro.com/sppcompliance/re.

Version 5. SPP RE CIP Compliance staff is working closely with the registered entity to identify and document transition compliance issues. SPP RE has provided training on the RAI program during its workshops and continues to support RAI by conducting outreach as RAI unfolds.

viii. Texas Reliability Entity, Inc.

Department Structure / Staffing / Conflict of Interest Avoidance

During the assessment period, Texas RE increased its compliance audit staff from 13 to 19 employees, and increased its registration and certification staff from one to two employees plus a supervising director. Audit teams typically consist of the ATL, a dedicated clerk, and team members auditing a subset of requirements included in the audit scope. Many audit team members have over 20 years of industry experience. In 2012, NERC determined that Texas RE needed to increase its CIP audit staffing levels to ensure its continued ability to perform compliance monitoring activities. Since then, Texas RE has increased its dedicated CIP audit staff from four to five employees and cross-trained several Operations and Planning auditors to assist with the workload.

Texas RE auditors participate in various Texas RE internal auditor training sessions, consultant-provided auditor training sessions, NERC auditor training modules, NERC audit team lead training, and ERO auditor workshops. Texas RE has published an audit procedure manual, which contains procedures for confidentiality, training, conflict of interest, and a procedure related to confirmation that the auditor has completed approved training. Texas RE employees must attend ethics and confidentiality training annually and sign agreements confirming that they will disclose any potential conflicts of interest and maintain the confidentiality of registered entity information. During Texas RE's audits, ATLs confirm that confidentiality and ethics agreements have been signed by all audit team members.

Compliance Monitoring Tools and Procedures

Texas RE utilizes a number of tools to execute its audits, several of which are highlighted in this section. Texas RE's compliance management tools, specifically its audit planning publications, audit procedures, audit agenda, and audit team expectations document, serve to organize the responsibilities of each audit team member, provide audit timelines, and include a comprehensive achievement matrix of audit milestones.

Texas RE audit teams utilize NERC's *Actively Monitored List of Reliability Standards* (AML) to identify requirements applicable to the audited entity and to scope audits. They use NERC's RSAWs and Texas RE's CMEP guidelines, which are sometimes used to expand the scope of an audit and include Regional Entity-specific reliability compliance requirements. They also employ a RAT-STATS statistical tool to select testing samples and create a workbook addressing each audited compliance requirement. Texas RE developed a CIP audit checklist used during the walk-though portions of a CIP audit to identify critical assets, critical cyber Assets, access points, and all other cyber assets within the electronic security perimeter. Texas RE's CIP audit checklist tool ensures that all areas of audit concern are addressed. Additional examples of audit tools used during on-site audits and throughout the period leading up to an audit include

email notifications, worksheet summaries, and spreadsheet tables for tracking evidence, and for delivering updates to the registered entity and to audit team members.

One of the notable improvements in the auditing process was Texas RE's implementation of webCDMS software in 2012, which allowed it to eliminate the manual tracking and reporting processes and synchronize document submission with NERC's database. Texas RE has also updated its audit desk procedures to ensure that auditors are using uniform processes to determine the scope of audits, notify entities of audits, document audit findings, and ensure that draft audit findings are reviewed by management before being sent to registered entities.

Quality Assurance

Texas RE's audits are led by the Texas RE ATLs, who coordinate audit activities and communicate issues pertinent to the performance of the team's work. These teams meet to review the progress of the audit and at the close of the day, the ATL meets with the entity to review audit progress and clarify the status of outstanding data requests and delivery expectations. All audit documentation is saved on a secure server and is subject to a formal document retention schedule. On the last day of the on-site portion of an audit, the audit team provides a summary briefing to the registered entity, describing any possible issues the team identified. The audit manager also reviews the draft audit findings before providing them to the registered entity for comment. At the conclusion of the audit, the audited entity is provided a questionnaire asking for comments on how the audit process could be improved. Questionnaires are reviewed by Texas RE management and lessons learned from the feedback are shared with audit staff.

Guidance and Training for Industry Stakeholders

Since 2009, Texas RE increased its training resources for its Training, Education, and Operator Certification program, which provides continuing education hours through the NERC Continuing Education program. Texas RE dedicated 0.6 FTE to its Training, Education, and Operator Certification program in 2009.[59] Last year, Texas RE delivered its 2013 training program through 1.75 FTEs.[60] Texas RE has an external relations manager and a communications and external relations coordinator who coordinate scheduling of training and development of training materials; however, most training is conducted by auditors from Texas RE's Compliance department. In an effort to improve outreach and training for smaller registered entities with insufficient resources to participate in-person at compliance workshops, Texas RE offers webinar capabilities. On occasion, Texas RE conducts smaller, in-person training presentations for stakeholders unable to attend annual workshops, but that are experiencing compliance issues identified during audits.

Texas RE offers the following additional sources of guidance and training to industry members:

(1) A website with information about Texas RE and its activities, including links to CMEP information and enforcement information;

[59] 2010 Business Plan and Budget, Texas Regional Entity, Inc., June 15, 2009.

[60] 2013 Business Plan and Budget, Texas Regional Entity, Inc., June 27, 2012.

(2) A listserv for distribution of announcements;

(3) Monthly regional stakeholder CIP working group meetings which must be attended in person due to the sensitive nature of the shared information;

(4) "Talk with Texas RE" webinar meetings, which facilitate open discussions of reliability and compliance issues with stakeholders;

(5) Teleconference meetings of the NERC Standards Review Subcommittee (a subcommittee of the Texas RE Reliability Standards Committee) approximately every two weeks, which serve as a forum for discussion of NERC Reliability Standards under development; and

(6) The *Texas REview* a monthly newsletter which includes topics related to NERC compliance (including reminders about compliance deadlines), enforcement, and lessons learned.

Maintaining Confidentiality

Texas RE requires all employees to attend ethics and confidentiality training annually and to sign an agreement requiring them to keep registered entity information confidential. Texas RE also has procedures requiring its employees to keep all compliance information confidential. Texas RE has a hotline and website where anyone can file a complaint regarding a registered entity's compliance with NERC Reliability Standards, and the complainant may remain anonymous. In addition, Texas RE safeguards the confidentiality of registered entity data by using a secure compliance data portal (WebCDMS), using a secure FTP site for data submission, and maintaining data server security through the use of firewalls, system monitoring and penetration testing. All Texas RE staff are also required to complete annual IT and physical security training.

Participation in RAI

Texas RE has been working with NERC and the other Regional Entities to implement RAI. In 2013, Texas RE worked with NERC and the other Regional Entities to develop the *Compliance Auditor Checklist*, and provided significant support toward the development of the *Compliance Auditor Handbook*, as found in the Auditor Manual. In 2014, Texas RE helped evaluate the effectiveness of the RAI pilot programs conducted in other Regional Entities. Texas RE is working to encourage collaboration, emphasize consistency and align proven processes. Texas RE co-hosted an RAI and Internal Controls workshop in February 2014, and a follow-up meeting with Texas RE in March 2014 to answer questions received during and after the workshop.

ix. <u>Western Electricity Coordinating Council</u>

Department Structure / Staffing / Conflict of Interest Avoidance

FERC issued its final orders on February 12, 2014 approving the bifurcation of WECC. Bifurcation resulted in a more focused reliability assurance mission for WECC and Peak

Reliability (Peak) (the new company formed to be the reliability coordinator for the Western Interconnection). WECC will continue as the Regional Entity for the Western Interconnection and focus on RAI activities as it assumes the role of compliance enforcement authority for Peak along with all other registered entities in WECC's footprint. That role includes monitoring and enforcing compliance with mandatory Reliability Standards, as well as having a leadership role in reliability planning and performance assessment of the BPS in the Western Interconnection.

Since January 2009, the Compliance staffing at WECC has increased from 31 to 53 employees, not counting contractors. Staffing increases have occurred throughout Compliance to satisfy the CMEP requirements associated with the increased number of registered entities and registered functions, which to date respectively total 510 and 1,353 respectively, up from the 466 and 1,248 reported in 2009. WECC's number of scheduled audits has almost doubled from 98 in 2009 to 171 in 2013.

WECC's Program Administration department was established in 2008 and restructured in 2012 to ensure the accurate, efficient, and timely exchange of compliance information between registered entities, WECC, and NERC. The department supervises the services and support used by the registered entities and WECC employees to interact with such systems as webCDMS and the WECC EFT server. Staff in this department are currently comprised of one manager and six employees.

Since 2009, the WECC Compliance department has put in place a rigorous training and development program. Like other Regional Entities, WECC struggled initially to fill both Operations and Planning and CIP auditor positions. A recruitment and development plan to recruit, graft and grow expertise included mentoring, cross-training and implementing development milestones programs. WECC also benefits from using industry SMEs as contractors for its audits. These contractors possess operations, planning, and power system knowledge as well as skills and abilities that complement that of WECC's audit staff to fill gaps where specific deficiencies may exist. WECC partners these contractors with less experienced auditors at each audit to provide detailed and in-depth on-the-job training, and educational experiences regarding specific Reliability Standards and requirements. Additionally, all CIP auditors hold at least one relevant certification (e.g. CISA, CISSP).

Audit teams regularly participate in cross-training within their own team through constant rotation in ATL responsibility. In addition, auditors in teams of two are frequently assigned different Reliability Standards and requirements to audit, depending on an audit's scope. This approach provides varied and valuable training opportunities to increase auditor knowledge of and expertise on multiple Reliability Standards. Operations and Planning and CIP SMEs from both Compliance and Enforcement are assigned to participate with auditors on the audit team for at least two audits per year as part of the cross-training effort. This results in a greater understanding of the WECC audit approach by the Enforcement team SMEs, while providing much needed "bench strength" to the audit teams and their ability to satisfy audit staffing requirements. Both Operations and Planning and CIP audit team members in WECC have participated in various WECC internal auditor training sessions, consultant-provided auditor training sessions, NERC auditor training modules, NERC ATL training, and ERO auditor workshops.

WECC conducts conflict of interest checks for its auditors and contractors. WECC's compliance program coordinators (CPCs) are responsible for distributing and collecting these forms. These forms are reviewed by the audit managers and the managing director of compliance at the beginning of every year. In August 2013, WECC included the additional step of having the CPC and the ATL review these forms in connection with every audit, as part of WECC's preliminary audit preparation. This will add an extra layer of review to ensure that the conflict of interest forms are complete and accurate. WECC has also codified these existing and new processes in the CPC informal process manual as part of a basic checklist for audits.

Compliance Monitoring Tools and Procedures

WECC utilizes a number of tools to execute its audits, several of which are highlighted in this section. WECC performs audits in the timeframes anticipated by the CMEP. WECC's Operations and Planning audit teams rely primarily on RSAWs to record audit findings, interview notes, evidence and samples. While WECC did not initially follow GAGAS audit procedures to conduct audits, particularly in the areas of planning, scope, evidence, testing, sampling and documentation, WECC later adopted various professional resources such as the GAGAS, NERC auditor training guidance and other best practices. WECC leverages the *Compliance Auditor Handbook* and associated *Compliance Auditor Checklist* (as found in the Auditor Manual) in addition to the WECC CIP standard operating procedures for documented audit procedures.

The audit teams use a number of secure tools, leveraged by PGP encryption methodologies, to manage the administrative and logistical support for audits. The primary tool used by the audit team is an Audit Remote File server used to expedite the availability of electronic information to auditors during a remote audit. This tool works in conjunction with WECC's EFT server and the WECC internal Sharedrive. When an entity uploads audit evidence to the EFT server, a WECC employee is notified of the change and moves the files to the correct location within the WECC internal Sharedrive. The software then automatically synchronizes the files on WECC's internal Sharedrive with the files on the Audit Remote File server. This system allows all users to access the exact same information from different connection points.

In 2013, WECC launched the Audit Tracking System (ATS) to help manage the tracking, and the timely completion and filing, of audits. The software minimizes rework, helps prevent errors in documentation, and ensures that all related tasks are completed in a timely manner. There are four pieces to the new ATS: audit scheduling, audit metrics, audit library, and audit report task list. Another feature of the ATS is that metrics are now readily and easily available to managers through the system. The system uses an Audit Library to minimize document duplication by tracking the version history on each file and eliminating multiple copies of the same report. Finally the system incorporates an audit task list that reduces manual oversight by electronically tracking task assignments, completions, and notifications.

WECC has been able to greatly reduce the amount of human and budget resources required for compliance support activities. Actual expenditures in 2010 exceeded $1.9 million; in 2012 that number dropped to less than $1.1 million. Starting in 2012, WECC began to concentrate on operational efficiencies that could simplify the growing complexity of managing compliance data and transactions. The single greatest change in that process was upgrading the compliance transaction platform from the WECC Compliance Portal to webCDMS. The new system brought

drastic reductions in the amount of time WECC employees spent on sending data requests, sending reminder notices to registered entities, summarizing compliance data, and transmitting compliance data to NERC.

WECC created an audit report tool that provides readable access to critical data, drives visibility across audit team members and management, and improves the efficiency of the audit report processes. This project streamlines the audit schedule activities and audit report process for audit management, ATLs, and CPCs. The solution minimizes rework, helps prevent errors in documentation, and ensures that all related tasks are completed in a timely manner. This tool also enables management and audit team members to understand workload and prioritize items. Prior to the launch of this tool, significant time and effort was spent on manual oversight.

WECC also created the Compliance Standards Index (CSI). The CSI works by drawing on a number of data sources to place relevant information about Reliability Standards in a single view. The CSI queries NERC's Reliability Standards database, which is the repository for the most current and updated information on Reliability Standards. The system then combines this data with related information such as a link to the WECC RSAW and the WECC AML. Altogether, the CSI allows users to get a more complete view of applicable Reliability Standards.

Quality Assurance

Audit findings are reviewed by the entire audit team, including the ATL, before a possible violation is identified. All possible violations are then reviewed by an Enforcement SME for confirmation. All audit reports and findings are reviewed and approved by senior Compliance management before being sent to the registered entity and NERC. Post audit feedback forms are completed by audited registered entities and reviewed by the ATL, the audit team and senior Compliance management before being discussed in auditor staff meetings. Lessons learned are discussed on an informal basis in both the Operations and Planning and CIP audit team meetings. CIP audit teams document lessons learned and store them on an internal secure WECC server for future auditor review and reference. Audit documents, including evidence, data and reports, are stored on a dedicated drive and SharePoint and archived according to the WECC formal data retention policy of five years.

Guidance and Training for Industry Stakeholders

Beginning in 2009, WECC has offered annual training sessions and workshops for operators, schedulers, and dispatchers. During the assessment period, WECC decreased its training resources for its Training, Education, and Operator Certification program, which provides continuing education hours through the NERC Continuing Education program. WECC dedicated 3.5 FTE to its Training, Education, and Operator Certification program in 2009.[61] Last year, WECC delivered its 2013 training program through 1.5 FTEs.[62]

WECC formalized a compliance outreach program in the fall of 2008 with the hiring of a designated individual to act as a liaison with the registered entities and to coordinate various

[61] 2009 Business Plan and Budget, Western Electricity Coordinating Council, July 9, 2008.

[62] 2013 Business Plan and Budget, Western Electricity Coordinating Council, June 25, 2012.

compliance outreach activities. The director of compliance outreach reported directly to the WECC CEO at that time. This reporting structure assured the separation of Outreach and Compliance Audit and Enforcement. In January 2011, the scope of this position expanded to include outreach to other interested stakeholders. The current position is managing director of stakeholder outreach which reported to the vice president of communications and external affairs during the assessment period and now reports to the vice president and chief administrative officer. This individual is responsible for the coordination of all compliance outreach activities as well as ad hoc outreach for other WECC areas, as appropriate (e.g. BES definitional process).

Below are examples of WECC outreach to registered entities:

(1) WECC hosts three Compliance User Group (CUG)/Critical Infrastructure Protection User Group (CIPUG) meetings annually. These meetings, held over three days, allow time for industry-only Western Interconnection Forum (WICF) sessions. Attendance records (kept electronically since 2011) indicate that participation continues to increase yearly while satisfaction surveys show favorable responses. The CUG/CIPUG agendas cover a wide range of topics including management updates, regulatory actions, industry trends, new Reliability Standards, audit approaches and best user practices. Registration for 2011 through 2013 was 5,717.

(2) WECC hosts open webinars on the third Thursday of most months. These sessions are used to provide time-sensitive updates on topics and issues that arise between CUG meetings and reminders of upcoming events and deadlines. Participation is also very good in this Outreach program with 150 to 250 active ports for each webinar. WECC added real time video streaming capability in 2013.

(3) Starting in January 2011, enforcement SMEs started conducting outreach events to educate registered entities about best practices in submitting information to WECC, and mitigation and prevention of violations. Some of the specific outreach activities include:

(a) Eight Steps for Prevention and Mitigation – The goal of this outreach presentation was to share best practices in creating effective mitigation plans. It provided registered entities eight important elements to consider while creating a mitigation plan for a violation.

(b) Detection and Future Prevention – The goal of this outreach program was to highlight the importance of determining the root cause and implementing strong detection and preventative measures to reduce the likelihood for future recurrence of violations and security issues.

(c) Reliability Standard Specific Outreach – Enforcement SMEs have conducted various events to discuss the audit approach, root cause analysis and effective mitigation solutions for most commonly violated Reliability Standards in the WECC region. Some of these Reliability Standards include: PRC-005; PER-002 and PER-003; PRC-023; VAR-002; and CIP-007.

(4) The WICF is run by and on behalf of entities subject to WECC and NERC compliance requirements. The purpose of WICF is to provide registered functional entities within the Western Interconnection a venue to share knowledge and lessons learned regarding compliance matters, and to collectively develop best practices.

(5) CIP 101 is a two-day class held generally in WECC's Salt Lake City, UT meeting space and is taught by WECC cybersecurity auditors. This class has been offered three times and has sold out each time. Agendas include comprehensive discussions of CIP Reliability Standards, audit approaches, best evidence and interactive work between participants and the WECC auditors.

(6) A "Compliance 101 Webinar" which is a 90-minute session offering an overview of the development of the mandatory compliance program and its major parts. WECC offers this webinar just before each CUG/CIPUG meeting to aid those new to their compliance duties or who may just want refresher training.

(7) WECC hosts compliance systems (EFT/webCDMS) training and webinars providing registered entities with an opportunity to learn about the improvements to these electronic systems.

Maintaining Confidentiality

WECC employs a number of security measures to protect confidential compliance information. WECC laptops with access to confidential information have encrypted hard drives, minimizing the risk of that information being disclosed in the event of a lost or stolen laptop. WECC requires employees to change the passwords on their laptops every 90 days. WECC's offices have physical security measures including badge readers, access badges for all employees, and video cameras which cover the building entrances and exits. There is also an on-site security guard for the building during business hours. Visitors must be escorted by WECC employees in nonpublic areas of the offices. Additionally, WECC uses two secure portals/repositories for registered entity submittals: webCDMS and the EFT server.

Participation in RAI

As part of the RAI, WECC volunteered for the ECEMG MTF that created the Auditor Manual. WECC has also provided its internal training materials to NERC, at its request.

WECC completed its first RAI pilot in 2013 with limited scope and time. WECC provided recommendations to the entity to further consolidate its internal controls. Based on the results, WECC customized the self-certification requirements for the entity. WECC used the entity's feedback to improve its internal controls evaluation process. In May 2014, WECC completed its second RAI pilot. WECC highlighted best practices and recommendations to the entity. A WECC audit team used the results of the controls evaluation to exclude certain requirements from the entity's compliance audit. The entity was also selected for the Compliance Exception pilot. The

entity provided helpful and positive feedback which WECC has used to improve the evaluation process. Currently, the third RAI pilot is in progress.

C. Compliance Investigations

The Compliance Investigations group provides quality assurance of the Regional Entities' compliance evaluations of industry compliance assessments from events that have occurred in their footprints. The Compliance Investigation group's process articulates NERC's technical investigations staff review and facilitates a compliance evaluation of BPS events as they relate to the entities involved in the event. It also outlines subsequent compliance responsibilities under the NERC Reliability Standards.

NERC's Compliance Investigations group works closely with Regional Entity compliance staff to review significant BPS disturbances. These reviews include evaluation of events from a compliance perspective, which includes a review of possible gaps in existing NERC Reliability Standards. During such events, registered entities are encouraged to conduct a compliance self-assessment and submit these assessments to the relevant Regional Entity for review. The registered entity is encouraged to self-report possible violations it identifies during this self-analysis. In its oversight role, NERC reviews and analyzes each compliance self-assessment to ensure consistency and to initiate lessons learned or compliance monitoring follow-up activities.

At the beginning of the assessment period, compliance investigations and event-driven compliance evaluations proved difficult to complete at the Regional Entity level, in part due to the need for more resources. NERC found that the Regional Entities had difficulty determining which BPS events required a more detailed review and in understanding what was required of them in compliance investigations. As further detailed in the *Overview of NERC Activities and Accomplishments in the Five-Year Period*, these issues were addressed through several initiatives including the creation of the ERO Event Analysis program and NERC's development of a compliance investigations leaders training class for NERC and Regional Entity staff compliance investigators. The compliance investigations leaders training material is continuously reviewed and improved based on feedback from compliance investigation experiences and changes to GAGAS, CMEP, and the NERC ROP. As a result of these efforts, the Compliance Investigations group regularly processes over 30 events per year and works with the Events Analysis group to publish relevant NERC alerts.

In addition, the Compliance Investigations group handles all complaints reported to NERC regarding alleged violations of NERC's Reliability Standards. These matters are reported through the compliance hotline or by voice messaging. Between March 2009 and December 2012, NERC in collaboration with the Regional Entities, received, processed and closed all 70 complaints that were received by the ERO.

D. Compliance Enforcement

1. Performance of the ERO Enterprise

a. Overview

During the assessment period, the Regional Entities made remarkable progress in establishing mature, effective enforcement programs consistent with their obligations under the RDAs and the NERC ROP. The RDAs delegate authority over enforcement of compliance with Reliability Standards. The RDAs provide that NERC shall review the Regional Entities' CMEP as often as NERC deems necessary to ensure that: (1) the Regional Entity's program meets all applicable legal requirements; (2) the actual practices of the Regional Entity reflect the requirements; and (3) the program promotes consistent interpretations across North America of Reliability Standards and comparable levels of sanctions and penalties for violations of Reliability Standards constituting comparable levels of threat to the reliability of the BPS.[63] The NERC ROP require the Regional Entities to make initial determinations of compliance or noncompliance and recommend penalties where authorized,[64] apply penalties and sanctions that bear a reasonable relation to the seriousness of a violation and that follow the directives, principles, and processes set forth in NERC's *Sanction Guidelines*,[65] regularly report on the status of the review and assessment of violations of Reliability Standards as well as associated mitigation plan information,[66] and obtain sufficient resources to meet their delegated obligations, including maintaining sufficient staffing.[67] NERC, as part of its oversight role, regularly reviews Regional Entity enforcement activities to ensure that these obligations are being satisfied and to drive the implementation of best practices in enforcement activities throughout the ERO Enterprise. NERC's oversight activities provide an ongoing view of the Regional Entities' effectiveness in executing their compliance enforcement responsibilities.

At the time of the *Three-Year ERO Performance Assessment Report* (mid-2009), the NERC Reliability Standards had been mandatory and enforceable for just over two years. Early in the implementation of the uniform CMEP, the Regional Entities successfully identified some 2,000 violations from the over 2,700 reported possible violations.[68] Additionally, the Regional Entities addressed a large number of self-reported Reliability Standard violations[69] from the period before

[63] Section 6 of each RDA contains the provisions relating to delegation of compliance monitoring and enforcement authority.

[64] NERC ROP §402 (NERC Oversight of the Regional Entity Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Programs).

[65] NERC ROP §401 (Scope of the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program); *Sanction Guidelines* are Appendix 4B to the ROP.

[66] *See* NERC CMEP, NERC ROP Appendix 4C, at §6.0 (Mitigation of Violations of Reliability Standards).

[67] NERC ROP §403 (Required Attributes of Regional Entity Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Programs).

[68] *Three-Year ERO Performance Assessment Report*, Attachment 3 at 10-11.

[69] Unless otherwise indicated, "violation" refers to any report of noncompliance submitted to a Regional Entity, regardless of its status as a possible, alleged, or confirmed violation or whether the noncompliance was or will be processed as a "remediated issue" through the Find, Fix, Track and Report (FFT) track.

the Reliability Standards became mandatory and enforceable.[70] NERC recognized in the three-year performance assessment the success of the Regional Entities in the cataloging, processing, and tracking of each violation and the completion of the associated mitigation plans. NERC also recognized that substantial work remained to be done to complete the transition to a more mature enforcement program. In the three-year performance assessment, NERC noted several areas of improvement for the Regional Entities, including increasing the speed of processing violations (and associated mitigation plans) and improving upon the thoroughness and accuracy of the information provided to support each Notice of Confirmed Violation (NOCV) or settlement agreement submitted to NERC for review.[71]

During the current assessment period,[72] NERC and the Regional Entities worked to develop more mature enforcement processes for the ERO Enterprise. NERC and the Regional Entities collaboratively implemented streamlined enforcement processing mechanisms, such as the Spreadsheet Notice of Penalty (SNOP) and FFT enforcement mechanism.[73] NERC and the Regional Entities also worked together to design and build a system for the collection, management, and exchange of compliance-related information between NERC and the Regional Entities. The Regional Entities implemented compliance data systems that interface with NERC's Compliance Reporting, Analysis, and Tracking System (CRATS). These complementary systems are the webCDMS, which is used by MRO, ReliabilityFirst, SPP RE, Texas RE, and WECC, and the CITS, which is used by FRCC, NPCC, and SERC. These systems enable enforcement processing efficiencies and facilitate consistent tracking of violation status across the ERO Enterprise. These systems are continuously evaluated and improved.

For several years, NERC has closely tracked various aspects regarding the overall performance of the ERO Enterprise as it relates to enforcement activities. Beginning in 2013, NERC and the Regional Entities developed and implemented a series of metrics to track and evaluate the performance of the ERO Enterprise and of each Regional Entity. These metrics allow NERC to analyze trends and identify areas where further improvements may be achieved. To facilitate consistent application of these metrics, NERC and the Regional Entities agreed to a set of business rules to govern submission of data to the complementary compliance data systems. For 2014 and beyond, NERC and the Regional Entities have agreed to use some of these metrics to measure achievement of the goals of the *ERO Enterprise Strategic Plan*.[74] Although these metrics were not in place during the entire assessment period, they provide insight into the current status of enforcement processing in the ERO Enterprise, and therefore are used in this evaluation.

NERC recognizes the substantial progress each Regional Entity has made in addressing the enforcement-related issues raised in the three-year performance assessment. NERC also

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[70] *Three-Year ERO Performance Assessment Report*, Attachment 3 at 12.

[71] *Three Year ERO Performance Assessment Report*, Attachment 3 at 11-12.

[72] For purposes of evaluating the Regional Entities' activities, NERC has used a five-year period of January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2013.

[73] The SNOP and FFT enforcement mechanisms are described in §II.D.b.iv below.

[74] *See ERO Enterprise Strategic Plan 2014-2017*, available at: http://www.nerc.com/gov/Annual%20Reports/ERO%20Enterprise%20Strategic%20Plan%202014-2017%20and%20Performance%20Metrics.pdf.

recognizes the progress each Regional Entity has made in improving consistency and transparency in enforcement-related processes. However, and as explained more fully below, NERC has identified the need for additional improvements with respect to enforcement processing and the Regional Entities' implementation of certain aspects of the CMEP.

This assessment of the enforcement activities of the Regional Entities begins with a discussion of the collective accomplishments of the ERO Enterprise with respect to enforcement processing and a discussion of general recommendations for areas of improvement. Topics that will be covered include ensuring the timely processing and mitigation of older violations, ensuring the quality of data in the compliance data tracking systems, ensuring the quality of submitted information in settlement agreements and NOCV, and NERC's oversight of the performance of the Regional Entities with respect to certain areas of the CMEP. The analysis of the collective accomplishments of the Regional Entities in enforcement is followed by in-depth analysis of the performance of each Regional Entity in executing its compliance enforcement responsibilities.

b. Improvements in Enforcement Processing, 2009-2013

In 2009, at the time of the three-year performance assessment, the Regional Entities had collectively accumulated what was described as a substantial backlog of cases. Of the total 1,926 violations identified by the Regional Entities, only 475 violations had been filed with NERC for its review and for Board of Trustees Compliance Committee (BOTCC) approval as of May 31, 2009. Roughly 75 percent of all violations that had been identified remained to be processed by Regional Entity staff.[75]

During the current assessment period, the Regional Entities have made substantial progress in reducing the number of open violations, despite substantial increases in the numbers of new violations during the assessment period.

i. The Composition of the ERO Enterprise Caseload

As shown by the table below, 10,163 violations were reported to NERC by the Regional Entities during the current assessment period. The Regional Entities reported a significant increase in the number of violations from 2010 through 2012, in large part due to the implementation and enforcement of the CIP Reliability Standards:

[75] *Three-Year ERO Performance Assessment Report*, Attachment 3 at 11.

Violations for all Regional Entities 2009-2013 by Year Reported to NERC
U.S. Violations Only[76]

Regional Entity	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Grand Total
FRCC[77]	188	109	141	69	61	568
MRO	60	103	196	166	139	664
NPCC	43	99	130	213	66	551
RFC	123	469	565	505	240	1902
SERC	187	312	309	300	285	1393
SPP RE	132	254	291	173	191	1041
TRE	14	51	430	197	169	861
WECC	571	550	807	818	437	3183
Grand Total	**1318**	**1947**	**2869**	**2441**	**1588**	**10163**

The drop in violations from 2012 to 2013 is attributable to a number of factors.[78] Since the Reliability Standards became mandatory and enforceable, most registered entities have completed at least one full audit cycle and in some instances more than one audit cycle. A number of registered entities have responded to their past compliance audits by improving their management practices, thus decreasing the likelihood of the Regional Entity discovering new violations in recent compliance audits. In addition, the Regional Entities have conducted significant and varied outreach activities. These efforts have included Operations and Planning standards workshops, CIP standards workshops, and training to enhance their registered entities' understanding of the Reliability Standards. Registered entities with better knowledge of the Reliability Standards have improved their compliance cultures, and therefore are less likely to have violated Reliability Standards. The drop in violations is also attributable to an enhancement in the preliminary screening processes as of December 2012. Specifically, this enhancement reduced the likelihood that new potential noncompliance issues were duplicates of issues already being processed.

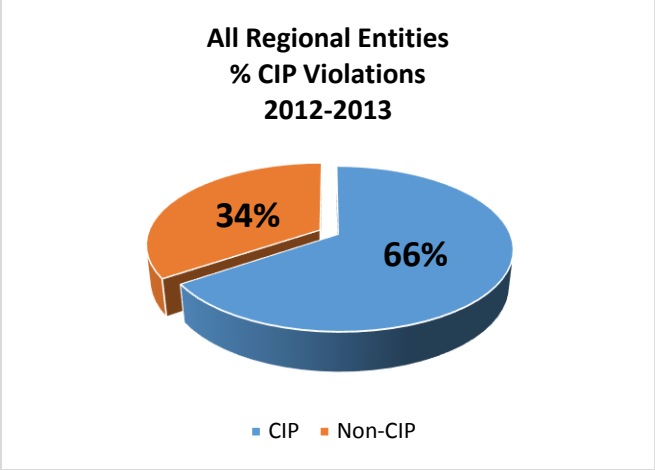
[76] This table reflects all U.S. violations that were submitted via the complementary compliance data systems to NERC's centralized database (CRATS) in 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013. This table includes all violations, whether they were later dismissed or were held due to a court, regulator, or appeal. For some violations, the year the violation was discovered and the year the violation was first reported to NERC's centralized database are different. For example, a violation first discovered during an audit in late 2012 may not have been reported to NERC's centralized database until early 2013. Therefore, the total number of violations for a particular Regional Entity or a particular year may vary depending on whether violations are reported by discovery year or by year submitted to NERC's centralized database. To clarify, these differences, where they appear, are attributable to a difference in presentation and reporting rather than an underlying difference in the number of overall violations. For consistency throughout this analysis, the year the violation was first reported to NERC's centralized database is used in this five-year performance assessment unless otherwise specified.

[77] In the JRESA, FRCC reported violations by the year the violations were discovered, rather than the year the violations were submitted to NERC's centralized database. *See* JRESA at 41. As noted above, the differences between the numbers reported by NERC in the table above and the numbers reported by FRCC in the JRESA are attributable to the difference in presentation, rather than an underlying difference in the overall number of violations.

[78] This drop in violations appears whether the number of violations is presented by discovery year or by year reported to NERC's centralized database. When calculated by year of discovery, there was a 12% decline in violations from 2011 to 2012, and a 30% decline in violations from 2012 to 2013.

However, despite the decrease in the overall number of potential noncompliance issues identified, the composition of the ERO Enterprise caseload remained fairly consistent from 2012 to 2013. Since 2010, violations of the CIP Reliability Standards have comprised the majority of violations in each year, with the overall proportion of CIP violations increasing somewhat year over year. CIP violations comprised 66% of the total violations submitted to NERC's centralized database from January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2013.

Type of Violations Reported to NERC by all Regional Entities, 2012-2013

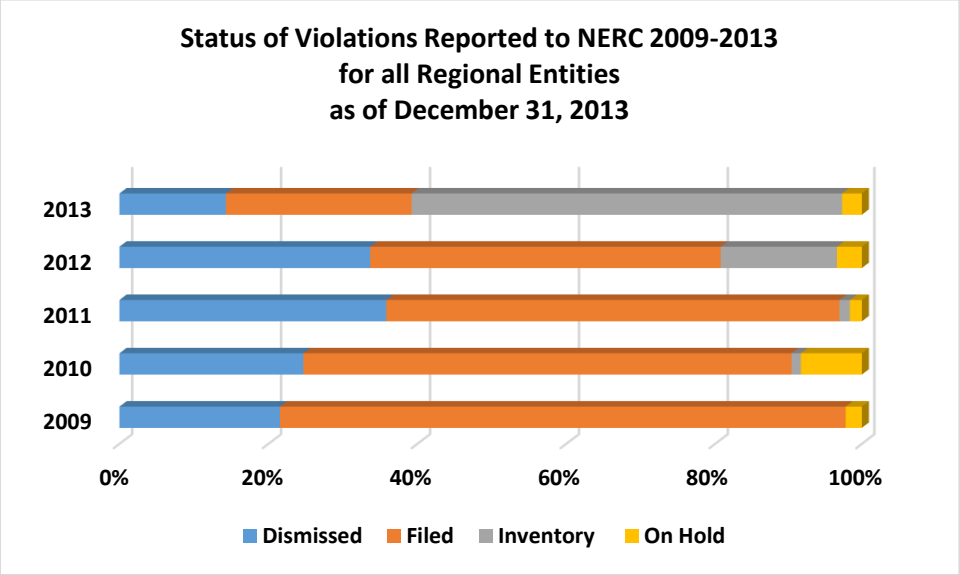


The top five most violated Reliability Standards were CIP-004, CIP-005, CIP-006, CIP-007, and PRC-005. The most violated Reliability Standards were generally consistent across the Regional Entities.

Despite the influx of CIP violations during the assessment period, the Regional Entities actively worked to reduce the number of open violations in their caseloads. As of December 31, 2013, the Regional Entities had processed 100% of the violations available to be processed that were reported to NERC in 2009; nearly 99% of the violations available to be processed that were reported to NERC in 2010 and 2011; and 84% of the violations that were reported to NERC in 2012.[79] Violations reported to NERC in 2012 and 2013 comprised over 95% of the total 1,375 violations available for processing as of December 31, 2013.

[79] NERC recognizes that the Regional Entities are not able to process certain violations because the violations are being held by or due to an appeal, a court, or a regulator. NERC refers to these violations as being "on hold." In evaluating the performance of the Regional Entities with respect to violation processing, NERC excludes any "on hold" violations.

Status of Violations Reported to NERC 2009-2013 for all Regional Entities



As of December 31, 2013, the majority of violations in the ERO Enterprise inventory (67%) consisted of violations reported to NERC in 2013.[80] In addition, during 2013, the Regional Entities processed approximately 39% of the new violations reported to NERC in 2013. By reducing the number of older violations, the Regional Entities are moving toward a caseload consisting primarily of newer violations. The efforts of the Regional Entities to process older violations in their inventories, which has resulted in the reduction in caseload, are described more fully in §II.D.1.b.iii below, Efforts to Reduce Older Caseload.

ii. The Caseload Index

As noted above, NERC and the Regional Entities developed a series of enforcement processing metrics to aid in monitoring and improving the efficiency of enforcement processing throughout the ERO Enterprise. The Caseload Index is one of these metrics. It is used to facilitate planning, coordination, and collaboration between NERC and the Regional Entities.

The Caseload Index is a snapshot of current enforcement processing rates. It measures the amount of time, in months, that it will take the ERO Enterprise (or an individual Regional Entity) to eliminate the existing inventory, assuming no new violations are received. This calculation is based on the processing rate of the previous 12 months. For example, if the Caseload Index is calculated on December 31, 2013, the time to process existing inventory will be based on the processing rate from January 2013 to December 2013. A lower Caseload Index indicates that the ERO Enterprise will need fewer months to clear out its existing inventory of violations available to be processed, based on the processing rate of the previous 12 months. A higher Caseload Index indicates that the ERO Enterprise (or individual Regional Entity) would need more months to clear

[80] The violations in "inventory" refers to identified violations that have not completed processing and are not "on hold."

out its existing inventory. The Caseload Index may fluctuate from month to month as violations are received and processed, but is helpful for evaluating performance over time.

NERC first began monitoring the Caseload Index in 2011 and has targeted achieving a lower average ERO Enterprise Caseload Index in each successive year. As of July 1, 2011, the average ERO Enterprise Caseload Index was 35 months. NERC set a goal to achieve an average ERO Enterprise Caseload Index of 24 months by the end of the year. By the end of 2011, the average ERO Enterprise Caseload Index was 24 months, meeting the goal and marking a substantial improvement from just six months earlier.

In 2012, the calculation of the Caseload Index was refined to account for matters processed through dismissal. The average ERO Enterprise Caseload Index as of December 31, 2012 was 13.3 months.[81] For 2013, NERC sought to achieve an average ERO Enterprise Caseload Index of under 10 months. Throughout 2013, the Caseload Index decreased fairly steadily to approximately 6.5 months at the end of the year.

The overall decrease in the ERO Enterprise average Caseload Index since 2011 reflects the substantial work by NERC and the Regional Entities to implement processing efficiencies and reduce the number of older open violations. These efforts are described more fully in the next section.

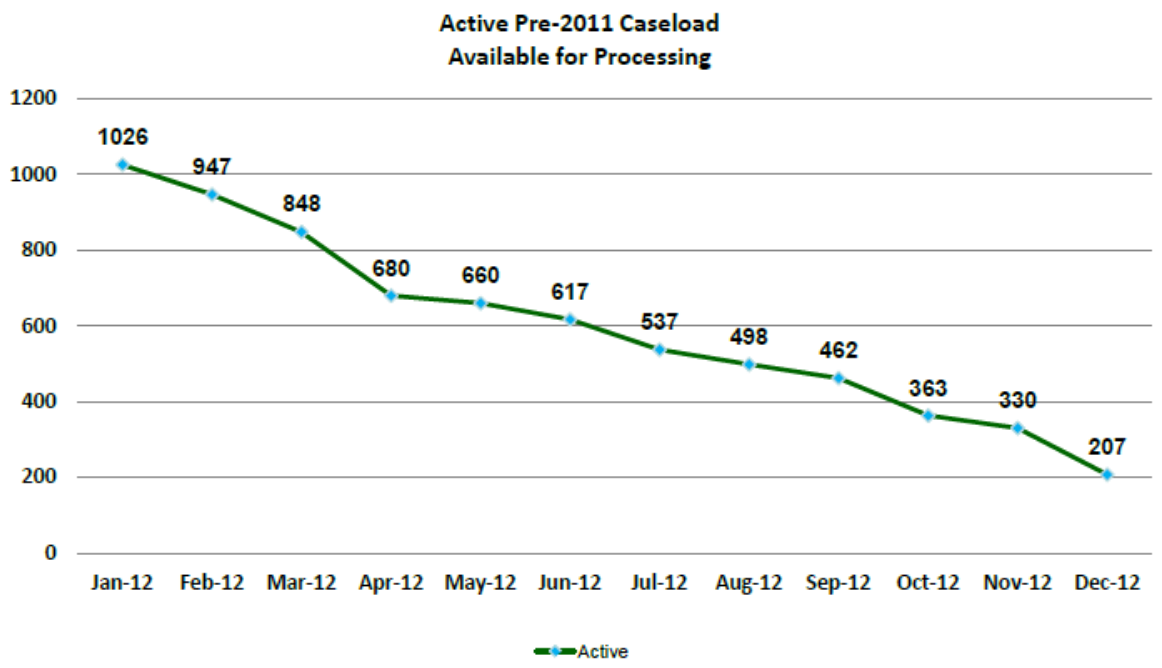
iii. Efforts to Reduce Older Caseload

In the Three-Year Performance Assessment, NERC noted that the Regional Entities needed to make substantial improvements in the processing of violations. NERC noted that the Regional Entities needed to reduce what NERC termed a "backlog" of aging violations. During the current assessment period, the Regional Entities made substantial progress in this regard. Whereas the Regional Entities had processed only about 25% of then-existing violations at the time of the Three-Year Performance Assessment in 2009, the Regional Entities have collectively processed more than 86% of violations reported to NERC from 2009 to 2013. The efforts of the Regional Entities to reduce the number of aging violations have been commendable. These efforts reflect the growth and maturity of enforcement staff across the ERO Enterprise and demonstrate the willingness of the Regional Entities to participate in the development and execution of common goals under NERC leadership and oversight.

In 2012, 2013, and 2014, NERC established corporate goals to reduce the number of older violations remaining to be processed. Working with NERC, the Regional Entities invested significant time and resources in processing the older violations. As a result, the ERO Enterprise reduced the number of open, older violations substantially. For example, during 2012, NERC and the Regional Entities successfully worked to reduce the number of open violations dating from before 2011 (excluding on-hold violations) by 80%, as shown below:

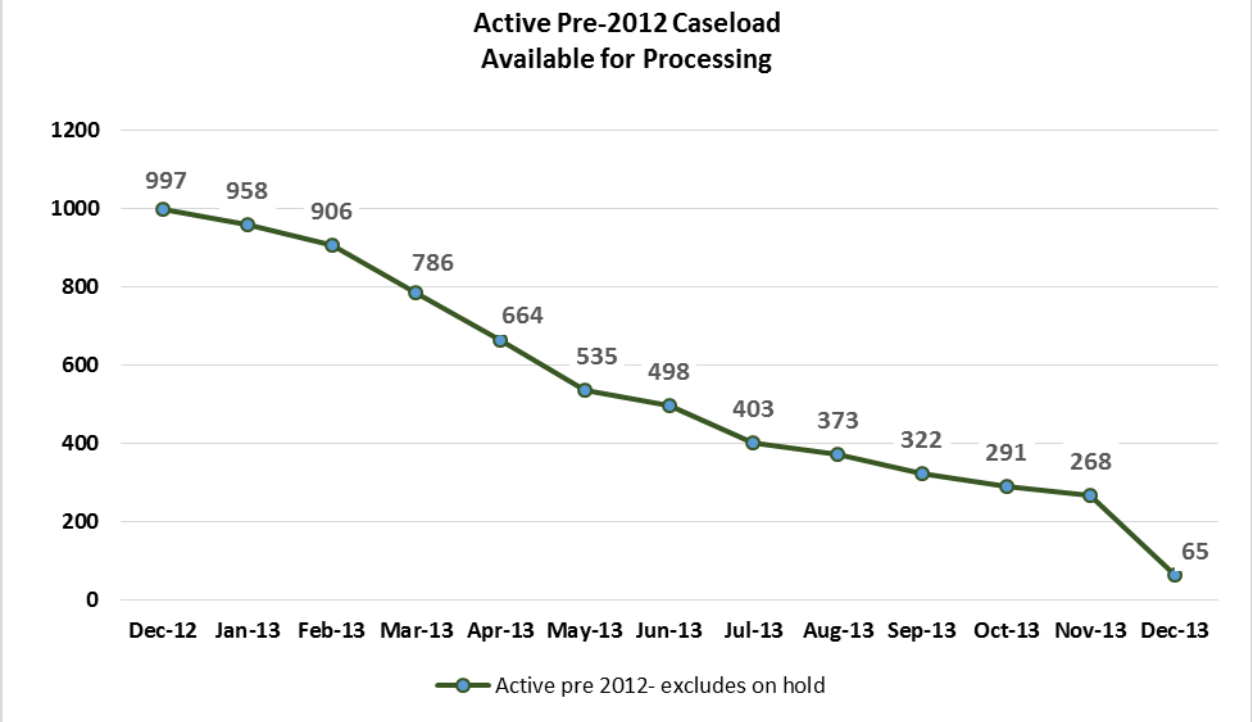
[81] For 2012, NERC established a corporate goal of 12 months for the ERO Enterprise average, with the threshold set at 19 months.

ERO Enterprise Caseload Consisting of Violations Discovered Before 2011 (excluding on hold violations), by Month in 2012



During 2013, the Regional Entities built on the successes of 2012. By December 31, 2013, NERC and the Regional Entities reduced the number of pre-2012 violations (excluding on hold violations) by 93%, as demonstrated below:

ERO Enterprise Caseload Consisting of Violations Discovered Before 2012 (excluding on hold violations), by Month in 2013



Only 65 violations discovered before 2012 remained to be processed as of December 31, 2013, representing less than one percent of total violations discovered from 2007 through 2011 and less than five percent of the violations available to be processed as of December 31, 2013. By working to reduce the number of aging violations while improving the processing speed for newer violations, NERC and the Regional Entities have reduced the average violation age from 11.86 months in 2012 to 11.2 months in 2013 – an improvement of nearly six percent.

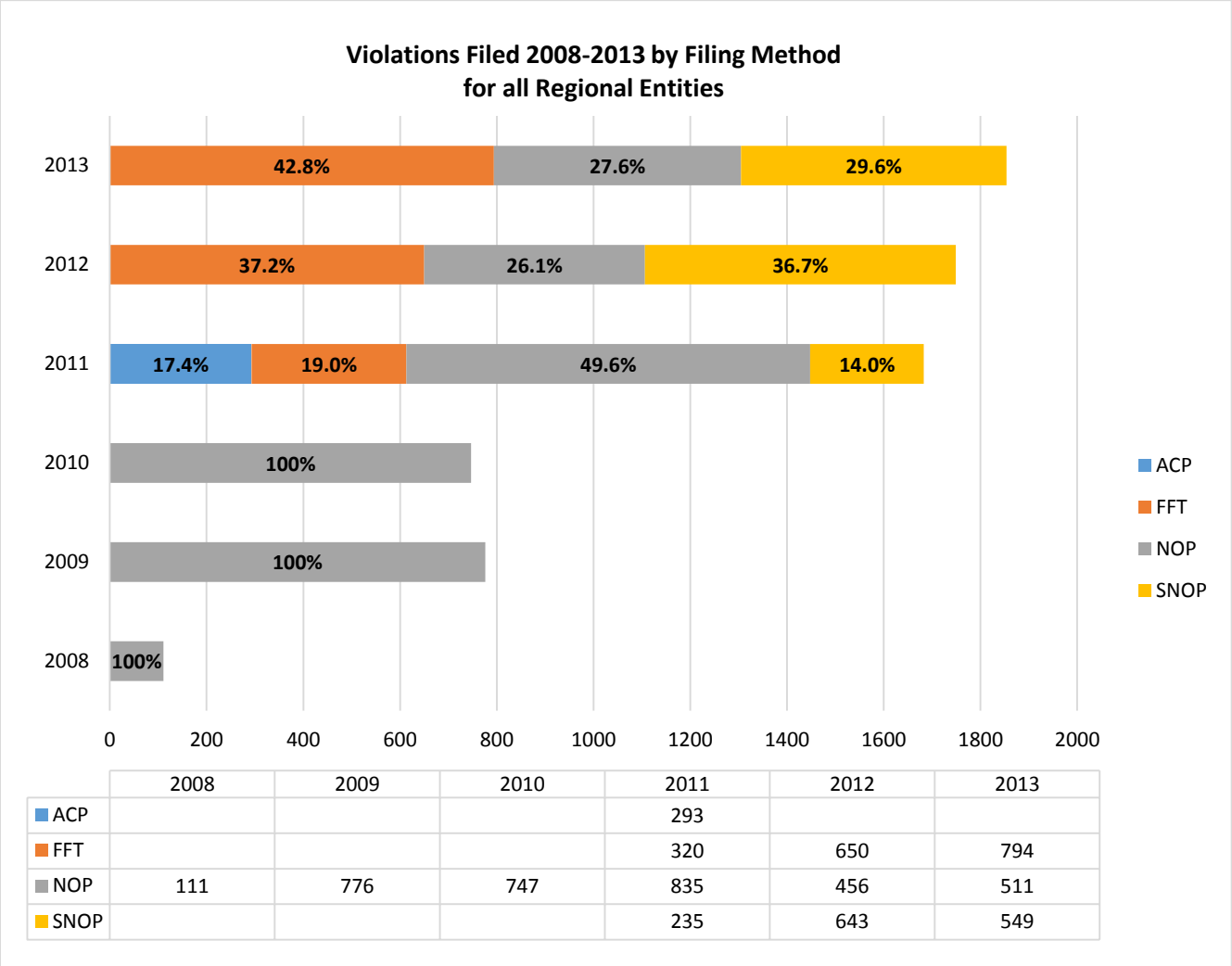
In 2014, NERC and the Regional Entities are continuing to work together to reduce the number of violations in inventory that are older than 24 months. These efforts will ensure that Regional Entities are prioritizing and resolving older violations appropriately. Combined with efforts to decrease processing times through the use of streamlined enforcement mechanisms and enforcement processing process refinements, the Regional Entities will reduce overall processing times and provide finality sooner to registered entities.

iv. Implementation of Streamlined Enforcement Processing Mechanisms

During the five-year assessment period, the Regional Entities worked with NERC to develop, refine, and implement process improvements to ensure the timely processing of new violations while also allowing for the reduction of the number of older violations. Most notable among these process improvements was the development of streamlined enforcement processing mechanisms that simplify the process of filing violations with the Commission. These mechanisms include the SNOP and the FFT program.

At the time of the three-year performance assessment, NERC and the Regional Entities used the NOP mechanism to process all violations. Using only the NOP format, 1,634 violations were filed with the Commission from 2008 through 2010. In 2011, following the implementation of the Administrative Citation Process (ACP) and the FFT and SNOP processes, the Regional Entities collectively filed 1,683 violations – more than the previous three years combined.[82]

Violations Filed per Year by Filing Method, 2008-2013



	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
ACP				293		
FFT				320	650	794
NOP	111	776	747	835	456	511
SNOP				235	643	549

In 2012, the Regional Entities continued the implementation of the FFT and SNOP processes, which, along with the NOP, are the three enforcement processing mechanisms in use today. During the assessment period, the ERO Enterprise caseload consisted primarily of violations posing a lower risk to the reliability of the BPS. The FFT and SNOP processes proved to be especially useful for processing these lower-risk violations.

[82] The ACP was an alternative enforcement processing mechanism used to process a number of lower risk violations in 2011. The format was similar to the SNOP format currently being used.

In 2012, the number of violations processed by means of SNOP or FFT increased after the Regional Entities developed knowledge and experience with the new mechanisms. These methods accounted for over 70% of the total filed violations in 2012 and 2013. NERC and the Regional Entities continued to use the NOP format for violations that posed a serious and substantial risk to reliability, required the completion of substantial above-and-beyond mitigating activities,[83] or presented other facts and circumstances requiring a detailed presentation. Going forward, NERC expects the proportion and use of the filing mechanisms to evolve as the ERO Enterprise implements the process refinements being developed under RAI.

In 2013, NERC and the Regional Entities worked together to expand the FFT program by implementing the latest round of FFT enhancements, which were approved by the Commission in an order issued June 20, 2013.[84] These enhancements will also reduce the amount of time required to process issues through the FFT program. As a result of these enhancements, FFT treatment is now available for a limited pool of possible violations posing a moderate risk to the reliability of the BPS (in addition to possible violations posing a minimal risk). In addition, certain unmitigated possible violations may be processed through the FFT program, so long as mitigation is completed within 90 days from the date the FFT item is posted.

To streamline processing of FFTs, Regional Entities now submit their FFTs for public posting on NERC's website at the end of each month. This replaces the prior requirement that NERC submit monthly informational filings to the Commission. NERC maintains its enforcement oversight by reviewing a representative sample of FFTs during the 60-day window following the public posting as well as through an annual spot check. NERC's spot checks ensure that issues selected for FFT treatment are appropriate for the program; that the issues are explained sufficiently in the posted documents; that the FFT program is implemented consistently across the regions, and that information about FFT issues is presented consistently across regions.

In addition to feedback provided through the spot check process, NERC provides ongoing training and guidance to the Regional Entities. Risk assessments play a large role in the FFT process and will be important to the success of the risk-based enforcement processes being implemented under RAI. In recognition of the importance of risk assessments, NERC provides ongoing training to the Regional Entities on how to evaluate the risk posed by an issue and how to document the results of the risk assessment in a clear and consistent manner. NERC also developed FFT templates to ensure that information regarding FFT issues, such as issue descriptions, mitigating activities, and other relevant information, is presented in a consistent manner across all Regional Entities. In addition, NERC, working with the Regional Entities, developed and posted an *ERO Self-Report User Guide*.[85] The *ERO Self-Report User Guide*

[83] As described in the evaluations of the individual Regional Entities, "above-and-beyond" activities refers to activities that a registered entity agrees to undertake as part of the resolution of an instance of noncompliance, in addition to completing a mitigation plan or other mitigating activities and/or paying a monetary penalty.

[84] *North American Electric Reliability Corporation*, *Order on Compliance Filing*, 143 FERC ¶ 61,253 (2013).

[85] Drafts of the *ERO Self-Report User Guide* and the companion *ERO Enterprise Mitigation Plan Guide* documents were posted for public comment in January 2014. The final user guides are posted on the RAI page on the NERC website at: http://www.nerc.com/pa/comp/Pages/Reliability-Assurance-Initiative.aspx.

provides registered entities with helpful guidance on assessing risk and communicating relevant information to the Regional Entities.

Additional information regarding the FFT process and NERC's oversight of it is provided below.

v. Implementation of Compliance Data Systems

As noted above, the Regional Entities have implemented compliance data systems to collect and track violation data. These systems interface with NERC's centralized database. At the Regional Entity level, these systems have enabled substantial enforcement processing efficiencies. At the NERC level, these systems have enhanced NERC's ability to identify compliance and enforcement trends and compile accurate metrics.

To ensure the quality, integrity, and completeness of the data that is submitted to NERC's centralized database, NERC and the Regional Entities worked together to create a series of business rules. NERC commends the Regional Entities for the resources and effort they have expended in developing these business rules and the associated systems. However, improvements remain to be made in ensuring that data submitted to NERC's centralized database meets the parameters of the business rules. NERC will continue to work with the Regional Entities to address these areas.

vi. Quality of Submitted Information

In the three-year performance assessment, NERC noted that Regional Entities needed to improve the thoroughness and accuracy of the information provided to NERC staff for review to meet NERC expectations and the requirements of Commission orders.[86] Since the filing of the three-year performance assessment in 2009, NERC and the Regional Entities have taken concrete steps to improve the quality, clarity, and consistency of enforcement-related documentation. NERC considers these efforts to have been successful.

NERC developed a series of enforcement processing templates to assist the Regional Entities in ensuring that all required information is presented in a consistent and easily-understood format. Generally, the Regional Entities provide information in the requested format, using the templates, with the record documents that are necessary for filing.[87] The implementation of the various templates has improved the quality of submitted information since the three-year performance assessment.

However, through its regular review of submitted information, NERC has identified opportunities for further improvement. In particular, descriptions of the facts of each violation, assessments of the risk posed by each violation, and descriptions of factors contributing toward the imposition of a certain dollar penalty are not always clear or complete when violations are submitted to NERC for review in settlement agreements or NOCV. Specifically, Regional Entities

[86] *Three-Year ERO Performance Assessment Report*, Attachment 3 at 12.

[87] NERC has advised the Regional Entities to submit all necessary documentation at the time the NOCV or settlement agreement is submitted to NERC for review and BOTCC approval, where possible.

should explain fully what factors were considered aggravating, which factors were considered mitigating, and when previous violations of the same or similar Reliability Standards were or were not considered aggravating (and why). Careful and complete drafting will facilitate greater transparency of Regional Entity decision-making, an area noted for improvement by the commenters.[88] In addition, careful and complete drafting will avoid protracted follow-up periods and processing delays.

Through NERC's outreach efforts and other process improvements and guidance being implemented under RAI, NERC expects that the quality and clarity of risk assessment, violation description information, and other information relevant to enforcement processes will continue to improve. For example, NERC and the Regional Entities have developed two documents to enhance communication between registered entities and the Regional Entities and to facilitate the shift toward a risk-based enforcement approach. The first document, the *ERO Self-Report User Guide*, provides registered entities with additional insight into the information NERC and the Regional Entities need to provide efficient and timely resolution of instances of potential noncompliance. The second document, the *ERO Enterprise Mitigation Plan Guide*, provides guidance on the information that should be considered when developing a mitigation plan and the elements and analysis that should be included. Although targeted specifically to registered entities, the user guides also provide guidance and insight to Regional Entity auditors, new enforcement staff, and other stakeholders.

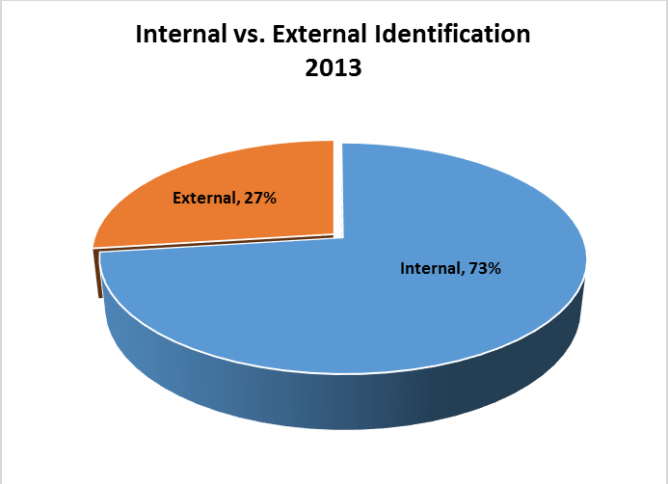
c. Improving Reliability Across the ERO Enterprise

i. Encouraging Internal Discovery of Violations

Regional Entity enforcement programs play an important role in improving the reliability of the BPS. Early self-identification, self-reporting, and mitigation of noncompliance are important steps in improving electric reliability. By deploying incentives to encourage the self-discovery and timely self-reporting of violations, the Regional Entities have encouraged registered entities to take proactive steps to self-identify their noncompliance and thereby promote a more reliable BPS.

[88] *See* the stakeholder comments summarized in the "Enforcement" sections of the comment and response tables in **Attachment 4**.

Percentage of Violations by Method of Identification, 2013



In 2013, internally-discovered (i.e., self-reported) violations comprised the majority of violations identified across the ERO Enterprise.

NERC recognizes that the percentage of self-identified violations necessarily depends on the number of violations identified by the Regional Entities through other compliance monitoring methods (i.e. spot checks and compliance audits). As NERC and the Regional Entities work together to implement efficiency and consistency-enhancing improvements under the compliance components of RAI, NERC expects to gain additional insight into audit finding and self-reporting trends across the Regional Entities. NERC expects that, as the ERO Enterprise gains experience in evaluating the internal controls and management practices of registered entities, it will develop a better understanding of what factors drive internal self-identification of violations. This insight will allow NERC and the Regional Entities to refine self-reporting incentives appropriately.

ii. Ensuring the Timely Mitigation of Violations

NERC monitors all items with ongoing mitigating activities regardless of where the violations are in the enforcement process and expects mitigating activities to be completed in a timely manner.[89] Throughout the assessment period, the Regional Entities worked to ensure that violations, including older violations that have not yet been processed, are mitigated and no longer pose a risk to reliability.

[89] As defined in the NERC ROP, Appendix 2, "mitigating activities" means actions taken by a registered entity to correct and prevent recurrence of a noncompliance, whether or not the actions are embodied in a mitigation plan.

Status of Mitigating Activity for Violations Discovered from 2007-2013 and Requiring Mitigation for the ERO Enterprise as of December 31, 2013[90]

Year of Discovery	% Completed	% in Progress
2013	36.0%	64.0%
2012	79.6%	20.4%
2011	92.4%	7.6%
2010	96.4%	3.6%
2009	100.0%	0.0%
2008	99.6%	0.4%
2007	100.0%	0.0%
Grand Total	**84.6%**	**15.4%**

However, as the above chart demonstrates, a small number of older violations remain for which mitigating activities have not been completed. For these violations, mitigating activities may have been started, but not yet completed. Further, some of the older violations with open mitigation relate to registered entities for which violations cannot be processed as a result of a pending court dispute.

In 2014, NERC will continue to focus on the completion of mitigating activities and track this closely. NERC will measure the success of each Regional Entity and the ERO Enterprise as a whole in ensuring that violations are mitigated and no longer pose a threat to reliability.

iii. Promoting Reliability through Enforcement Philosophy and Practices

The Regional Entities have encouraged registered entities to proffer "above-and-beyond" mitigating activities in lieu of, or as an offset to, the full monetary penalties assessed pursuant to the NERC *Sanction Guidelines*. By encouraging registered entities to invest in improvements beyond those necessary to ensure compliance with violated Reliability Standards, this enforcement approach improves reliability and reduces the likelihood of future noncompliance. Examples of such above-and-beyond activities are provided in the individual Regional Entity assessments below.

d. NERC'S Ongoing Monitoring of Specific Regional Entity Processes Under the CMEP

NERC Enforcement staff uses its oversight role to ensure that the Regional Entities are implementing the CMEP effectively, to provide constructive feedback where appropriate, to identify trends, and to drive the implementation of best practices. Over time, as enforcement

[90] This table reports the percentage of violations discovered from the years 2007 through 2013 with completed or open mitigation for all Regional Entities and NERC acting as the CEA as of December 31, 2013. This table excludes dismissed violations and non-U.S. violations.

processes and organizations evolved and matured, NERC's oversight role has evolved and matured. As the Regional Entities have demonstrated the adequacy and maturity of their enforcement-related processes and procedures, NERC has adjusted its oversight activities. For example, whereas NERC formerly reviewed all FFTs before filing with the Commission, NERC now reviews only a representative sample of FFTs that have been posted to NERC's website.[91] In addition, following a 2013 spot check of Regional Entity dismissal procedures, NERC no longer requires preapproval of letters of dismissal for externally-discovered violations (except for violations arising from compliance investigations).

NERC continually looks for ways to exercise its oversight role to drive improvement in Regional Entity processes and its own oversight processes. The results of several of NERC's oversight activities are presented below and in the individual Regional Entity sections of this evaluation.

During the assessment period, NERC conducted spot checks of different aspects of the Regional Entities' implementation of the CMEP. As examples of the types of spot checks it performed, NERC reviewed Regional Entity dismissal procedures in 2013. This spot check provided valuable insight into the reasons why self-reported violations are dismissed.[92] The spot check also gave NERC the opportunity to examine Regional Entity dismissal procedures and documentation in depth. Based on its analysis of the spot check results, NERC concluded that the Regional Entities are preparing letters of dismissals that generally communicate the reasons for dismissal to the registered entities. NERC prepared several letter of dismissal templates to assist Regional Entities in ensuring that the letters of dismissal contain all required information on a consistent basis.

NERC engages in various activities to ensure consistency and exercise oversight over the FFT process. Public and nonpublic versions of the FFTs are submitted by the Regional Entities to NERC, in the NERC-provided template, for posting on a monthly basis. NERC staff reviews moderate risk issues for suitability for FFT filing. If NERC staff determines that the moderate risk issues are not appropriate for FFT filing, staff will discuss concerns with Regional Entity staff. NERC, concurrently with the Commission, reviews a representative sample of FFTs during the 60-day window following the posting of the FFT on NERC's website. NERC also includes moderate-risk FFTs and FFTs with ongoing mitigation as part of its review. Following its review

[91] As noted above, NERC's oversight of the FFT program consists of a review during the 60-day window following the monthly FFT posting as well as an annual spot check.

[92] NERC concluded that 67% of dismissals from its randomly-selected sample were attributable to an expansion of scope or a duplication of already-existing violations. In 22% of dismissals, the registered entity submitted additional information supporting compliance after the initial determination of possible violation was made. Approximately 11% of the dismissals were attributable to changes in the applicable Reliability Standard and requirement, transfer to another CEA, or administrative reasons.

NERC expects the number of dismissals to decrease as a result of the implementation of enhancements to the preliminary screen process in December 2012 (this process requires Regional Entities to review new noncompliance and determine whether it is a duplicate of a violation already being processed) and the issuance of the *ERO Self-Report User Guide*.

of the FFT samples, NERC coordinates any questions or concerns it may have with FERC staff, which conducts an independent sampling and review during the same 60-day period.

In addition to sampling during this 60-day review period, NERC also conducts a separate sampling of the FFTs to gather information related to NERC's annual filing with the Commission. In late 2012, NERC initiated a review of the Regional Entities' FFT programs, the results of which were detailed in NERC's March 15, 2013 compliance filing and report.[93]

During the first quarter of 2014, NERC Enforcement staff performed another review of the Regional Entities' FFT programs, the results of which were detailed in NERC's June 20, 2014 compliance filing and report.[94] In summary, NERC found that the quality of the FFTs submitted by the Regional Entities for posting has continued to improve from the FFTs submitted to NERC for review in prior years. NERC also found that the Regional Entities are appropriately selecting issues for FFT treatment. However, NERC identified additional areas for improvement to promote accuracy and consistency in implementation of the FFT program, as described in detail in that filing.

In addition to its periodic spot checks, NERC performs regular oversight of certain Regional Entity enforcement processes. For example, NERC reviews all SNOP violations and NOP violations before filing these violations with the Commission, and it provides feedback to the Regional Entities as appropriate. As part of this review, NERC reviews all proposed penalties for appropriateness and consistency with monetary penalties assessed for violations of the same Reliability Standard and requirement occurring under similar facts and circumstances, in accordance with the principles contained in the NERC *Sanction Guidelines.*

e. Conclusion

The Regional Entities have made substantial progress during the five-year assessment period in improving the efficiency and timeliness of enforcement processing. Going forward, each of the Regional Entities should focus on continuing to prioritize older violations for completion of processing, ensuring that all violations are mitigated in a timely manner, and ensuring the quality of data and information that is submitted to NERC in the compliance data information systems and in settlement agreements and NOCV. Further, each of the Regional Entities should implement the process improvements recommended by NERC through its oversight activities.

[93] *Compliance Filing and Report on the Compliance Enforcement Initiative and Proposed Enhancements to the Fix, Fix, Track and Report (FFT) Program*, Docket No. RC11-6-004 (Mar. 15, 2013).

[94] *North American Electric Reliability Corporation's Compliance Filing and Report on the Find, Fix, Track and Report Program*, filed June 20, 2014, in Docket No. RC11-6-004.

2. Evaluation of Florida Reliability Coordinating Council, Inc.

a. Overview

In the three-year performance assessment, NERC concluded that FRCC needed to improve its timeliness in enforcement processing in several respects.[95] In response, during the assessment period, FRCC has taken several steps to address the concerns identified by NERC. FRCC added personnel to its enforcement staff and developed a number of processes to support and facilitate the processing of violations. FRCC has also developed checklists, flowcharts, caseload goals, and automated database reporting tools.[96]

During the assessment period, FRCC has increased the number of FTE staff dedicated to enforcement from 0 FTEs in 2009 to 4 FTEs as of December 31, 2013. Based on FRCC's processing speed and efficiency as measured at the end of the assessment period, NERC views FRCC's enforcement staffing to be sufficient to process the number of violations that it receives.

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FRCC ended the assessment period with a Caseload Index that was consistent with the ERO Enterprise Caseload Index. FRCC processed all violations discovered before 2012, in furtherance of an ERO Enterprise goal. FRCC's caseload tends to consist of more-recent violations, and FRCC has made progress in ensuring the completion of mitigation for older violations. Finally, NERC has reviewed FRCC's enforcement-related processes as part of its oversight role and found that, while areas for improvement remain, FRCC generally implements those processes in a satisfactory manner.

In addition, FRCC staff have actively participated in the development of RAI. FRCC staff have participated in the Aggregation of Minimal Risk Issues and Enforcement Discretion pilot programs and served on the *ERO Self-Report User Guide* and *ERO Enterprise Mitigation Plan Guide* drafting teams. This participation is vital as the ERO Enterprise shifts toward a risk-based model of compliance and enforcement.

As explained more fully below, based on FRCC's Caseload Index, FRCC's successful processing of its older violations (as facilitated by its effective implementation of streamlined enforcement processing mechanisms), and the results of NERC's oversight activities, NERC concludes that FRCC has performed as an effective Regional Entity with respect to enforcement activities during the assessment period. NERC will continue to work with FRCC to ensure that violations are mitigated promptly, with an added emphasis on ensuring the completion of mitigation for older violations.

[95] *Three-Year ERO Performance Assessment Report*, Attachment 3 at 16.

[96] 2014 JRESA Appendix 2B at 1-2.

b. Evaluation of Caseload Processing Efficiency

i. The Composition of FRCC's Caseload

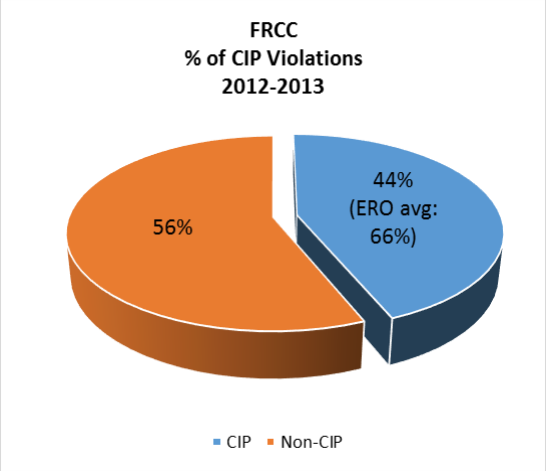
During the assessment period, FRCC reported 568 violations to NERC.

Violations for FRCC 2009-2013 by Year Reported to NERC[97]

Year Reported to NERC	Violations Reported
2009	188
2010	109
2011	141
2012	69
2013	61
Total	**568**

As shown in the table above, FRCC reported a relatively high number of violations in 2009, with a significant drop occurring after 2011. In 2011, over 70% of total violations were of the CIP Reliability Standards. In the years 2012 and 2013, violations of CIP Reliability Standards represented 44% of total violations; this is a substantially lower percentage than the ERO Enterprise average.

Type of Violations Reported to NERC by FRCC, 2012-2013



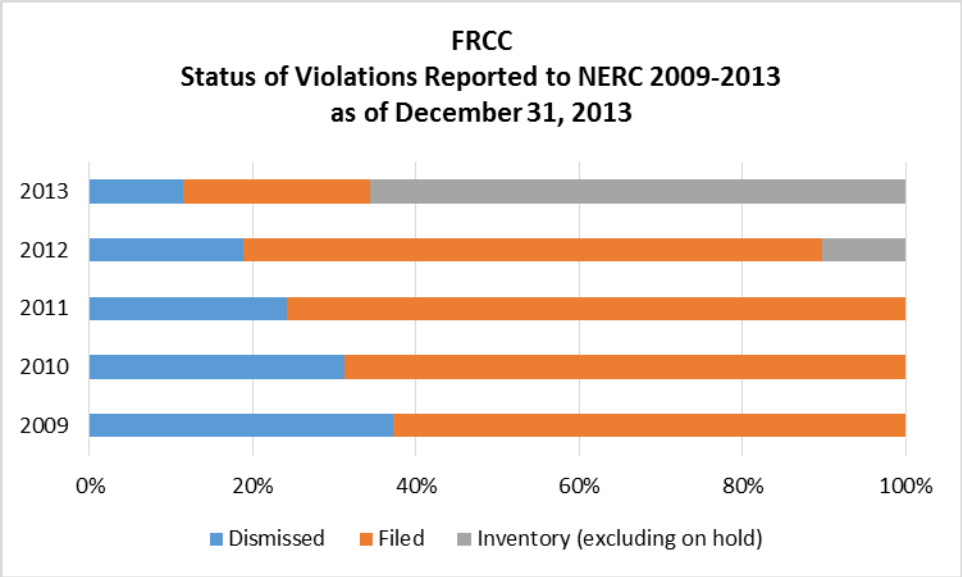
FRCC believes that the lower-than-average ratio of CIP violations in 2012 and 2013 may be due to two factors. During 2011, FRCC performed spot checks on all registered entities within the FRCC region that had critical cyber assets. As a result, FRCC had a high ratio of CIP violations

[97] For an explanation of the methodology used to calculate the data in this table and throughout this §II.D, *see supra* n. 766.

for that year (approximately 75%). In addition, FRCC believes that it has a lower percentage of registered entities with critical cyber assets than other Regional Entities.

Of the total violations reported to NERC by FRCC during the assessment period, 47 violations, or approximately 8%, remained to be processed as of December 31, 2013 (excluding on-hold violations). As shown in the table below, FRCC has processed all violations reported to NERC in 2009, 2010, and 2011. FRCC processed 90% of violations reported to NERC in 2012.

Status of Violations Reported to NERC 2009-2013 for FRCC



FRCC processed 34% of violations reported to NERC in 2013. This was somewhat lower than the ERO 2013 processing rate of 39%. However, violations reported to NERC in 2013 represent approximately 85% of the violations available for processing in FRCC's caseload, which compares favorably to the overall ERO Enterprise average of 67%. FRCC appears to be moving toward a caseload consisting primarily of newer violations.

ii. Caseload Index

The Caseload Index for FRCC is 7.3 months as of December 31, 2013. This is consistent with the ERO Enterprise Caseload Index of approximately 6.5 months.

Based on its achievements in processing its caseload to date and its Caseload Index, it appears that FRCC's efforts to strengthen and streamline its enforcement processes during the assessment period have been effective.

iii. Efforts to Reduce Older Caseload

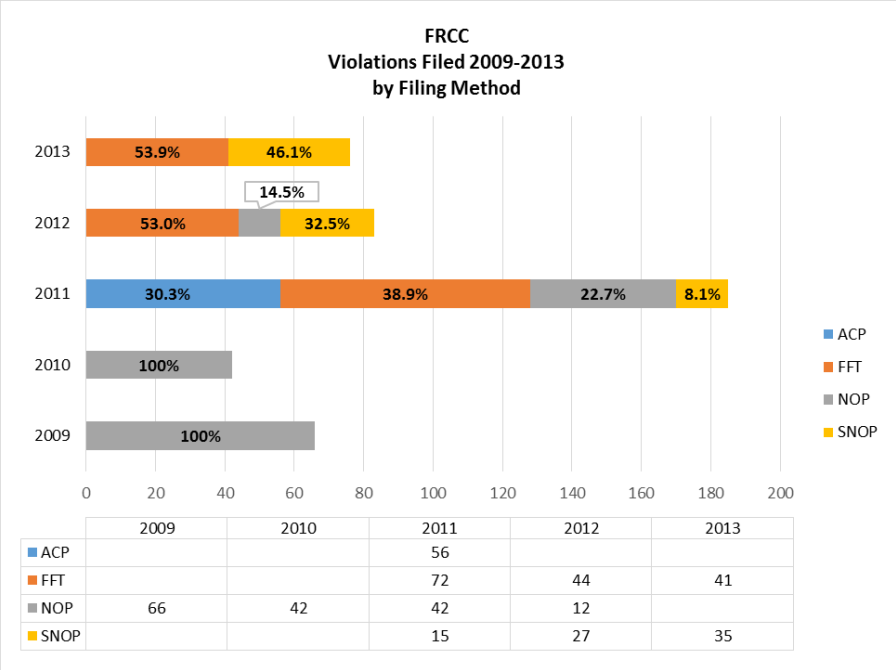
In 2013, FRCC processed all remaining cases in its pre-2012 caseload. NERC commends FRCC for its responsiveness and efforts to achieve this important ERO Enterprise goal.

Based on the current composition of its inventory of violations available to be processed and its successful efforts in processing its older violations, FRCC is especially well-positioned to achieve the goal of ensuring that violations are processed before reaching 24 months in age.

iv. Implementation of Streamlined Enforcement Processing Mechanisms

FRCC effectively used streamlined processing mechanisms to process a substantial portion of its caseload during the assessment period. In 2011, following the implementation of these mechanisms, FRCC filed 185 violations – more than the previous two years combined.

Violations Filed per Year by Filing Method for FRCC, 2009-2013



	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
ACP			56		
FFT			72	44	41
NOP	66	42	42	12	
SNOP			15	27	35

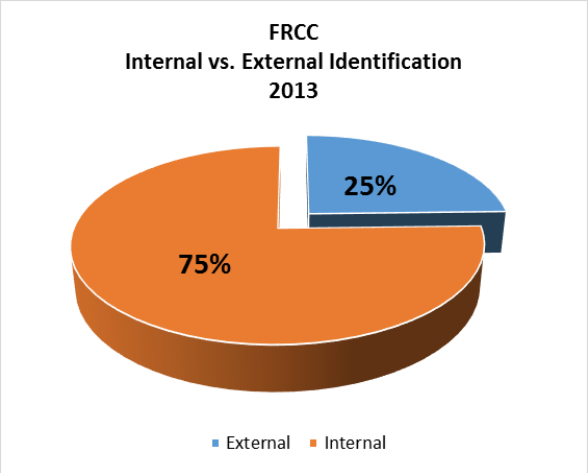
By 2013, FRCC filed all of its violations using either SNOP or FFT. NERC expects that FRCC will continue to reserve the NOP format for violations that require NOP treatment and will take advantage of further process refinements available under RAI. Additional information regarding FRCC's application of FFT is presented later in this assessment.

c. Improving Reliability

i. Encouraging Internal Discovery of Violations

In 2013, violations discovered by registered entities through internal mechanisms comprised 75% of total violations in the FRCC region.

Percentage of Violations by Method of Identification for FRCC in 2013



This is consistent with the ERO Enterprise average of 73%.

ii. Ensuring the Timely Mitigation of Violations

FRCC reported that it takes several steps to encourage the prompt submission of mitigation plans or mitigating activities. First, FRCC encourages registered entities to submit the mitigating activities that are planned or which have been completed as part of the registered entity's submission of a self-report or self-certification. FRCC also encourages registered entities to submit mitigation plans early, before the issuance of a Notice of Alleged Violation. Second, FRCC enforcement staff contacts each registered entity to encourage the submission of a mitigation plan approximately ten days after the issuance of a Notice of Possible Violation. FRCC also encourages registered entities to submit draft mitigation plans for review by FRCC staff before formal submission. In evaluating the sufficiency of a registered entity's proposed mitigation, FRCC carefully considers the time it will take to mitigate the violation and the steps taken to prevent reoccurrence of violations. In 2013, FRCC reported that it continued to see some improvement in the timeliness and quality of mitigating activities and mitigation plans submitted by most registered entities, and that most registered entities within its region were willing to work with FRCC staff to create mitigation plans that would be acceptable to FRCC earlier in the mitigation process.

As demonstrated in the table below, FRCC has made substantial progress in ensuring that violations from 2007 through 2010 have been mitigated. However, approximately four violations from 2011 had open mitigation plans at the end of the assessment period. FRCC reported that in those cases, the registered entities had mitigated the violations and completed all milestones required of their mitigation plans; however, they had not yet certified the completion of their mitigation plans and supplied evidence for FRCC to verify completion.

FRCC: Status of Mitigating Activity for Violations Discovered from 2007-2013 and Requiring Mitigation as of December 31, 2013[98]

Year of Discovery	% of Violations with Completed Mitigation Plans or Activities	% of Violations with Mitigation in Progress
2013	25.0%	75.0%
2012	89.3%	10.7%
2011	96.0%	4.0%
2010	100.0%	0.0%
2009	100.0%	0.0%
2008	100.0%	0.0%
2007	100.0%	0.0%
Grand Total	**89.6%**	**10.4%**

In addition, approximately three-quarters of violations discovered in 2013 had open mitigation plans by the end of the year. FRCC reported that in many of these newer cases, the violation had been mitigated, but the registered entity did not yet certify completion or submit completion evidence to FRCC for verification. NERC will continue to work with FRCC to ensure that mitigation of violations is completed in a timely manner.

iii. Promoting Reliability through Enforcement Philosophy and Practices

FRCC's enforcement philosophy consists of the following components. FRCC provides training and communication to registered entities to help them understand and be more compliant with the Reliability Standards. FRCC strives for efficiency in disposition processing and fairness throughout the enforcement process, and it commits to maintain open communication with registered entities.

In its settlement processes, FRCC has worked with registered entities, where appropriate, to accept the completion of certain activities above-and-beyond those required to ensure compliance with one or more Reliability Standards in lieu of the full monetary penalties permitted by the NERC *Sanction Guidelines*. FRCC reported that it typically performs a thorough review and critique of a registered entity's internal compliance program as part of settlement discussions, and that registered entities within its region have frequently committed to initiating actions within their organizations to improve their compliance programs. Registered entities in the FRCC region have committed to: (i) implementing software applications; (ii) creating, improving, or disseminating programs relating to internal controls; (iii) creating compliance job positions; (iv) developing and delivering presentations for FRCC compliance workshops; and (v) hiring contractors to evaluate and make recommendations for the development of a sustainability plan

[98] This table reports the percentage of violations discovered from the years 2007 through 2013 with completed or open mitigation. This table excludes dismissed violations.

and training regarding internal control processes. These efforts allow registered entities to allocate their resources to those projects that can increase overall reliability and reduce the likelihood of future noncompliance. NERC encourages FRCC to continue deploying solutions such as these that promote reliability and insight into processes that can manage risk.

d. FRCC'S Implementation of Various Aspects of the CMEP

As noted in §II.D.1.a above, NERC conducts ongoing oversight activities to evaluate the effectiveness of each Regional Entity's implementation of the CMEP. These activities include regular reviews and periodic spot checks of specific Regional Entity processes. NERC's oversight activities give NERC an ongoing view into how effectively and efficiently the Regional Entity is executing its enforcement responsibilities. Below is a summary of some of NERC's more recent oversight activities specific to FRCC.

FRCC has adopted the NERC CMEP as the basis for providing fair and impartial procedures for enforcement. With respect to assessing penalties, FRCC follows NERC guidance.[99] FRCC reviews a registered entity's internal compliance program and its impact on the violations being processed. FRCC includes consideration of the internal controls that a registered entity may have in place as a part of this review. NERC reviews all penalties submitted by FRCC for appropriateness and consistency with monetary penalties assessed by FRCC and by other Regional Entities for violations of the same Reliability Standards and Requirements occurring under similar facts and circumstances. NERC has found that FRCC assesses monetary penalties that are appropriate and consistent with penalties assessed for similar violations.

Based on a spot check in 2013, NERC determined that FRCC dismisses violations for appropriate reasons and generally includes the required information when issuing letters of dismissal. NERC identified opportunities where FRCC could improve its letters of dismissal and communicated those opportunities to FRCC. By implementing the recommended improvements, FRCC can improve the quality of its compliance guidance to registered entities.

As part of its ongoing FFT review processes, NERC reviewed a sample of FFT issues filed or posted by FRCC during the assessment period to examine FRCC's procedures for FFT processing and the application of those procedures to the FFT issues in its caseload. Following its review, NERC concluded that FRCC's process documents provide clear and concise guidance for FFT processing and drafting and follow the NERC guidance. Further, NERC concluded that FRCC consistently applies the processes set forth in its process documents, and that FRCC applied FFT treatment and evaluated risk in a consistent manner. NERC noted several ways that FRCC could improve its FFT postings and related documentation to provide additional transparency to its determinations.

e. Conclusion

Based on NERC's review of the factors described above, NERC concludes that FRCC has performed as an effective Regional Entity with respect to enforcement activities during the

[99] 2014 JRESA, Appendix 2-C at 11.

assessment period. FRCC should adopt the recommendations for improvement provided as part of NERC's oversight activities.

3. Evaluation of Midwest Reliability Organization

a. Overview

In the three-year performance assessment, NERC concluded that MRO was an effective Regional Entity as demonstrated by several metrics.[100] At the time NERC noted that MRO needed to improve on providing accurate statements of fact for each violation, assessing penalties according to the facts of each situation as required by FERC orders, and ensuring consistency in its practices with NERC practice and the practice of other Regional Entities.[101]

Consistent with the trends across the ERO Enterprise, the quality of information submitted by MRO for NERC review has improved during the assessment period. Further, MRO believes that its three-step process that segregates duties among its Compliance Monitoring, Risk Assessment and Mitigation, and Enforcement teams, which it established in 2009, provides a "high level of assurance that determinations are accurate, fair and non-discriminatory."[102]

During the assessment period, MRO has increased the number of FTE staff dedicated to enforcement from 2.46 FTEs in 2009 to 4 FTEs as of December 31, 2013. In addition, MRO's Risk Assessment and Mitigation staff consisted of 1 FTE in 2009, and as of December 31, 2013 it consists of 6.25 FTEs (including two open positions). MRO's proposed 2015 Business Plan and Budget anticipates an additional 1.35 FTEs in these two groups. Based on MRO's processing speed and efficiency as measured at the end of the assessment period, NERC views MRO's historic staffing to be insufficient to process the number of violations that it receives in accordance with the performance objectives of the ERO Enterprise. However, MRO has taken steps to increase its staffing throughout the assessment period and beyond into 2014 and 2015.

NERC recognizes the progress MRO has made in enforcement processing during the assessment period. NERC also recognizes that MRO often takes the lead in settlement negotiations to resolve violations from MRREs, and that MRO has demonstrated a commitment to use the enforcement process to promote the reliability of the BPS. Further, NERC has reviewed MRO's enforcement-related processes as part of its oversight role and found that, while areas for improvement remain, MRO generally implements those processes in a satisfactory manner. However, MRO ended the assessment period with a Caseload Index that was much higher than the ERO Enterprise Caseload Index. NERC and MRO believe that, with the additional staff MRO expects to add, MRO's processing times (and its Caseload Index) will improve.

In addition, MRO made substantial strides in reducing the portion of its caseload consisting of violations dating to before 2012. While MRO still has older violations in its inventory that must

[100] *Three-Year ERO Performance Assessment Report*, Attachment 3 at 18.

[101] *Id*.

[102] 2014 JRESA, Appendix 2-B at 2-3.

be processed and mitigated, NERC is working with MRO to accomplish the ERO Enterprise goal of having no cases older than 24 months in inventory at the end of 2014.

NERC recognizes the substantial contributions MRO staff have made in the development of RAI and the related enforcement pilot programs. MRO has taken a leadership role in the conceptualization, development, and testing of several programs, and a member of MRO's staff led the multi-region working group on enforcement activities. This participation is vital as the ERO Enterprise shifts toward a risk-based model of compliance and enforcement.

In light of all of the relevant factors, which are explained more fully below, NERC concludes that MRO has performed as an effective Regional Entity with respect to enforcement activities during the assessment period. However, substantial improvement remains to be made with respect to MRO's enforcement processing time as measured by the Caseload Index metric.

b. Evaluation of Caseload Processing Efficiency

i. The Composition of MRO's Caseload

During the assessment period, MRO reported 664 violations to NERC.[103]

Violations for MRO 2009-2013 by Year Reported to NERC[104]

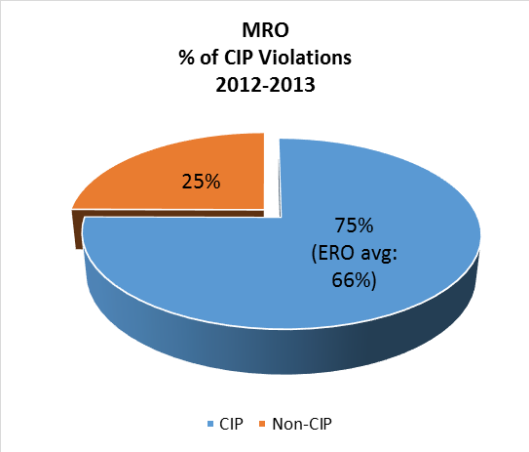
Year Reported to NERC	Violations Reported
2009	60
2010	103
2011	196
2012	166
2013	139
Total	**664**

As noted in the table above, the highest number of violations reported to NERC by MRO was in 2011, with the number decreasing by 29% in 2013. Most of the violations in 2011 were of the CIP Reliability Standards. In the years 2012 and 2013, violations of CIP Reliability Standards represented 75% of total violations; this is a higher percentage than the ERO Enterprise average of 66%.

[103] This table reflects U.S. violations only. When including Canadian violations, MRO received 693 violations for evaluation and processing from 2009 through 2013.

[104] For an explanation of the methodology used to calculate the data in this table and throughout this §II.D, *see supra* n. 766.

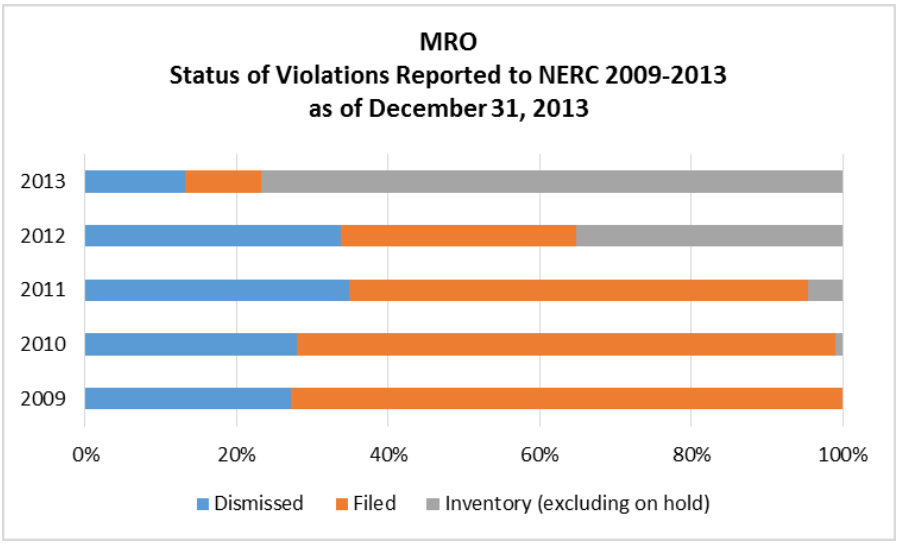
Type of Violations Reported to NERC by MRO, 2012-2013



The discovery method of the CIP violations was fairly evenly split between external and internal methods of identification.

Of the total violations reported to NERC during the assessment period, approximately 159 violations, or 24%, remained to be processed as of December 31, 2013. As demonstrated in the table below, MRO has processed all violations that it reported to NERC in 2009. MRO has processed approximately 99% of violations reported to NERC in 2010, 95% of violations reported to NERC in 2011, and 65% of violations reported to NERC in 2012.

Status of Violations Reported to NERC 2009-2013 for MRO



MRO processed approximately 23% of violations reported to NERC in 2013. This is lower than the ERO 2013 processing rate of 39%. Further, the percentage of MRO's caseload consisting of violations reported to NERC in 2013, approximately 62.3%, is slightly lower than the overall ERO Enterprise average of 67%.

ii. Caseload Index

The Caseload Index for MRO was 14.3 months as of December 31, 2013, compared to the ERO Enterprise Caseload Index of approximately 6.5 months.

MRO believes that its Caseload Index is higher than the ERO Enterprise average due to several factors. MRO states that it places a premium on gaining a comprehensive understanding of the violation and developing mitigation plans that reduce the risk of recurrence, which can be time consuming and increases MRO's Caseload Index. MRO reported a number of violations of CIP-005 and CIP-007, which often require longer processing times due to the need to ensure that the risk is understood and is being comprehensively addressed. Additionally, MRO's risk assessment staff is heavily involved in RAI development efforts.

In light of MRO's Caseload Index and as reflected in the characteristics of its caseload (i.e., MRO's caseload consists of a greater portion of older violations than other Regional Entities), NERC encourages MRO to implement measures so that it is better equipped to process violations as it receives them. MRO currently has two open positions in its Risk Assessment and Mitigation group which, when filled, will help MRO improve its Caseload Index. In addition, MRO created the position of CMEP process principal. This position is responsible for quality assurance and oversight of MRO's business practices related to compliance monitoring and enforcement, including internal transitions among the compliance, risk assessment and mitigation, and enforcement groups. MRO believes it will achieve greater efficiency, enhance communication, and ensure repeatability of its CMEP-related activities through this position. MRO also believes that the increase in staffing will allow it to improve processing times while maintaining its dedication to gaining a complete understanding of violations in its region and examining the best ways to prevent reoccurrence. NERC will work with MRO to evaluate the effectiveness of this and other measures taken to improve efficiency in MRO's enforcement processes.

iii. Efforts to Reduce Older Caseload

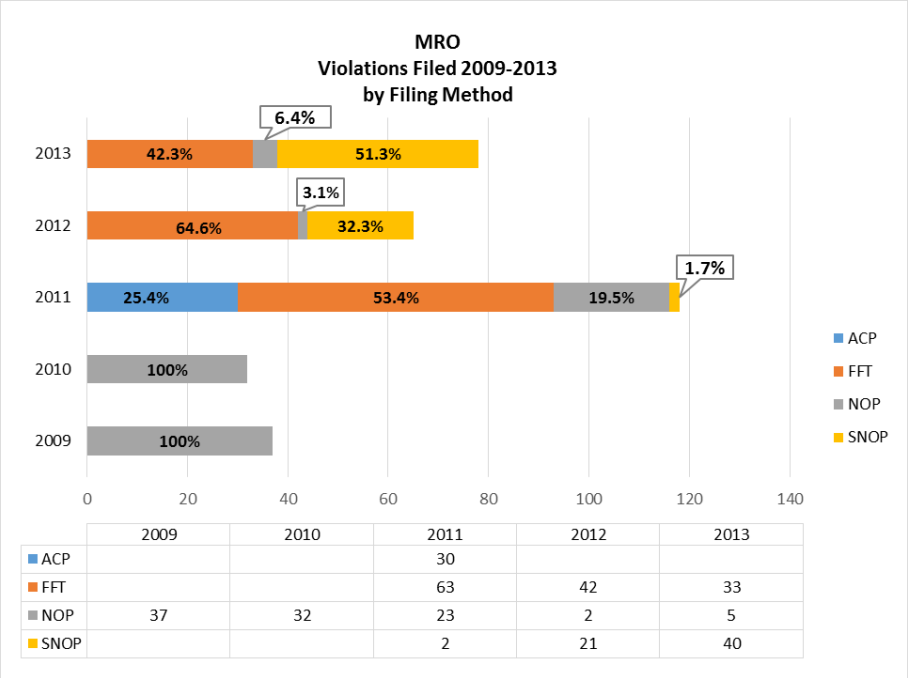
In 2013, MRO reduced the portion of its caseload consisting of violations dating to before 2012 by 89%. NERC commends MRO for its responsiveness and efforts to achieve this important ERO Enterprise goal. MRO states that its remaining inventory consisted of particularly complex violations, and that it is committed to having all 2012 and older cases resolved by the end of 2014.

NERC will work with MRO to ensure that these and other older violations are resolved as soon as is practicable in light of the facts of each violation.

iv. Implementation of Streamlined Enforcement Processing Mechanisms

MRO effectively used streamlined enforcement processing mechanisms to process a substantial portion of its caseload during the assessment period. In 2011, following the implementation of the streamlined enforcement processing mechanisms, MRO filed 118 violations – more than the previous two years combined.

Violations Filed per Year by Filing Method for MRO, 2009-2013



	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
ACP			30		
FFT			63	42	33
NOP	37	32	23	2	5
SNOP			2	21	40

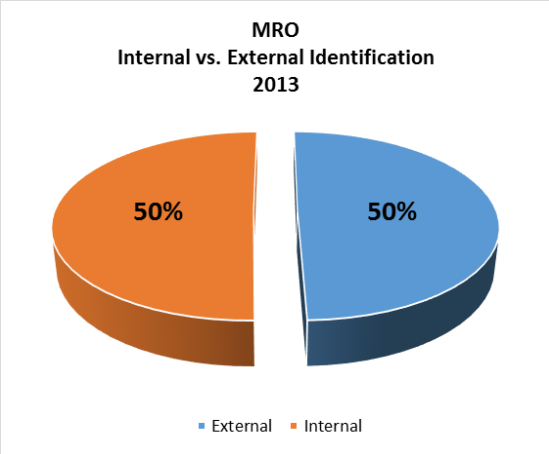
MRO has used the streamlined processing mechanisms to file over 88% of violations since 2011. MRO is using the FFT process to resolve violations posing a minimal risk to the BPS, and it seeks to use the enforcement mechanisms in a manner that promotes consistency. NERC expects that MRO will continue to reserve the NOP format for violations that require it and take advantage of further process refinements available under RAI. Additional information regarding MRO's implementation of FFT is presented later in this assessment.

c. Improving Reliability

i. Encouraging Internal Discovery of Violations

In 2013, violations discovered by registered entities through internal mechanisms comprised approximately 50% of total violations in the MRO region. This is lower than the ERO Enterprise average of 73%. Stated differently, during the assessment period, MRO discovered a higher percentage of violations through external methods (i.e., compliance audit and spot check) than other Regional Entities.

Percentage of Violations by Method of Identification for MRO in 2013



As noted above, NERC and the Regional Entities are working to understand the regional variations in the percentages of noncompliances discovered through self-discovery and audits across the ERO Enterprise. Understanding these differences, and how they may relate to registered entity internal controls and management practices, will allow NERC and the Regional Entities to continue to provide the right incentives for discovering and self-reporting noncompliances.

ii. Ensuring the Timely Mitigation of Violations

MRO reported that, upon validation of a violation, MRO mitigation staff conduct a thorough review of the present circumstances at the registered entity to ensure better, more effective corrective actions for prevention. MRO mitigation staff collaborate with the registered entities to develop a thorough, comprehensive, and effective mitigation plan that includes documentation and implementation of controls that are used to monitor performance and correct deficiencies to help prevent recurrence of noncompliance. MRO's position is that while it recognizes that prompt submission or early completion of mitigation plans may be desirable, its overarching goal of preventing recurring issues is of greater concern. MRO uses the webCDMS platform to automate processes for the review, approval, tracking, and certification of mitigation plans, and it participates in efforts across the ERO Enterprise to develop metrics to encourage timely processing of mitigation plans.

As demonstrated in the table below, MRO has made substantial progress in ensuring that older violations have completed mitigation, with 100% of violations discovered from 2007 through 2010 having completed mitigation.

MRO: Status of Mitigating Activity for Violations Discovered from 2007-2013 and Requiring Mitigation as of December 31, 2013[105]

Year of Discovery	% Completed	% in Progress
2013	14.7%	85.3%
2012	58.5%	41.5%
2011	79.5%	20.5%
2010	100.0%	0.0%
2009	100.0%	0.0%
2008	100.0%	0.0%
2007	100.0%	0.0%
Grand Total	**70.4%**	**29.6%**

NERC is working closely with MRO to understand the nature of the violations with open mitigation and ensure that violations are mitigated in a timely manner. Specifically, NERC will work with MRO to understand why just over half of 2012 violations have completed mitigation and less than 15% of 2013 violations have completed mitigation.[106] NERC encourages MRO to continue to seek solutions that will promote reliability and work to ensure that mitigation is completed in a timely manner.

iii. Promoting Reliability through Enforcement Philosophy and Practices

MRO's enforcement philosophy is to ensure that enforcement determinations match its essential purpose: to improve reliability and address risks to reliability. MRO reserves settlements for more complicated matters and encourages investments in systems and people as an offset for proposed penalties. An important tenet of MRO's enforcement philosophy is to use technical experts with the requisite knowledge and experience to assess actual risk posed by individual violations. MRO's enforcement philosophy considers highly effective reliability organizations to be those that prevent uncontrolled cascading outages through disciplined management practices and are accountable for their performance. As a result, registered entities in the MRO region accept responsibility (or "admit") in 90% of all violations.[107]

Similar to the other Regional Entities, MRO worked with registered entities, where appropriate, to accept the completion of certain activities above-and-beyond those required to ensure compliance with one or more Reliability Standards, in lieu of the full monetary penalties

[105] This table reports the percentage of violations discovered from the years 2007 through 2013 with completed or open mitigation. This table excludes dismissed violations and non-U.S. violations.

[106] Although a number of violations from 2011 have open mitigation, most of these violations involve the same registered entity.

[107] JRESA, Appendix 2-C at 13. MRO's Regulatory Philosophy (April 30, 2014) is available at: http://www.midwestreliability.org/01_about_mro/Public%20Awareness/2014/MRO_Regulatory_Philosophy_043014.pdf.

permitted by the NERC *Sanction Guidelines*. MRO states that, during the assessment period, it sought to include above-and-beyond commitments whenever possible. These efforts allow registered entities to allocate their resources to those projects that can increase overall reliability and reduce the likelihood of future noncompliance.

As an example of the type of above-and-beyond commitments made by registered entities in the MRO region, one registered entity committed to the hiring of additional compliance personnel, installation of new alarming systems, replacement of electromechanical relays and communication equipment with microprocessor relays and mirrored bit over fiber communications, and the provision of additional training for entity staff. Another registered entity committed to the following activities: (i) sharing its experience and lessons learned related to compliance with PRC-005-1 with at least three industry peer groups such as the North American Generator Forum and the Mid Continent Compliance Forum; (ii) securing NERC Compliance training from an outside consultant for at least six individuals from its Nuclear Business Unit; (iii) coordinating with and benchmarking the adoption of NERC compliance efforts at two nuclear facilities owned and operated by two different entities (one within the MRO region and one outside the MRO region); and (iv) replacing certain solid state relays with microprocessor relays. In another instance, the registered entity accelerated its replacement schedule for aging assets to include replacement of four additional electro-mechanical relay panels with completely digital, self-diagnostic relays, among other above-and-beyond actions over a three year period. NERC encourages MRO to continue deploying solutions such as these that promote reliability and insight into processes that can manage risk.

d. MRO'S Implementation of Various Aspects of the CMEP

As noted in §II.D.1.a above, NERC conducts ongoing oversight activities to evaluate the effectiveness of each Regional Entity's implementation of the CMEP. These activities include regular reviews and periodic spot checks of specific Regional Entity processes. NERC's oversight activities give NERC an ongoing view into how effectively and efficiently the Regional Entity is executing its enforcement responsibilities. Below is a summary of some of NERC's more recent oversight activities specific to MRO.

With respect to the appropriateness of monetary penalties, MRO undertook several efforts during the assessment period to ensure consistency of remedies within its region. MRO also participated in various initiatives to increase interaction with other Regional Entities, such as through the various Regional Entity working groups. MRO does not review or track all monetary penalties proposed by other Regional Entities. However, MRO reviews penalty determinations for similar violations in the MRO region and other Regional Entities and, as appropriate, discusses proposed penalties with other Regional Entities and NERC. NERC reviews all penalties submitted by MRO for appropriateness and consistency with monetary penalties assessed by MRO and by other Regional Entities for violations of the same Reliability Standards and Requirements occurring under similar facts and circumstances. NERC has found that MRO assesses monetary penalties that are appropriate and consistent with penalties assessed for similar violations.

Based on a spot check, NERC determined that MRO dismisses violations for appropriate reasons and generally includes the required information when issuing letters of dismissal. NERC

identified opportunities where MRO could improve its letters of dismissal, and communicated those opportunities to MRO. By implementing the recommended improvements, MRO can improve the quality of its compliance guidance to registered entities.

As part of its ongoing FFT review processes, NERC reviewed a sample of MRO FFT issues filed or posted during the assessment period to examine MRO's procedures for FFT processing and the application of those procedures to the FFT issues in its caseload. NERC concluded that MRO's process documents for FFT processing are clear, easy-to-follow, and facilitate consistent application. Further, NERC noted that MRO uses a checklist to ensure that it follows its process by tracking all of the steps that must be taken. NERC concluded that MRO generally assessed the risk posed by an issue in light of all relevant facts and ensured that mitigating activities addressed both mitigation of the issue and prevention of reoccurrence. NERC noted several ways that MRO could improve its FFT postings and related documentation to provide additional transparency to its determinations.

e. Conclusion

Based on NERC's review of the factors described above, NERC concludes that MRO has performed as an effective Regional Entity with respect to enforcement activities during the assessment period. In addition, NERC commends MRO for its substantial efforts in the development of RAI. MRO should adopt the recommendations for improvement noted above. In particular, based on MRO's performance in several enforcement processing metrics, MRO should work to identify and implement solutions so that it is better equipped to ensure that violations are processed as quickly as is practicable consistent with the circumstances of each violation. MRO should also adopt the other recommendations for improvement provided as part of NERC's oversight activities.

4. Evaluation of Northeast Power Coordinating Council, Inc.

a. Overview

In the three-year performance assessment, NERC concluded that NPCC was a relatively effective Regional Entity in that it processed and completed identified violations in a timely manner. However, NERC indicated its concern that NPCC may not be identifying all violations that are occurring.[108]

NPCC believes that, during the assessment period, it has built a very cost-effective compliance program through the use of independent contractors. NPCC's level of alleged violations per registered reliability function remains low, but in line with other Regional Entities. NPCC believes its low level of violations per registered reliability function is a product of its thorough outreach and communication with registered entities in its region.[109]

[108] *Three-Year ERO Performance Assessment Report*, Attachment 3 at 19-20.

[109] 2014 JRESA, Appendix 2-B at 3.

During the assessment period, NPCC has increased the number of FTE staff dedicated to enforcement from 2 in 2009 to 4 as of December 31, 2013. Based on NPCC's processing speed and efficiency as measured at the end of the assessment period, NERC views NPCC's enforcement staffing to be sufficient to process the number of violations that it receives.

NPCC ended the assessment period with a Caseload Index that was somewhat better than the ERO Enterprise Caseload Index. NPCC processed all violations that were discovered before 2012, in furtherance of an ERO Enterprise goal. NPCC's caseload now consists of more-recent violations, and NPCC has made progress in ensuring that older violations are mitigated. Finally, NERC has reviewed NPCC's enforcement-related processes as part of its oversight role and found that, while areas for improvement remain, NPCC generally implements those processes in a satisfactory manner.

In addition, NPCC staff have actively participated in the development of RAI. Specifically, NPCC staff have participated in the Aggregation of Minimal Risk Issues and Enforcement Discretion pilot programs and served on the *ERO Self-Report User Guide* and *ERO Enterprise Mitigation Plan Guide* drafting teams. NPCC also participated in several compliance-based programs. In addition, NPCC staff have participated in the process to develop improvements for the compliance and enforcement oversight of MRREs. This participation is vital as the ERO Enterprise shifts toward a risk-based model of compliance and enforcement.

As explained more fully below, based on NPCC's Caseload Index, NPCC's successful processing of its older violations (as facilitated by its effective implementation of streamlined enforcement processing mechanisms), and the results of NERC's oversight activities, NERC concludes that NPCC has performed as an effective Regional Entity with respect to enforcement activities during the assessment period. Going forward, NERC will work with NPCC to ensure that violations are mitigated promptly.

b. Evaluation of Caseload Processing Efficiency

i. The Composition of NPCC's Caseload

During the assessment period, NPCC reported 551 violations to NERC.[110]

Violations for NPCC 2009-2013 by Year Reported to NERC[111]

Year Reported to NERC	Violations Reported
2009	43
2010	99
2011	130

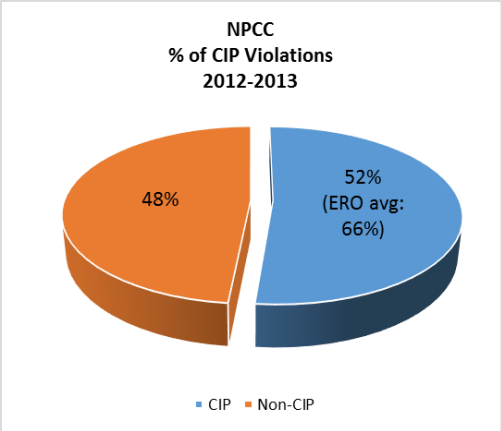
[110] This table reflects U.S. violations only. When including Canadian violations, NPCC reported 670 violations from 2009 through 2013.

[111] For an explanation of the methodology used to calculate the data in this table and throughout this §II.D, *see supra* n. 766.

2012	213
2013	66
Total	**551**

As noted in the table above, NPCC reported the highest number of violations in 2012, with a substantial decline in 2013. In the years 2012 and 2013, violations of CIP Reliability Standards represented 52% of total violations; this is a lower percentage than the ERO Enterprise average of 66%.

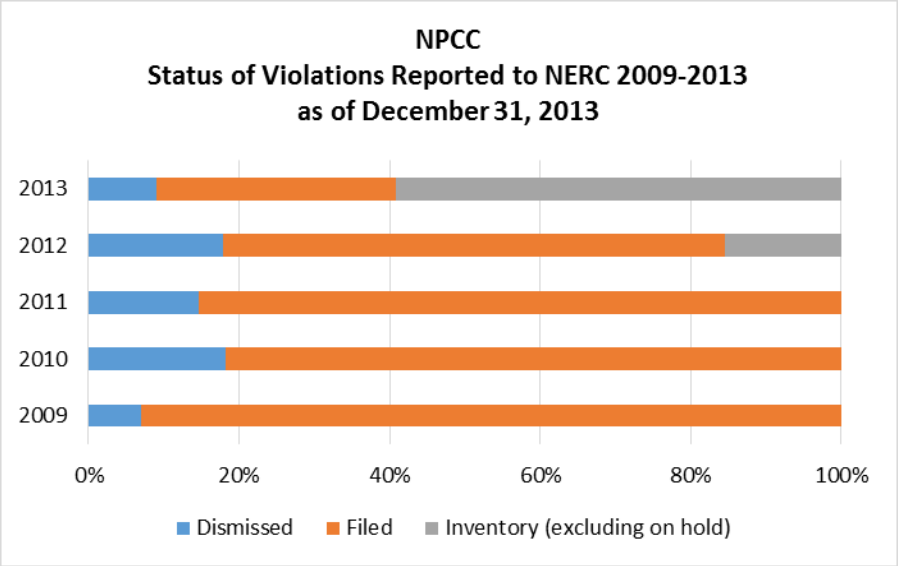
Type of Violations Reported to NERC by NPCC, 2012-2013



Over the assessment period, CIP violations made up 54.6% of total violations in NPCC, compared to the ERO Enterprise average of 59.4%. Approximately 70% of the CIP violations were self-identified. NERC will work with NPCC to understand what factors may have caused NPCC to have a lower percentage of CIP violations than other Regional Entities in 2012-2013.

Of the total violations reported to NERC during the assessment period, approximately 72 violations, or 13%, remained to be processed as of December 31, 2013 (excluding violations that are held by appeal, a court, or a regulator). As demonstrated in the table below, NPCC has processed all violations that were reported to NERC in 2009, 2010, and 2011. NPCC has processed approximately 85% of violations reported to NERC in 2012.

Status of Violations Reported to NERC 2009-2013 for NPCC



NPCC processed approximately 41% of violations that it reported to NERC in 2013. This is consistent with the ERO 2013 processing rate of 39%. Approximately 54% of the violations available for processing in NPCC's inventory consist of violations reported to NERC in 2013. This is lower than the overall ERO Enterprise average of 67%.

ii. Caseload Index

The Caseload Index for NPCC is 6.7 months as of December 31, 2013. This is consistent with the ERO Enterprise Caseload Index of approximately 6.5 months.

In light of NPCC's Caseload Index and as reflected in the general characteristics of its caseload (i.e., NPCC's caseload consists entirely of violations reported to NERC in 2012 and 2013), NPCC continued to process violations in a timely manner during the assessment period.

iii. Efforts to Reduce Older Caseload

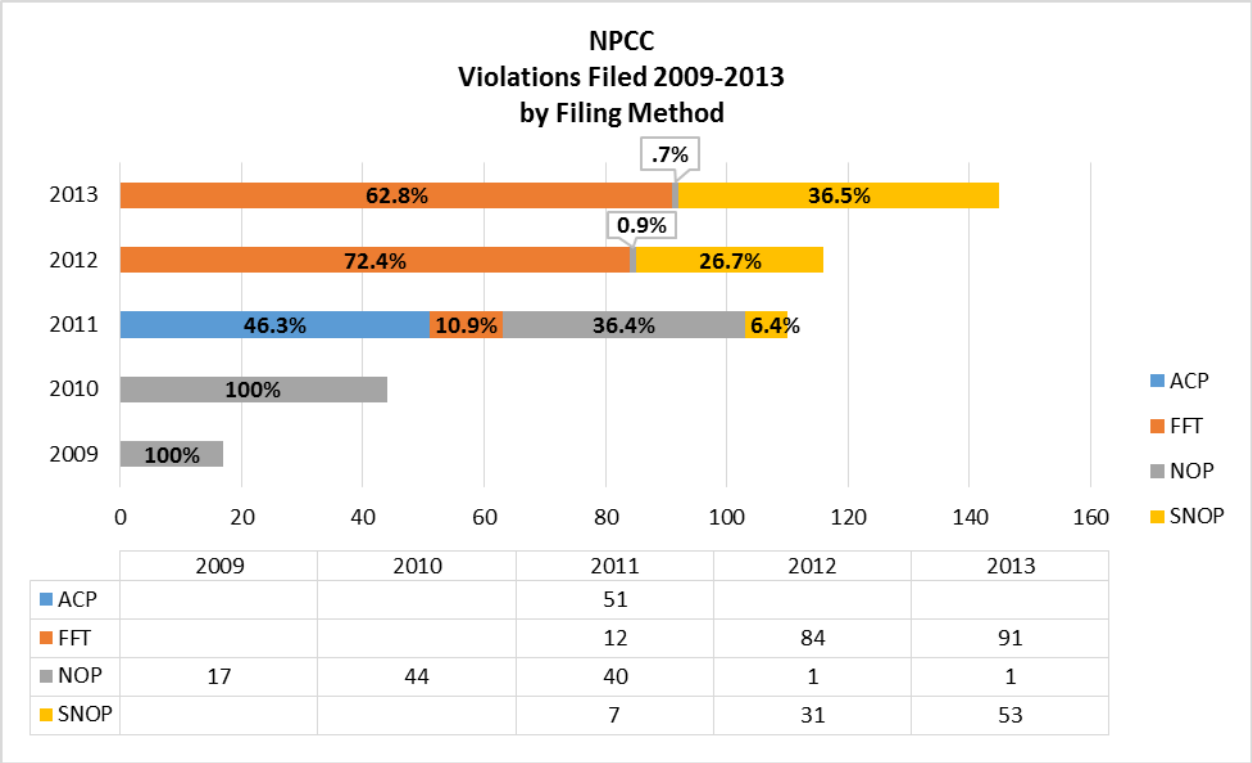
In 2013, NPCC completed processing of all pre-2012 violations. NERC commends NPCC for its responsiveness and efforts to achieve this important ERO Enterprise goal. Based on the current composition of its inventory of violations available to be processed, NPCC is well-positioned to achieve the goal of ensuring that violations are processed before reaching 24 months in age.

iv. Implementation of Streamlined Enforcement Processing Mechanisms

NPCC effectively used streamlined processing mechanisms to process a substantial portion of its caseload during the assessment period. In 2011, following the implementation of the

streamlined enforcement processing mechanisms, NPCC filed 110 violations – more than the previous two years combined.

Violations Filed per Year by Filing Method for NPCC, 2009-2013



	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
ACP			51		
FFT			12	84	91
NOP	17	44	40	1	1
SNOP			7	31	53

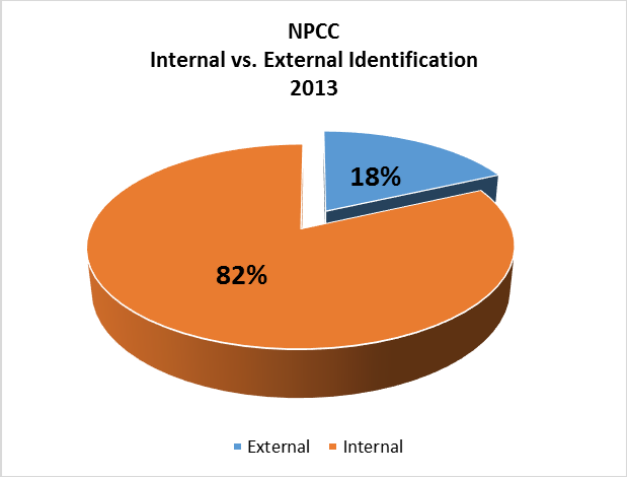
By 2012, NPCC filed nearly all of its violations using either SNOP or FFT. NPCC reported that it discusses the application of FFT and SNOP with other Regional Entity representatives to ensure consistency. NERC expects that NPCC will continue to reserve the NOP format for violations that require it and to take advantage of further process refinements available under RAI. Additional information regarding NPCC's application of FFT is presented later in this assessment.

c. Improving Reliability

i. Encouraging Internal Discovery of Violations

In 2013, violations discovered by registered entities through internal mechanisms comprised 82% of total violations in the NPCC region. This is somewhat higher than the ERO Enterprise average of 73%.

Percentage of Violations by Method of Identification for NPCC in 2013



ii. Ensuring the Timely Mitigation of Violations

NPCC has enhanced its self-report form to include data fields that allow registered entities to supply details of mitigation plans or mitigating activities when submitting a self-report. NPCC believes that use of these new data fields has resulted in earlier implementation of mitigation, thereby promoting improved reliability. NPCC works closely with each registered entity to process mitigation plans in a timely manner.

As demonstrated in the table below, NPCC has made substantial progress in ensuring that pre-2012 violations have been mitigated.

NPCC: Status of Mitigating Activity for Violations Discovered from 2007-2013 and Requiring Mitigation as of December 31, 2013[112]

Year of Discovery	% Completed	% in Progress
2013	37.5%	62.5%
2012	86.3%	13.7%
2011	100.0%	0.0%
2010	100.0%	0.0%
2009	100.0%	0.0%
2008	100.0%	0.0%
2007	100.0%	0.0%
Grand Total	**89.0%**	**11.0%**

[112] This table reports the percentage of violations discovered from the years 2007 through 2013 with completed or open mitigation. This table excludes dismissed violations and non-U.S. violations.

Approximately 22 violations from 2012 remain to be mitigated, along with 62.5% of violations from 2013. NERC is working closely with NPCC to ensure that violations are mitigated in a timely manner.

iii. Promoting Reliability through Enforcement Philosophy and Practices

NPCC's enforcement philosophy is to develop relationships with the registered entities in its region to: (1) educate them on the aspects of the CMEP and its implementation; (2) inform them of the changes to the enforcement process during biannual workshops; and (3) promote RAI.

In its settlement processes, NPCC has worked with registered entities, where appropriate, to accept the completion of certain activities above-and-beyond those required to ensure compliance with one or more Reliability Standards in lieu of the full monetary penalties permitted by the NERC *Sanction Guidelines*. These efforts allow registered entities to allocate their resources to those projects that can increase overall reliability and reduce the likelihood of future noncompliance.

As an example of above-and-beyond activities, one registered entity within the NPCC region committed to establish an enterprise-wide compliance program, with resources dedicated to implementing that program. Another registered entity committed to implement software systems (rather than manual record-keeping) to track protection system devices and their associated maintenance intervals. On one occasion, a registered entity committed to implement Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR)-based Power Line Systems as a supplemental tool to identify site conditions. NERC encourages NPCC to continue deploying solutions such as these that promote reliability and insight into processes that can manage risk.

d. NPCC'S Implementation of Various Aspects of the CMEP

As noted in §II.D.1.a above, NERC conducts ongoing oversight activities to evaluate the effectiveness of each Regional Entity's implementation of the CMEP. These activities include regular reviews and periodic spot checks of specific Regional Entity processes. NERC's oversight activities give NERC an ongoing view into how effectively and efficiently the Regional Entity is executing its enforcement responsibilities. Below is a summary of some of NERC's more recent oversight activities specific to NPCC.

NPCC reported that, in addition to using the NERC *Sanction Guidelines* as a guide for assessing monetary penalties, NPCC reviews the monthly enforcement filings. Specifically, NPCC compares the penalties that other Regional Entities assess for violations of Reliability Standards and Requirements and contacts other Regional Entities to discuss penalties where appropriate. NERC reviews all penalties submitted by NPCC for appropriateness and consistency with monetary penalties assessed by NPCC and other Regional Entities for violations of the same Reliability Standards and Requirements occurring under similar facts and circumstances. NERC has found that NPCC assesses monetary penalties that are appropriate and consistent with penalties assessed for similar violations.

Based on a spot check, NERC determined that NPCC generally dismisses violations for appropriate reasons, and generally includes the required information when issuing letters of dismissal. NERC identified opportunities for NPCC to improve its letters of dismissal and communicated those opportunities to NPCC. By implementing the recommended improvements, NPCC can improve the quality and clarity of its compliance guidance to registered entities.

As part of its ongoing FFT review processes, NERC reviewed a sample of NPCC FFT issues filed or posted during the assessment period to examine NPCC's procedures for FFT processing and the application of those procedures to the FFT issues in its caseload. Following its review, NERC concluded that NPCC maintains process documents governing the application of the FFT process. NERC noted that NPCC ensures that mitigating activity is completed. NPCC's issue descriptions are generally adequate to describe the issue. NERC noted several ways that NPCC could improve its FFT postings and related documentation to provide additional transparency to its determinations.

e. Conclusion

Based on NERC's review of the factors described above, NERC concludes that NPCC has performed as an effective Regional Entity with respect to enforcement activities during the assessment period. NPCC should adopt the recommendations for improvement provided as part of NERC's oversight activities.

5. Evaluation of ReliabilityFirst Corporation

a. Overview

In the three-year performance assessment, NERC concluded that, consistent with the overall findings for the ERO Enterprise, ReliabilityFirst needed to improve its efficiency with respect to conducting enforcement activities.[113] ReliabilityFirst has taken several steps to increase its efficiency with respect to conducting enforcement activities during the assessment period, including setting internal violation processing goals that are tied to corporate goals and training enforcement staff on how to become more efficient in their fact-gathering efforts. In 2013, ReliabilityFirst implemented a practice of consolidating multiple violations of the same standard with similar facts into a single docket number and consolidating multiple docket numbers with similar violations into a single settlement agreement or FFT. ReliabilityFirst believes this practice furthers its approach to resolving violations, an approach which it described as "holistic." ReliabilityFirst has also focused its efforts on those violations that pose the greatest risk to reliability and expedited its processing of lesser-risk violations through the FFT process.[114]

During the assessment period, ReliabilityFirst increased the number of FTE staff dedicated to enforcement from 8 in 2009 to 12 as of December 31, 2013.

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[113] *Three-Year ERO Performance Assessment Report*, Attachment 3 at 21-22. NERC also noted that an independent audit of ReliabilityFirst's compliance program found no material deficiencies.

[114] 2014 JRESA, Appendix 2-B at 6.

NERC recognizes the progress ReliabilityFirst has made in enforcement processing during the assessment period. ReliabilityFirst made significant progress in reducing the number of open violations, despite substantial increases in new violations during the assessment period. Moreover, during the assessment period, ReliabilityFirst worked with and resolved a number of complex matters concerning registered entities with significant BPS operations. When resolving each of these complex matters, ReliabilityFirst encouraged registered entities to implement actions above and beyond baseline compliance to improve the reliability and security of the BPS. Examples of these above-and-beyond actions are presented below.

NERC also recognizes that ReliabilityFirst often takes the lead in settlement negotiations to resolve violations from MRREs. ReliabilityFirst has routinely demonstrated a commitment to use the enforcement process to promote the reliability of the BPS. Further, NERC has reviewed ReliabilityFirst's enforcement-related processes as part of its oversight role and found that, while areas for improvement remain, ReliabilityFirst generally implements those processes in a satisfactory manner. However, ReliabilityFirst ended the assessment period with a higher-than-average Caseload Index. In addition, while ReliabilityFirst made substantial strides in reducing the portion of its caseload consisting of violations dating to before 2012, ReliabilityFirst had a number of older violations in its inventory that needed to be mitigated and processed by the end of the assessment period. As is discussed in more detail below, ReliabilityFirst is working closely with the registered entities to complete mitigation and processing of these older violations.

NERC recognizes the contributions ReliabilityFirst staff have made in the development of RAI and the related enforcement pilot programs. ReliabilityFirst has taken a leadership role in the conceptualization, development, testing, and integration of several programs, and a member of ReliabilityFirst's staff led the multi-region working group on enforcement activities during the assessment period. ReliabilityFirst staff participated in the Enforcement Discretion pilot program and served on the *ERO Self-Report User Guide* and *ERO Enterprise Mitigation Plan Guide* drafting teams. ReliabilityFirst staff have also participated in the process to develop improvements for the compliance and enforcement oversight of MRREs. ReliabilityFirst also maintained the sole MRRE log during the Aggregation of Minimal Risk Issues pilot program. This participation is vital as the ERO Enterprise shifts toward a risk-based model of compliance and enforcement.

In light of all the relevant factors, which are explained more fully below, NERC concludes that ReliabilityFirst has performed as an effective Regional Entity with respect to enforcement activities during the assessment period. However, ReliabilityFirst should consider exploring and implementing solutions that will assist ReliabilityFirst in processing the substantial number of violations that it receives on a yearly basis while meeting the performance objectives of the ERO Enterprise.

b. Evaluation of Caseload Processing Efficiency

i. The Composition of ReliabilityFirst's Caseload

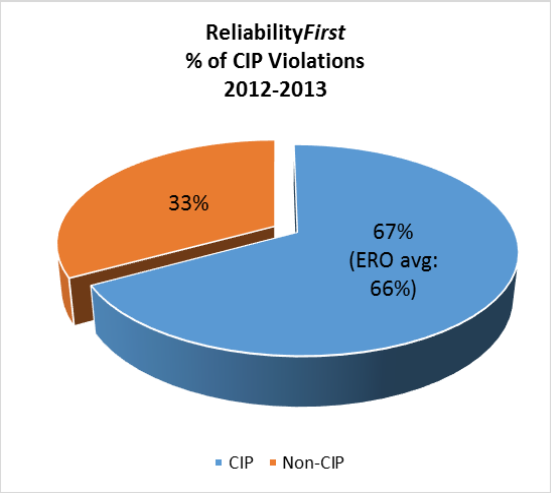
During the assessment period, ReliabilityFirst reported 1,902 violations to NERC, the second highest number among the Regional Entities.

Violations for ReliabilityFirst 2009-2013 by Year Reported to NERC[115]

Year Reported to NERC	Violations Reported
2009	123
2010	469
2011	565
2012	505
2013	240
Total	**1902**

As shown in the table above, ReliabilityFirst reported the highest number of violations in 2011, with a gradual decrease in 2012 and a substantial decrease in 2013. Approximately two-thirds of the violations in 2011 were of the CIP Reliability Standards. In the years 2012 and 2013, violations of CIP Reliability Standards represented 67% of total violations; this percentage is consistent with the ERO Enterprise average of 66%.

Type of Violations Reported to NERC by ReliabilityFirst, 2012-2013

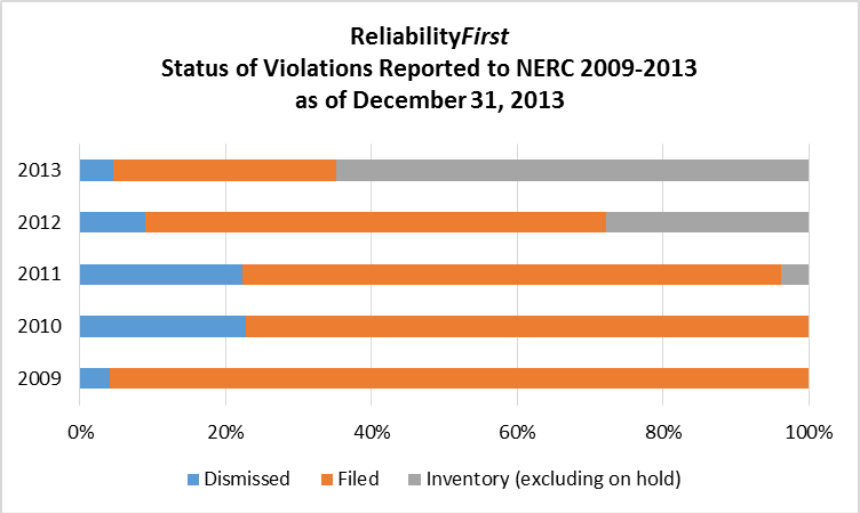


Approximately 76% of the CIP violations were discovered through internal means.

Of the total violations reported to NERC during the assessment period, approximately 316 violations, or approximately 17%, remained to be processed as of December 31, 2013 (excluding violations that are held by appeal, a court, or a regulator). As demonstrated in the table below, ReliabilityFirst has processed all violations that were reported to NERC in 2009 and 2010 (excluding on hold violations). ReliabilityFirst has processed approximately 96% of violations reported to NERC in 2011 (excluding on hold violations), and approximately 72% of violations reported to NERC in 2012.

[115] For an explanation of the methodology used to calculate the data in this table and throughout this §II.D, *see supra* n. 766.

Status of Violations Reported to NERC 2009-2013 for ReliabilityFirst



ReliabilityFirst processed approximately 35% of violations reported to NERC in 2013 (excluding on hold violations). This is slightly lower than the ERO 2013 processing rate of 39%. Further, the percentage of ReliabilityFirst's caseload consisting of violations reported to NERC in 2013 (approximately 49%), is substantially lower than the overall ERO Enterprise average of 67%.

ii. Caseload Index

The Caseload Index for ReliabilityFirst was 9.8 months as of December 31, 2013. Although this is higher than the ERO Enterprise Caseload Index of approximately 6.5 months, NERC notes that ReliabilityFirst performed well, relative to the ERO Enterprise average, for the majority of the assessment period. NERC also recognizes that in 2014, ReliabilityFirst has resolved a significant number of the current set of cases and is on track to resolve the remaining cases that are responsible for the higher-than-average Caseload Index at the end of the assessment period. The majority of these cases are large, multi-regional matters.

iii. Efforts to Reduce Older Caseload

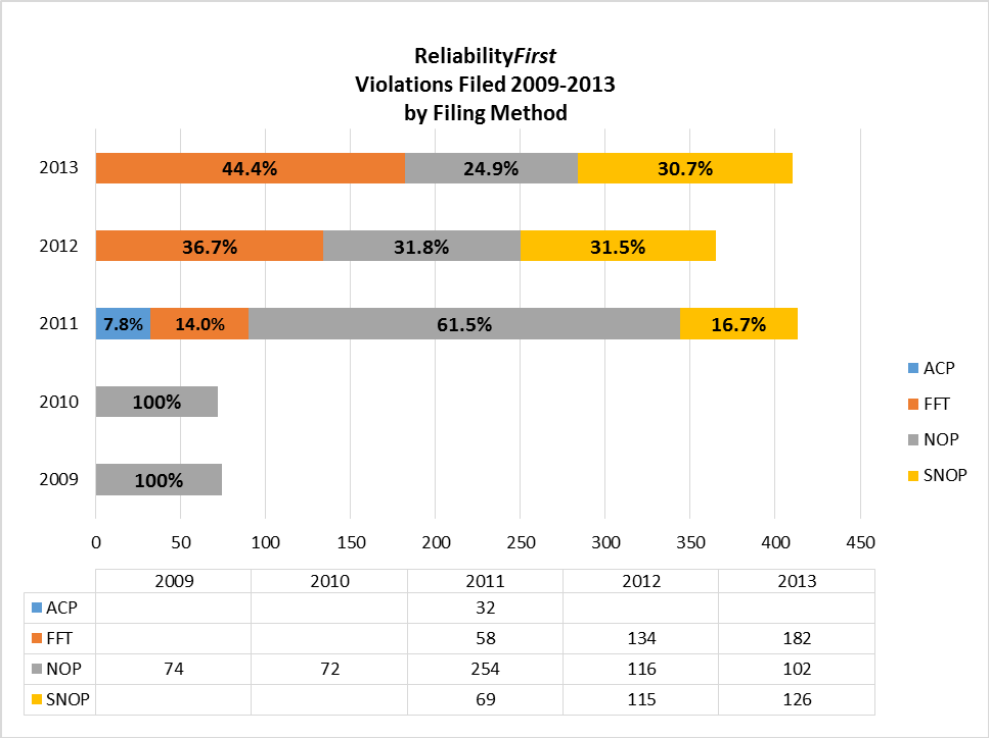
In 2013, ReliabilityFirst reduced the portion of its caseload consisting of violations dating to before 2012 by 88%. NERC commends ReliabilityFirst for its responsiveness and efforts to achieve this important ERO Enterprise goal. ReliabilityFirst reported that its remaining inventory consisted of particularly broad and complex violations that are part of large settlement agreements in the process of being negotiated. ReliabilityFirst also reported that it has been closely monitoring and working with the registered entities to ensure effective and holistic mitigation for these older, more complex violations.

NERC will continue to work with ReliabilityFirst to prioritize the processing of these violations and other older violations so that ReliabilityFirst may achieve the goal of ensuring that violations are processed before reaching 24 months in age.

iv. Implementation of Streamlined Enforcement Processing Mechanisms

ReliabilityFirst effectively used streamlined enforcement processing mechanisms to process a substantial portion of its caseload during the assessment period. In 2011, following the implementation of the streamlined enforcement processing mechanisms, ReliabilityFirst filed 413 violations – more than two-and-a-half times the total of the previous two years combined.

Violations Filed per Year by Filing Method for ReliabilityFirst, 2009-2013



	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
ACP			32		
FFT			58	134	182
NOP	74	72	254	116	102
SNOP			69	115	126

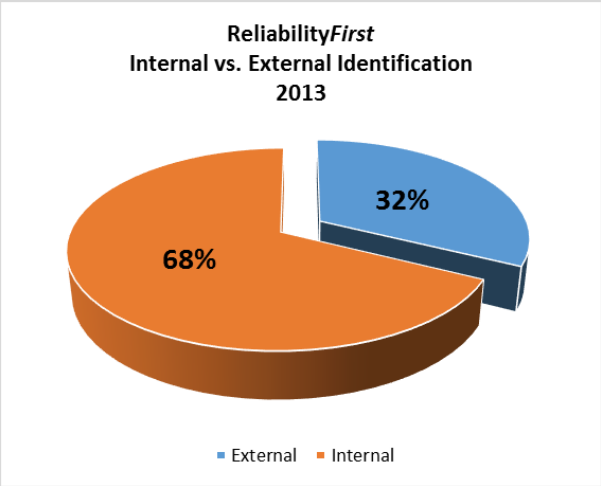
ReliabilityFirst uses the FFT process for minimal or moderate risk violations where it seeks to encourage certain entity behavior (or conversely, where there is there is an absence of behavior that ReliabilityFirst wishes to discourage). ReliabilityFirst prepares NOPs where there are important mitigating actions, above-and-beyond commitments, or reliability concerns that may not be adequately presented in the SNOP format. ReliabilityFirst also confers with other Regional Entities through an enforcement activities working group to ensure that each of the Regional Entities develops consistent documentation for the FFT process and makes consistent risk determinations when deciding whether to grant FFT or SNOP treatment for a violation. NERC expects that ReliabilityFirst will continue to take advantage of further process refinements available under RAI. Additional information regarding ReliabilityFirst's implementation of FFT is presented later in this assessment.

c. Improving Reliability

i. Encouraging Internal Discovery of Violations

In 2013, violations discovered by registered entities through internal mechanisms comprised 68% of total violations in the ReliabilityFirst region. This is slightly lower than the ERO Enterprise average of 73%.

Percentage of Violations by Method of Identification for ReliabilityFirst in 2013



ii. Ensuring the Timely Mitigation of Violations

ReliabilityFirst reported that it encourages the prompt submission of mitigation plans in its notices of possible violation, in compliance audit exit briefings, and as part of its enforcement process. ReliabilityFirst considers the prompt submission of mitigation plans when making its penalty determinations and the prompt identification of mitigating activities in its determination of FFT eligibility. ReliabilityFirst has processes in place for the review, acceptance, and verification of mitigation plans, and it has tracking systems in place to help ensure that mitigation plans are submitted, reviewed, and accepted in a timely manner. ReliabilityFirst does not require formal mitigation plans for some minimal and moderate risk violations, but rather requires submission of a formal mitigation plan based on the risk posed by each violation. ReliabilityFirst sends notifications to registered entities when necessary to ensure that they submit mitigation plans promptly and meet associated deadlines. Acceptance and verification of mitigation plans passes through a multi-layer review and approval process. During this process, ReliabilityFirst works closely with the applicable registered entity to ensure that the proposed mitigating activities address the underlying cause of the violation, the time to complete the mitigating activities is reasonable, and effective steps are taken to prevent reoccurrence of violations.

NERC is working closely with ReliabilityFirst to ensure that violations are mitigated in a timely manner. As demonstrated in the table below, ReliabilityFirst has made notable progress in ensuring that older violations have been mitigated, with 100% of violations discovered from 2007-

2009, 98.1% of violations discovered in 2010, and 89.1% of violations discovered in 2011 having completed mitigation.

ReliabilityFirst: Status of Mitigating Activity for Violations Discovered from 2007-2013 and Requiring Mitigation as of December 31, 2013[116]

Year of Discovery	% Completed	% in Progress
2013	24.5%	75.5%
2012	68.3%	31.7%
2011	89.1%	10.9%
2010	98.1%	1.9%
2009	100.0%	0.0%
2008	100.0%	0.0%
2007	100.0%	0.0%
Grand Total	**79.6%**	**20.4%**

ReliabilityFirst reported that it is working closely with registered entities to ensure the completion of effective mitigating activities for these violations. NERC will continue to work closely with ReliabilityFirst to ensure that violations are mitigated in a timely manner.

iii. Promoting Reliability through Enforcement Philosophy and Practices

ReliabilityFirst has taken a proactive approach to developing a detailed enforcement philosophy. ReliabilityFirst's enforcement philosophy consists of several overarching themes governing enforcement and a series of philosophies governing particular aspects of the enforcement process. ReliabilityFirst's philosophy is to not see the enforcement process as adversarial, but rather as an opportunity to work collaboratively with registered entities to craft forward-thinking resolutions designed to enhance reliability. ReliabilityFirst's philosophy is to use the enforcement process as a tool to shape and encourage desired registered entity behavior, and to only assess monetary penalties where the penalty is appropriate to encourage or discourage behavior and where the justification is supported by sound, consistent, and risk-based reasoning. ReliabilityFirst encourages the development of strong internal controls and other steps taken to improve compliance.

In its settlement processes, ReliabilityFirst has worked with registered entities, where appropriate, to accept the completion of certain activities above-and-beyond those required to ensure compliance with one or more Reliability Standards in lieu of the full monetary penalties permitted by the NERC *Sanction Guidelines*. These efforts allow registered entities to allocate their resources to those projects that can increase overall reliability and reduce the likelihood of future noncompliance.

[116] This table reports the percentage of violations discovered from the years 2007 through 2013 with completed or open mitigation. This table excludes dismissed violations.

ReliabilityFirst has worked with registered entities to include commitments in their mitigation plans going beyond those actions necessary to mitigate the underlying violations. Several notable examples are presented here. One registered entity committed to an aggressive timeline for the completion of mitigating actions, including completing certain activities faster than required by NERC guidance. To resolve a violation involving facility ratings, one registered entity committed to perform a broad review and verification of system components, to implement a new ratings software application, and to use LiDAR-based Power Line Systems – Computer Aided Design and Drafting (PLS-CADD) modeling as a supplemental tool to identify site conditions that may indicate potential ratings issues. One registered entity committed to perform an ongoing risk analysis of its cybersecurity policies and procedures using a Failure Modes Effects Analysis tool (a continuous improvement tool to improve the quality of process outputs by identifying and removing the cause of defects and errors and minimizing variability in processes). Another registered entity committed to conduct an evaluation of the U.S. Department of Energy Electricity Subsector Cybersecurity Capability Maturity Model (ES-C2M2) and create and implement an action plan with the goal of increasing the entity's maturity indicator level in domains related to the CIP Reliability Standards. ReliabilityFirst has also imposed the non-monetary sanction of conducting an unscheduled audit before the next six-year scheduled audit to ensure that a registered entity's implementation of a new compliance program improved and better positioned the registered entity's compliance posture prospectively. NERC encourages ReliabilityFirst to continue deploying solutions such as these that promote reliability and insight into processes that can manage risk.

d. ReliabilityFirst's Implementation of Various Aspects of the CMEP

As noted in §II.D.1.a above, NERC conducts ongoing oversight activities to evaluate the effectiveness of each Regional Entity's implementation of the CMEP. These activities include regular reviews and periodic spot checks of specific Regional Entity processes. NERC's oversight activities give NERC an ongoing view into how effectively and efficiently the Regional Entity is executing its enforcement responsibilities. Below is a summary of some of NERC's more recent oversight activities specific to ReliabilityFirst.

With respect to assessing monetary penalties, ReliabilityFirst reported that it has implemented a multi-step internal process for making penalty determinations. First, an assigned case manager makes all penalty recommendations (subject to senior executive review and approval) for his or her assigned registered entities, including the application of the adjustment factors set forth in the NERC *Sanction Guidelines*. Second, ReliabilityFirst has implemented what it calls the "Risk-Harm" process, whereby technical experts answer a series of questions about the risk and harm posed by each violation using a common scale which results in a quantified risk assessment for each violation. Third, ReliabilityFirst analyzes the risk assessment produced from the Risk-Harm process and checks to ensure that the penalty is consistent with the risk posed by the violation. Fourth, ReliabilityFirst looks at previously assessed penalties for comparable violations in the ReliabilityFirst region and in other regions, to ensure the internal and external consistency of its penalties. Finally, ReliabilityFirst requires senior management approval for each settlement agreement or Notice of Alleged Violation and Penalty, to ensure that the penalty is consistent with the risk posed by the violations at issue and is consistent with the enforcement philosophy it wishes to convey to other entities in the region. NERC reviews all penalties

submitted by ReliabilityFirst for appropriateness and consistency with monetary penalties assessed by ReliabilityFirst and other Regional Entities for violations of the same Reliability Standards and requirements occurring under similar facts and circumstances. NERC has found that ReliabilityFirst assesses monetary penalties that are appropriate and consistent with penalties assessed for similar violations.

Based on a spot check, NERC determined that ReliabilityFirst dismisses violations for appropriate reasons and generally includes the required information when issuing letters of dismissal. NERC identified opportunities for ReliabilityFirst to improve its letters of dismissal and communicated those opportunities to ReliabilityFirst. By implementing the recommended improvements, ReliabilityFirst can improve the quality of its compliance guidance to registered entities.

As part of its ongoing FFT review processes, NERC reviewed a sample of ReliabilityFirst FFT issues filed or posted during the assessment period to examine ReliabilityFirst's procedures for FFT processing and the application of those procedures to the FFT issues in its caseload. Following its review, NERC concluded that ReliabilityFirst has clear FFT processes that follow the directives, principles, and processes of the NERC guidance and the directives issued by the Commission regarding FFTs. NERC found that ReliabilityFirst applies its processes consistently. NERC noted several ways that ReliabilityFirst could improve its FFT postings and related documentation to provide additional transparency to its determinations.

e. Conclusion

Based on NERC's review of the factors described above, NERC concludes that ReliabilityFirst has performed as an effective Regional Entity with respect to enforcement activities during the assessment period. ReliabilityFirst should adopt the recommendations for improvement noted above and the recommendations provided as part of NERC's oversight activities. In particular, based on ReliabilityFirst's recent performance in several enforcement processing metrics, ReliabilityFirst is encouraged to continue to identify and implement solutions so that it is better equipped to ensure that violations are processed as quickly as practicable consistent with the circumstances of each violation.

6. Evaluation of SERC Reliability Corporation

a. Overview

In the three-year performance assessment, NERC concluded that SERC was an effective Regional Entity.[117] Consistent with the overall findings for the ERO, NERC noted a need to improve the efficiency of enforcement processes. During the assessment period, SERC made a number of organizational and process improvements to streamline its enforcement process and elevate enforcement within the SERC organizational structure.[118] In particular, SERC has expanded its CIP capabilities based on the increase of CIP violations reported to the region.

[117] *Three-Year ERO Performance Assessment Report*, Attachment 3 at 26.

[118] 2014 JRESA, Appendix 2-B at 5.

During the assessment period, SERC has increased the number of FTE staff dedicated to enforcement from 4.25 FTE in 2009 to 7 FTE as of December 31, 2013. Based on SERC's recent improvements in its processing speed and efficiency (as measured at the end of the assessment period), NERC views SERC's enforcement staffing to be sufficient to process the number of violations that it receives.

SERC ended the assessment period with a Caseload Index that was notably better than the ERO Enterprise Caseload Index. SERC processed a substantial number of violations discovered before 2012 in furtherance of an ERO Enterprise goal and in so doing, improved its performance and shifted the composition of its caseload to newer violations. NERC has reviewed SERC's enforcement-related processes as part of its oversight role and found that, while areas for improvement remain, SERC generally implements these processes in a satisfactory manner.

In addition, SERC staff have actively participated in the development of RAI. SERC staff have participated in the Aggregation of Minimal Risk Issues and Enforcement Discretion pilot programs, and have provided input and feedback during the *ERO Self-Report User Guide* and *ERO Enterprise Mitigation Plan Guide* development processes. In addition, SERC staff have participated in the process to develop improvements for the compliance and enforcement oversight of MRREs. This participation is vital as the ERO Enterprise shifts toward a risk-based model of compliance and enforcement.

As explained more fully below, NERC concludes that SERC has performed as an effective Regional Entity with respect to enforcement activities during the assessment period. However, work remains to be done to ensure that violations are mitigated in a timely manner. Going forward, NERC will work with SERC to ensure that violations are mitigated promptly, with an added emphasis on ensuring the completion of mitigation for older violations.

b. Evaluation of Caseload Processing Efficiency

i. The Composition of SERC's Caseload

During the assessment period, SERC reported 1,393 violations to NERC.

Violations for SERC 2009-2013 by Year Reported to NERC[119]

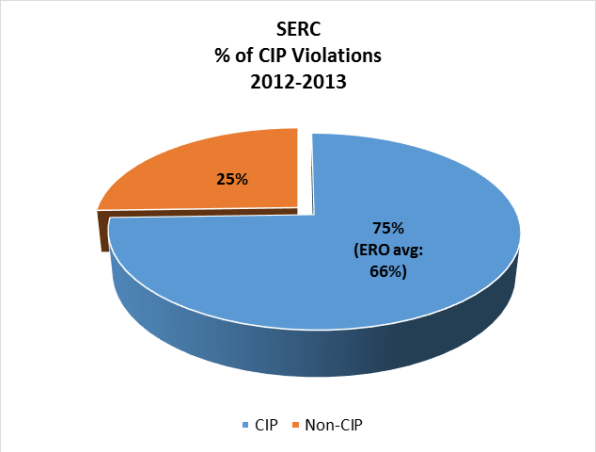
Year Reported to NERC	Violations Reported
2009	187
2010	312
2011	309
2012	300
2013	285

[119] For an explanation of the methodology used to calculate the data in this table and throughout this §II.D, *see supra* n. 76.

Total	**1393**

As shown in the table above, SERC reported a fairly steady number of violations from 2010-2013. In the years 2012 and 2013, violations of CIP Reliability Standards represented a higher percentage (75%) of total violations in the SERC region than the ERO Enterprise as a whole.

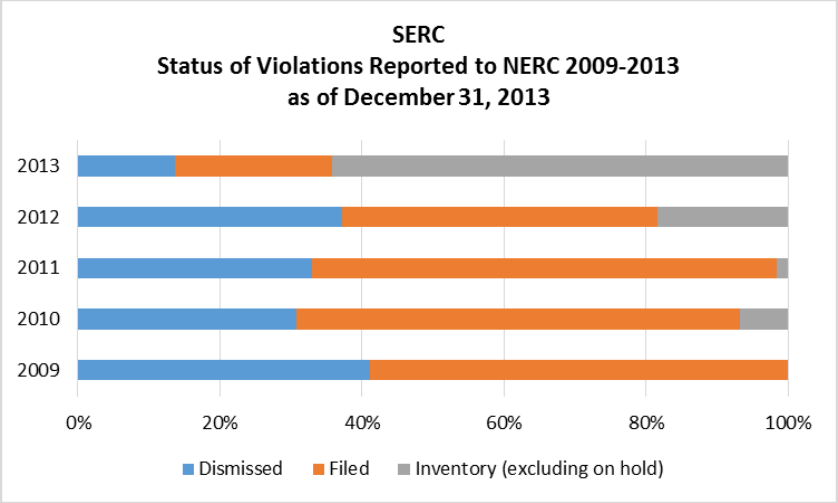
Type of Violations Reported to NERC by SERC, 2012-2013



Over two-thirds of CIP violations received from SERC in 2012 and 2013 were self-identified. SERC's recent expansion of its CIP capabilities should assist SERC in ensuring the timely evaluation and processing of the CIP violations it has received as well as the CIP violations it is likely to receive in the future.

Of the total violations reported by SERC to NERC during the assessment period, approximately 264 violations, or 19%, remained to be processed as of December 31, 2013 (excluding violations that are held by appeal, a court, or a regulator). As demonstrated in the table below, SERC has processed all violations reported to NERC in 2009, 93% of violations reported to NERC in 2010, 98% of violations reported to NERC in 2011, and 82% of violations reported to NERC in 2012 (excluding on hold violations).

Status of Violations Reported to NERC 2009-2013 for SERC



SERC processed approximately 36% of violations it reported to NERC in 2013. This is slightly lower than the ERO 2013 processing rate of 39%. However, violations reported to NERC in 2013 represent approximately 69% of the violations available for processing in SERC's caseload, which is consistent with the overall ERO Enterprise average of 67%.

ii. Caseload Index

The Caseload Index for SERC is 5.1 months as of December 31, 2013. This is better than the ERO Enterprise Caseload Index of approximately 6.5 months and represents a significant improvement in SERC's performance from earlier in the assessment period.

Through 2013, SERC improved its pace of enforcement processing in a dedicated effort to process its older violations. SERC reduced the average age of violations in its inventory by approximately three months from the end of the first quarter of 2013 to the end of 2013. SERC's processing efforts are reflected in the Caseload Index and the other informational measures described in this assessment.

iii. Efforts to Reduce Older Caseload

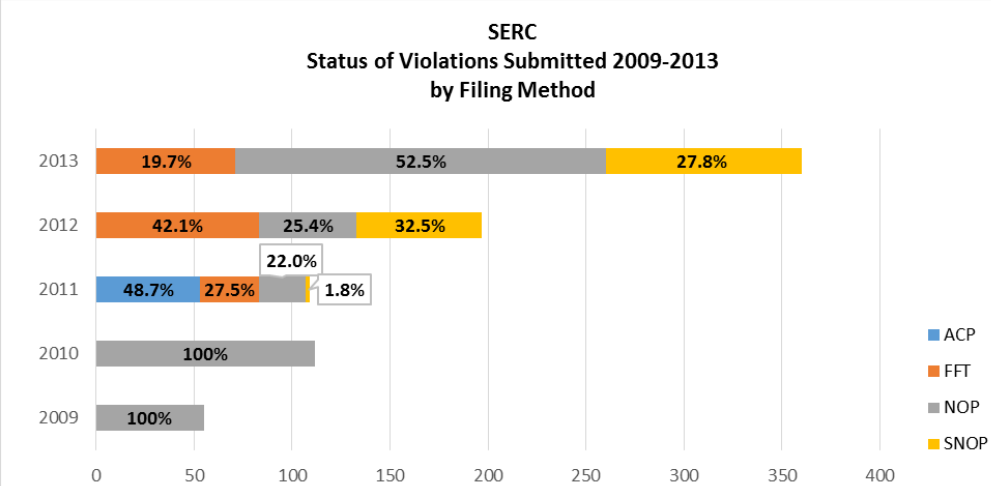
In 2013, SERC reduced its pre-2012 caseload by 92%. Over 90% of these pre-2012 violations were of the CIP Reliability Standards. NERC commends SERC for its responsiveness and efforts to achieve this important ERO Enterprise goal. SERC's remaining pre-2012 violations were in the settlement process or scheduled for processing in early 2014. NERC will work with SERC to ensure that these older violations are resolved and that future accumulations of older violations in the SERC region does not occur.

Based on the current composition of its inventory of violations available to be processed and its recent success in processing its older violations, SERC is positioned to achieve the ERO Enterprise goal of ensuring that violations are processed before reaching 24 months in age.

iv. Implementation of Streamlined Enforcement Processing Mechanisms

SERC believes that its processing of violations has improved because of increased resources and improved tools such as FFT and the SNOP filing mechanisms.[120] As demonstrated in the table below, SERC effectively used streamlined enforcement processing mechanisms to process a substantial portion of its caseload during the assessment period. In 2010, SERC filed an exceptionally high number of violations using the NOP format; in subsequent years, it used the streamlined enforcement processing mechanisms to file 50% or more of violations. In 2013, SERC had a higher percentage of violations processed as an NOP than most Regional Entities, based in large part on SERC's efforts to reduce the number of older, higher-risk CIP violations in its inventory.

Violations Filed per Year by Filing Method for SERC, 2009-2013



	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
ACP			53		
FFT			30	83	71
NOP	55	112	24	50	189
SNOP			2	64	100

SERC generally uses the FFT process for minimal risk issues, the SNOP process for minimal and moderate risk issues and medium-scale compliance failures, and the NOP process for serious risk issues or large-scale compliance failures. SERC reviews previously-filed violations by SERC and other Regional Entities as part of its process for determining the appropriate enforcement processing mechanism. NERC expects that SERC will continue to reserve the NOP format for violations that require it and take advantage of further process refinements available under RAI. Additional information regarding SERC's implementation of FFT is presented later in this assessment.

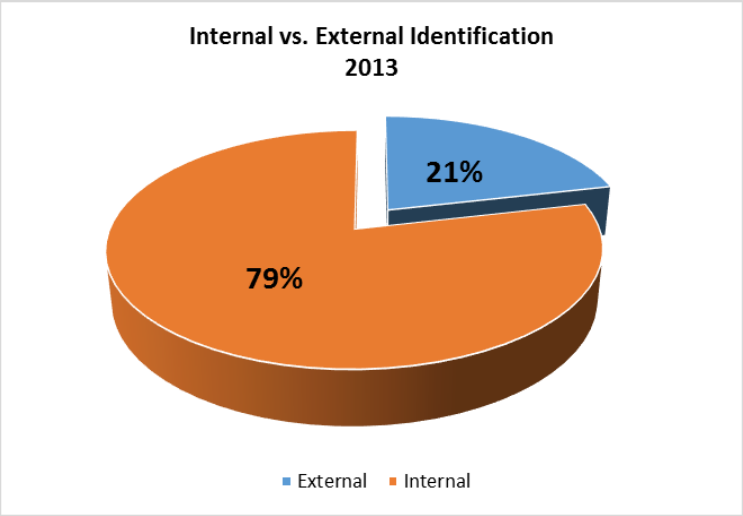
[120] 2014 JRESA, Appendix 2-C at 24.

c. Improving Reliability

i. Encouraging Internal Discovery of Violations

In 2013, violations discovered by registered entities through internal mechanisms comprised 79% of total violations in the SERC region. This is somewhat higher than the ERO Enterprise average of 73%.

Percentage of Violations by Method of Identification for SERC in 2013



ii. Ensuring the Timely Mitigation of Violations

SERC reported that it has taken several steps to encourage the timely mitigation of violations. First, SERC encourages and discusses the benefits of prompt submission of mitigation plans during its compliance seminars, open forum web conferences, and its compliance program updates to its board of directors. SERC requires a registered entity, when submitting a self-report form, to provide the status of its mitigating activities, detailed information on mitigating activities that are in progress or are completed, and the registered entity's efforts to prevent reoccurrence. To ensure timely follow-up and completion of mitigation plans, SERC has dedicated a staff member to mitigation processing for operations and planning violations, and several staff members share responsibility for CIP mitigation processing. SERC believes that the efforts of its enforcement staff to discover the complete scope of each violation are likely to result in the creation of mitigation plans that fully address each violation and reduce the likelihood of reoccurrence. SERC tracks mitigation plan information and documents in its compliance information tracking system, including mitigation plans submitted by entities, mitigating activities submitted through self-reports or other means, any revisions requested by SERC, and certifications of mitigation plan completion. If a registered entity does not include mitigating activities in its self-report form, SERC enforcement staff will contact the registered entity to ensure that mitigating activities are occurring. SERC may accept the mitigating activities and details to prevent reoccurrence, through the self-report form, as an informal mitigation plan. The review and acceptance process is similar for both mitigating activities and a formal mitigation plan. In the

case of mitigating activities, SERC does not send a formal notification of its review to the registered entity, but SERC reviews and confirms completion. SERC reported that it works with registered entities to answer questions about SERC's expectations for mitigation plans, and that it has occasionally requested that a registered entity revise a mitigation plan when proposed milestones would result in an extended period of noncompliance posing an additional risk to the BPS.

Many of the mitigation plans in the SERC region from 2010 and 2011 that are still in progress are for issues where SERC has combined more recent instances of noncompliance into the older enforcement action. In many of those cases, the registered entities have completed mitigating activities for the older occurrences but are still completing the mitigating activities for the newer occurrences.

SERC: Status of Mitigating Activity for Violations Discovered from 2007-2013 and Requiring Mitigation as of December 31, 2013[121]

Year of Discovery	% Completed	% in Progress
2013	27.8%	72.2%
2012	75.9%	24.1%
2011	81.7%	18.3%
2010	83.8%	16.2%
2009	100.0%	0.0%
2008	96.9%	3.1%
2007	100.0%	0.0%
Grand Total	**74.6%**	**25.4%**

As shown in the table above, as of December 31, 2013, SERC had a small number of 2008 violations for which mitigating activities had not been completed. These violations involve a single registered entity, and the violations are currently on hold due to a pending court case involving a similarly-situated registered entity. SERC reported that the pending court case has impacted its ability to verify the timely completion of mitigation for these violations. .

NERC will continue to work with SERC to ensure that newer violations are mitigated in a timely manner.

iii. Promoting Reliability through Enforcement Philosophy and Practices

SERC's enforcement philosophy is to manage all enforcement activities in an unbiased, fair, transparent, and consistent manner, affording registered entities appropriate due process. SERC strives to manage all enforcement actions in such a way to ensure consistent application of penalties for violations of Reliability Standards. SERC's view of the enforcement process is that

[121] This table reports the percentage of violations discovered from the years 2007 through 2013 with completed or open mitigation. This table excludes dismissed violations.

it should be used to assist registered entities in assessing, understanding, and managing risk to the BPS and deploying innovative solutions to not only restore compliance, but also mitigate risk, increase reliability, and prevent reoccurrence. SERC believes that it is important to leverage relationships with registered entities and other Regional Entities to promote effective collaboration, cooperation, and communication around significant risks to the reliability of the BPS to produce outcomes that effectively manage risk.

In its settlement processes, SERC has worked with registered entities, where appropriate, to accept the completion of certain activities above-and-beyond those required to ensure compliance with one or more Reliability Standards in lieu of the full monetary penalties permitted by the NERC *Sanction Guidelines*. These efforts allow registered entities to allocate their resources to those projects that can increase overall reliability and reduce the likelihood of future noncompliance.

As examples of above-and-beyond activities, SERC has accepted the following commitments as formal conditions of settlement. To address a series of CIP violations, a registered entity committed to centralize physical monitoring activities by implementing a new access control and video monitoring system and establishing a central security monitoring station.[122] To settle another series of CIP violations, a registered entity committed to conduct an evaluation of the U.S. Department of Energy Electricity Subsector Cybersecurity Capability Maturity Model (ES-C2M2) and share the evaluation with SERC; create and implement an action plan with the goal of increasing the entity's maturity indicator level in domains related to the CIP Reliability Standards; provide SERC with quarterly updates regarding its progress in implementing the action plan; and provide SERC with notification and evidence upon completion of activities.[123] NERC encourages SERC to continue deploying solutions such as these that promote reliability and insight into processes that can manage risk.

d. SERC's Implementation of Various Aspects of the CMEP

As noted in §II.D.1.a above, NERC conducts ongoing oversight activities to evaluate the effectiveness of each Regional Entity's implementation of the CMEP. These activities include regular reviews and periodic spot checks of specific Regional Entity processes. NERC's oversight activities give NERC an ongoing view into how effectively and efficiently the Regional Entity is executing its enforcement responsibilities. Below is a summary of some of NERC's more recent oversight activities specific to SERC.

With respect to the assessment of monetary penalties, SERC reviews previously-filed violations by SERC and other Regional Entities as part of its process to determine appropriate monetary penalties for violations. SERC seeks to apply a uniform process for determining monetary penalties that ensures that they are both (i) appropriate in light of the scope of, and risk posed by, the violations, and (ii) reasonable in light of monetary penalties levied by SERC and other Regional Entities for similar violations. NERC reviews all penalties submitted by SERC for appropriateness and consistency with monetary penalties assessed by SERC and other Regional Entities for violations of the same Reliability Standards and requirements occurring under similar

[122] *Unidentified registered entity*, NP14-18-000 (Dec. 30, 2013).

[123] *See Unidentified registered entity*, NP14-21-000 (Dec. 31, 2013).

facts and circumstances. NERC has found that SERC assesses monetary penalties that are appropriate and consistent with penalties assessed for similar violations.

Based on a spot check, NERC determined that SERC dismisses violations for appropriate reasons and generally includes the required information when issuing letters of dismissal. NERC identified opportunities for SERC to improve its letters of dismissal and communicated those opportunities to SERC. By implementing the recommended improvements, SERC can improve the quality of its compliance guidance to registered entities.

As part of its ongoing FFT review processes, NERC reviewed a sample of SERC FFT issues filed or posted during the assessment period to examine SERC's procedures for FFT processing and the application of those procedures to the FFT issues in its caseload. Following its review, NERC concluded that SERC's documented FFT process was adequate and that SERC follows its process. NERC noted that SERC generally provides all relevant information in its issue description, ensures the completion of mitigating activities, and considers violation history appropriately. NERC noted several ways that SERC could improve its FFT postings and related documentation to provide additional transparency to its determinations.

e. Conclusion

Based on NERC's review of the factors described above, NERC concludes that SERC has performed as an effective Regional Entity with respect to enforcement activities during the assessment period. SERC should adopt the recommendations for improvement provided as part of NERC's oversight activities.

7. Evaluation of Southwest Power Pool Regional Entity

a. Overview

In the three-year performance assessment, NERC expressed concerns about SPP RE's ability to process violations to completion in a timely manner.[124] During the current assessment period, SPP RE developed and streamlined enforcement procedures and increased enforcement staff in an effort to reduce processing times.[125] SPP RE now also has internal performance metrics in place to encourage the processing of violations as quickly as possible.

During the assessment period, SPP RE increased the number of FTE staff dedicated to enforcement from one FTE in 2009 to ten FTEs and one part-time employee as of December 31, 2013. Based on SPP RE's processing speed and efficiency as measured at the end of the assessment period, NERC views SPP RE's enforcement staffing to be sufficient to process the number of violations that it receives in accordance with ERO Enterprise performance objectives.

SPP RE closed the assessment period with a Caseload Index consistent with the ERO Enterprise average. SPP RE also made remarkable progress in meeting older caseload reduction goals for 2012 and 2013. Finally, NERC has reviewed SPP RE's enforcement-related processes

[124] *Three-Year ERO Performance Assessment Report*, Attachment 3 at 24.

[125] 2014 JRESA, Appendix 2-B at 5.

as part of its oversight role and found that, while areas for improvement remain, SPP RE generally implements those processes in a satisfactory manner.

SPP RE staff have actively participated in the development of RAI. SPP RE staff participated in several NERC working groups that are developing, testing, and implementing the Aggregation of Minimal Risk Issues and Enforcement Discretion pilot programs. SPP RE staff took a leadership role in the development of the *ERO Enterprise Mitigation Plan Guide*. In addition, SPP RE staff also participated in various RAI projects and programs falling under the compliance function. This participation is vital as the ERO Enterprise shifts toward a risk-based model of compliance and enforcement.

In light of all of the relevant factors, which are explained more fully below, NERC concludes that SPP RE has performed as an effective Regional Entity during the assessment period with respect to enforcement activities. NERC will continue to work with SPP RE to ensure that violations are processed and mitigated promptly, with an emphasis on ensuring the completion of mitigation for older violations.

b. Evaluation of Caseload Processing Efficiency

i. The Composition of SPP RE's Caseload

During the assessment period, SPP RE reported 1,041 violations to NERC.

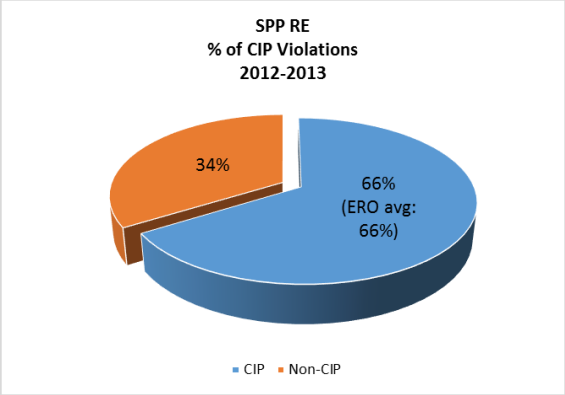
Violations for SPP RE 2009-2013 by Year Reported to NERC[126]

Year Reported to NERC	Violations Reported
2009	132
2010	254
2011	291
2012	173
2013	191
Total	**1041**

As shown in the table above, SPP RE reported its highest number of violations in 2010 and 2011. CIP violations were the majority of those violations. In the years 2012 and 2013, violations of CIP Reliability Standards comprised 66% of total violations. This is consistent with the ERO Enterprise average.

[126] For an explanation of the methodology used to calculate the data in this table and throughout this §II.D, *see supra* n. 76.

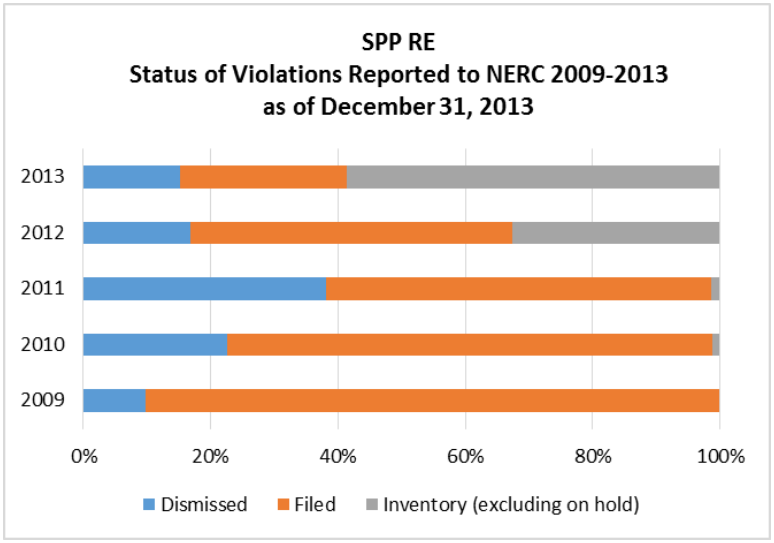
Type of Violations Reported to NERC by SPP RE, 2012-2013



Approximately 56% of CIP violations were discovered through internal mechanisms.

Of the total violations reported by SPP RE to NERC during the assessment period, approximately 175 violations, or about 17%, remained to be processed as of December 31, 2013 (excluding on-hold violations). As demonstrated in the table below, as of December 31, 2013, SPP RE had processed all violations that were reported to NERC in 2009; 98.8% of violations reported to NERC in 2010; 98.6% of violations reported to NERC in 2011; and 67.4% of violations reported to NERC in 2012 (excluding on hold violations).

Status of Violations Reported to NERC 2009-2013 for SPP RE



SPP RE processed approximately 41% of violations reported to NERC in 2013. This is consistent with the ERO 2013 processing rate of 39%. The percentage of SPP RE's caseload consisting of violations reported to NERC in 2013 (64%) is also consistent with the overall ERO Enterprise average of 67%.

ii. Caseload Index

The Caseload Index for SPP RE is 8.3 months as of December 31, 2013. This is slightly higher than the ERO Enterprise Caseload Index of approximately 6.5 months, but nevertheless lower than the 2013 ERO Enterprise average goal of 10 months.

In light of SPP RE's Caseload Index and as reflected in the characteristics of its caseload (i.e., the percentage of SPP RE's caseload consisting of older violations is consistent with the ERO average), it appears that SPP RE's efforts to streamline its enforcement processes and increase its enforcement staffing during the assessment period have been effective.

iii. Efforts to Reduce Older Caseload

In 2013, SPP RE reduced its pre-2012 caseload by 96%.[127] NERC commends SPP RE for its responsiveness and efforts to achieve this important ERO Enterprise goal. SPP RE states that several factors specific to the remaining violations caused delays in processing, but SPP RE expects to resolve those issues in 2014.

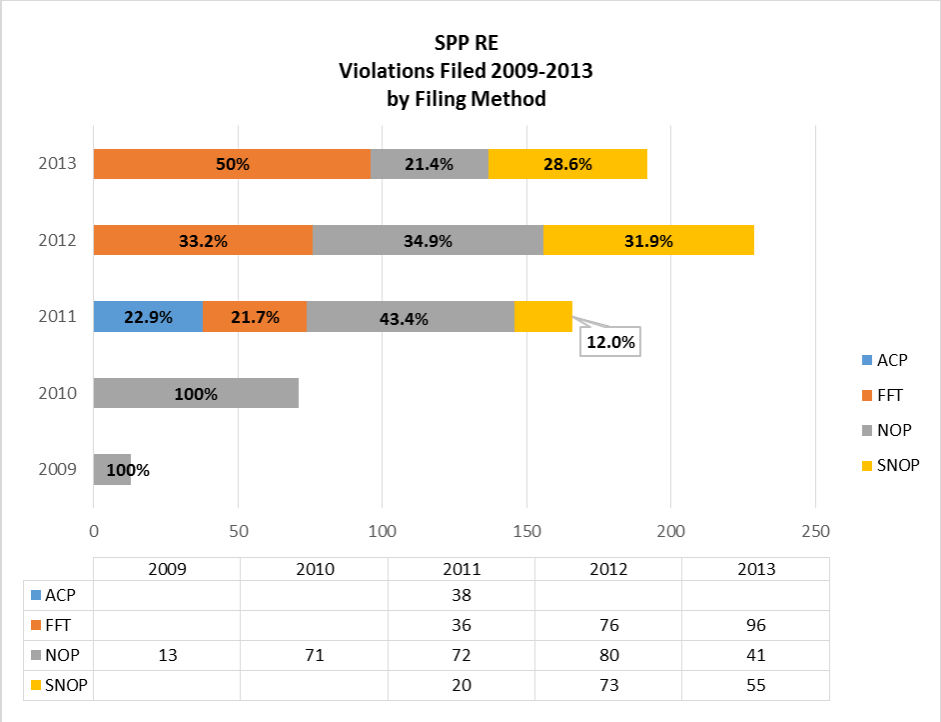
Based on the current composition of its inventory of violations available to be processed and its largely successful efforts in processing its older violations, SPP RE is positioned to achieve the goal of ensuring that violations are processed before reaching 24 months in age.

iv. Implementation of Streamlined Enforcement Processing Mechanisms

From 2007 through 2010, SPP RE filed a total of 89 violations. In 2011, SPP RE filed a total of 166 violations, almost double the total number of violations from the previous three years combined. SPP RE credits its success in improving its violation processing rate to several factors. SPP RE developed internal enforcement procedures, streamlined its enforcement processes, and dedicated resources to increasing both the number and maturity of its enforcement staff. For example, SPP RE decreased the time it spends drafting CMEP required and related documents by utilizing its compliance database to automate the issuance of a number of documents. In addition, SPP RE effectively implemented alternative enforcement processing mechanisms, including using FFT to process its lower-risk violations, as demonstrated in the table below.

[127] All but four pre-2012 violations were processed before the end of 2013. Of the four violations, two were MRRE violations for which another Regional Entity took lead responsibility. One violation was being held pending an interpretation of the associated Reliability Standard.

Violations Filed per Year by Filing Method for SPP RE, 2009-2013



	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
ACP			38		
FFT			36	76	96
NOP	13	71	72	80	41
SNOP			20	73	55

SPP RE filed the majority of violations using FFT or SNOP in 2012 and 2013. In 2013, the percentage of FFTs relative to SNOPs increased notably. SPP RE generally limits the use of the FFT process to minimal risk issues, and it uses the SNOP process for those violations that do not represent a serious or substantial risk to the BPS and do not qualify for FFT disposition. Every FFT and SNOP is reviewed by the SPP RE sanction review team to ensure consistency and uniform application. Going forward, NERC encourages SPP RE to continue its review processes and consider increasing the use of FFT for moderate risk issues that qualify for FFT.

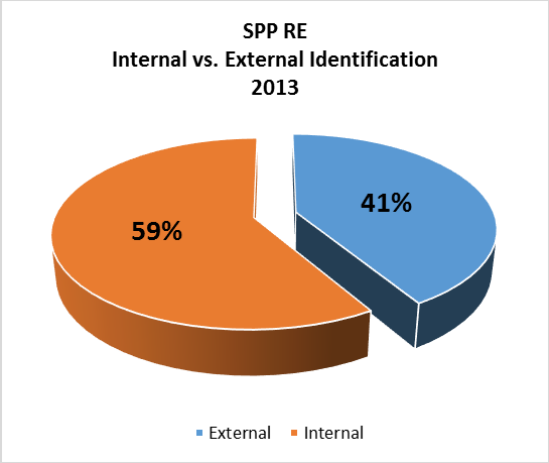
c. Improving Reliability

i. Encouraging Internal Discovery of Violations

SPP RE regularly encourages the value of self-reporting, and it gives presentations on how to self-report effectively during its regional workshops. Additionally, SPP RE discusses the value of self-reporting when it gives penalty determination presentations at workshops.

In 2013, violations discovered by registered entities through internal mechanisms comprised 59% of total violations in the SPP RE region. This is lower than the ERO Enterprise average of 73%. Stated differently, during the assessment period, SPP RE discovered a higher percentage of violations through external methods (i.e., compliance audit and spot check) than other Regional Entities.

Percentage of Violations by Method of Identification for SPP RE in 2013



As noted above, NERC and the Regional Entities are working to understand the regional variations in the percentages of noncompliance discovered through self-discovery and audits across the ERO Enterprise. Understanding these differences, and how they may relate to registered entity internal controls and management practices, will allow NERC and the Regional Entities to provide the right incentives for discovering and self-reporting noncompliance.

ii. Ensuring the Timely Mitigation of Violations

SPP RE has undertaken a number of efforts to encourage the timely mitigation of violations. It has implemented internal metrics to: (i) encourage enforcement staff to solicit mitigation plans as soon as possible for higher-risk violations; (ii) measure whether mitigation plans are accepted or rejected within 30 days of submission; and (iii) measure whether mitigation plan completion evidence is reviewed by SPP RE staff within 30 days of when the registered entity's certification of mitigation plan completion and associated evidence are submitted. SPP RE tracks mitigation plan information in its webCDMS. SPP RE has put standardized processes in place for the review and approval of registered entity mitigation plans, and the associated forms become part of the violation case record.

SPP RE requires registered entities to complete mitigation plans for all compliance issues identified for FFT treatment, and it requires each registered entity desiring to remain in settlement negotiations to submit an acceptable mitigation plan. SPP RE typically requires mitigation plans to be completed before it will execute a settlement agreement and file it with NERC. [128]

SPP RE has strengthened its active monitoring of mitigation plans by increasing its communication with registered entities since 2010. SPP RE issues email reminder notices to registered entities as due dates approach. SPP RE staff has continued to communicate and give

[128] SPP RE does not yet accept completion of mitigating activities in lieu of a formal mitigation plan; however, SPP RE reported that will accept mitigating activities as soon as appropriate changes are made to the webCDMS system.

presentations to registered entities regarding best practices for submitting and managing information associated with self-reports, self-certifications, and mitigation plans.

As demonstrated in the table below, SPP RE has made substantial progress in ensuring that older violations have been mitigated, with 100% of violations discovered from 2007-2009 having completed mitigation.

SPP RE: Status of Mitigating Activity for Violations Discovered from 2007-2013 and Requiring Mitigation as of December 31, 2013[129]

Year of Discovery	% Completed	% in Progress
2013	43.6%	56.4%
2012	77.8%	22.2%
2011	96.7%	3.3%
2010	96.0%	4.0%
2009	100.0%	0.0%
2008	100.0%	0.0%
2007	100.0%	0.0%
Grand Total	**84.0%**	**16.0%**

NERC is working closely with SPP RE to understand the nature of the violations with open mitigation, particularly the older violations. NERC is also working with SPP RE to ensure that violations are mitigated in a timely manner.

iii. Promoting Reliability through Enforcement Philosophy and Practices

SPP RE reported that it has been its experience that most registered entities desire to be as reliable and as compliant as possible, and that avoiding or minimizing penalties and sanctions is only a secondary motivation. SPP RE reported that it has undertaken a number of efforts to improve the efficiency of its enforcement processes and encourage the prompt mitigation of violations. For instance, SPP RE has supplied registered entities with online training videos covering topics such as evidence submission, mitigation processing, and self-reporting. SPP RE was recently awarded the Bronze Quill Award of Merit from the International Association of Business Communicators, Arkansas Chapter for the quality of its video library. SPP RE developed a flow diagram that is used for small group discussions at regional workshops. The diagram facilitates conversation about the enforcement process with registered entities and provides a visual aid for how violations and mitigation plans move through the enforcement process. SPP RE has also conducted on-site visits with several registered entities to discuss internal compliance program improvements following negative audit findings.

[129] This table reports the percentage of violations discovered from the years 2007 through 2013 with completed or open mitigation. This table excludes dismissed violations.

SPP RE's enforcement group tracks various metrics on a monthly basis, including: (i) the expediting of high risk violations; (ii) caseload processing time: (iii) mitigation plan acceptance review time; (iv) mitigation plan completion review time; (v) processing of pre-2013 violations; (vi) incoming compliance issue triage time; and (vii) case record review and close-out time. To facilitate transparency, SPP RE posts a monthly metrics tracking dashboard covering these areas on its web page.[130]

The FFT process has enabled SPP RE to improve its processing efficiency substantially. As a result, SPP RE reported that it has been able to devote a substantial portion of the efforts of its personnel toward evaluating and processing higher-risk violations.

In its settlement processes, SPP RE has worked with registered entities, where appropriate, to accept the completion of certain activities above-and-beyond those required to ensure compliance with one or more Reliability Standards in lieu of the full monetary penalties permitted by the NERC *Sanction Guidelines*. For example, SPP RE has considered a registered entity's initiatives to audit and improve its internal compliance program to be a mitigating factor in SPP RE's penalty determination. NERC encourages SPP RE to continue deploying such solutions that promote reliability and insight into processes that can manage risk.

d. SPP RE's Implementation of Various Aspects of the CMEP

As noted in §II.D.1.a above, NERC conducts ongoing oversight activities to evaluate the effectiveness of each Regional Entity's implementation of the CMEP. These activities include regular reviews and periodic spot checks of specific Regional Entity processes. NERC's oversight activities give NERC an ongoing view into how effectively and efficiently the Regional Entity is executing its enforcement responsibilities. Below is a summary of some of NERC's more recent oversight activities specific to SPP RE.

With respect to the assessment of monetary penalties, SPP RE requires its case managers to follow the penalty guidance established by NERC and the Commission. Each violation and its associated penalty must be approved by the SPP RE sanction review team. When presenting a violation and proposed penalty to the sanction review team, an SPP RE case manager will provide the basis for the proposed penalty and a comparison to similar violations and the penalties assigned to those violations. The SPP RE sanction review team will then review the violation and proposed penalty to determine whether the proposed penalty is justified, reasonable, and consistent with penalties assessed for similar violations by SPP RE and by other Regional Entities. NERC reviews all penalties submitted by SPP RE for appropriateness and consistency with monetary penalties assessed by SPP RE and other Regional Entities for violations of the same Reliability Standards and requirements occurring under similar facts and circumstances. NERC has found that SPP RE assesses monetary penalties that are appropriate and consistent with penalties assessed for similar violations.

Based on a spot check, NERC determined that SPP RE dismisses violations for appropriate reasons and generally includes the required information when issuing letters of dismissal. NERC

[130] *See* http://www.spp.org/section.asp?group=2754&pageID=27.

identified opportunities where SPP RE could improve its letters of dismissal and communicated those opportunities to SPP RE. SPP RE has already implemented at least one of the recommended improvements. These improvements will ensure SPP RE has access to the information it needs to process each violation properly. Such efforts will also assist NERC in its oversight role and allow the Commission to evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of the dismissal process.

As part of its ongoing FFT review processes, NERC reviewed a sample of SPP RE FFT issues filed or posted during the assessment period to examine SPP RE's procedures for FFT processing and the application of those procedures to the FFT issues in its caseload. NERC noted that SPP RE developed a checklist which delineates the steps that need to be taken by each SPP RE staff member and indicates that the final document will be attached to the record for tracking purposes. If completed on a regular basis, this checklist could provide valuable insight into SPP RE's determination of FFT treatment and facilitate future review by NERC and the Commission. NERC recommended several areas in which SPP RE could improve its FFT postings and related documentation to provide additional transparency to its determinations.

e. Conclusion

Based on NERC's review of the factors described above, NERC concludes that SPP RE has performed as an effective Regional Entity with respect to enforcement activities during the assessment period. SPP RE should adopt the recommendations for improvement provided as part of NERC's oversight activities.

8. Evaluation of Texas Reliability Entity, Inc.

a. Overview

In the three-year performance assessment, NERC concluded that Texas Regional Entity was an effective Regional Entity, and it praised Texas Regional Entity's processing efficiency and focus on identifying higher-risk violations that result from failure to comply with Reliability Standards.[131] At the time, NERC noted questions regarding the contrast between the high percentage of "failure to perform" violations and the low number of violations recommended for a zero-dollar penalty. Texas RE reported that it recommended zero-dollar penalties in 2007 and 2008 for most cases as the Reliability Standards were new, and registered entities were still learning how to comply with them. Texas RE reported that it began recommending more monetary penalties for "failure to perform" violations in 2010 in an effort to deter noncompliance. As the streamlined enforcement mechanisms were developed and implemented, Texas RE began using these mechanisms to process violations posing a low risk to reliability and that had been mitigated.[132] Texas RE also made organizational changes related to its enforcement processes in late 2013 to provide for a clear delineation between processing tasks; Texas RE believes that these changes have resulted in efficiency gains and decreased processing time.

[131] *Three-Year ERO Performance Assessment Report*, Attachment 3 at 26.

[132] 2014 JRESA, Appendix 2-B at 6.

During the assessment period, Texas RE increased the number of FTE staff dedicated to enforcement from 3 in 2009 to 11 as of December 31, 2013. Based on Texas RE's processing speed and efficiency as measured at the end of the assessment period, NERC views Texas RE's enforcement staffing to be sufficient to process the number of violations that it receives.

Texas RE ended the assessment period with a Caseload Index that was the lowest among all Regional Entities. Texas RE processed all violations discovered before 2012 in furtherance of an ERO Enterprise goal. Texas RE's caseload tends to consist of more-recent violations, and generally, Texas RE has made progress in ensuring that older violations have completed mitigation. Finally, NERC has reviewed Texas RE's enforcement-related processes as part of its oversight role and found that, while areas for improvement remain, Texas RE generally implements those processes in a satisfactory manner.

In addition, Texas RE staff have actively participated in the development of RAI. Many Texas RE employees worked on various aspects of RAI in collaboration with NERC and the other regions. Texas RE staff participated in the Aggregation of Minimal Risk Issues and Enforcement Discretion pilot programs and served on the *ERO Self-Report User Guide* and *ERO Enterprise Mitigation Plan Guide* drafting teams. Texas RE staff also participated in several compliance-related programs under RAI. This participation is vital as the ERO Enterprise shifts toward a risk-based model of compliance and enforcement.

As explained more fully below, based on Texas RE's performance in several enforcement processing metrics and the results of NERC's oversight activities, NERC concludes that Texas RE has performed as an effective Regional Entity with respect to enforcement activities during the assessment period. NERC will continue to work with Texas RE to ensure that violations are mitigated promptly.

b. Evaluation of Caseload Processing Efficiency

i. The Composition of Texas RE's Caseload

During the assessment period, Texas RE reported 861 violations to NERC.

Violations for Texas RE 2009-2013 by Year Reported to NERC[133]

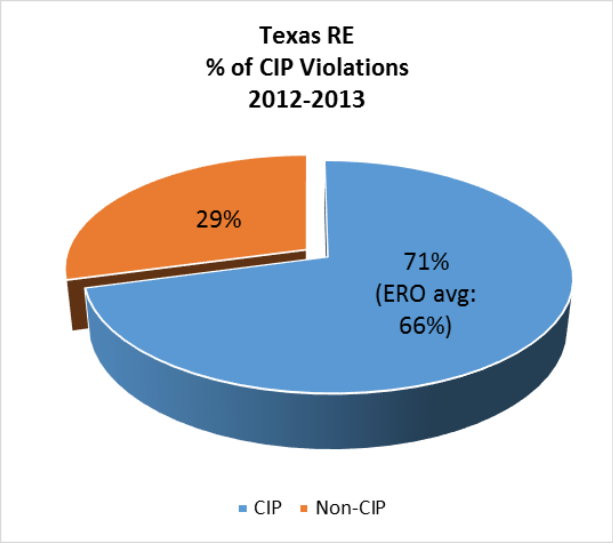
Year of Submission	Violations Reported
2009	14
2010	51
2011	430
2012	197
2013	169

[133] For an explanation of the methodology used to calculate the data in this table and throughout this §II.D, *see supra* n. 76.

Total	**861**

As shown in the table above, Texas RE reported a spike in violations in 2011..[134] The violations reported to NERC in 2011 were split almost evenly between CIP and non-CIP violations and internal and external methods of discovery. In the years 2012 and 2013, violations of CIP Reliability Standards represented a higher percentage of total violations in the Texas RE region than the ERO Enterprise as a whole.

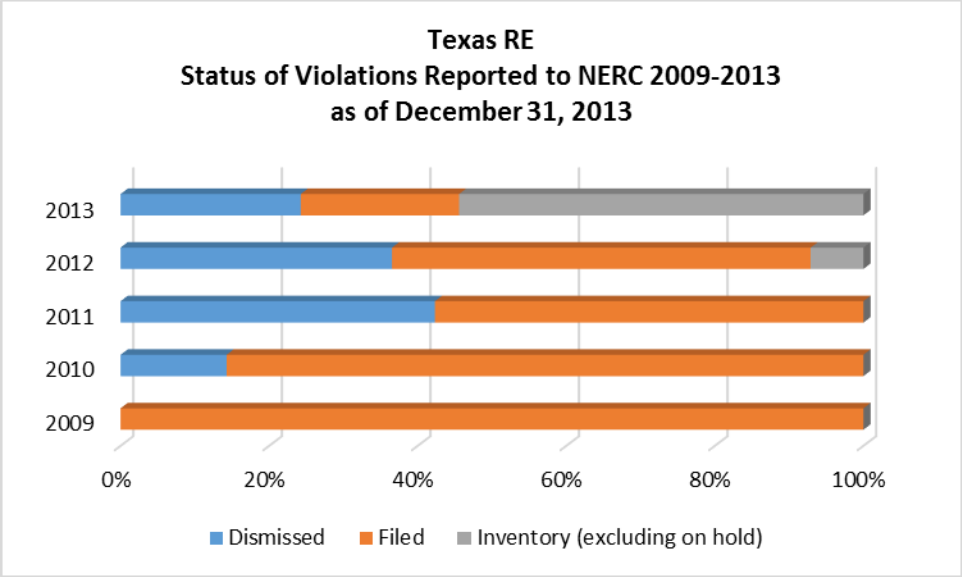
Type of Violations Reported to NERC by Texas RE, 2012-2013



Of the total violations reported to NERC during the assessment period, 106 violations, or approximately 12%, remained to be processed as of December 31, 2013 (excluding violations that are held by appeal, a court, or a regulator). As demonstrated in the table below, Texas RE has processed all violations reported to NERC in 2009, 2010, and 2011 (excluding on hold violations). Texas RE processed approximately 93% of violations reported to NERC in 2012.

[134] When adjusted for year of discovery, 157 violations were discovered in 2010, and 298 violations were discovered in 2011.

Status of Violations Reported to NERC 2009-2013 for Texas RE



Texas RE processed approximately 46% of violations reported to NERC in 2013, which is better than the ERO Enterprise average 2013 processing rate of 39%. Approximately 87% of the violations available for processing in Texas RE's inventory consist of violations reported to NERC in 2013. This greatly exceeds the overall ERO Enterprise average of 67%. Texas RE appears to be moving toward a caseload consisting primarily of newer violations.

ii. Caseload Index

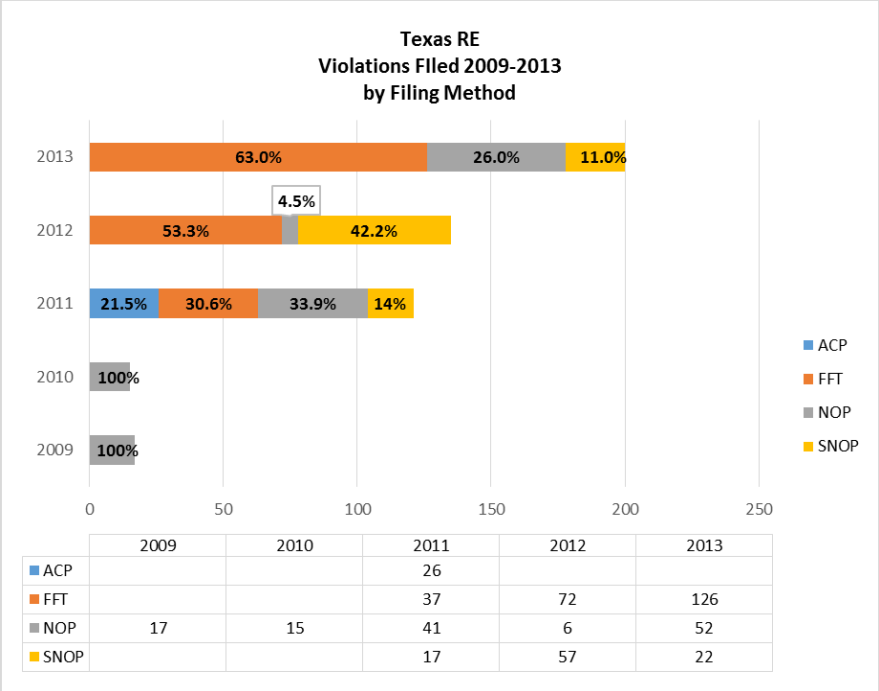
The Caseload Index for Texas RE is 3.8 months as of December 31, 2013. This is the lowest of all Regional Entities and notably better than the ERO Enterprise Caseload Index of approximately 6.5 months.

Based on the current composition of its inventory of violations available to be processed and its success in achieving the timely processing of violations to date, Texas RE is well-positioned to achieve the goal of ensuring that violations are processed before reaching 24 months in age.

iii. Implementation of Streamlined Enforcement Processing Mechanisms

A number of factors are responsible for Texas RE's successes in processing its caseload. As demonstrated in the table below, Texas RE effectively used alternative processing mechanisms to process a substantial portion of its caseload during the assessment period. In 2011, following the implementation of the streamlined enforcement processing mechanisms, Texas RE filed 121 violations – almost quadruple the number of violations filed in the previous two years combined.

Violations Filed per Year by Filing Method for Texas RE, 2009-2013



	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
ACP			26		
FFT			37	72	126
NOP	17	15	41	6	52
SNOP			17	57	22

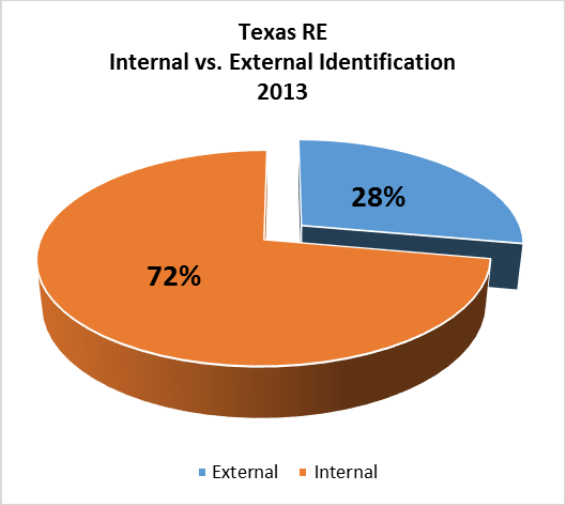
Texas RE reviews posted FFT and SNOP filings before determining the disposition method it will use for a particular violation, and it coordinates all FFT and SNOP-related issues with NERC. These methods help ensure the consistent application of FFTs and SNOPs across the Regional Entities. In 2011 and in every year since, Texas RE filed the majority of its violations using the streamlined enforcement processing mechanisms, including using FFT to file lower-risk violations of the CIP Reliability Standards. NERC expects that Texas RE will continue to reserve the NOP format for violations that require it and take advantage of further process refinements available under RAI. Additional information regarding Texas RE's application of FFT is presented later in this assessment.

c. Improving Reliability

i. Encouraging Internal Discovery of Violations

In 2013, violations discovered by registered entities through internal mechanisms comprised 72% of total violations in the Texas RE region. This is consistent with the ERO Enterprise average of 73%.

Percentage of Violations by Method of Identification for Texas RE in 2013



ii. Ensuring the Timely Mitigation of Violations

During the assessment period, Texas RE reported that it implemented a number of measures to ensure the timely mitigation of violations. Texas RE stressed the importance of prompt mitigation in workshops and other communications with registered entities and encouraged early completion of mitigation. Texas RE modified its self-report form to require a description of mitigating activities, preventative measures, and a date of mitigation. As a result of this modification, Texas RE began receiving more information regarding mitigation earlier in the enforcement process. Texas RE has also strengthened processes and documentation standards for the review, approval, tracking, and certification of mitigation plans. When reviewing a mitigation plan, Texas RE determines if the completion date is reasonable, considering the nature of the violation. Texas RE has requested that mitigation plans be revised because Texas RE determined that the completion date was unreasonable. Texas RE tracks the mitigation plan or mitigation activities completion date and has informed registered entities that violations cannot be closed until the mitigation is complete. Texas RE also tracks mitigation plan milestones in webCDMS and provides notifications to registered entities for upcoming milestones. In an effort to hold registered entities accountable, Texas RE will only discuss settlement and suspend deadlines if the entity submits a mitigation plan, or Texas RE has verified that the entity has mitigated the violation.

As demonstrated in the table below, Texas RE has made substantial progress in ensuring that older violations have completed mitigation. Only three violations from 2010 through 2011 remained to be mitigated at the end of the assessment period.

Texas RE: Status of Mitigating Activity for Violations Discovered from 2007-2013 and Requiring Mitigation as of December 31, 2013[135]

Year of Discovery	% Completed	% in Progress
2013	28.1%	71.9%
2012	91.2%	8.8%
2011	99.4%	0.6%
2010	98.1%	1.9%
2009	100.0%	0.0%
2008	100.0%	0.0%
2007	100.0%	0.0%
Grand Total	**82.5%**	**17.5%**

NERC will continue to work closely with Texas RE to ensure the completion of mitigating activities.

iii. Promoting Reliability through Enforcement Philosophy and Practices

Texas RE's enforcement philosophy is to abide by the requirements of the NERC ROP, reserve the enforcement process for those violations posing a serious or substantial risk to the reliability of the BPS, and encourage the development of strong internal compliance programs and internal controls. As part of encouraging strong internal controls, Texas RE encourages registered entities to address the results of internal controls by self-reporting and mitigating violations promptly. Texas RE may consider the method of discovery, presence of internal compliance programs, and the prompt mitigation of violations among the factors in determining how to dispose of a violation (i.e., FFT, SNOP, or NOP) and in assessing potential penalties.

In its settlement processes, Texas RE has worked with registered entities, where appropriate, to accept the completion of certain activities above-and-beyond those required to ensure compliance with one or more Reliability Standards in lieu of the full monetary penalties permitted by the NERC *Sanction Guidelines*. These efforts allow registered entities to allocate their resources to those projects that can increase overall reliability and reduce the likelihood of future noncompliance.

As examples of above-and-beyond activities, registered entities in the Texas RE region have committed to hire additional compliance staff, install new software to track maintenance and testing intervals, contribute to future compliance efforts (such as making an entity's SME available for a compliance workshop), develop additional training for staff, perform additional technical modifications beyond those required to achieve compliance, and upgrade physical security measures. NERC encourages Texas RE to continue deploying solutions such as these that promote reliability and insight into processes that can manage risk.

[135] This table reports the percentage of violations discovered from the years 2007 through 2013 with completed or open mitigation. This table excludes dismissed violations.

d. Texas RE's Implementation of Various Aspects of the CMEP

As noted in §II.D.1.a above, NERC conducts ongoing oversight activities to evaluate the effectiveness of each Regional Entity's implementation of the CMEP. These activities include regular reviews and periodic spot checks of specific Regional Entity processes. NERC's oversight activities give NERC an ongoing view into how effectively and efficiently the Regional Entity executes its enforcement responsibilities. Below is a summary of some of NERC's more recent oversight activities specific to Texas RE.

Texas RE calculates penalties using the NERC *Sanction Guidelines* and reviews its determinations in relation to similar penalties assessed by Texas RE and by other Regional Entities. NERC reviews all penalties submitted by Texas RE for appropriateness and consistency with monetary penalties assessed by Texas RE and other Regional Entities for violations of the same Reliability Standards and requirements occurring under similar facts and circumstances. NERC has found that Texas RE assesses monetary penalties that are appropriate and consistent with penalties assessed for similar violations.

Based on a spot check, NERC determined that Texas RE dismisses violations for appropriate reasons and generally includes the required information when issuing letters of dismissal. NERC identified opportunities for Texas RE to improve its letters of dismissal and communicated those opportunities to Texas RE. By implementing the recommended improvements, Texas RE can improve the quality of its compliance guidance to registered entities.

As part of its ongoing FFT review processes, NERC reviewed a sample of Texas RE FFT issues filed or posted during the assessment period to examine Texas RE's procedures for FFT processing and the application of those procedures to the FFT issues in its caseload. Following its review, NERC concluded that Texas RE maintains adequate documentation and written procedures for its FFT process. NERC noted that Texas RE developed a process checklist which could prove to be a useful tool for FFT processing, provided the checklist is completed on a consistent basis. NERC further concluded that Texas RE generally provides an adequate description of the issue in its FFT postings. NERC noted several ways that Texas RE could improve its FFT postings and related documentation to provide additional transparency to its determinations.

e. Conclusion

Based on NERC's review of the factors described above, NERC concludes that Texas RE has performed as an effective Regional Entity with respect to enforcement activities during the assessment period. Texas RE should adopt the recommendations for improvement provided as part of NERC's oversight activities.

9. Evaluation of Western Electricity Coordinating Council

a. Overview

In the three-year performance assessment, NERC concluded that WECC was one of the less effective Regional Entities in carrying out its compliance obligations, but noted that WECC was starting to make significant strides in reducing the portion of violations described as its "backlog" in the first half of 2009. NERC encouraged WECC to create a stronger separation of its compliance encouragement efforts from its enforcement activities and to maintain its focus on processing violations to completion.[136]

During the assessment period, WECC has taken several steps to address the concerns identified by NERC in the three-year performance assessment. WECC reported that it has enhanced, streamlined, and documented all of its enforcement processes with the assistance of dedicated enforcement SMEs. Further, WECC has implemented the alternative enforcement processing mechanisms. WECC calculated its processing time (from intake through submittal to NERC) to be less than five months, on average. WECC also has enhanced its compliance encouragement activities while maintaining separation from its enforcement activities.[137]

During the assessment period, WECC increased the number of FTE staff dedicated to enforcement processing from 6 in 2009 to 8 as of December 31, 2013.[138] Based on WECC's processing speed and efficiency as measured at the end of the assessment period, NERC views WECC's enforcement processing staffing to be sufficient to process the number of violations that it receives.

WECC ended the assessment period with a better-than-average Caseload Index. In addition, WECC made substantial progress in processing the especially large number of violations that it received during the assessment period, including processing almost all of its older caseload. NERC notes that WECC has a few older violations that still need to be mitigated and processed. In addition, NERC has reviewed WECC's enforcement-related processes as part of its oversight role and found that, while areas for improvement remain, WECC generally implements those processes in a satisfactory manner.

NERC recognizes the contributions WECC staff have made in the development of RAI. WECC staff participated in the Enforcement Discretion pilot program and served in leadership roles on the *ERO Self-Report User Guide* and *ERO Enterprise Mitigation Plan Guide* drafting teams. This participation is vital as the ERO Enterprise shifts toward a risk-based model of compliance and enforcement.

In light of all of the relevant factors, which are explained more fully below, NERC concludes that WECC has performed as an effective Regional Entity with respect to enforcement

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[136] *Three-Year ERO Performance Assessment Report*, Attachment 3 at 26.

[137] 2014 JRESA Appendix 2B at 6-7.

[138] WECC has additional staff dedicated to reviewing violations from a technical perspective and reviewing and approving mitigation plans.

activities during the assessment period. NERC will continue to work with WECC to ensure that violations are mitigated and processed promptly.

b. Evaluation of Caseload Processing Efficiency

i. The Composition of WECC's Caseload

During the assessment period, WECC reported 3,183 violations[139] to NERC.

Violations for WECC 2009-2013 by Year Reported to NERC[140]

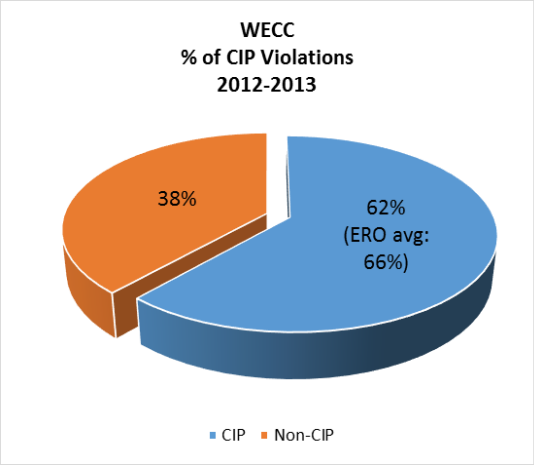
Year Reported to NERC	Violations Reported
2009	571
2010	550
2011	807
2012	818
2013	437
Total	**3,183**

As shown in the table above, WECC reported the most violations to NERC in 2011 and 2012. CIP violations comprised more than half of total violations in 2011 through 2012. In the years 2012 and 2013, violations of CIP Reliability Standards represented a slightly lower percentage of total violations in the WECC region (62%) than the ERO Enterprise as a whole.

[139] This table reflects U.S. violations only.

[140] For an explanation of the methodology used to calculate the data in this table and throughout this §II.D, *see supra* n. 76.

Type of Violations Reported to NERC by WECC, 2012-2013

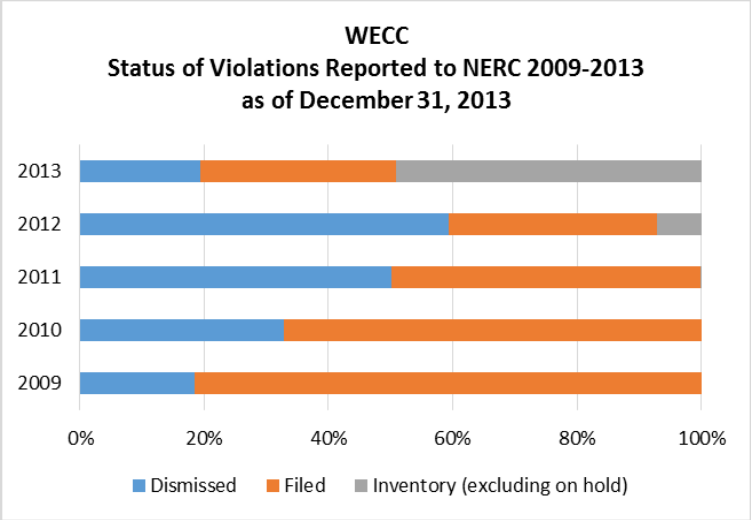


More than 85% of the total number of CIP violations reported by WECC to NERC in 2012 and 2013 were identified through internal means; nearly half of these CIP violations were later dismissed.[141]

Of the total violations reported by WECC to NERC during the assessment period, approximately 254 violations, or approximately 9%, remained to be processed as of December 31, 2013 (excluding violations that are held by appeal, a court, or a regulator). As demonstrated in the table below, WECC has processed 100% of violations reported to NERC in 2009 and 2010 and 99.9% of violations reported to NERC in 2011 (excluding on hold violations). WECC has processed approximately 93% of violations reported to NERC in 2012.

[141] WECC had a larger number of dismissals than other Regional Entities during the assessment period as a result of duplicate self-reporting. In early 2012, WECC had a number of violations where an entity submitted both a self-report and a self-certification. Since that time, WECC implemented a process to check for duplicate violations. In addition, the NERC ROP were amended to add several enhancements to the preliminary screen process; part of this process requires Regional Entities to confirm that new violations are not duplicates of violations already in process.

Status of Violations Reported to NERC 2009-2013 for WECC



WECC processed nearly 51% of violations reported to NERC in 2013. This is notably higher than the ERO 2013 processing rate of 39%. Approximately 78% of the violations available for processing in the WECC region consist of violations reported to NERC in 2013. This is notably better the overall ERO Enterprise average of 67%. WECC appears to be moving toward a caseload consisting primarily of newer violations.

ii. Caseload Index

The Caseload Index for WECC is 5.7 months as of December 31, 2013. This compares favorably to the ERO Enterprise Caseload Index of approximately 6.5 months.

Based on its achievements in processing its caseload to date and its Caseload Index, it appears that WECC's efforts to enhance and streamline its enforcement processes have been effective.

iii. Efforts to Reduce Older Caseload

In 2013, WECC processed 98% of remaining cases in its pre-2012 caseload. NERC commends WECC for its responsiveness and efforts to achieve this important ERO Enterprise goal.

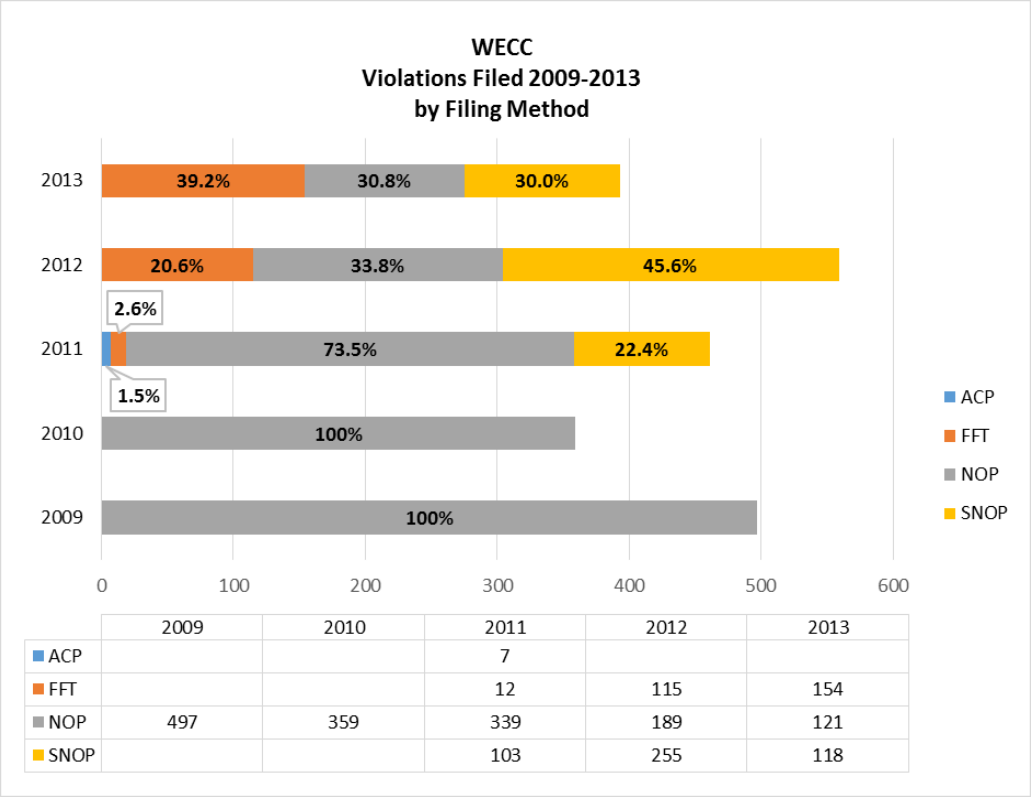
Based on the current composition of its inventory of violations to be processed and its successful effort in processing its older violations, WECC is well-positioned to achieve the goal of ensuring that violations are processed before reaching 24 months in age.

iv. Implementation of Streamlined Enforcement Processing Mechanisms

A number of factors are responsible for WECC's successes in processing its caseload. As

demonstrated in the table below, WECC effectively used streamlined processing mechanisms to process a substantial portion of its caseload during the assessment period. WECC did not implement streamlined processing mechanisms as quickly as some other Regional Entities, but by 2012, WECC was using the streamlined processing mechanisms to file nearly two-thirds of its violations.

Violations Filed per Year by Filing Method for WECC, 2009-2013



	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
ACP			7		
FFT			12	115	154
NOP	497	359	339	189	121
SNOP			103	255	118

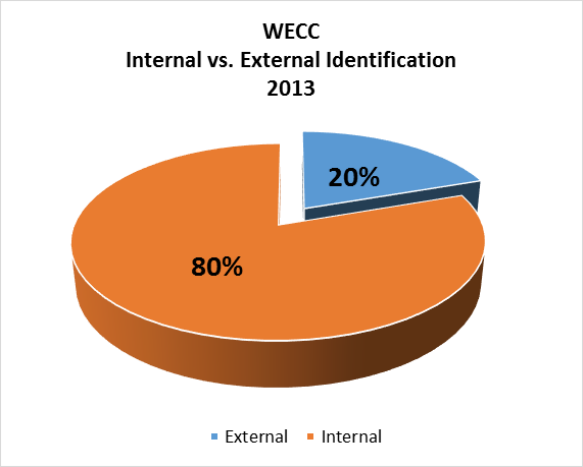
WECC has enhanced, streamlined, and documented all of its enforcement processes; WECC believes that these efforts will help ensure effective and consistent use of the enforcement processing mechanisms (including FFT and SNOP). NERC encourages WECC to continue its utilization of alternative enforcement processing mechanisms. Going forward, NERC expects that WECC will continue to use the NOP format for violations that require it and take advantage of further process refinements under RAI. Additional information regarding WECC's implementation of FFT is presented later in this assessment.

c. Improving Reliability

i. Encouraging Internal Discovery of Violations

In 2013, self-identified violations comprised 80% of total violations in the WECC region. This is somewhat higher than the ERO Enterprise average of 73%.

Percentage of Violations by Method of Identification for WECC in 2013



ii. Ensuring the Timely Mitigation of Violations

During the assessment period, WECC increased relevant staffing, enhanced relevant processes and procedures, and strengthened metrics to help ensure timely mitigation plan and completed mitigation plan processing. These actions were taken to address certain concerns regarding WECC's mitigation plan processing that were identified in a 2010 FERC audit report.[142] Specifically, WECC created two SME teams, one to review mitigation plans associated with violations of the CIP Reliability Standards, and the other to review mitigation plans associated with Operations and Planning Reliability Standards. WECC also implemented several internal process improvements, including establishing a priority review process for mitigation plans associated with violations posing a high risk to reliability or otherwise requiring prompt attention. WECC now tracks its mitigation plan review efficiency through the use of an internally-developed metric.

WECC has strengthened its active monitoring of mitigation plans by increasing its communication with registered entities. These increased efforts began in 2013. WECC now issues email reminder notices to registered entities as due dates approach. WECC staff also continue to communicate with and give presentations to registered entities regarding best practices for submitting and managing information associated with self-reports, self-certifications, and mitigation plans. WECC now accepts mitigating activities in lieu of a formal mitigation plan for a limited number of cases.

As demonstrated in the table below, WECC has made substantial progress in ensuring that violations from 2007 through 2009 have been mitigated. Only about 11 violations from 2010 and 2011 remained to be mitigated by the end of the assessment period.

[142] *See Order Approving Audit Report, Determining Issue of Separation of Functions, and Directing Compliance and Other Corrective Actions*, 132 FERC ¶ 61,149 (Aug. 10, 2010) at Appendix A.

WECC: Status of Mitigating Activity for Violations Discovered from 2007-2013 and Requiring Mitigation as of December 31, 2013[143]

Year of Discovery	% Completed	% in Progress
2013	56.6%	43.4%
2012	92.0%	8.0%
2011	98.5%	1.5%
2010	98.7%	1.3%
2009	100.0%	0.0%
2008	100.0%	0.0%
2007	100.0%	0.0%
Grand Total	**93.2%**	**6.8%**

WECC has made progress in ensuring that newer violations have been mitigated, with over half of violations discovered in 2013 having completed mitigation by the end of the year. NERC will continue to work with WECC to ensure that all violations are mitigated in a timely manner.

iii. Promoting Reliability through Enforcement Philosophy and Practices

WECC's enforcement philosophy is to use the enforcement process as a tool to influence and encourage desired behavior by registered entities. To that end, WECC Enforcement has adopted risk-based processes and projects that it believes will promote, foster, and influence a reliable BPS. WECC Enforcement seeks opportunities to work collaboratively with and educate registered entities in the enforcement space. WECC Enforcement also recognizes its obligation to ensure fair and reasonable outcomes.

WECC created a new violation assessment process to improve its ability to assess the impact and the root cause of violations, and to determine effective solutions to address the root causes. WECC calls this process a Violation Risk Assessment Methodology (vRAM). This framework is used to assist WECC Enforcement staff in determining the risk posed by a violation, as well as the level of resource allocation that must be dedicated to each violation. During a violation review, WECC Enforcement staff use a four-step process to assess the risk of each violation. This process consists of a severity analysis, controls analysis, likelihood analysis, and risk analysis. This new risk characterization allows a more granular reflection of the risk. In addition, this process considers an entity's connectivity, internal controls, and functions when determining the severity of a violation. WECC believes that this process helps WECC process lesser-risk violations more quickly than in the past.

In its settlement processes, WECC has worked with registered entities, where appropriate, to agree to the future completion of certain activities above-and-beyond those required to ensure

[143] This table reports the percentage of violations discovered from the years 2007 through 2013 with completed or open mitigation. This table excludes dismissed violations and non-U.S. violations.

compliance with one or more Reliability Standards in lieu of the full monetary penalties permitted by the NERC *Sanction Guidelines*. These efforts allow registered entities to allocate their resources to those projects that can increase overall reliability and reduce the likelihood of future noncompliance.

As an example of above-and-beyond activities, registered entities in the WECC region have committed to implement improvements to enhance their ability to comply with Reliability Standards. Examples of compliance-related improvements included developing a process to mitigate violations in a timely manner, implementing meetings and programs to increase awareness of compliance issues, and developing processes to identify the full scope of violations promptly. NERC encourages WECC to continue deploying solutions such as these that promote reliability and insight into processes that can manage risk.

d. WECC's Implementation of Various Aspects of the CMEP

As noted in §II.D.1.a above, NERC conducts ongoing oversight activities to evaluate the effectiveness of each Regional Entity's implementation of the CMEP. These activities include regular reviews and periodic spot checks of specific Regional Entity processes. NERC's oversight activities give NERC an ongoing view into how effectively and efficiently the Regional Entity is executing its enforcement responsibilities. Below is a summary of some of NERC's more recent oversight activities specific to WECC.

With respect to the assessment of monetary penalties, WECC tracks and reviews penalty information to ensure that penalties are applied consistently. Responsibility for penalty tracking analysis lies with WECC's compliance enforcement case management team, which works with WECC management to determine appropriate penalties. NERC reviews all penalties submitted by WECC for appropriateness and consistency with monetary penalties assessed by WECC and other Regional Entities for violations of the same Reliability Standards and requirements occurring under similar facts and circumstances. NERC has found that WECC assesses monetary penalties that are appropriate and consistent with penalties assessed for similar violations.

Based on a spot check, NERC determined that WECC dismisses violations for appropriate reasons. NERC identified opportunities where WECC could improve its letters of dismissal and communicated those opportunities to WECC. By implementing these improvements, WECC can improve the quality of its compliance guidance to registered entities.

As part of its ongoing FFT review processes, NERC reviewed a sample of WECC FFT issues filed or posted during the assessment period to examine WECC's procedures for FFT processing and the application of those procedures to the FFT issues in its caseload. Following its review, NERC concluded that WECC's procedures generally followed FFT requirements and guidance. NERC noted that WECC's Notice of FFT Treatment was very useful and included details on the factors WECC considers, such as the description of the issue, risk statement, and mitigating activities, when considering whether to afford FFT treatment. The WECC sample set contained several instructive examples where the risk statement adequately addressed the issue and the minimal risk to the reliability of the BPS. NERC noted several ways that WECC could

improve its FFT postings and related documentation to provide additional transparency to its determinations.

e. Conclusion

Based on NERC's review of the factors described above, NERC concludes that WECC has performed as an effective Regional Entity with respect to enforcement activities during the assessment period. WECC should adopt the recommendations for improvement provided through NERC's ongoing oversight activities.

III. RELIABILITY ASSESSMENTS

A. Overview of Regional Entity Responsibilities

One of the ERO's responsibilities, as set forth in §215(g) of the FPA, 16 U.S.C. §824o(g), and 18 C.F.R. §39.11, is to conduct periodic assessments of the reliability and adequacy of the BPS in North America.[144] These assessments are conducted by the NERC Reliability Assessment and Performance Analysis (RAPA) department. Pursuant to the RDAs, the Regional Entities help to assess reliability and to provide performance assessment and event analysis of the BPS in their footprints.[145] Section 804 of the NERC ROP specifies that the Regional Entities are to provide data and information to support NERC's annual long-term and seasonal assessments of the reliability of the BPS and any special reliability assessments. In addition, the Regional Entities are to conduct self-assessments of resource adequacy and transmission constraints within their footprints.

Throughout the assessment period, the Regional Entities have supported the RAPA program area by providing Regional Entity-specific data and information for the development of NERC's seasonal, long-term, probabilistic and special reliability assessments. These continent-wide assessments are developed annually by NERC through ongoing coordination between the RAPA department and the NERC Reliability Assessment Subcommittee (RAS), a subcommittee of the NERC Planning Committee (PC).[146] The assessments are primarily based on information and data submitted by a variety of registered entities within the Regional Entities.[147] Data includes

[144] Section 39.11(b) of the U.S. FERC's regulations provide that: "The Electric Reliability Organization shall conduct assessments of the adequacy of the Bulk-Power System in North America and report its findings to the Commission, the Secretary of Energy, each Regional Entity, and each Regional Advisory Body annually or more frequently if so ordered by the Commission."

[145] Assessment of the Regional Entities' performance in the event analysis function is provided in §IV on Reliability Risk Management, below. This §III is focused on the reliability assessment function.

[146] Information on the Reliability Assessment Subcommittee can be found at: http://www.nerc.com/comm/PC/Pages/Reliability-Assessment-Subcommittee-(RAS)-2013.aspx.

[147] Prior to 2011, data was collected and presented based on the political boundaries of each Regional Entity. Following approval by the NERC PC, assessment areas were introduced in 2011. These assessment areas were based on planning coordinator boundaries (or groups of planning coordinators), which more accurately reflect the planning and operational activities of the BPS. The eight Regional Entities are still responsible for providing reliability assessment data to NERC, but data is collected on an assessment area basis.

peak load (demand) forecasts, projected availability of capacity and demand-side management (DSM) resources, and existing and future transmission.[148]

The Regional Entities provide technical input to support the objectives of the RAPA department through the following ERO committees, subcommittees, and working groups:

- PC: The PC is a stakeholder committee chartered by the NERC Board to proactively support the ERO Enterprise mission[149] and associated NERC program areas by carrying out a broad array of technical activities and responsibilities focused on the reliable planning and assessment of the interconnected BPS of North America. The PC's mission is to promote the reliability of the interconnected BPS in North America and to assess and encourage resource and transmission adequacy. The PC also provides a forum where industry representatives and subject matter experts can address reliability, planning and adequacy issues. The PC supports NERC's reliability mission by executing the policies, directives, and assignments from the NERC Board and by advising the NERC Board on matters related to bulk electric system transmission planning, reliability, and resource adequacy.

- RAS: The RAS reviews, assesses, and reports on the overall reliability (adequacy and security) of existing and planned BPS. Six meetings are held annually to support the peer review and information verification necessary for the development of seasonal, long-term, and probabilistic (biennial) assessments. These peer reviews ensure that each assessment area conforms to its own planning criteria, guides and the applicable NERC Reliability Standards. The RAS reports directly to the NERC PC.

- Performance Analysis Subcommittee (PAS): The PAS provides input to and supports the objectives of the NERC RAPA department. The PAS reviews, assesses, and reports on the state of reliability based on historical performance of BPS. The key findings and recommendations of the PAS serve as technical input to NERC's Reliability Standards and project prioritization, compliance process improvements, reliability assessments, event analysis, and CIP, and ultimately support the *State of Reliability* report.

- Reliability Assessment Data Working Group (RADWG): The RADWG (formerly known as the Data Coordination Working Group), operates at the direction of the RAS. The primary function of the RADWG is to facilitate existing data collection

[148] Additional information about the assessment development process is provided in *NERC Reliability Assessment Guidebook*, version 3.1 (NERC Guidebook), available at: http://www.nerc.com/pa/RAPA/rg/ReliabilityGuidelines/Reliability_Assess_Guidebook_3_1Final.pdf.

[149] The ERO's mission is to ensure the reliability of the North American BPS. NERC achieves this mission by facilitating: industry awareness and management of risks to reliability; developing clear, reliability-focused standards; providing reliability assurance and excellence; assessing reliability performance; identifying and improving reliability models; and providing firm and fair enforcement of compliance with mandatory Reliability Standards.

efforts of the Regional Entities for NERC's seasonal and long-term reliability assessments. Additionally, this working group provides a platform for collaborative enhancements of current data collection processes to improve the accuracy, consistency, transparency, and efficiency of NERC's reliability assessment processes. Finally, the RADWG collaborates with the Department of Energy Energy Information Administration and other governmental/regulatory agencies that conduct similar data collection efforts. The goal of the RADWG is to reduce duplicative reporting requirements while promoting consistent data definitions.

B. Regional Entity Responsibilities in the Preparation of Assessment Reports

NERC annually prepares two seasonal (summer and winter), one long-term (10-year), and one probabilistic (biennial) assessment under the direction of NERC's PC and with support from the RAS. To support these assessments, each Regional Entity conducts reliability assessments for its footprint (assessment area, as described above) in accordance with guidelines provided in the NERC Guidebook. The NERC Guidebook is a "living document" which aims to improve consistency and transparency, to enhance granularity, and to establish a core framework for conducting independent assessments. While inherent differences in the way that the BPS is planned and operated across North America result in different approaches in conducting reliability assessments, NERC maintains a consistent framework for how the BPS is assessed in different areas. This framework includes a common set of definitions and measures for demand, resources, transfers, transmission, and resource adequacy.

Ongoing coordination between NERC and the Regional Entities occurs throughout the assessment development process. This is accomplished through monthly calls with each Regional Entity to identify Regional Entity-specific challenges in the collection of assessment data and information.

1. Reliability Assessment Data Collection

NERC collects seasonal and long-term electricity supply and demand data for the assessments areas through the Regional Entities. The data is collected through a series of forms that are developed and distributed by the RAPA department, in coordination with the RAS and RADWG. Specific seasonal and long-term data collected for the reliability assessments include: (i) peak load (demand) forecasts; (ii) on-peak capacity (including DSM); and (iii) transmission facilities. Although these metrics have been collected by NERC since 1968, the level of detail for each metric has grown, especially during the last decade. The data collection activities for each assessment require ongoing coordination between NERC and the Regional Entities. This coordination is executed through the RADWG and RAS to ensure that the data are accurate and consistently reported at the assessment area level.

The underlying data collection processes and planning methods also vary by assessment area or Regional Entity. These variances exist due to the inherent complexity, different corporate structures and unique history of the industry. More importantly, different attributes within each assessment area (e.g., climate, resource mix, market structures) require Regional Entity-specific or assessment area-specific planning considerations. These issues are identified and addressed

through the RAS and RADWG. More recently, in 2012, NERC's RAPA department instituted the development of individual Methods and Assumptions reports[150] for the long-term, seasonal, and probabilistic assessments. These reports, updated annually, provide detailed documentation of the planning activities and special considerations applicable to each assessment area or Regional Entity and ensure consistency across all Regional Entities.

2. Reliability Assessment Narratives

NERC's seasonal, long-term reliability, and probabilistic assessments include information from each assessment area (or Regional Entity if prior to 2011). Similar to the data collection process (described above), the NERC RAPA department coordinates the collection of assessment information through the RAS. Specifically, narrative guides (or questionnaires) are developed annually, with RAS input, to assess future resource adequacy and identify potential NERC-wide or Regional Entity-specific reliability issues. Narrative guides for the seasonal, long-term, and probalistic assessments are distributed to each Regional Entity several months prior to the data submittal due date to NERC.

The assessment areas submit their self-assessments (in response to the narrative guides) to NERC through the Regional Entities. Each Regional Entity's self-assessment is then distributed to RAS members from other Regional Entities for an in-depth and comprehensive review of the data and information. Peer reviewer comments are discussed with Regional Entity and assessment area representatives, and refinements and adjustments are made, as needed. The Regional Entity self-assessments are then subjected to scrutiny and review by the entire RAS. This peer review process provides an essential check and balance to ensure the validity of the information provided for each assessment. It also provides a mechanism for the members of the RAS to become fully convinced that each Regional self-assessment is accurate, thorough, and complete. Regional Entity representatives are able to examine and better understand planning methods and assumptions in other Regional Entities while also critiquing these processes or identifying potential gaps or shortfalls. Finally, the peer review also ensures consistency of methods and assumptions so that reliability evaluations are uniform.

Following the peer review process, the NERC RAPA compiles all Regional self-assessments into a single draft report, which is reviewed by the NERC Operating Committee (OC), the Member Representatives Committee (MRC), and NERC senior management. The report ultimately requires NERC PC approval before it is submitted to the NERC Board for final approval. This comprehensive vetting process promotes the development of independent assessments with heavy coordination among Regional Entity stakeholders.

C. Regional Entity Responsibilities in the Preparation of *State of Reliability* Reports

NERC annually produces a *State of Reliability* report that provides NERC's independent view of ongoing BPS trends to objectively present an integrated view of reliability performance. The key findings and recommendations serve as technical input to NERC's processes for risk assessment, Reliability Standards projects prioritization, compliance process improvements, event

[150] Methods and Assumptions reports are available at: http://www.nerc.com/pa/RAPA/ra/Pages/default.aspx.

analysis, and CIP activities. The analysis of BPS performance developed as part of the report provides an industry reference of historical reliability, offers analytical insights regarding industry action, and enables the identification and prioritization of specific steps that can be taken to manage risks to reliability. The data that are analyzed to produce the *State of Reliability* report are submitted by entities across North America. Each Regional Entity is responsible for reviewing the data submitted by entities in its respective region for completeness and accuracy. Once this review is complete, the Regional Entity staff informs NERC staff that the data are ready for analysis.

D. Regional Entity Responsibilities in the Collection of Data for NERC Reliability Databases

The NERC Board has approved mandatory data reporting concerning conventional generating units, transmission outages, and demand response availability. NERC collects this data using its Generating Availability Data System (GADS), Transmission Availability Data System (TADS), and Demand Response Availability Data System (DADS) databases. This unique series of databases is used to collect, record, and retrieve operating information tracking, reporting, analyzing, and improving the reliability performance of the BPS. Regional Entity staff work with NERC staff to ensure the data submitted by entities is timely, complete, and accurate.

E. Regional Entity Resources Budgeted for Reliability Assessment and Performance Analysis During the Assessment Period

During the assessment period, each Regional Entity increased its budgeted direct expenses and its budgeted FTE staffing for its RAPA program. The following table shows the amounts of direct expense budgeted by each Regional Entity for its RAPA program in its 2009 and 2014 business plans and budgets as filed with the Commission:[151]

Regional Entity	2009 Budget	2014 Budget	Percent Increase
FRCC	$918,744	$1,270,439	38.3%
MRO	$982,029	$1,329,480	35.4%
NPCC	$1,446,942	$1,888,972	30.5%
RFC	$985,605	$2,213,282	124.6%
SERC	$976,109	$1,398,882	43.3%
SPP RE	$432,558	$1,345,065	211.0%
Texas RE	$365,180	$1,055,983	189.2%
WECC	$2,742,063	$6,516,514	137.7%

The following table shows the direct FTE staffing budgeted by each Regional Entity for its RAPA program in its 2009 and 2014 business plan and budget as filed with the Commission:

[151] WECC amounts include spending to perform work under DOE grants.

Regional Entity	2009 Budget	2014 Budget	Percent Increase
FRCC	3.67	5.29	44.1%
MRO	4.75	6.49	36.6%
NPCC	3.90	5.83	49.5%
RFC	5.50	10.00	81.8%
SERC	4.50	7.60	68.9%
SPP RE	3.40	7.13	109.7%
Texas RE	2.20	4.75	115.9%
WECC	14.00	23.60	68.6%

F. Evaluation of Regional Entity Performance in Reliability Assessment Activities and Areas for Improvement

As the discussion in §§III.B, C, and D above makes clear, the quality of NERC's reliability assessments depends heavily on the collaborative efforts of the Regional Entities, working through the RAS. The ability of the NERC RAPA staff to identify NERC-wide highlights and key findings is heavily dependent on the submittal of on-time, complete, and accurate data and information from each assessment area and Regional Entity.

NERC has assessed the performance of the Regional Entities during the assessment period against the following criteria pertaining to the Regional Entities' roles and responsibilities:

(1) Regional Entities interface with registered entities to support and assure overall alignment with wide-area, ERO-formulated, reliability assessments and performance analyses, program design and structure, and to undertake support functions for wide-area studies and analyses and the development of specific region-centric assessments initiated by the Regional Entity to gather greater insight into a particular reliability issue.

(2) Regional Entities evaluate and provide seasonal, long-term reliability, and probabilistic assessments of the planning coordinator within their regions (assessment areas) including the data supporting the various analyses and evaluations of anticipated reliability conditions.

(3) Regional Entities compile interconnection-wide, steady-state and dynamic models of the registered entities within their regions that have been developed by the applicable planning coordinators consistent with the program design and structure.

(4) Regional Entities perform the data gathering function for certain performance analysis data efforts, assuring integrity, quality, and timeliness of the underlying data, and using data-gathering quality control procedures, forms and reporting mechanisms provided by NERC.

(5) Regional Entities provide technical resources and expertise in support of strategic plan initiatives, aligning budget and resource process proposals that maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of the overall ERO enterprise on technical, analyses, information technology and program approaches.

(6) Regional Entities manage their technical participation in applicable ERO committees and sub-groups in alignment with overall strategic objectives and the RAPA program structure and design while minimizing duplication and the overlap with SMEs and technical groups.

(7) Regional Entities coordinate with registered entities and provide technical resource support to wide-area analysis of technical issues (oscillations, frequency, modeling, system protection, BES, etc.) that involve joint efforts.

(8) Regional Entities support the development and implementation of major projects and initiatives (e.g., application of the BES definition), process exceptions requests, implement compliance, registration and standards applicability activities, and arrange Regional Entity processes for consistent use within North America.

(9) Regional Entities manage the relationship with registered entities with respect to RAPA program deliverables and objectives, including data and analytic assembly quality, integrity, and timeliness.

(10) Regional Entities collect misoperation data in fulfillment of obligations in PRC-004-2.1a, Requirement R3. The Regional Entities, in conjunction with their respective protection system subcommittees, analyze the data to determine trends and recommendation actions.

Based on its review of the Regional Entities' performance in Reliability Assessment during the assessment period, NERC makes the following observations:

(1) All Regional Entities conduct Reliability Assessments in general accordance with the NERC Guidebook.

(2) NERC supports and collaborates with Regional Entity staff through stakeholder committees to ensure consistent execution of delegated functions. In addition, the Regional Entities directly collaborate and communicate with registered entity personnel when conducting reliability assessments. Together, NERC and the Regional Entities have maintained a common framework for assessing the reliability of the BPS.

(3) Further improvements in data checking and validation processes are needed. Regional Entities are leading and participating in the development of the NERC Reliability Assessment Data System (RADS). While this automated data system is still under development, significant improvements to data collection and validation have already been made at the Regional Entity level to support RADS in 2015.

(4) Each Regional Entity reviews the data submitted by registered entities for completeness and accuracy in TADS, DADS, and GADS. Once the review is complete, the Regional Entity informs NERC that the data is ready for analysis. The Regional Entities have typically met these expectations.

(5) In the future, some Regional Entities may need more resources to support evolving assessment approaches. More granular reliability assessments, which are expected through the course of increased evaluations of high-priority emerging reliability issues, may require additional data and information. This is true particularly in response to a changing resource mix and an evolving electricity grid; different approaches for measuring and evaluating future reliability may be needed. Most reliability assessment data supports the measurement of resource adequacy. To support a comprehensive understanding of essential reliability services, NERC will be considering how other long-term reliability evaluations should occur and what data and information will be needed over the next several years. These efforts, along with further evaluation of environmental regulations, DSM, gas and electric interdependencies, increasing variable generation, and other emerging reliability issues, require strong support from the ERO.

(6) Some Regional Entities rely upon their member entities to perform various technical reviews. In order for Regional Entities to provide an independent review of both BPS performance and future states of reliability, Regional Entities may need increased staff participation. The need for independent review by regional staff will be greater over time given the challenges of the evolving BPS.

Based on its review, NERC makes the following recommendations for improvements:

(1) NERC and the Regional Entities should work collaboratively to develop an ERO enterprise-wide database solution to reinforce the existing structures and processes (including Regional Entity involvement) used to develop NERC assessments. An ERO-wide database solution would allow for consistent data error checking which would ultimately improve the overall efficiency across the ERO and contribute to better reliability assessments.

(2) NERC RAPA department management needs to further work on the best design for managing functional area relationships with the Regional Entities and developing better metrics to evaluate Regional Entity performance.

Going forward, NERC, in collaboration with the Regional Entities, will: (i) develop a comprehensive overarching design and set of controls, reporting requirements, metrics, and feedback mechanisms for reliability assessment activities, including the essential oversight elements listed above; (ii) identify functional qualifications for performance of reliability assessment activities; and (iii) adopt risk-based approaches to monitoring performance of delegated functions and providing effective feedback and coaching to continuously improve overall ERO Enterprise performance.

In conjunction with these improvement efforts, the Regional Entities should (1) continue to support NERC in the development of comprehensive functional program designs and controls (e.g., performance metrics and Regional Entity assessments based on common criteria); and (2) adapt existing Regional Entity programs for reliability assessment activities to conform with emerging program designs provided by NERC (e.g., ERO-enterprise wide data collection and database systems).

Many of the improvement activities described above have been initiated during the latter stages of the assessment period. In October 2013, the ERO Executive Management Group, comprised of senior management from NERC and each Regional Entity, approved a revised ERO-RAPA group charter. The purpose of the revised ERO-RAPA group charter is to provide a forum for Regional Entities and NERC RAPA department staff to collaborate on ongoing activities that are part of the RAPA department's approved roles and responsibility. This group will facilitate the flow of information, jointly coordinate work product expectations (scope, timing, resource expenditures, schedule, etc.) and promote consistency in the final products. The ERO-RAPA group includes a staff person from each of the eight Regional Entities (selected by the Regional Entity) to provide overall coordination of assessment activities with the NERC RAPA staff. Also, the ERO-RAPA group will implement, promote, and provide strategic and tactical guidance for Reliability Assessment activities per the ERO oversight model.

IV. RELIABILITY RISK MANAGEMENT (SITUATION AWARENESS AND EVENT ANALYSIS)

This §IV evaluates the Regional Entities' activities during the assessment period with respect to Reliability Risk Management (RRM). RRM encompasses the program areas of Situation Awareness and Event Analysis.

A. Regional Entity Progress in Identifying and Analyzing System Events and Improving Situation Awareness

Pursuant to the RDAs and the NERC ROPs, NERC and the Regional Entities collaborate to monitor present conditions on the BPS by gathering and assessing situation awareness information from registered entities.[152] The Regional Entities also assist NERC in analyzing major events, off-normal occurrences, BPS performance and BPS vulnerabilities.[153] NERC notes that as a general matter, the Regional Entities have not devoted, and have not been asked to devote, a level of resources to these activities comparable to the resources devoted to compliance monitoring and enforcement and reliability assessment. However, during the assessment period, the Regional Entities as a group made significant progress in executing these duties. The primary, collaborative achievement during this period was the formalization of a voluntary ERO Event Analysis process which facilitates coordinated responses to and review and analysis of system events. As part of the formalization of the Event Analysis process, an event classification system based on event severity was developed and put into effect. During the assessment period, NERC and the Regional Entities began using the event analysis process to analyze events and disseminate lessons learned to all industry members and to Regional Entities.

Prior to formalization of the Event Analysis process, which brought the ERO Event Analysis program to a mature state, the Regional Entities interacted individually with registered entities without a coordinated ERO-wide program for information sharing. In 2010, the Regional Entities initiated a dialogue with registered entities to discuss the requirements for preparing

[152] ROP §1001 (Situation Awareness). The Regional Entities' responsibilities with respect to event analysis and situation awareness are described in §7 of the RDAs.

[153] ROP §§807 (Analysis of Major Events) and 808 (Analysis of Off-Normal Occurences, Bulk Power System Performance, and Bulk Power System Vulnerabilities).

consistently formatted event reports. ReliabilityFirst, for example, developed a series of questions and a list of Reliability Standards that registered entities could use as a guideline as they developed event analysis reports and performed internal compliance reviews.

In June 2010, NERC and the Regional Entities created the NERC Event Analysis Working Group (EAWG), which included members from every Regional Entity. The EAWG expended significant efforts to develop an ERO Event Analysis process document in coordination with industry stakeholders for use across North America. On October 25, 2010, personnel from NERC, the Regional Entities, and the EAWG commenced a field trial of the ERO Event Analysis process, and conducted a comprehensive evaluation of the field trial data. Industry engagement in the field trials was noteworthy. Using the extensive feedback received from registered entities during the field trials, the EAWG developed version 1 of the *ERO Event Analysis Process*, which went into effect on February 21, 2012.[154] In June 2012, the NERC OC approved version 2 of the *ERO Event Analysis Process*, and the EAWG was transitioned to the NERC Event Analysis Subcommittee (EAS). By integrating industry engagement and the collaborative review of disturbances into the ERO Event Analysis process, the EAWG improved the effectiveness, predictability, consistency, and timeliness of the ERO Event Analysis program. The EAWG has since been elevated from a working group to a subcommittee under the NERC OC. Regional Entity staff continue to actively participate in the implementation and improvement of the ERO Event Analysis program. Since October 2010, registered entities have submitted more than 325 event reports through the ERO Event Analysis program. Several lessons learned have already been shared with the industry as a result of the ERO Event Analysis program.

The ERO Event Analysis program facilitates the sharing of lessons learned from applicable system events and trends. This sharing of lessons learned provides benefits to industry in terms of enhanced reliability. The new process provides a mechanism for registered entities to complete a preliminary event report for events occurring on their system. The higher the category of the system event (based on the event classification system), the more detailed analysis the registered entity is expected to perform and to share with the Regional Entity and NERC.

During the assessment period, a major test of the Regional Entities' progress in situation awareness and event analysis occurred in connection with the February 2011 Southwest Cold Weather Event, which affected areas of New Mexico, Arizona, and Texas and was the first major Category 4 Event to occur after the current ERO Event Analysis process was put in place. Approximately 1.3 million electric customers were out of service at the peak of this event. NERC, the Commission, and the Regional Entities whose areas were affected jointly analyzed the Southwest Cold Weather Event, conducted an assessment of previous severe winter events, published lessons learned, distributed training materials, and hosted an informational webinar to help industry members prepare for future severe cold weather events. As a result of the experience with this event, the ERO Event Analysis program was enhanced.

In addition to executing the Event Analysis process upon the occurrence of significant system events, the Regional Entities support NERC's situation awareness efforts by providing

[154] *See* the Event Analysis Program web page, available at: http://www.nerc.com/pa/rrm/ea/Pages/EA-Program.aspx.

more detailed information on occurrences of interest,[155] making initial notifications of certain Regional Entity-specific occurrences, and participating in daily situation awareness conference calls and weekly event analysis meetings. The Regional Entities also code all events and present them in monthly discussions with NERC.

NERC and the Regional Entities are continuously refining the ERO Event Analysis process based on experience and as system conditions change. For example, in 2013, NERC began focusing on energy management system (EMS) outages and their impact on BPS reliability. This focus on EMS outages has resulted in the publication and dissemination of two NERC Advisories pursuant to NERC ROP §810 as well as multiple lessons learned. NERC and the Regional Entities also conducted a monitoring and situation awareness workshop in September 2013 to share the lessons learned and the good industry practices learned from this work.

An added benefit of the ERO Event Analysis process is that it has driven a significant decrease in the initiation of formal compliance investigations by NERC and the Regional Entities. The responsiveness of registered entities in providing more extensive information about BPS disturbances has enabled NERC and the Regional Entities to perform more complete compliance assessments of these occurrences, without the use of a formal compliance monitoring method.

B. Hurricane Sandy Provided a Meaningful Case Study and Test of the ERO's Situation Awareness Capabilities

During the assessment period, in late October 2012, Hurricane Sandy provided a major test of the abilities of NERC, the Regional Entities, and the registered entities to engage in large-scale situation awareness and information sharing activities during a major system event. The hurricane made landfall on the Eastern Seaboard on October 29, 2012, and caused massive disruptions to the electric power system in New York, New England, and the Mid-Atlantic states. Over the course of the event, 20,007 MW of generation capacity was rendered unavailable and the distribution system was severely damaged. Approximately 8.35 million electric customer outages were reported across the impacted area.

In preparation for Hurricane Sandy, the Regional Entities and registered entities assisted NERC in monitoring conditions on the BPS and in responding to events as necessary. For example, ReliabilityFirst, NPCC, SERC, the New York Independent System Operator, ISO New England (ISO-NE), and PJM Interconnection, in conjunction with NERC's situation awareness team, coordinated storm preparation plans with the transmission owners, generation owners, balancing authorities, and other registered entities within the area forecasted to be impacted. Entities worked to ensure that sufficient numbers of additional field operation crews were scheduled and available to respond to the expected storm-related disruptions. Where possible, previously scheduled outages were postponed to ensure that facilities would be available over the next several days. Generators were advised of expectations during the storm, which included the potential for abnormal dispatch instructions. Blackstart units were also contacted to confirm that the units had sufficient fuel available to run for an extended duration.

[155] Many of these occurrences do not rise to the level of a reportable event within the ERO Event Analysis program.

A day before the hurricane made landfall, NPCC initiated a series of daily coordination conference calls. During these calls, the reliability coordinators in NPCC shared reported current and projected system status and operational challenges. These regional conference calls were an important means of monitoring and communicating events with adjacent reliability coordinators, and they continued daily throughout the storm and during the ensuing recovery efforts. In addition, gas pipelines were contacted and requested to advise ISO-NE of any special procedures or anticipated abnormal conditions in light of the impending storm. All gas pipelines implemented their hurricane preparedness plans for the Northeast region, which included checking on-site generators for compressor stations and reviewing staffing plans and facility flood plans.

Registered entities convened or participated in numerous conference calls and broadcasts. They also communicated with the mutual assistance groups to which they belonged. These calls began on October 27, 2012, and continued through the restoration effort, with some lasting though November 9, 2012. Following the storm, NPCC, ReliabilityFirst and SERC, whose footprints include the areas directly impacted by the storm, participated in a joint effort with NERC to provide an overview of the impact of Hurricane Sandy on the interconnected BPS and gather lessons learned for storm preparation and restoration. The results of this effort are included in the *Hurricane Sandy Event Analysis Report* published by NERC in April 2014.[156]

Other Regional Entities have had the opportunity to exercise their situation awareness and information sharing processes and to demonstrate their proficiency, but not at the level that was required during Hurricane Sandy. FRCC, SERC, and SPP RE demonstrated their situation awareness processes and proficiency during Hurricane Isaac in September, 2012. ReliabilityFirst demonstrated its situation awareness processes and proficiency during the Derecho storm response in June through July 2012. Finally, WECC demonstrated its situation awareness processes and proficiency during multiple wildfires that caused transmission system disturbances in the Spring of 2013. While all of these events were smaller in scale and impact than Hurricane Sandy, the general processes used by the Regional Entities were the same and in each instance they were successfully executed.

C. Areas for Future Improvement and Enhancements

The EAS of the NERC OC conducts an annual review of the ERO Event Analysis process. The OC receives comments from industry members on the ERO Event Analysis process and gives these comments full consideration during the annual review. Some commenters have suggested that communication and coordination between the parties involved in event analysis should be further enhanced. Examples of suggested improvements include increasing the timeliness, transparency and comprehensiveness of dissemination of information relating to event analysis and lessons learned, and streamlining the cause coding mechanism. In response, NERC is exploring the possibility of implementing enterprise information technology systems to provide efficiencies in event analysis and related reporting processes.

[156] Available at: http://www.nerc.com/pa/rrm/ea/Oct2012HurricanSandyEvntAnlyssRprtDL/Hurricane_Sandy_EAR_20140312_Final.pdf.

V. BUSINESS PLANNING AND BUDGETING, FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING

A. Provisions of Commission Orders, the RDAs and the ROP Concerning the Regional Entities' Business Plans and Budgets and Financial Accounting and Reporting

The Commission's regulations at 18 C.F.R. §39.4(b) require that the ERO's annual business plan and budget submission include "the entire annual budget for statutory and non-statutory activities for each Regional Entity, with supporting materials, including . . . each Regional Entity's complete business plan and organization chart, explaining . . . the proposed expenditure of funds collected in sufficient detail to justify the requested funding collection and budget expenditures . . . ." The regulation further specifies that the ERO's annual budget submission "shall include the line item budgets for the activities of each Regional Entity that are delegated or assigned to each Regional Entity pursuant to §39.8." Further, in Order No. 672, the Commission stated that "The ERO must determine, at a minimum, whether each Regional Entity's proposed budget is adequate to carry out the functions delegated to it." [157]

The RDAs specify that the Regional Entity and NERC shall develop, through a collaborative process, an annual business plan and budget, in accordance with the Commission's regulations and orders and NERC business planning and budgeting policies and instructions.[158] The Regional Entity's business plan and budget is to describe the activities necessary for, and provide a budget with adequate resources for, the Regional Entity to carry out its delegated activities under the RDA. The business plan and budget is also required to show the funding sources and amounts to fund the proposed budget, including, as applicable, assessments to end users, penalty monies and other sources of funds. The RDAs further provide that NERC is to provide the Regional Entity with the form or forms, and accompanying instructions, for submittal of the Regional Entity's business plan and budget. NERC and the Regional Entities are to develop an annual schedule for preparation of the business plan and budget, and each Regional Entity is to submit its proposed annual business plan and budget for carrying out its delegated authority functions and related activities in accordance with the schedule. These RDA provisions are also reflected in §§1103 and 1104 of the NERC ROP.

Additionally, the RDAs specify that NERC shall develop, in consultation with the Regional Entities, a reasonable and consistent system of accounts, with a level of detail and record keeping comparable to the Commission's Uniform System of Accounts and sufficient to allow the Commission to compare the Regional Entity's approved budget with actual results for the year.[159] The Regional Entity must follow NERC's prescribed system of accounts except where a departure is specifically allowed by NERC. Further, the RDAs require the Regional Entities to submit to NERC (i) unaudited quarterly interim financial statements, in a form provided by NERC, no later than 20 days after the end of each fiscal quarter, and (ii) audited annual financial statements,

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[157] *Rules Concerning Certification of the Electric Reliability Organization; and Procedures for the Establishment, Approval and Enforcement of Electric Reliability Standards*, Order No. 672, FERC Stats. & Regs. ¶ 31,204, *order on reh'g*, Order No. 672-A, FERC Stats. & Regs. ¶ 31,212 (2006), at P 229.

[158] The RDA provisions described in this paragraph are generally found in §9 of each RDA.

[159] This provision is also specified in NERC ROP §1103.4 (NERC Budget Development).

including supporting materials, in a form provided by NERC, no later than May 1 of the following year.

The Commission has also required NERC and the Regional Entities to file annual comparisons of each entity's budget to actual results for the year. These reports (sometimes referred to as "true-up reports") are to be filed on or before May 30 of the following year. The Commission originally imposed this requirement in its order accepting the NERC and Regional Entity business plans and budgets for the year 2008,[160] and clarified the requirements for this filing in several subsequent orders. The filings are to provide a comparison of the NERC and Regional Entity budgets to actual costs incurred in the preceding year, "in sufficient detail and with sufficient explanations for the Commission to determine, by program area, the reasons for deviations from the budget and the impacts of those deviations."[161] In an order issued in June 2008, the Commission provided additional direction concerning the required contents of the Regional Entities' annual true-up reports:

> 37. To promote consistency and transparency, the Commission directs the use of certain practices and formats in future true-up filings. In particular, Regional Entities must provide a cover letter discussing major areas of actual cost-to-budget variances for all of the Regional Entity's statutory programs in the aggregate. Regional Entities should also follow NERC's template for the presentation of actual costs and budgeted costs on a program-by-program and line-item basis. Significant variances must be explained on a line-item basis with enough particularized information to clearly support each such variance. Regional Entities should refrain from using generic, program area summaries to support significant variances. The cause for each such variance should therefore be clear on its face. Further, each Regional Entity must provide an explanation of the allocation methods it used to allocate indirect costs to the direct statutory program or functional areas, as well as any allocation between any statutory and non-statutory activities.[162]

In addition, the Commission directed that in the annual true-up reports, NERC and the Regional Entities should justify any use of cash reserves as variances.[163]

B. Regional Entity Performance in Business Planning and Budgeting, Accounting, and True-Up Reporting

Throughout the assessment period, consistent with the provisions of the Commission's regulations and orders, the RDAs, and the ROP summarized above, NERC and the Regional Entities have collaboratively developed annual business plans and budgets for each year 2010 through 2014 which describe the activities and resources necessary to execute the Regional

[160] *North American Electric Reliability Corporation, Order Conditionally Accepting 2008 Business Plan and Budget of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation and Ordering Compliance Filings*, 121 FERC ¶ 61,057 (2007).

[161] *Id*. at P 23. In addition, any use of statutory funds for non-statutory activities is to be identified and an explanation provided as to how the statutory funds will be reimbursed. *Id*. at P 66.

[162] *North American Electric Reliability Corporation, Order Conditionally Accepting Compliance Filing*, 123 FERC ¶61,282 (2008), at P 37.

[163] *Id.* at P 38.

Entities' delegated authority functions and related activities. Overall, the Regional Entities have performed their responsibilities in the business planning and budgeting process in accordance with the requirements of the Commission's regulations and orders, the RDAs and the NERC ROPs. In a sense, the five-year evaluation of the Regional Entities' performance in business planning and budgeting, accounting and true-up reporting can be considered redundant because NERC and the Regional Entities engage in these activities on an annual basis (or more frequent basis for some aspects of financial reporting), which provides NERC with continuous opportunities to review each Regional Entity's performance of these functions and its compliance with procedures and requirements, and to identify and correct any deviations or deficiencies. Further, the Commission's annual review and acceptance of each Regional Entity's business plan and budget and true-up report provides an ultimate check on the Regional Entity's performance.

To provide ongoing, collaborative oversight of the business planning and budgeting and accounting and financial reporting processes, NERC and the Regional Entities have formed an ERO Finance Group comprised of representatives of NERC and each Regional Entity. The purpose of the group is to: (i) facilitate the coordination, preparation, review and approval by NERC and the Commission of the NERC and Regional Entity business plans and budgets consistent with the requirements of the NERC ROP, the RDAs, any specific requirements established by the NERC Finance and Audit Committee or Board, and applicable statutory, governmental and regulatory requirements; (ii) facilitate the coordination, preparation, review and filing of the NERC and Regional Entity business plans and budgets with Canadian and, to the extent applicable, other governmental and regulatory authorities consistent with applicable governmental and regulatory requirements; (iii) collaborate and support initiatives to improve the cost effectiveness and efficiency of NERC and Regional Entity operations; and (iv) provide general support to the NERC and Regional Entity executive leadership regarding such other finance and accounting matters as may from time to be deemed necessary.

Since NERC became the ERO, NERC and the Regional Entities have continuously striven for consistency and improved transparency and detail in the annual NERC and Regional Entity business plans and budgets. The ERO Enterprise business planning and budgeting processes matured significantly during the assessment period. During this period, the ERO Enterprise implemented numerous process improvements in the areas of business and resource planning, allocation and budgeting. In the development of the 2010 business plans and budgets, in particular, a number of significant improvements were adopted. NERC believes that in the preparation of the 2012 business plans and budgets, a mature, steady state was reached with respect to process, format and content. This steady state has been maintained in the development of the 2013 and 2014 business plans and budgets and the currently ongoing development of the 2015 business plans and budgets (which will be completed outside of the assessment period). A partial list of steps that have been taken to achieve consistency, transparency and appropriate levels of detail includes the following:

(1) Development, adoption and use of a common, consistent chart of accounts by all entities and the presentation of budget and financial information in accordance with the accounting system;

(2) Development and use of a consistent organization and format for the business plans and budgets and the annual true-up reports, including a common table of contents,

common and consistent information, and common and consistent format for tables and charts providing the Regional Entity's funding, budget, actual costs, and staffing information;

(3) Development and use of a common definition of administrative (indirect) costs and consistent methodologies for identifying budgeted and actual expenses as "direct" or "indirect" expenses;

(4) Development and use of a consistent methodology for allocating indirect expenses to the direct program budgets;

(5) Development and use of a consistent policy for capitalizing vs. expensing expenditures;

(6) Collaborative development, on an annual basis, of a set of detailed shared (common) business planning and budgeting assumptions to be used by NERC and each Regional Entity in preparing their individual business plans and budgets. In recent budget preparation cycles, these assumptions have been expanded from a one-year set of assumptions to a three-year set of assumptions;

(7) Development of a common set of budget metrics for each Regional Entity to present in the annual business plan and budget filings; and

(8) Introduction of a three-year budget forecast into NERC's and each Regional Entity's annual business plan and budget.

In addition, NERC and the Regional Entities jointly develop a three-year rolling *ERO Enterprise Strategic Plan* which includes goals, objectives and deliverables over the planning period and is used in the development of each entity's business plan and budget. The development and implementation of these common formats and methodologies has helped to continuously improve the efficiency of the business plan and budget preparation process and enabled NERC and Regional Entity financial and accounting staffs and senior management to devote greater attention to more substantive budget issues.

In accordance with the RDA provisions described earlier, NERC and the Regional Entities establish and publish, for each annual budget preparation cycle, a detailed schedule for preparation, review, and approval of the business plans and budgets. The annual business planning and budgeting process for a year typically begins late in the second preceding year or early in the preceding year. The schedule provides for posting of initial and revised drafts, and periods for receipt of stakeholder comments, leading up to the ultimate approval of the business plans and budgets by the NERC Board at its August meeting and filing of the business plans and budgets with the Commission by on or about August 23 as required by the Commission's regulation. In addition, each Regional Entity goes through a posting and stakeholder review and comment process for its membership and other interested parties prior to approval of its business plan and budget by its governing body for submission to NERC. In its business plan and budget filing with the Commission, NERC provides descriptions of each Regional Entity's internal process. Over the assessment period, NERC and the Regional Entities have significantly increased the

transparency of the business plan and budgeting process, by providing numerous opportunities for stakeholder input and feedback prior to Regional Entity board and NERC Board approval and submittal to the Commission.

NERC's oversight of the Regional Entities' business plan and budget preparation, leading up to approval of the Regional Entities' business plans and budgets, is generally focused on the following areas:

(1) An assessment of the adequacy of the Regional Entities' resources and activities being budgeted by the Regional Entity to perform delegated functions.

(2) A review of the alignment of the Regional Entity's goals, objectives and major activities to the *ERO Enterprise Strategic Plan*.

(3) A review of the quality and completeness of the financial information presented by the Regional Entities, including:

  (a) Conformance with the Commission's budget reporting requirements;

  (b) Separation of statutory and non-statutory activities;

  (c) Supporting detail for projections; and

  (d) Working capital and operating reserve budgets, projections, policies and controls.

(4) A review of the Regional Entities' efforts to improve efficiency and control costs.

Throughout the budget review process, where appropriate, NERC requests additional information and recommends changes. As needed, NERC and Regional Entity management and finance staffs convene meetings and conference calls to provide feedback and to refine their respective business plans and budgets. In addition to reviewing and providing feedback to the Regional Entities, NERC management considers other relevant information when reviewing the Regional Entity budgets, such as the findings and recommendations contained in the audits the Commission has conducted of NERC and the Regional Entities.

During the assessment period, the Regional Entities also performed in accordance with requirements with respect to financial reporting, including the preparation of the annual true-up reports. During the assessment period, NERC and the Regional Entities have significantly increased the transparency and content of quarterly and year-end actual-to-budget variance reporting to the Finance and Audit Committee of the NERC Board. In general, the Regional Entities have consistently submitted their unaudited quarterly financial reports on a timely basis as required by the RDAs. With respect to the annual true-up reports, NERC and the Regional Entities developed a common, consistent format for these reports complying with the Commission's directives. The format consists of: (i) a cover letter identifying major areas of actual cost to budget variance for each program and providing the other information specified by Commission orders (e.g., whether any statutory funds were used for non-statutory activities, the Regional Entity's use of cash reserves and change in its working capital position); (ii) tables comparing on a line-item basis actual to budgeted expenditures on a total statutory basis and (if the Regional Entity also has non-statutory activities) total company basis; and (iii) tables

comparing on a line-item basis actual to budgeted expenditures for each of the Regional Entity's direct statutory programs and its administrative (indirect) programs, with narrative explanations provided for line-item variances that exceed $10,000 and 10% of budget. In general, the Regional Entities have submitted their audited annual financial reports and their draft true-up reports to NERC on a timely basis to allow for NERC to review and provide any feedback and the reports to be filed with the Commission by the May 30 deadline. In addition, NERC and the Regional Entities have developed a set of administrative cost metrics to be presented to the Commission as part of the annual true-up report filing.

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
DOCKET NO. RR14-___

NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY CORPORATION

ATTACHMENT 4

TO

FIVE-YEAR ELECTRIC RELIABILITY ORGANIZATION PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT REPORT

NERC CONSIDERATION OF INDUSTRY FEEDBACK

JULY 21, 2014

Attachment 4

This Attachment presents information from the stakeholder survey that the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) conducted in October 2013 for purposes of the *Five-Year Electric Reliability Organization (ERO) Performance Assessment Report*, and from stakeholder comments received on postings of drafts of the *Five-Year ERO Performance Assessment Report*. This Attachment includes tables summarizing key comments received from stakeholders and NERC's responses to those comments, including identifying where in the *Five-Year ERO Performance Assessment Report* the comment is addressed.

This Attachment also includes summary information on the responses to the questions posed in the stakeholder survey and the type and distribution of the respondents. The stakeholder survey requested comments on the following broad categories of the ERO Enterprise's activities:

(1) Reliability Standards

(2) Compliance Operations

(3) Enforcement

(4) Registration and Certification

(5) Reliability Assessment & Performance Analysis Metrics

(6) Training, Education, and Personnel Certification

(7) Event Analysis

(8) Critical Infrastructure Protection

(9) Stakeholder Communications, Public Relations, and IT

(10) Business Plan and Budget

(11) Independence and Stakeholder Input

Table 1: Stakeholder Comments Concerning NERC

In the following table, (i) the first column contains summaries of key stakeholder comments; and (ii) the second column lists a brief response to an individual comment and, where applicable, the specific location(s) where the comment is addressed within the *Five-Year ERO Performance Assessment Report*. The table is divided into sections that correspond to the broad categories of questions asked in the stakeholder survey.

Summary of Key Stakeholder Comments	Where Comment is Addressed[1]
Reliability Standards	
Improve articulation of the need for a new Reliability Standard before development.	II(A)(6)(a); II(A)(6)(b); II(A)(6)(d) In 2013, NERC spearheaded an "informal development" effort, which uses informal groups composed of industry subject matter experts to conduct early outreach to industry stakeholders prior to initiating formal development of new or revised Reliability Standards. This early outreach encourages stakeholder conversations to obtain inputs on the proposed Reliability Standards development project. This approach is positively affecting how standard drafting teams are conducting their work. The Reliability Issues Steering Committee (RISC) provides a framework for steering, developing, formalizing, and organizing recommendations to help NERC and the industry effectively focus their resources on the critical means to improve the reliability of the bulk power system (BPS). In some cases, this includes recommending reliability solutions other than the development of new or revised Reliability Standards and offering high-level stakeholder leadership engagement and input on issues that enter the Reliability Standards process. In other cases, the development of a new Reliability Standard or modification of an existing Reliability Standard may be the best way to address a particular issue.
Speed up the process for developing Reliability Standards.	II(A)(6) Projects that were initiated and completed after FERC's approval of the *Standard Processes Manual* (SPM) changes, effective June 26, 2013, have shown significant increases in efficiency while simultaneously improving quality. Implementing the revisions within other projects that were already in process has also resulted in improvements.

[1] Unless otherwise indicated, all references in this table are to the *Overview of NERC Activities and Accomplishments in the Five-Year Period*.

	The most significant improvement is the composite result of all the revisions – the amount of time required to develop a quality Reliability Standard. As reported in the *Analysis of NERC Standards Process Results, Fourth Quarter 2013* filing, the baseline for the time to revise an existing Reliability Standard was approximately 27 months and 40 months to develop a new Reliability Standard. The times to produce each of the eight standards development projects that began formal development after implementing the revised SPM were dramatically reduced. Six and one-half of the projects (GMD Phase 1, INT, Physical Security, MOD A, MOD B, PER, and one of the two standards in the VAR project (VAR-001)) completed formal development from posting the SAR to being adopted by the NERC Board of Trustees in less than seven months. The remaining Reliability Standard in the VAR project (VAR-002) and the MOD C project completed formal development in ten months.
Better articulate how prioritization is determined in the Reliability Standards development process.	II(A)(1)-(4); II(A)(6)(a)-(b) The *Reliability Standards Development Plan 2014-2016* (RSDP) prioritizes future Reliability Standards projects as high, medium, low, or pending technical committee input based on a series of inputs. Prioritization considerations were influenced by: (i) RISC areas of risk and category rankings; (ii) outstanding regulatory directives; (iii) regulatory deadlines; (iv) Paragraph 81 retirement candidates; (v) content and quality assessments by the Standards Independent Experts Review Panel (IERP); and (vi) additional considerations such as fill-in-the-blank status and five-year standards review assessment commitments. The RISC provides input into prioritizing Reliability Standards development activities by providing input to the RSDP in two ways: first, by considering whether the projects identified in the RSDP address areas of risk for the BPS; and second, by developing a priority rank for each of the projects. In reviewing the priority of each project, the RISC provides a mechanism for addressing any scheduling conflicts between projects through the development process. NERC will continue working with the RISC to develop risk profiles for the ERO, which will include high impact low frequency (HILF) issues. These profiles of the BPS will inform how the ERO prioritizes and ranks reliability risks. For high priority risks, NERC will develop project plans and business case assessments outlining initiatives to address those risks.

Provide greater clarity regarding the "Applicability" section of each Reliability Standard.	Where practical, the applicability of Reliability Standards is being targeted to entities meeting specific requirements. This effort narrows applicability to specifically identified entities within registered functions, thus focusing requirements to entities where the actions impact the reliability of the BPS. For example, in PER-005-2, rather than the Reliability Standard being applicable to all Transmission Owners, it is applicable to those Transmission Owners that have: *Personnel, excluding field switching personnel, who can act independently to operate or direct the operation of the Transmission Owner's Bulk Electric System [(BES)] transmission Facilities in Real-time.* Additionally, the Reliability Standard narrows applicably from all Generator Owners to those Generator Owners that have: *Dispatch personnel at a centrally located dispatch center who receive direction from the Generator Operator's Reliability Coordinator, Balancing Authority, Transmission Operator, or Transmission Owner, and may develop specific dispatch instructions for plant operators under their control. These personnel do not include plant operators located at a generator plant site or personnel at a centrally located dispatch center who relay dispatch instructions without making any modifications.*
Clarify avenues to obtain information regarding the development history of Reliability Standards. Streamline and enhance communications regarding the development of Reliability Standards to be more useful to industry.	II(A)(7); II(A)(6)(a) The revision of the NERC public website that was implemented during the assessment period significantly increased the information available on this topic and improved the ease of accessing it. On the current website, all Reliability Standards are available to stakeholders on the "Standards" webpage (*see* "Program Areas & Departments"). The "US Enforcement Dates" link on the page offers listings for: (i) Reliability Standards that are currently enforceable in specific jurisdictions (i.e. in the U.S. and Canadian provinces); (ii) Reliability Standards pending regulatory approval; (iii) Reliability Standards approved by the NERC Board of Trustees and pending regulatory filing; and (iv) Reliability Standards no longer subject to enforcement. This page also includes information regarding the enforcement dates for Reliability Standards and, for standards pending enforcement, the NERC Board of Trustees adoption date and the date the standard was filed with FERC. Stakeholders can also locate

	historical information on the "US Enforcement Status/Functional Applicability" link, which offers information regarding when the NERC Board of Trustees adopted, filed or retired requirements. It also provides the date standards were filed with FERC, the effective date of the FERC order and the enforcement date of each requirement. Stakeholders may see all prior versions of standards on the "Reliability Standards" section of the webpage. A click on the "related information" for link for each standard will provide access to historical project development pages. In 2012, NERC launched an improved interface, the VRF matrix, to allow stakeholders to filter the complete set of Reliability Standards so that they could identify which Reliability Standards were applicable to their respective registered functions. Work is ongoing to improve the completeness and timeliness of the above information for non-U.S. jurisdictions (i.e., Canadian provinces or Mexico). Additionally, beginning in 2013, interested entities can track current Reliability Standards development projects in a publicly posted spreadsheet, the *Project Tracking Spreadsheet*, available on the left navigation tab of the NERC Standards home page. NERC updates this spreadsheet monthly. The spreadsheet also provides a link to the projects page, the deliverables, the number of Paragraph 81 requirements, the number of regulatory directives or guidance, the Project Management and Oversight Subcommittee (PMOS) liaison assigned to the project, the NERC Reliability Standards developer, and a month-by-month timeline. Also in 2013, NERC began posting the *Projected Standards Posting Schedule*, which provides the industry with an outlook of near term postings.
Provide greater transparency regarding the process for selecting standard drafting teams and the rationale for standard drafting team decision-making.	II(A)(6)(a) NERC has improved the composition of standard drafting teams by enhancing the selection process to identify, for each project, the necessary technical, writing, and project management expertise to form a balanced team that will foster improved effectiveness and enhanced efficiency. These changes were instituted as a result of the recommendations made by the Standards Process Improvement Group (SPIG) to modify the way NERC develops Reliability Standards, which resulted in revisions to the SPM. In these revisions, NERC memorialized the intent to revise the composition of standard drafting teams to ensure they are appropriately equipped to meet reliability objectives (e.g., by adding legal and compliance experts).

	Additionally, the NERC Standards Committee created a new subcommittee, the PMOS that acts as an industry and standard drafting team partner. The PMOS assigns a representative to each standard drafting team for the purpose of oversight. This oversight includes such actions as: (i) assisting the standard drafting team in understanding any stakeholder concerns; (ii) reaching out to stakeholders if they do not understand the actions being taken by the standard drafting team; (iii) being partners in reviewing the standards for quality; and (iv) assisting with advice on a range of topics from direction to posting schedules. This group has assisted standard drafting teams in avoiding or overcoming hurdles during the process. The revisions made to the SPM and other changes made to the standards development process, including strengthened partnerships, while still in their infancy, are showing great promise as improvements to the process, both in creating efficiency and improving quality. These improvements have allowed the ERO Enterprise to make significant progress towards achieving a body of steady-state Reliability Standards.
Provide a detailed explanation as to how the Standards improve reliability for the industry.	II(D)(1)-(2) This *Five-Year ERO Performance Assessment Report* shows that NERC is improving the performance of, and mitigating risks to, the BPS as measured by avoidable outages. Further, as detailed in NERC's *State of Reliability 2014* report, the number of BPS transmission-related events resulting in loss of firm load, other than events caused by factors external to the transmission system's actual performance (i.e., weather-initiated events), decreased from an average of ten per year over a ten-year period (2002 through 2011) to seven in 2013. The daily severity risk index value, a new metric created by NERC that measures risk impact or "stress" from events resulting in the loss of transmission, generation, and load, has been stable from 2008 to 2013. Including weather-initiated events, 2013 had no high-stress days, which is within the range of zero to seven days experienced during 2008 through 2013. The availability of the bulk transmission system continues to remain high with no statistically significant change from 2008 to 2013. This improved performance is due to a combination of activities led by the ERO Enterprise. NERC Reliability Standards are one component of these activities; they are designed to prevent events that are detrimental to the reliability of the BPS. As detailed in this *Five-Year ERO Performance Assessment Report*, during the

	assessment period, NERC's compliance monitoring and enforcement efforts have matured into a robust program that provides industry with more certainty on actions, outcomes, and reliability consequences. The actions taken to identify, correct, and prevent violations of Reliability Standards have promoted the reliability of the BPS. For example, the adoption and rigorous enforcement of NERC's transmission vegetation management Reliability Standard, which became mandatory and enforceable in 2007, has dramatically reduced the number of outages caused by vegetation growing into high voltage lines. From 2004 through 2008, there were 58 reported outages. By contrast, from 2009 through 2013, only six instances were reported. The RISC identifies new or emerging issues that could impact the reliability of the BPS, and various solutions for mitigating those issues are investigated. Those solutions may include the development of a Reliability Standard, a guideline, necessitate an alert, initiate training, or other potential solutions tailored to the issue. It is the combination and sequencing of these actions – identify risk, determine solutions (of which a standard may be one), monitor compliance or adherence to the solution, and monitor until issue is resolved – that improves the reliability of the BPS. NERC will continue working with the RISC to develop risk profiles for the BPS, which will include HILF issues. These risk profiles of the BPS will inform how the ERO prioritizes and ranks reliability risks. For high priority risks, NERC will develop project plans and business case assessments outlining initiatives to address those risks.
Consider equally or more effective tools than a Reliability Standard for emerging issues such as Geomagnetic Disturbances (GMD), new Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP) threats such as coordinated physical attack, cold weather preparedness, etc.	NERC will continue working with the RISC to develop risk profiles for the BPS, which will include HILF issues. These profiles of the BPS will inform how the ERO Enterprise prioritizes and ranks reliability risks. For high priority risks, NERC will develop project plans and business case assessments outlining initiatives to address those risks. This will include evaluating whether the risk is most effectively and efficiently addressed through a new or revised Reliability Standard or through some other initiative. In response to direction from the NERC Board of Trustees in February 2013, NERC developed a Reliability Risk Management (RRM) process to create and execute plans for managing reliability risk and to integrate these plans with the business

	planning and budgeting process. The RRM process leverages several resources including the business acumen of the RISC.
Continue to integrate recommendations of the RISC into NERC's decision-making.	II(A)6)(b); II(D)(1) NERC will continue working with the RISC to develop risk profiles for the BPS. These profiles of the BPS will inform how the ERO Enterprise prioritizes and ranks reliability risks. For high priority risks, NERC will develop project plans and business case assessments outlining initiatives to address those risks. In response to direction from the NERC Board of Trustees in February 2013, NERC developed a RRM process to create and execute plans for managing reliability risk and to integrate these plans with the business planning and budgeting process. The RRM process leverages several resources including the business acumen of the RISC.
Consider alternatives such as the forum process, which engages asset owners, to address reliability issues.	II(A)(8)(e); III(D)(3) NERC has used and will continue to use the North American Transmission Forum (NATF) and North American Generator Forum (NAGF), where efficient and appropriate, to address reliability issues. For example, the response to FERC's directive to develop and submit a physical security Reliability Standard within 90 days offered an opportunity for NERC to use the forum process to solicit industry input. On April 1, 2014, NERC staff convened a technical conference to focus stakeholder discussion on developing a draft of CIP-014-1 – Physical Security, with the intent of assisting the standard drafting team to quickly develop and post a Reliability Standard for comment and ballot. The conference provided a forum for industry input on the concepts in the draft Reliability Standard, to include criteria for determining applicable entities, identification of critical facilities, evaluation of potential threats and vulnerabilities, development and implementation of physical security plans, and the proposed standard's implementation plan. NERC Compliance staff also provided an overview of the Reliability Standard Audit Worksheet (RSAW) approach. Additionally, NERC is collaborating with the NATF and the NAGF to further enhance the Event Analysis process and lessons learned dissemination in identifying risks to the BPS.
Compliance Operations	

Provide better oversight to ensure consistency in auditing practices.	II(C)(2)(a); Attachment 3 – (II)(B)[2] During the assessment period, the Regional Entities made meaningful progress in improving their compliance monitoring programs and their audit practices and procedures consistent with the requirements of the NERC Rules of Procedure (specifically, the *Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program* (CMEP), Appendix 4C) and the Regional Delegation Agreements. Overall, the Regional Entities worked diligently to plan and complete their scheduled compliance audits during the assessment period. NERC's oversight of the Regional Entity compliance programs shows that the Regional Entities are meeting the baseline requirements of the NERC Rules of Procedure and the Regional Delegation Agreements. However, NERC's oversight has also shown (as this comment suggests) that there continue to be varying compliance monitoring practices across the ERO Enterprise. NERC has three main objectives for the continued evolution of the compliance monitoring program. First, the Regional Entities are revising their existing practices to better align with risk using generally accepted audit practices. Second, NERC and the Regional Entities have developed a standardized *Compliance Auditor Checklist* and *Compliance Auditor Handbook*, as found in the *ERO Enterprise Compliance Auditor Manual*, to ensure consistent conduct of audits across the ERO Enterprise. Third, NERC, in conjunction with the Regional Entities, have developed competency (qualifications) guidelines for compliance monitoring staff and are developing training to accompany the competency guidelines.
Provide greater clarity on the Reliability Assurance Initiative (RAI) to inform industry about what is expected.	II(C)(2) To foster dialogue and seek industry feedback on the various aspects of RAI, NERC hosted a series of workshops in 2013 that addressed important components of RAI including defining internal controls, conducting risk assessment, launching pilot programs, enhancing the Find, Fix, Track and Report (FFT) process, and improving self-reporting. NERC also included the Compliance and Certification Committee (CCC) in the development and review of RAI activities including the development of white papers on internal controls and other guidance.

[2] Attachment 3 to the *Five-Year ERO Performance Assessment Report* is titled *NERC Assessment of Regional Entity Delegated Functions*.

	Compliance-related activities under the RAI program will help achieve a risk-based approach for compliance monitoring by evaluating current compliance monitoring practices, identifying improvements, and addressing the consistent application of audit techniques and the use of uniform tools to carry out compliance monitoring activities. Similar to the RAI compliance monitoring effort, the enforcement element of RAI seeks to align the ERO Enterprise's enforcement processing activities with levels of risk to the reliability of the BPS. Achieving this alignment will promote efficiencies for both the ERO Enterprise and registered entities by eliminating undue regulatory burdens, streamlining documentation and filing requirements, and substantially improving the processing of noncompliance and related mitigating activities.
Improve communications regarding how registered entities are to demonstrate compliance by making them more substantive, timely, and useful to the industry.	II(C)(2); Attachment 3 – II(B)(1)-(2) In 2013, NERC and the Regional Entities began to develop and implement tools that will define techniques and methods to perform compliance monitoring in a consistent manner across the ERO Enterprise. The Regional Entities began using the first of these tools, the *Compliance Auditor Checklist*, in August 2013. In December 2013, NERC and the Regional Entities completed the first draft of a companion document for the *Compliance Auditor Checklist*, the *Compliance Auditor Handbook*, as found in the *ERO Enterprise Compliance Auditor Manual*. NERC disseminated the manual and provided initial training to Regional Entity auditors during the first quarter of 2014. In the second quarter of 2014, the Regional Entities began to use the *ERO Enterprise Compliance Auditor Manual* and its related processes and procedures on a select number of audits. Throughout 2014, NERC and the Regional Entities will revise and expand the manual to address additional audit topics, reflect additional processes developed through RAI activities, and include lessons learned. NERC has made the *Compliance Auditor Checklist* and *Compliance Auditor Handbook*, as found in the *ERO Enterprise Compliance Auditor Manual*, available to industry. A second key RAI compliance activity, the Prototypes and Pilot program, focuses on the development and implementation of a formalized approach to risk assessments and testing of management controls. NERC and the Regional Entities initiated the first phase of the pilot program during 2013. This phase explored different approaches to applying risk-based auditing

	concepts (e.g., audit scoping, reliability risk assessments, and management controls review and testing). For 2014 and beyond, a team consisting of NERC, Regional Entity, and industry representatives as well as an independent audit consultant will evaluate the findings and determine the best audit approach to implement throughout the ERO Enterprise. In addition, NERC and the Regional Entities have consolidated the annual CMEP Implementation Plans into a single document with the goal of implementing certain risk-based compliance enhancements. The CMEP Implementation Plan is provided to stakeholders annually. Finally, NERC has aligned the RSAW development process with the development and publishing of balloted Reliability Standards. This initiative enables stakeholders to follow the development of this compliance monitoring tool contemporaneous with the development of the Reliability Standard to which it relates, and to provide comments on the draft RSAW.
Reassess the role of Compliance Application Notices (CANs) in an audit.	(II)(A)(4) CANs were notices drafted to respond to questions that arose in the compliance monitoring process regarding how to assess compliance. Although developed for the use of audit teams and other compliance monitoring personnel, CANs were posted on the NERC website to provide transparency to industry. However, since CANS were drafted well after the related Reliability Standard was developed, the compliance assessment positions articulated in the CANs often varied from industry's perspective of the intent of the Reliability Standard or requirement at the time of its development and adoption. The CAN process demonstrated that there is a need for concurrent development and dialogue between standard drafting teams and Compliance Operations staff. As a result, in 2013, NERC began incorporating the concurrent development of compliance assessment information into the Reliability Standards development process. After June 2013, informal development project teams began posting documents during standards development titled "Compliance Input." These documents provided questions from industry and answers developed by Compliance Operations staff regarding how to assess compliance for specific requirements, or phrases in the requirements, of the proposed Reliability Standard. This basic

	tool opened the door for discussions between the standard drafting teams and Compliance Operations staff. It also allowed for discussions regarding the wording of requirements and the effect of that wording on how compliance would be assessed. The move to develop RSAWs concurrently with Reliability Standard development eliminates the need for CANs, as separate documents, effective February 2013.
Make RSAWs available before, during, and after the balloting process and ensure that they do not exceed the scope of the Requirement.	(II)(A)(4) As a result of the new processes adopted during the assessment period as described in the preceding response, RSAWs are now written concurrently with new Reliability Standard development projects. A draft RSAW is now posted during the formal comment period and prior to the ballot period for a Reliability Standard, thereby allowing stakeholders to provide comments or to raise concerns about the RSAW at that time.
Ensure that compliance guidance tools like Case Notes, Compliance Analysis Reports (CARs), CANs and Bulletins are used for guidance only, and not as vehicles for interpretations of or revisions to Reliability Standards.	Compliance training going forward will reinforce the fact that documents cannot interpret Reliability Standards. NERC has eliminated CANs (as noted in a previous response), and RSAWs are meant only as guidance to obtaining and reviewing evidence in order to obtain reasonable assurance of compliance with reliability standards. Any existing documents that are used as audit guidance will be addressed to remove language that interprets the Reliability Standard and all training going forward will be developed to demonstrate testing and audit methodology only.
Provide small entities with additional guidance regarding scoping their internal self-assessments and programs.	The purpose of RAI is to assure that entities and auditors focus on relevance. In this connection, as processes are developed for the assessment of risk and more specifically linking risks to functions and Reliability Standards, this will allow a registered entity (including smaller entities) to receive better guidance on where they should focus. Over the course of the next few months, this guidance will be published and supported with training to help smaller entities target their specific risks.
Require self-certifications only for quarters in which a misoperation occurred, rather than for every quarter.	The Regional Entities review self-certifications for all registered entities at least once annually. Regional Entities have the discretion to require monthly self-certifications for certain Reliability Standards and requirements.

Clarify how registered entities will be impacted by improvements to RAI.	II(C)(2) Building upon the success of FFT through RAI, NERC and the Regional Entities are creating additional incentives to discourage poor performance and encourage positive behaviors that contribute to higher accountability and improved reliability performance. In 2013, NERC began implementing RAI processes that promote more effective reliability risk mitigation by encouraging development and enhancement of internal management controls and corrective action programs at registered entities. Achieving the desired alignment of enforcement processing and compliance monitoring with levels of risk will benefit registered entities by eliminating undue regulatory burdens, streamlining documentation and filing requirements and improving the processing of noncompliance and related mitigating activities. The development of tools like the *Compliance Auditor Checklist* and *Compliance Auditor Handbook*, as found in the *ERO Enterprise Compliance Auditor Manual*, also help to set clear expectations for registered entities regarding audit practices and procedures; thereby allowing them to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of their pre-audit preparation. The ability to appropriately evaluate the risks of a registered entity will result in a more appropriately scoped audit and test plan in contrast to a one-size-fits-all approach to compliance. The more the ERO Enterprise understands the control environment and function of controls, the frequency and extent of oversight will change accordingly. In addition to compliance, sound controls also drive organizational efficiencies for the registered entities. Overall, a positive impact of RAI for registered entities is expected to be a more efficient compliance monitoring process that enables registered entities to reduce the extent of time and resources expended on external compliance monitoring activities by implementing or improving effective internal controls to minimize reliability risk.
While some regions are already employing RAI-like approaches in audits and other compliance enforcement activities, all	II(C)(2); Attachment 3 – II(B)(1); II(D)(1)(b)(iv); II(D)(1)(c)-(d) NERC is developing standardized training for Regional Entity compliance auditors to ensure that Regional Entities are consistently (both within each Regional Entity and across all

regions should be implementing an ERO-wide program as soon as possible.	Regional Entities) applying the procedures and methodologies of the new compliance monitoring documents such as the *Compliance Auditor Checklist* and *Compliance Auditor Handbook*, as found in the *ERO Enterprise Compliance Auditor Manual*, and RSAWs.
Enforcement	
Treat similar findings with greater consistency.	II(C)(4)(b); Attachment 3 – II(D)(1)(d) NERC and the Regional Entities engage in a number of activities to enhance consistency in enforcement processing across the ERO Enterprise. NERC and the Regional Entities participate in a multi-region working group on enforcement activities. Through this group, NERC communicates guidance and provides training on many different aspects of the enforcement program. This group is actively involved in the development or enhancement of any enforcement activities. In addition, NERC conducts oversight to ensure the consistent application of enforcement processing mechanisms and other enforcement-related processes under the CMEP. Examples of NERC's oversight includes the annual review of FFTs which results in a public report filed with FERC. Additionally, NERC reviews and approves all Notices of Penalty (NOPs) prepared and submitted by Regional Entities. One aspect of NERC's review of NOPs is to ensure that similar actions and inactions are treated consistently within and across Regional Entities in terms of whether a violation is determined to have occurred; and, to ensure that consistent penalty determinations are made for similar violations, both within the Regional Entity and across the Regional Entities.
Streamline and refine the scope of investigations.	Attachment 3 – II(C); IV(A) The NERC Rules of Procedure permit all eight Regional Entities and NERC to conduct compliance investigations (CIs), and it is extremely important for the ERO Enterprise to have a consistent approach for this activity. NERC developed a CI leaders training class to provide a methodology for the conduct of the CI process. The class introduces the approach of conducting CIs in phases, with accompanying activities and deliverables for each phase. It also explains the roles of the Regional Entity, NERC, and the applicable governmental authority in CIs. One of the key messages in the class is to reinforce that CIs are one of several formal compliance monitoring tools, and there are

	specific circumstances where a CI may be the best tool, and other circumstances where a CI is not the best tool. In addition, the class introduces the Events Analysis process. NERC found that Compliance staffs benefit from additional exposure to and familiarity with this process. The Event Analysis process has greatly reduced the number of CIs, as the Event Analysis process provides the relevant facts and circumstances of events that were previously only available through the tools employed in a CI.
While efforts are outlined in the report regarding a transition to a risk-based approach for compliance and enforcement, including discretion, targeted measurable improvements are still needed.	II(C)(4)(a); Attachment 3 – II(B)(1); II(D)(1)(b) NERC and the Regional Entities have continued to work collaboratively to develop and implement a set of metrics to measure the efficiency with which enforcement items are processed. The four metrics which have been developed during the assessment period to monitor the performance of NERC and the Regional Entities in processing enforcement items are: (1) Caseload Index – computes the number of months it would take to clear the violations in a Compliance Enforcement Authority's (CEA, i.e., NERC or a Regional Entity) inventory based on the CEA's average monthly processing rate for the preceding twelve-month period; (2) Violations in Inventory – reports the number of violations in the CEA's caseload; (3) Violation Aging – reports, by Regional Entity, the number of violations discovered in each year beginning with 2007 which have not been filed with the Commission or otherwise resolved; and (4) Mitigation Activity Aging – identifies the status of mitigation activity based upon age of violations. These metrics now provide quantitative measures by which efficiency gains (or losses) in enforcement processing can be seen and resources can be focused on areas as needed to improve performance.
Increase the timeliness of enforcement processing.	II(C)(4)(a); Attachment 3 – II(D)(1)(b)(i)-(ii) The ERO Enterprise has achieved significant success in processing older cases and reducing processing times. NERC

	tracks enforcement processing rates through its Caseload Index metric. The ERO Enterprise has demonstrated substantial improvement in this metric from July 2011 through the end of 2013. By working to reduce the number of aging violations while improving the processing speed for newer violations, NERC and the Regional Entities reduced the average age of violations in the ERO caseload by six percent in 2013, from 11.86 months in 2012 to 11.2 months. Other data on improvements in the timeliness of enforcement processing is provided in III(D) of Attachment 3. As noted in that section, as of December 31, 2013, several Regional Entities had completed processing of all or virtually all of their enforcement items that were discovered before 2012, thereby achieving or moving toward achievement of the ERO Enterprise goal of completing processing of all enforcement items within 24 months after discovery.
Provide greater transparency and detail regarding penalty calculation and enforcement in general.	II(C)(4)(b); Attachment 3 – II(D)(1)(d) NERC and the Regional Entities have taken steps to increase the transparency regarding penalty calculations and enforcement in general. With respect to penalty calculations, each of the Regional Entities considers the factors set forth in the NERC *Sanction Guidelines* when assessing penalties. During the assessment period, the *Sanction Guidelines* were significantly revised to simplify them and state more clearly how mitigating and aggravating factors are to be taken into account in penalty determinations. NERC conducts ongoing oversight of the penalty determination process, reviewing each penalty determined by a Regional Entity to ensure consistency with other penalties assessed across the ERO Enterprise for similar violations occurring under similar facts and circumstances. NERC also reviews Regional Entity processes associated with all aspects of the enforcement program. NERC also provides information on enforcement actions, trends, and metrics on a regular basis, usually by posting the information on its website. In 2013, NERC conducted a training session to better enable stakeholders to locate all publicly available enforcement-related information.
Treat repeat violations that could not have been prevented by any of the mitigating activities approved by the Regional	II(C)(2)(b); Attachment 3 – II(D)(1)(c)(ii) The ERO Enterprise works closely with registered entities to develop mitigating activities that will both address the noncompliance as well as work to prevent future reoccurrence. These are by definition fact-specific determinations.

Entity and NERC similarly as non-repeat violations.	Violations are considered repeat when the conduct underlying the two violations is repetitive. As a general matter, whether a repeat instance of noncompliance will be treated as a repeat violation for the purposes of compliance history, and whether that compliance history will warrant aggravation of the monetary penalty under the *Sanction Guidelines* in a given case, necessarily depends on the facts and circumstances of the specific case.
Provide sufficient details regarding the different tracks for disposition of compliance issues, and explain how the CEA will make the determination as to which is the proper track for disposition. Also, explain how the oversight roles will be administered between the CEA Compliance staff, the CEA Enforcement staff, NERC, and FERC.	II(C)(2)(b); II(C)(4)(b); Attachment 3 – II(D)(1)(d) The different tracks for disposition of compliance issues are as follows: (1) The FFT program, which was recently enhanced to include additional possible violations; (2) The Spreadsheet Notice of Penalty (SNOP) format; and (3) The full NOP format. The criteria for use of each disposition are discussed in Attachment 3. In addition, the ERO Enterprise, through the RAI, is developing mechanisms for addressing noncompliance outside of the enforcement process through the use of greater enforcement discretion. Under this initiative, minimal risk issues will be eligible to be recorded as compliance exceptions and mitigated without triggering an enforcement action. Among other things, NERC reviews and approves all violations filed through the SNOP or full NOP mechanisms. NERC also conducts a monthly sampling and yearly spot check of issues posted by each Regional Entity through the FFT program to ensure that the issues processed through FFT are appropriate for the FFT program, and to identify areas for further improvement. NERC and FERC maintain visibility and exercise oversight over all noncompliances, regardless of the disposition track (FFT, SNOP, full NOP, or compliance exception). FERC reviews each filing or posting and also conducts a yearly review of a sample of issues posted as FFTs.
Associate timeframes with CEA actions to be taken during the disposition process. This will provide a tracking measure to help expedite processing of low reliability risk violations.	II(C)(4)(a); Attachment 3 – II(D)(1)(b)(i), (ii), (iii) NERC works closely with each of the Regional Entities to ensure that noncompliance is processed in a timely and efficient manner and measures performance through a number of metrics. These metrics include the Caseload Index, Violations in Inventory, Violation Aging, and Mitigation Activity Aging. These metrics

	are described in further detail in II(C)(4)(a) of the *Overview of NERC Activities and Accomplishments in the Five-Year Period* and in II(D)(1)(b) and the individual evaluations of the Regional Entities in Enforcement in Attachment 3. The time needed to process a particular case may vary considerably based on the facts and circumstances of that case. However, NERC has developed and is using the above-referenced metrics to monitor overall increases and decreases in the timeliness and efficiency of enforcement processing activities by each Regional Entity.
Better communicate and emphasize the benefits of self-reporting.	II(C)(1); II(C)(2)(b); Attachment 3 – II(D)(1)(c)(i) To encourage registered entities to take proactive steps to self-identify their noncompliance and thereby promote a more reliable BPS, the ERO Enterprise provides certain incentives. For example, self-reporting is considered a mitigating factor in the penalty determination pursuant to the *Sanction Guidelines*. In addition, whether or not noncompliance was self-reported is a factor considered when selecting a streamlined disposition track such as FFT. Further, as the RAI is implemented, the extent of a registered entity's self-reporting of noncompliances (versus discovery by the CEA) will be a factor considered in evaluating the quality of the registered entity's internal controls and therefore the frequency, nature and extent of compliance monitoring of the registered entity. Early self-identification, self-reporting, and mitigation of noncompliance are important steps in improving electric reliability. NERC has established a corporate goal that reflects the importance of self-reporting and closely tracks progress with respect to this goal.
Do not issue penalties for administrative violations.	NERC does not believe that it is appropriate to determine whether or not to assess a penalty based solely on whether the violation is characterized as "administrative." The disposition of any instance of noncompliance, including whether a penalty is appropriate, is based on the risk posed by the noncompliance to the reliability of the BPS as well as other factors. Penalties were assessed for 52% of the violations processed in 2012 and 2013.
While NERC has made progress toward reducing its caseload through FFT and the bulk processing of	II(C)(1); II(C)(2)(b); Attachment 3 – II(D)(b) NERC and the Regional Entities are continually exploring ways to adopt streamlined processes to resolve noncompliances or to

violations, effort should be made to reduce time spent by the registered entities.	improve the efficiency of existing processes. During the assessment period, NERC adopted and enhanced several streamlined enforcement processing tracks. Through the metrics that have been developed, as described in earlier responses, NERC is able to monitor increases and decreases in enforcement processing timeliness and efficiency at each Regional Entity. The metrics are showing that progress is being made, e.g., as evidenced by reduction of processing times and reduced caseloads In addition, the ERO Enterprise has enhanced outreach efforts so that time spent by registered entities in providing information regarding noncompliance, risk, and mitigation is more efficiently and effectively used. For example, NERC and the Regional Entities recently distributed the *ERO Self-Report User Guide* and *ERO Enterprise Mitigation Plan Guide*. These documents were developed by NERC and the Regional Entities to provide guidance to registered entities on submitting self-reports and mitigation plans that have all of the details necessary to facilitate timely processing and avoid protracted follow-up periods and requests.
Clarify how registered entities will be impacted by improvements to the FFT program.	II(C)(1); II(C)(2)(b); Attachment 3 – II(D)(b)(iv) Through the use of FFT, the ERO more efficiently resolves instances of noncompliance that pose a lesser risk to BPS reliability, recognizing that efficient disposition of such issues allows the ERO Enterprise and industry to devote its emphasis and resources to more important reliability matters. The FFT process provides incentives for self-reporting and encourages registered entities to continue to aggressively self-identify, self-report, and mitigate reliability issues. Recent expansion of the scope of the program to possible violations posing a moderate risk to reliability, as well as issues that will be mitigated after the FFT posting, make this efficient enforcement processing mechanism available for a larger number of possible violations. Issues resolved through the FFT process are typically resolved more expeditiously than issues resolved through other disposition tracks. Further, resolution through the FFT track means that those issues will not result in the assessment of a monetary penalty.
Describe the efficiency and effectiveness of the compliance and	II(C)(2), (4); Attachment 3 – II(D)(1)

enforcement programs and their impact on reliability in light of the high percentage of lower risk violations.	The actions taken by the ERO Enterprise to identify, correct, and prevent violations of NERC's Reliability Standards have promoted the reliability of the BPS. For example, the adoption, modification, and rigorous enforcement of NERC's transmission vegetation management Reliability Standard (FAC-003), which became mandatory and enforceable in 2007, has dramatically reduced the number of outages caused by vegetation growing into high voltage lines. Beyond individual standards, the ERO Enterprise compliance and enforcement programs promote reliability by encouraging registered entities to create and maintain cultures of compliance. The ERO Enterprise creates incentives for registered entities to proactively self-identify and mitigate noncompliance. For example, the FFT program allows for a streamlined disposition of noncompliances without a monetary penalty being assessed. Through the RAI, NERC and the Regional Entities are working together to implement further enhancements that will allow minimal risk noncompliance to be processed outside the enforcement track. NERC and the Regional Entities are also developing and implementing procedures and processes to enhance auditing approaches across the ERO Enterprise. These efforts will allow registered entities and the ERO Enterprise to shift toward a risk-based model of compliance and enforcement, thereby allowing registered entities to dedicate more of their resources toward addressing issues posing greater risks to reliability.
Clarify how NERC's compliance monitoring and enforcement efforts have matured into a "robust program that provides industry with more certainty on actions, outcomes, and reliability consequences."	II(C); Attachment 3 -II(D)(1)(a) During the assessment period, NERC and the Regional Entities worked on increasing consistency in compliance monitoring processes across the ERO Enterprise. These efforts have included the development of common auditor qualifications and competency requirements, development of the common *Compliance Auditor Checklist* and *Compliance Auditor Handbook*, as found in the *ERO Enterprise Compliance Auditor Manual*, and development of a common training program for auditors. During the assessment period, NERC and the Regional Entities also worked to develop more mature enforcement processes for the ERO Enterprise. The resulting efficiency gains in enforcement processing ensure that final outcomes relating to noncompliances are known earlier.

	The implementation of streamlined enforcement processing mechanisms, such as SNOP and FFT, has facilitated the faster resolution of noncompliance items. NERC provides significant transparency regarding the processing tracks that are available and the associated criteria for a noncompliance item to be placed onto each track. In addition, NERC and the Regional Entities worked together to design and build a system for the collection, management, and exchange of compliance-related information between NERC and the Regional Entities. NERC's centralized system and the complementary systems in place at the Regional Entities enable enforcement processing efficiencies and facilitate consistent tracking of violation status across the ERO Enterprise. Further, for several years, NERC has closely tracked various measures regarding the overall performance of the ERO Enterprise as it relates to enforcement activities. Beginning in 2013, NERC and the Regional Entities developed and implemented a series of metrics (described in earlier responses) to track and evaluate the performance of the ERO Enterprise and of each Regional Entity in enforcement processing. These metrics allow NERC to analyze trends and identify areas where further improvements may be achieved.
Registration and Certification	
Enhance the System Operator Certification program by making training for exam preparation more available.	The System Operator Certification program has multiple vendors and individual utilities that have developed NERC system operator certification exam preparation courses. NERC does not believe that further assistance from NERC is appropriate. As an independent certifying entity, if NERC were to develop and/or sponsor training, NERC would compete with established vendors.
Provide greater clarity, guidance, and consistency regarding Coordinated Functional Registration (CFR) and Joint Registration Organizations (JROs), and examine how the process can be streamlined.	II(B); Attachment 3 – II(A) During the assessment period, revisions to NERC Rules of Procedure Section 507 and the addition of Section 508, approved by the Commission on June 10, 2010, clarified the operations of CFR and JRO registrations. Specifically, revised Section 507 allows an entity to register as a JRO on behalf of one or more of its members or related entities for one or more functions for which such members or related entities would otherwise be required to register. The registering entity thereby accepts on behalf of such members or related entities all compliance

	responsibility for that function or those functions including all reporting requirements. Section 508 allows multiple entities to register using a CFR for one or more Reliability Standard(s) or for one or more requirements or sub-requirements with particular Reliability Standard(s) applicable to a specific function. The CFR is the complete registration for each entity, with each entity taking full compliance responsibility for those Reliability Standards or requirements or sub-requirements applicable to the CFR.
Registration should be more carefully tailored and based on sounder reasoning. Update the functional model to provide greater clarity and guidance to registered entities. The risk-based registration concept must be carefully developed and implemented to ensure that entities that remain registered are not adversely impacted.	II(B)(1)-(2); Attachment 3 – II(A) In January 2014, NERC launched the Risk-based Registration Assessment initiative to enhance the compliance registration and certification program to be more efficient and better aligned with reliability benefit. Through this initiative, NERC will register entities and assign appropriate Reliability Standard requirements commensurate with the need to mitigate the risk that they pose to the BES, by scaling registration criteria based on their contributions to reliability. NERC will also develop tools that will enhance a registered entity's understanding of the relevant Reliability Standards and requirements that apply to them. Scoping compliance responsibilities according to BPS reliability risks will equate to better use of resources at both the registered entity level in the implementation of compliance programs, and at the Regional Entity level in their overall compliance monitoring efforts. During the assessment period, NERC revised the definition of the BES in the *Glossary of Terms Used in NERC Reliability Standards*, in response to Commission directives in Order Nos. 743 and 743-A. The objective of the revisions is to ensure consistent inclusion or exclusion of entities and elements that are subject to Reliability Standard requirements. The Commission-approved revised BES definition enables NERC and the Regional Entities to identify assets that are material to the reliability of the interconnected transmission network. By using a set of continent-wide, "bright line" criteria that eliminates regional discretion, the revised definition effectively ensures that the users, owners and operators of BES assets are identified and registered on a consistent basis in order to comply with applicable Reliability Standards. The revised BES definition provides improved clarity for industry by identifying specific categories of facilities and configurations as inclusions and exclusions to the BES. Additionally, the case-by-case exception process to add elements to, and to remove elements from, the BES provides

	transparency and uniformity to the determinations of what constitutes the BES. In summary, the revised, much more detailed and granular BES definition along with the BES exception process should result in greater consistency, transparency and predictability in registration determinations.
Provide additional clarification, guidance, and training regarding the definition of the term BES to ensure consistent application in both Reliability Standards and the compliance registration process.	II(B)(2) In March 2014, FERC approved the revised definition of BES. As described in the preceding response, the revised BES definition provides improved clarity for industry by identifying specific categories of facilities and configurations as inclusions and exclusions to the BES. During the first half of 2014, NERC held communications and training sessions for Regional Entities, registered entities, and NERC staff to address, among other things: (i) evidentiary requirements for BES determinations; (ii) review and appeal mechanisms; and (iii) Reliability Standards applicability. These sessions included workshops and webinars. NERC has a dedicated webpage for information related to the BES definition and the notification and exception processes. This page hosts links to materials that support the application of the BES definition and provide entities with the information needed to make uniform determinations of BES elements. These materials include, among other things, webinars, training videos, process documents, and guidelines. The page is updated as new materials become available. The webpage is available at: http://www.nerc.com/pa/RAPA/Pages/BES.aspx.
Provide an explanation regarding the use of the term BES in certain instances and BPS in other instances.	The full definitions of BES and BPS are contained in the *Glossary of Terms Used in NERC Reliability Standards*. "BPS" is the statutory term in Section 215 of the FPA and sets the outer limit of NERC (and FERC) authority. FERC has accepted NERC's use of the term "BES" and its definition and has indicated that the "BES" does not exceed the scope of the "BPS." Entities that use, own, or operate elements of the BES as established by the FERC-approved definition of BES are: (i) owners, operators, and users of the BPS; and (ii) candidates for registration. Since 2006, NERC has registered entities for one or more functional categories depending on whether it is a user, owner or operator of the BPS.

	NERC has used "BES" principally for registration purposes. In March 2014, FERC approved the revised definition of "BES." As described in a previous response, the revised BES definition includes bright line core criteria with various enumerated inclusions and exclusions. Now that "BES" is clearly defined, the term can be used to determine on a consistent basis the entities that warrant registration and address material impacts on reliability.
Reliability Assessment & Performance Analysis Metrics	
Develop performance measures to determine if a Reliability Standard is actually reducing risk to reliability.	Performance measures from the CMEP assist NERC in assessing whether a Reliability Standard is actually providing more certainty on actions, outcomes, and reliability consequences NERC compliance staff supply standard drafting teams with compliance and enforcement information, statistics, and perspectives to help develop Reliability Standards that provide an increased reliability benefit and clarify compliance risks.
Explain more thoroughly how the information provided in reliability assessments affects the future adequacy and reliability of the BPS.	II(D)(1), II(D)(2), II(D)(3) In response to direction from the NERC Board of Trustees in February 2013, NERC has developed a RRM process to create and execute plans for managing reliability risk and to integrate these plans with the business planning and budgeting process. The RRM process includes the identification of the *ERO Top Priority Reliability Risks* for each upcoming business planning and budget cycle. The development of the list of top ten high priority reliability risks is intended to focus the efforts of the ERO Enterprise program areas, including training and education, Reliability Standards setting, and compliance. NERC developed a set of the top ten priority reliability risks to be focused on in the development of the *ERO Enterprise Strategic Plan 2014-2017*. NERC has also developed a voluntary Event Analysis process that delivers quality, timely and actionable lessons learned to registered entities. NERC assesses every event submitted through the voluntary Event Analysis process to identify and share possible risks to reliability with industry members.
Provide metrics that focus not only on enforcement but also measure performance risk and	VII NERC and the Regional Entities have collaboratively made significant progress in developing a shared, rolling three-year *ERO Enterprise Strategic Plan*, which includes performance

specify specifically what is working and what is not.	metrics. The NERC Board of Trustees approved the 2014 *ERO Enterprise Performance Metrics*. These performance metrics will be used to assess the overall effectiveness of the ERO Enterprise in addressing risk to the BPS, achieving reliability results, measuring and assuring the effectiveness of Reliability Standards and compliance programs, and improving risk mitigation and program execution. NERC's performance metrics include four overarching metrics focused on overall effectiveness in addressing BPS risks and improving reliability. NERC's performance metrics also include a number of supporting measures that assess the effectiveness of the key operational elements of the ERO Enterprise.
Describe the basis for including the 345-kV breaker failures as a potential trend in risk prioritization.	II(D)(2) Circuit breaker failures, in conjunction with another fault, may lead to more BES facilities removed from service than required to clear the original fault. NERC has identified a potential trend of 345 kV SF6 puffer type breakers failing as being one of the ten high priority reliability risks.
Provide a more complete explanation of how the daily severity risk index is used to help prioritize risks.	I(A) The daily severity risk index value, a metric created by NERC that measures risk impact or "stress" from events resulting in the loss of transmission, generation, and load, provides an industry reference for historical BPS reliability. This metric also offers analytical insights toward industry action and enables the identification and prioritization of specific steps that can be implemented in order to reduce and manage risks to reliability.
Training, Education, and Personnel Certification	
Increase the availability and accessibility of training regarding audit preparation, Reliability Standard compliance, Event Analysis, and major NERC initiatives such as BES definition, and CIP Version 5 Reliability Standards.	II(A)(4), II(B)(2), II(C)(2), II(D)(1), II(D)(2), II(D)(3), II(E)(1)(c); Attachment 2, pp. 44, 45;[3] Attachment 3 – II(B)(1)(d) (*NERC Training Activities for Regional Entity Compliance Staff)*; II(B)(2)(a) (*Regional Entity Training, Education and Outreach Programs for Registered Entity Personnel*); II(B)(2)(b)(ii)-(ix) (*Assessments of the Individual Regional Entities*) Between 2011-2013, the Regional Entities' workshops and equivalent training programs attracted more than 30,000 attendees. NERC and the Regional Entities develop new training

[3] Attachment 2 to the *Five-Year ERO Performance Assessment Report* is titled *Joint Regional Entity Self-Assessment*.

	offerings as new needs arise. Recent examples are provided below. Additionally, NERC developed a set of the top ten priority reliability risks to be focused on in the development of the *ERO Enterprise Strategic Plan 2014-2017*. The development of these top ten high priority reliability risks is intended to focus the efforts of the ERO Enterprise program areas, including training and education, Reliability Standards setting, and compliance. NERC is working to provide training to industry (as well as to compliance auditors) on how to assess compliance with new or revised Reliability Standard. This training is provided following FERC approval of a Reliability Standard, but well before the Reliability Standard effective date. To implement the revised BES definition, NERC developed a web-based, ERO Enterprise-wide application to provide a consistent platform for registered entities to submit self-determined notifications and to submit exception requests for inclusions in or exclusions from the BES. This application is called the BESnet Enterprise Application Tool. During the first two quarters of 2014, NERC held communications and training sessions for Regional Entities, registered entities, and NERC staff to address, among other things: (i) evidentiary requirements for BES determinations; (ii) review and appeal mechanisms; and (iii) Reliability Standards applicability. These sessions included workshops and webinars. NERC hosted a series of workshops in 2013 that addressed defining internal controls, conducting risk assessment, launching pilot programs, enhancing the FFT process, and improving self-reporting. In 2013, NERC and the Regional Entities began to develop and implement tools that will define techniques and methods to perform compliance monitoring in a consistent manner across the ERO Enterprise. The Regional Entities began using the first of these tools, the *Compliance Auditor Checklist*, in August 2013. In December 2013, NERC and the Regional Entities completed the first draft of a companion document for the *Compliance Auditor Checklist*, the *Compliance Auditor Handbook*, as found in the *ERO Enterprise Compliance Auditor Manual*. NERC disseminated the manual and provided initial training to Regional Entity auditors during the first quarter of 2014. NERC has made the *Compliance Auditor Checklist* and *Compliance Auditor Handbook*, as found in the *ERO Enterprise Compliance Auditor*

	Manual, available to industry to provide guidance on audit preparation. Specific documentation or other aids to assist in the implementation of the RRM process, document templates, and detailed instructions and training are being developed to support the execution of this process and will be made available to industry. NERC provides registered entities (as well as Regional Entity staff) with cause analysis training. As of December 2013, 164 personnel from all eight Regional Entities and over 600 people from 115 different registered entities have received more than 4,000 hours of cause analysis training, with 432 hours of continuing education hours awarded to 54 NERC-certified system operators. NERC is adding a training and education component to the Event Analysis process to increase the relevance and impact of lessons learned for the Regional Entities, industry, and other stakeholders. Beginning during the assessment period, NERC holds an annual Grid Security Conference (GridSecCon). Over 300 industry and government stakeholders attended the most recent GridSecCon in October 2013. Additionally, almost 200 stakeholders attended credentialed training sessions in cybersecurity and physical security. NERC is committed to working with industry to ensure smooth transition to the CIP Version 5 Reliability Standards. NERC has been collaborating with Regional Entities and responsible entities by establishing a transition program to support implementation of Version 5. NERC has implemented several program elements related to outreach, communication, and training, to include periodic guidance documents to keep industry informed during the transition period. NERC conducted a pilot Version 5 implementation study, which included six volunteer entities that implemented the Version 5 Reliability Standards on an accelerated basis. Future training will include auditor training, technical workshops, guidance, and other lessons learned from the Version 5 implementation study.
Incorporate registered entity independent subject matter experts into the audit process.	Attachment 3 – II(B)(2)(b)(ii)-(ix) (*Assessments of the Individual Regional Entities - Department Structure / Staffing / Conflict of Interest Avoidance*)

	As a key RAI compliance activity, the Prototypes and Pilot program focuses on the development and implementation of a formalized approach to risk assessments and testing of management controls. NERC and the Regional Entities initiated the first phase of the pilot program during 2013. This phase explored different approaches to applying risk-based auditing concepts (e.g., audit scoping, reliability risk assessments, and management controls review and testing). For 2014 and beyond, a team consisting of NERC, Regional Entity, and industry representatives as well as an independent audit consultant will evaluate the findings and determine the best audit approach to implement throughout the ERO Enterprise.
Event Analysis	
Separate Event Analysis from Compliance Operations.	II(D)(3) Event Analysis and Compliance Operations are separate processes. NERC has developed a voluntary Event Analysis process. Participation in this voluntary process does not relieve registered entities of their obligation to comply with NERC Reliability Standards. Registered entities are encouraged to continue performing critical self-assessments of compliance with Reliability Standards in connection with a qualifying event, occurrence or any other time when adherence to the NERC Reliability Standards is in question.
Increase the efficiency and clarity of the compliance assessment process associated with an event.	II(D)(3); Attachment 3 – IV(A) and (C) The annual NERC CMEP Implementation Plan and the *ERO Event Analysis Process* document describe the expected actions by affected registered entities following an event or disturbance. While voluntary on the part of registered entities, this process includes a systematic review of the event against approved Reliability Standards, improved self-reporting and expedited mitigation of any possible noncompliances, thus improving reliability. The Regional Entities use outreach forums and other mechanisms to describe the process and encourage these actions by registered entities.
Streamline the cause coding mechanism.	II(D)(3) NERC is continuously striving to improve how it defines, catalogs and trends the causes of system events. The cause code assignment allows for greater historical trending and predictive analysis. NERC plans to further facilitate event analysis by merging its event-driven databases across the ERO Enterprise

	and defining the relationships between various system cause codes.
Increase the timeliness, transparency and comprehensiveness of dissemination of information relating to Event Analysis and lessons learned.	II(D)(3) NERC is collaborating with the NATF and the NAGF to further enhance the Event Analysis process and lessons learned dissemination in identifying risks to the BPS. NERC plans to improve the timeliness of the availability of and access to final event reports by creating a secure portal that will be accessible by industry to obtain these reports.
Improve the consistency of the NERC alert system by ensuring that alert levels are commensurate with the risk of the issue presented and do not impose unnecessary burdens on registered entities.	II(D)(3) NERC generates alerts in limited circumstances. If an event merits an alert, NERC first discusses the potential alert with Regional Entities and registered entities before disseminating the alert. Under Section 810 of the NERC Rules of Procedure, NERC can issue "Level 1 Advisories," "Level 2 Recommendations," and "Level 3 Essential Actions," depending on the underlying circumstances. Each of these issuances requires different actions (if any) by registered entities. NERC strives to use the issuance that is appropriate to the circumstances so as not to impose undue burdens on registered entities.
Ensure that sabotage events are communicated by NERC Alert.	Not all sabotage events are appropriate for issuing an alert; however, additional information on security-related events is available to all users on the improved Electricity Sector Information Sharing and Analysis Center (ES-ISAC) portal and through other ES-ISAC channels.
Make improvements in full publication of events (under appropriate confidentiality controls) to users, owners and operators.	NERC now has a secure site that allows registered entities to gain NERC-authorized access to reports from other registered entities that have agreed to share such information.
Consider that not all issues identified by the Event Analysis program are issues that should become standards or even alerts.	Reliability issues presenting a risk to the BPS that have been identified by Event Analysis are subject to further NERC consideration and discussion with Regional Entities and registered entities before becoming the subject of a Reliability Standard development project. The decision to issue an alert or develop a Reliability Standard is based on this collaborative process. Additionally, the RISC considers risk-related issues and

	advises the NERC Board of Trustees on the appropriate action to take to address risks to the BPS. *See also* II(A)(6)(a) and II(A)(6)(b)
Critical Infrastructure Protection	
Increase the focus on physical security, in addition to cybersecurity.	II(A)(8)(e); II(E) NERC recognizes that identifying, assessing, and preventing threats and risks to both the physical security and the cybersecurity of the BPS, while always matters of concern, have attained increasing significance in the last three to four years. NERC, through its Critical Infrastructure department, ES-ISAC, and the Critical Infrastructure Protection Committee, is engaged in various activities to address physical security issues. In addition, NERC recently developed and submitted for Commission approval a new physical security Reliability Standard (CIP-014-1).
Increase the speed at which registered entities will be able to learn how CIP Reliability Standards will be interpreted by auditors, and ensure that these interpretations are consistent across the Regional Entities.	II(A)(4) RSAWs are now being written concurrently with new Reliability Standard development projects. Draft RSAWs are to be posted during the formal comment period and prior to the ballot period for the associated Reliability Standards. Stakeholders are encouraged to provide feedback on the draft RSAWs.
Provide additional guidance with alerts that will help avoid public disclosure request responses with CIP-related information.	NERC exercises the utmost caution and will not issue alerts that include sensitive CIP-related information. It is also the responsibility of the entity responding to a request for information to ensure that any sensitive information it provides is appropriately marked and that appropriate exemptions from disclosure are claimed.
Explore a full functional separation of NERC and the ES-ISAC as recommended in the February 2014 report from the co-chairs of the Bipartisan Policy Center's Electric Grid Cybersecurity Initiative.	II(E)(2) NERC is committed to keeping the ES-ISAC separate from NERC's compliance monitoring and enforcement activities and enforcing the Board of Trustees-approved corporate policies that are in place. In addition, NERC is considering a physical separation of ES-ISAC personnel in the Washington, D.C. office.
Strengthen inter-sector coordination: the ES-ISAC should explore ways to	ES-ISAC has acted to strengthen inter sector coordination through increased information sharing and support to ESCC in the following ways:

provide information and support the activities of the Electricity Sub-Sector Coordinating Council (ESCC).	(1) Extensive subject matter expert contribution to "Energizer" and ESCC Playbook products; (2) Alignment of ES-ISAC capability under ESCC to provide operationally informed context and implementation; (3) Full ESCC Senior Executive Working Group participation; (4) National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center watch floor and Department of Homeland Security Unified Coordination Group (UCG) participation; and (5) Full participation at Department of Energy Sector Specific Agent (SSA) hosted Clear Path II restoration event and all pertinent OSD Defense Critical Infrastructure Program (DCIP) events. In addition, ES-ISAC contributed subject matter expert leadership to initiation of a pilot continuous monitoring and automated information exchange capability undertaken with selected major utilities, known as the Cybersecurity Risk Information Sharing Program (CRISP). This capability provides foundational support to top future ESCC inter-sector information sharing objectives. Further involvement in CRISP by the ES-ISAC on a permanent basis is under active consideration. Further, ES-ISAC accelerated its own capability maturation consistent with NERC CIPC Information Sharing Task Force and Government-Industry Information Sharing Survey findings with an advanced portal fitted to entity, ESCC Secretariat, and National Council of ISACs cross sector sharing requirements.
Stakeholder Communications, Public Relations, and IT	
Offer more unified, coordinated, and user-friendly IT tools and programs to registered entities.	ERO senior leadership intends to develop ERO Enterprise IT applications, where appropriate, to support common processes, to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of Regional Entities' practices, to increase the consistency of the interface with registered entities, and to facilitate NERC's oversight function.
Provide greater consistency between NERC and Regional Entity websites.	VII; Attachment 6, pp. 14-16.[4] NERC and the Regional Entities are engaged in several activities to develop unified or consistent IT programs and tools and to

[4] Attachment 6 to the *Five-Year ERO Performance Assessment Report* is titled *NERC's Plan and Initiatives for Improving Coordinated Operations Across the ERO Enterprise*.

	coordinate key messages and direction and enhance consistency across the ERO Enterprise.
Improve technical support, accessibility, and organization of the NERC website.	In 2013, the NERC public website was converted from a legacy platform to a SharePoint site greatly improving search functions, security and scalability of the website. Converting the website to a contemporary off-the-shelf application will allow continued improvements to document organization, and enhanced search capability through the use of metadata. Technical support has been enhanced by usage of the contact form, with relevant questions and comments being directed to the correct program area or to the IT department for resolution.
Reduce travel expenses for registered entities by more frequently changing locations where meetings are held (beyond Atlanta), and increasing the availability of webinars and teleconferences.	Industry engagement is a critical component of NERC's activities and strategic initiatives. NERC uses webinars to engage and educate industry on a number of topics. For example, in 2013 alone, NERC hosted 43 Reliability Standard industry webinars attended by an average of 360 participants. However, NERC decided to move its headquarters from Princeton, N.J. to Atlanta, G.A., among other reasons, because Atlanta is a major airline hub that is directly accessible from many parts of the country. In addition, in selecting meeting locations, NERC must balance the cost to and convenience for potential participants of using Atlanta versus locations other than Atlanta, with the cost savings associated with holding the meeting in NERC's own facilities (rather than in rented space in another location and the travel expenses for NERC staff to other locations.
Improve retention of NERC staff to ensure better, less disruptive functioning of the ERO.	NERC management and the Board of Trustees recognize the importance of retaining experienced employees. Several initiatives are in place or underway to enhance employee engagement, including improving hiring practices, conducting regular check-ins with new staff periodically after hiring, periodic evaluation of culture through formal employee surveys, and the development of appropriate initiatives including a set of corporate core values, as well as ongoing review of market compensation for personnel with the necessary skills and experience.
Increase the consistency and clarity of the communications of NERC leadership regarding the end-state vision and	VII; Attachment 6, pp. 16. To facilitate effective communications across the ERO Enterprise, in May 2013 the NERC Board of Trustees initiated a practice of meeting twice yearly as a group with all the chairs and

progress of major ERO initiatives.	vice-chairs of the Regional Entities, with a portion of these meetings conducted with the NERC and Regional Entity CEOs also present. Additionally, a NERC-Regional Entity communications working group has been active for several years, coordinating consistent messaging across the ERO Enterprise. Further, NERC and the Regional Entities have coordinated outreach to FERC Commissioners and staff and to Canadian governments. NERC is working to address the areas where improvement is needed.
Make processes for developing documents related to compliance more transparent and open to stakeholder feedback.	II(A)(4); II(C)(2)(a) NERC has taken several steps to address this concern. RSAWs are now developed concurrently with Reliability Standards development projects, allowing for increased coordination among compliance staff and the standard drafting teams and the opportunity for industry comment on the draft RSAWs. Draft RSAWs are to be posted during the formal comment period and prior to the ballot period for the associated Reliability Standards, allowing stakeholders to provide comments or raise concerns at that time. Further, NERC is also engaged in several activities under RAI to enhance transparency and consistency in auditor practices across the ERO Enterprise, including making the *Compliance Auditor Checklist* and *Compliance Auditor Handbook*, as found in the *ERO Enterprise Compliance Auditor Manual*, available to industry.
Increase the specificity of the ERO strategic plan.	VII NERC and the Regional Entities have collaboratively made significant progress in developing a shared, rolling three-year *ERO Enterprise Strategic Plan.* In May 2014, the NERC Board of Trustees approved a series of performance metrics which will be used to assess the overall effectiveness of the ERO Enterprise in addressing risk to the BPS, achieving reliability results, assuring Reliability Standards and compliance effectiveness, and improving risk mitigation and program execution. They include four overarching metrics focused on overall effectiveness in addressing BPS risks and improving reliability. They also include a number of supporting measures that assess the effectiveness of the key operational elements of the ERO Enterprise.
Improve and streamline external communications to	NERC has created a once-a-week bulletin for Reliability Standards announcements, and is working to include compliance

make them more useful and accessible to stakeholders.	activities in this bulletin as well. Additionally RSS feeds have been added to the "NERC Newsroom" webpage enabling stakeholders to subscribe or unsubscribe to the NERC newsletters or NERC headlines. Future releases will include more RSS feeds that will provide stakeholders the opportunity to subscribe or unsubscribe to information on the NERC website, coupled with ongoing enhancements to content and search features.
Continue to work with Canadian entities regarding NERC's efforts to seek recognition in Canada, including preparing and verifying the information in Attachment 1.[5]	III; Attachment 1 – I(6) NERC is actively working with Canadian entities in a variety of ways. NERC participates in the meetings of a trilateral group consisting of regulators from Mexico, FERC, and the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Electricity Working Group (Canada). In addition, each month NERC staff participates in calls to discuss standards drafting efforts and associated governance and committee-related activities. Workshops and organized forums over the course of each year provide dedicated time for outreach and exchange of perspectives. NERC is also working with relevant stakeholders in Canada, including registered entities and applicable government authorities, on increasing visibility of compliance monitoring and enforcement activities that assure reliability in Canada. NERC appreciates the assistance provided by Canadian entities in the preparation and verification of information in the detailed discussion in Attachment 1 regarding NERC's efforts to seek recognition in Canada.
Business Plan and Budget	
Give stakeholders earlier opportunities to provide input for the business plan development process and the business plan. Extend the time by which stakeholders have an opportunity to provide input into the business plan and	Attachment 3 – V(B) NERC and the Regional Entities typically start the BP&B process in the fourth quarter of the second preceding year. The process includes multiple opportunities for stakeholder input, and NERC attempts to provide opportunities for stakeholder input on the *ERO Enterprise Strategic Plan* and the BP&B as early as reasonably possible in the process.

[5] Attachment 1 to the *Five-Year ERO Performance Assessment Report* is titled *Discussion of How NERC Meets the ERO Certification Criteria of 18 C.F.R. §39.3(b)*.

budget (BP&B), and increase the clarity of projected costs.	In the preparation schedule for the 2015 BP&B, policy input for the *ERO Enterprise Strategic Plan* was requested by the NERC Board of Trustees on January 8, 2014 with a response date of January 29, 2014. Meetings with trade associations were held in January 2014 on the *ERO Enterprise Strategic Plan* and in April 2014 on the 2015 BP&B. The Member Representatives Committee (MRC) meetings on February 5, 2014 and May 6, 2014 included further opportunities for policy input. A draft NERC 2015 BP&B was posted on May 16, 2014 for a 45-day stakeholder comment period. A final draft of the 2015 BP&B was posted on July 15, 2014 for a 2-week stakeholder comment period. Additional opportunities for stakeholder comment are provided through multiple scheduled meetings of the MRC BP&B Input Group (described below) and meetings of several NERC standing committees (Operating, Planning, Standards, Critical Infrastructure Protection, Compliance and Certification, and Reliability Issues Steering Committees) to receive input, as well as through opportunities for stakeholder comments in open sessions of the quarterly MRC and NERC Board of Trustees meetings. NERC provided more opportunities for stakeholder input in the 2015 BP&B preparation schedule than was provided for the 2014 BP&B.
Explain how stakeholder input on the BP&B is actually utilized	NERC carefully and thoroughly considers all stakeholder input on the BP&B, whether it is submitted in writing during formal posting and comment periods or in open meetings. Typically, stakeholder comments are not directed to individual detailed line items in the draft BP&B, but rather are primarily directed to the overall amount of increase in the proposed budget for the ERO Enterprise or for certain departments, or the overall assessment increase. In a number of years, NERC has responded to stakeholder concerns about the overall level of budget and assessment increases shown in earlier drafts of the BP&B, by reducing planned expenditures (e.g., through eliminating or deferring specific projects and other initiatives or by reducing planned levels of compensation increases for some or all employee categories) to produce a lower level of expenditures and assessments in the final BP&B. Additionally, in each annual BP&B filing with FERC beginning with the filing for 2009, NERC has included an attachment summarizing stakeholder comments received during development of the BP&B and how NERC addressed or considered the comments. Finally, a number

	of enhancements to NERC's BP&Bs have been the result, in whole or in part, of stakeholder comments, including the provision of greater granularity and more detailed explanations for consultant and contractor expenses and for proposed Information Technology and other information systems and infrastructure projects in the BP&B; and the development and inclusion of long-term (three-year) future budget projections in the BP&B.
Permit greater incorporation of policy input from the MRC into the business plan.	Under the NERC Bylaws, one of the purposes of the MRC is "to provide advice and recommendations to the board with respect to the development of annual budgets, business plans and funding mechanisms, and other matters pertinent to the purposes and operations of the Corporation" (Article VIII, §1). Under Article XIII, §4 of the Bylaws, consultation with the MRC and posting of draft BP&Bs for review and comment by the MRC are mandatory components of the development of the annual BP&B. Obtaining MRC comments and input has always been a part of the BP&B development process; however, over the last three BP&B cycles, steps have been taken to increase MRC input. Specifically, a MRC BP&B Input Group was formed in August 2012 and began to function as part of the development of the 2013 BP&B; the participation of this group has been formalized as a specific mechanism for the provision of MRC input. The BP&B development process now includes a specific schedule of meetings with the MRC BP&B Input Group – for example, the preparation schedule for the 2015 BP&B includes 5 scheduled meetings or conference calls with the MRC BP&B Input Group, as well as 2 scheduled MRC informational session webinars and the regular quarterly MRC meetings. Additionally, as indicated earlier, the NERC Board of Trustees has now made it a regular practice to solicit policy input from the MRC as well as other stakeholder groups, early in the process, on various issues relevant to the *ERO Enterprise Strategic Plan* and the BP&B; the policy input received is then discussed at subsequent meetings of the Board of Trustees. NERC does not believe that prior policy input from the MRC regarding goals has not been taken into account in developing business plans, as suggested by the comment. However, the development of both the rolling three-year *ERO Enterprise Strategic Plan* and the annual BP&B reflects consideration and accommodation of input and comments from numerous stakeholder sources, some of which may be inconsistent or even conflicting, as well as the need to meet NERC's legal, regulatory, and corporate responsibilities. Therefore, it will not necessarily

	be possible to trace specific input from a specific source into specific provisions of the BP&B.
Clarify that certain non-statutory requirements were transitioned out of the NERC BP&B.	Without agreeing or disagreeing that these were non-statutory activities, this comment is correct that the Interchange Distribution Calculator, previously funded by NERC, has been transitioned to the IDC Association, and the E-Tag registry has been transferred to the North American Energy Standards Board; both are no longer funded by NERC. Other reliability-related tools have been transitioned to industry sponsorship and funding. NERC Rule of Procedure Section 1002, as amended during the assessment period, states that NERC will review all tools and services it provides to determine if they can be transitioned to an appropriate industry group or organization. Additionally, NERC will be ending its funding and management of the North American Synchro-Phasor initiative by the end of 2014 as it is transitioned to private sector sponsorship and funding. Finally, the formation of the NATF and NAGF has resulted in those organizations taking responsibility for some educational and collaborative activities that otherwise might have been conducted and funded by NERC.
Provide presentations to stakeholders on NERC's efforts to ensure maximum efficiency in the use of resources. The *Five-Year ERO Performance Assessment* should address reasons for budget increases and NERC's plans to control costs going forward.	NERC strives to explain in each annual BP&B how it is using resources efficiently within the proposed budget. Specific actions that have been taken to reduce budgeted costs and use resources efficiently are described in each BP&B; typically, these actions are at a very granular level (e.g., actions within specific program areas) rather than actions that will impact the efficiency of all aspects of NERC's operations. In addition to the textual discussion in the final BP&B, during the BP&B preparation process, NERC conducts a number of meetings, conference calls and webinars for stakeholders and stakeholder groups to explain the proposed BP&B. These include meetings with trade associations and NERC committees as well as webinars, meetings, and conference calls (such as meetings and conference calls with the Board of Trustees, the Finance and Audit Committee, and the MRC) that are open to all stakeholders. In these meetings, conference calls and webinars, the proposed BP&B is typically reviewed at a more aggregated level with focus on the more significant projects and initiatives impacting cost increases and decreases. There are several specific initiatives that NERC has implemented or is in the process of implementing that have increased or will increase the efficiency of the ERO Enterprise operations. These initiatives have been discussed and described through numerous

	means accessible to stakeholders including in the rolling three-year *ERO Enterprise Strategic Plan*, BP&Bs, CMEP Implementation Plans, and workshops, seminars and webinars, as applicable to each particular activity. NERC will continue to look for additional means to communicate with stakeholders on NERC's efforts to use its resources efficiently, both through giving added focus to this topic in existing presentations and through additional stakeholder communications addressing this topic. NERC respectfully disagrees that a detailed analysis of budget increases over the five-year period and possible future increases is necessary for the *Five-Year ERO Performance Assessment Report*. NERC's annual BP&Bs already provide an annual review of (and opportunity for stakeholder comment on) budget increases from the prior year to the budget year. Each annual BP&B provides an explanation of budget increases (if any) in each of several line items for each program area, with more extensive discussion of more significant cost increase items. The *Five-Year ERO Performance Assessment Report* describes a number of initiatives that NERC has implemented and is continuing to undertake to improve the efficiency of NERC and Regional Entity operations while enhancing BPS reliability, including: (i) the SNOP process and FFT process (which continues to be enhanced); (ii) the RAI and the entire RRM process, all of which are focused on making more efficient use of ERO Enterprise (and stakeholder) resources while focusing resources on the issues and areas that pose the greatest risk to BPS reliability; (iii) the development of common training programs, the *Compliance Auditor Checklist*, and the *Compliance Auditor Handbook*, as found in the *ERO Enterprise Compliance Auditor Manual*, for compliance auditors across all Regional Entities; (iv) the Paragraph 81 project and the Standards Independent Expert Review Panel review of Reliability Standards requirements, which have resulted in the elimination of numerous requirements, thereby reducing the number of requirements that NERC and the Regional Entities must expend resources to monitor; and (v) the risk-based and cost-effectiveness reviews of proposed standards development projects so that resources are not expended on development of standards that will have minimal impact on reliability. The development of new or enhanced, uniform information and data management systems (both internal and user-facing) to be used by the entire ERO Enterprise will also increase efficiencies and

	help to control costs in the future. Additionally, NERC has reorganized departments, such as Reliability Standards, to use personnel more efficiently. By far the most significant component of NERC's BP&B are personnel-related costs, both direct personnel expenses (salaries and benefits) and costs that vary primarily based on the number of personnel (such as travel expense, office space costs, and telecommunications and computing costs). Therefore, as NERC has increased staffing in response to input from FERC and stakeholders indicating the need for more extensive or expeditious activities in specific areas (e.g., faster Reliability Standards development, increased NERC staff support for standard drafting teams, increased oversight of Regional Entity compliance monitoring activities, more expeditious processing of noncompliance items, increased training, education and outreach activities, and additional, focused reliability assessment reports), and has responded to the increased significance of certain reliability risk areas (e.g., cybersecurity), NERC staffing has necessarily increased and therefore budgets have increased. A second, overall area of budget increases has been for new and enhanced IT and other information and infrastructure systems in response to: (i) stakeholder desires for more efficient systems with commonality across Regional Entities; (ii) the need for more efficient NERC and Regional Entity internal business processes; and (iii) the development of new user-facing systems to meet emerging needs such as the Technical Feasibility Exceptions process and the BES definition exceptions process.

Table 2: Stakeholder Comments Concerning Regional Entities

In the following table, (i) the first column contains summaries of key stakeholder comments concerning the Regional Entities; and (ii) the second column lists, where applicable, the specific location within the *Five-Year ERO Performance Assessment Report* where the comment is addressed. Additionally, for most of the stakeholder comments, the second column contains a brief response to the comment. The table is divided into sections that correspond to the broad categories of questions asked in the Stakeholder survey.

Summary of Key Stakeholder Comment About Regional Entities	Where Comment is Addressed
Reliability Standards	
Improve the dissemination of information by providing additional information regarding evolving Reliability Standards.	Attachment 3 – I.A; II.B.2.a[6] Many Regional Entities have committed more resources in order to engage in additional training, education, and outreach activities to assist registered entities with their compliance and enforcement responsibilities. These increased activities have included additional workshops, newsletters to industry, and other direct communications.
Compliance Operations	
Improve the speed and consistency of CIP compliance audits.	Attachment 3 – II.B.2.b An important goal of RAI is to develop standard audit policies and procedures for all Regional Entities to serve as a common baseline approach to compliance audits. NERC and the Regional Entities have developed a standardized *Compliance Auditor Checklist* and *Compliance Auditor Handbook*, as found in the *ERO Enterprise Compliance Auditor Manual*, to ensure consistent application of audit procedures across the ERO Enterprise and is now beginning auditor training on these tools.
Enhance the quality, consistency, and accessibility of compliance training.	Attachment 3 – II.B.2.b; *see also* II.B.2.b.ii-ix (*Guidance and Training for Industry Stakeholders*)

[6] Attachment 3 to the *Five-Year ERO Performance Assessment Report* is titled *NERC Assessment of Regional Entity Delegated Functions*.

	Feedback from registered entities regarding training workshops has generally been positive. To address requests from the industry for an increased level of compliance information, many Regional Entities have committed more resources to training. Training activities during the assessment period have included in-person workshops, webinars, training videos and recordings, compliance update letters, on-site visits, and individualized outreach to registered entities.
Ensure that compliance audits are carried out in an efficient, accurate, consistent, and professional manner, and that the procedures and methodology followed by auditors are clear and ultimately useful to the registered entity.	Attachment 3 – II.B.1.c and d; II.B.2.b During the assessment period, NERC and the Regional Entities have increased training opportunities for Regional Entity audit staffs. Through RAI, NERC and the Regional Entities are working together to enhance the clarity and consistency of audit practices across the ERO Enterprise.
Better communicate to the registered entity how to become compliant.	Attachment 3 – II.B.2.a; *see also* II.B.2.b.ii-ix (*Guidance and Training for Industry Stakeholders*); II.D.2.c.ii-iii – II.D.9.ii-iii (*Ensuring the Timely Mitigation of Violations / Promoting Reliability through Enforcement Philosophy and Practices*) In addition to workshops and webinars intended for a broad stakeholder audience, the Regional Entities offer individualized outreach opportunities to the registered entities within their regions to help facilitate compliance with Reliability Standards. Enforcement and mitigation staff at each Regional Entity also work with registered entities to develop and implement effective, appropriate mitigating activities to both address noncompliance and prevent recurrence.

Increase the quality and consistency of compliance-related IT applications.	Attachment 3 – II.B.2.b.ii-ix (*Compliance Monitoring Tools and Procedures / Maintaining Confidentiality*) The Regional Entities are currently exploring ways to enhance their compliance-related IT applications. Several Regional Entities have implemented enhancements, which are described in the individual assessments.
Streamline self-report and enforcement resolution processes.	Attachment 3 – II.D.1.a and b; *Overview of NERC Activities and Accomplishments in the Five-Year Period* II(C) The Regional Entities have worked with NERC to streamline enforcement processes during the assessment period. NERC and the Regional Entities developed and implemented streamlined enforcement processing mechanisms, such as the SNOP and FFT program, which allowed for a marked improvement in enforcement processing rates. Through regular communication and the oversight activities of NERC, NERC and the Regional Entities work to develop and share efficiency-enhancing process improvements. These improvements include the *ERO Self-Report User Guide* and the aggregation program, which were developed under RAI.
Better articulate the CIP Reliability Standards compliance and performance expectations.	Attachment 3 – II.B.2.a; *see also* II.B.2.b.ii-ix (*Guidance and Training for Industry Stakeholders*); *Overview of NERC Activities and Accomplishments in the Five-Year Period* II.A.4. In addition to their regular training and outreach to registered entities, the Regional Entities are working with NERC to identify challenges and best practices for transitioning to Version 5 of the CIP Reliability Standards. The results of a transition implementation study will inform a report that will be broadly shared among industry and stakeholders.

Ensure that guidance tools like Case Notes, CARs, CANs, etc., are consistent and useful to registered entities, but do not become vehicles to reinterpret or revise Reliability Standards outside of the stakeholder process.	*Overview of NERC Activities and Accomplishments in the Five-Year Period* II.A.4 (*Development of Compliance Assessment Tools Concurrently with Reliability Standards Development*) NERC and Regional Entity staff are coordinating on the development of RSAWs as new Reliability Standards are developed. By creating a uniform understanding of compliance expectations for each Reliability Standard early in the standard development process, the need for interpretations or other forms of compliance guidance should be reduced. NERC has terminated the issuance of CANs as of February 2013.
Consider ways to improve the clarity and utility of RSAWs.	*Overview of NERC Activities and Accomplishments in the Five-Year Period* II.A.4 See response to immediately preceding comment.
Enforcement	
Increase transparency regarding the process by which penalties and sanctions are calculated and assigned, and the reasoning behind the calculation and assignment of those penalties and sanctions.	Attachment 3 – II.D.1.d, II.D.2.d-II.D.9.d (individual Regional Entity *Implementation of Various Aspects of the CMEP*) Each of the Regional Entities has taken steps to increase the transparency regarding its penalty determination processes through the assessment period. Each of the Regional Entities follows the NERC *Sanction Guidelines*, and each penalty is reviewed to ensure consistency with other penalties assessed across the ERO Enterprise for similar violations occurring under similar facts and circumstances.
Streamline and hasten the enforcement process so as to make it more efficient and reduce the cost burden on registered entities.	Attachment 3 – II.D.1.a-b; *Overview of NERC Activities and Accomplishments in the Five-Year Period* II(C)

	The Regional Entities have worked to streamline their enforcement processes during the assessment period. NERC and the Regional Entities developed and implemented streamlined enforcement processing mechanisms, such as SNOP and FFT, which allowed for a marked improvement in enforcement processing rates and reductions in caseloads. Through regular communication and the oversight activities of NERC, NERC and the Regional Entities work to develop and share efficiency-enhancing process improvements. These improvements include the *ERO Self-Report User Guide* and the aggregation program, which were developed under RAI.
Address the backlog in violation processing.	Attachment 3 – II.D.1.b.i-iii; *Overview of NERC Activities and Accomplishments in the Five-Year Period* II(C)(4) By the end of the assessment period, NERC and the Regional Entities processed over 99% of violations discovered from 2007 through 2011 (excluding on hold violations). NERC and the Regional Entities are working to achieve an objective that all violations are processed before reaching 24 months in age. Some Regional Entities achieved this objective as of the end of 2013.
Better communicate why violations occurred so registered entities can learn from them.	Attachment 3 – II.D.2.c.ii-iii–II.D.9.ii-iii (*Ensuring the Timely Mitigation of Violations / Promoting Reliability through Enforcement Philosophy and Practices*); II.B.2.a; *see also* II.B.2.b.ii-ix (*Guidance and Training for Industry Stakeholders*) In the event a registered entity is found to be noncompliant with one or more Reliability Standards, Enforcement and Mitigation staff at the Regional Entity will work with the registered entity to develop and implement effective, appropriate mitigating activities to both address the noncompliance and prevent recurrence.

	Compliance and Enforcement staff at the Regional Entities also conduct workshops, webinars, and individualized outreach opportunities to help facilitate compliance with Reliability Standards.
Expand the use of FFTs.	Attachment 3 – II.D.1.b.iv; *Overview of NERC Activities and Accomplishments in the Five-Year Period* II(C)(1) In 2013, NERC and the Regional Entities worked together to expand the FFT program and implement certain enhancements approved by the Commission. As a result of these enhancements, FFT treatment is now available for a limited pool of possible violations posing a moderate risk to the reliability of the BPS (in addition to possible violations posing a minimal risk). In addition, certain unmitigated possible violations may be processed through the FFT program, so long as mitigation is completed within 90 days from the date the FFT is posted. Additional FFT enhancements may be implemented in the future under RAI.

Enhance consistency regarding enforcement processing across the regions.	Attachment 3 – II.D.1.b.vi; II.D.1.d; *Overview of NERC Activities and Accomplishments in the Five-Year Period* II(C)(4)(a)-(c) NERC and the Regional Entities engage in a number of activities to enhance consistency. For example, each of the Regional Entities have participated in RAI development activities and the multi-region working group on enforcement activities. In addition, NERC conducts oversight activities to facilitate the consistent application of streamlined enforcement processing mechanisms and other enforcement-related processes under the CMEP. Further, NERC and the Regional Entities take steps to promote reasonable consistency in the application of monetary penalties. Each penalty is reviewed to ensure consistency with other penalties assessed across the ERO Enterprise for similar violations occurring under similar facts and circumstances.
Registration and Certification	
Increase the clarity, regional consistency, quality, and overall efficiency of the CFR and JRO process.	Attachment 3 – II.A ; *Overview of NERC Activities and Accomplishments in the Five-Year Period* II.B.1 The JRO and CFR mechanisms are important components of the NERC Organization Registration and Certification program. Amendments to the NERC Rules of Procedure during the assessment period have clarified the operations of both types of registration. In addition, the Regional Entities began using consistent registration forms during the assessment period. As of May 1, 2014, there are 34 JROs and 44 CFRs, which illustrates that numerous entities have been able to utilize these registration options.
Reduce redundancies in the registration and certification processes.	Attachment 3 – II.A ; *Overview of NERC Activities and Accomplishments In the Five-Year Period* II.B

Better communicate the requirements for certification and re-certification. Increase clarity and guidance surrounding how entities are registered by NERC, and respond timely to deregistration inquiries.	During the assessment period, the Regional Entities began using consistent registration forms. In addition, a Regional Entity working group developed a prototype "Common Registration Form" which will provide greater assurance that all entities that should be registered are in fact registered. Two initiatives are underway to improve registration and certification processes. The first pertains to multi-regional registered entities. The second is the risk-based registration effort, which will improve the efficiency with which a Regional Entity is able to process registration activation and deactivation requests.
Reliability Assessment & Performance Analysis Metrics	
Ensure that the Regional Entity self-assessments are consistent by using consistent criteria and trigger points.	Attachment 3 – III.B Each Regional Entity's self-assessment is distributed to Regional Entity members of the NERC Reliability Assessment Subcommittee (RAS) for an in-depth and comprehensive review of the data and information. Peer reviewer comments are discussed with Regional Entity and assessment area representatives, and refinements and adjustments are made, as needed. The Regional Entity self-assessments are then subjected to scrutiny and review by the entire RAS. This peer review process provides an essential check and balance to ensure the validity of the information provided for each assessment. It also provides a mechanism for the members of the RAS to become fully convinced that each Regional Entity self-assessment is accurate, thorough, and complete.
Training, Education, and Personnel Certification	
Increase the availability, quality, and accessibility of training regarding audit preparation and Reliability Standard compliance.	Attachment 3 – II.B.2.a; *see also* II.B.2.b.ii-ix (*Guidance and Training for Industry Stakeholders*); *Overview of NERC Activities and Accomplishments in the Five-Year Period* II.C.2.a. To address requests from the industry for an increased level of compliance information, many

	Regional Entities have committed more resources to training and expanded their training offerings. Training activities during the assessment period have included in-person workshops, webinars, training videos and recordings, compliance update letters, on-site visits, and individualized outreach to registered entities. In addition, under RAI, the Regional Entities are working with NERC to develop and implement improvements to audit processes, including changes in the timing of preparation of RSAWs and development of a common *Compliance Auditor Checklist* and *Compliance Auditor Handbook*, as found in the *ERO Enterprise Compliance Auditor Manual*, which was made available to industry. These improvements provide additional insight for registered entities into how they will be audited and what they can do to prepare.
Event Analysis	
Increase the speed by which Event Analysis information (including lessons learned) is disseminated.	Attachment 3 – IV.A; *Overview of NERC Activities and Accomplishments in the Five-Year Period* II(D)(3) In June 2010, NERC and the Regional Entities created the NERC Event Analysis Working Group (EAWG). The EAWG expended significant efforts to develop an ERO Event Analysis process for use across North America. By integrating industry engagement and the collaborative review of disturbances into the ERO Event Analysis process, the effectiveness, predictability, consistency, and timeliness of the program was increased. Several lessons learned have already been shared with industry. The Event Analysis process is resulting in faster dissemination of information and lessons learned from outage events and other system disturbances than had been occurring through compliance investigations.
Improve the quality of disseminated Event Analysis information by showing relative	Attachment 3 – IV.C

and key emerging risks based on data analyzed through Event Analysis processes and by releasing more meaningful lessons learned.	NERC is considering improvements to increase the timeliness, transparency, and comprehensiveness of dissemination of information relating to Event Analysis and lessons learned.
Better coordinate information requests when NERC and a Regional Entity are involved in an event investigation.	Attachment 3 – IV.C In response to suggestions received during the ERO Event Analysis annual review, NERC is exploring potential solutions (including the possibility of implementing enterprise IT systems) to provide efficiencies in Event Analysis and related reporting processes.
Increase the effectiveness and efficiency of ERO-wide Event Analysis communications, particularly as to when an event is closed out.	Attachment 3 – IV.A; *Overview of NERC Activities and Accomplishments in the Five-Year Period* II(D)(3) NERC and the Regional Entities are continuously refining the ERO Event Analysis process based on experience and as system conditions change.
Stakeholder Communications, Public Relations, and IT	
Make Regional Entity websites more accessible, user-friendly, secure, and useful to registered entities.	Attachment 3 – II.B.2.b.ii-ix (*Guidance and Training for Industry Stakeholders / Maintaining Confidentiality*) The Regional Entities post a number of compliance and technical materials to assist registered entities in their compliance program implementation. In addition, the Regional Entities use encryption and other methods to ensure that information submitted through Regional Entity websites is secure.
Business Plan and Budget	
Increase transparency regarding the funding mechanisms for Regional Entities when they undergo reorganization.	Attachment 3 – V.B. NERC and the Regional Entities have continuously striven for improved transparency and detail in the business plans and budgets. Numerous improvements have been implemented in this regard. To provide ongoing, collaborative oversight of the business planning,

	budgeting, accounting, and financial reporting processes, NERC and the Regional Entities have formed an ERO Finance Group comprised of representatives of NERC and each Regional Entity.

Table 3: Overview of Five-Year and Three-Year Survey

The following table provides comparative statistics concerning the stakeholder survey that was taken in connection with the preparation of the *Three-Year ERO Performance Assessment Report*, in 2009, and the stakeholder survey that was taken in late 2013 in connection with the preparation of this *Five-Year ERO Performance Assessment Report*.

Five-Year Survey	Three-Year Survey
326 registered entity responses	128 registered entity responses
0 trade association or organized group responses	5 trade association or organized group responses
0 regulator, state, provincial, federal or other responses	3 regulator, state, provincial, federal or other responses
0 reliability stakeholder or public responses	6 reliability stakeholder or public responses

Table 4: Stakeholder Average Scores

The remainder of this Attachment summarizes information from the stakeholder survey conducted in October 2013.

Regional Entity	Response Rate (%)	Total Number of Responses	Total Unique NCR IDs
FRCC	33	23	69
MRO	28	38	135
NPCC	21	62	301
RF	22	75	343
SERC	32	74	233
SPP RE	27	39	145
TRE	20	46	225
WECC	20	97	477

Reliability Standards Questions					
	1. Develops Reliability Standards that indicate which BPS owners, operators and users must comply with individual requirements	2. Develops Reliability Standards that have a sound basis in engineering and operations	3. Develops and modifies Reliability Standards in a timely manner giving consideration to the prioritization of reliability objectives	4. Develops an annual *Reliability Standards Development Plan* that is an effective tool to communicate and gather stakeholder input to the proposed scope of work, schedules, and priorities for developing and	5. Communicates information about Reliability Standards, their development, and opportunities for stakeholder participation in an efficient and

				revising Reliability Standards	effective manner
Average Score					
NERC	4.0	3.3	3.2	4	3.8

Compliance Operations Questions					
	1. Provides accessible information about the level of performance necessary to comply with requirements of applicable Reliability Standards	2. Provides accessible information about what documentation and other evidence is needed to demonstrate compliance	3. Conducts audits, investigations, spot-checks and other compliance monitoring methods in a professional, thorough, and efficient manner	4. Utilizes electronic tools and forms that provide for clear, effective, and efficient submittal and handling of compliance information	5. Encourages registered entities to conduct internal self-assessments of compliance and self-report possible violations
Average Score					
NERC	2.1	1.8	1.6	1.4	3.3
FRCC	3.2	3.1	3.7	3.5	4.2
MRO	3.3	3.3	3.8	3.7	4.1
NPCC	3.8	3.6	4.0	4.0	4.2
RF	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.9	4.0
SERC	3.7	3.5	4.1	3.9	4.2
SPP RE	3.4	3.3	3.4	3.6	3.8
TRE	3.7	3.6	4.0	4.0	4.1
WECC	3.6	3.6	3.9	3.8	4.1

Enforcement Questions			
	1. Ensures that possible violations are investigated, assessed and closed in a timely manner	2. Levies penalties and sanctions for the violation of a Reliability Standard that bear a reasonable relation to the risk to reliability the violation presents	3. Levies penalties and sanctions that reflect consideration of the other factors specified in the *Sanction Guidelines*
Average Score			
NERC	1.7	2.1	2.3
FRCC	3.5	3.6	3.4
MRO	2.9	2.8	2.9
NPCC	2.8	2.7	2.8
RF	3.2	3.1	3.2
SERC	2.9	3.2	3.2

SPP RE	2.9	2.4	2.4
TRE	3.2	3.1	3.2
WECC	3.1	2.8	2.8

Registration and Certification Questions			
	1. Establishes adequate criteria to determine which owners, operators, and users of the BPS perform certain reliability functions and should therefore be registered as responsible for complying with Reliability Standards applicable to those reliability functions	2. Has a registration process that is effective in addressing situations in which compliance responsibilities are shared or delegated among entities, such as through the use of CFR or JRO	3. Conducts inquiries in a professional, thorough, and efficient manner for entities applying or submitting changes for certification as Reliability Coordinators, Balancing Authorities, and/or Transmission Operators
Average Score			
NERC	2.5	2.6	1.2
FRCC		3.5	3.2
MRO		3.4	2.8
NPCC		3.3	3.0
RF		3.3	2.8
SERC		3.4	2.5
SPP RE		3.2	2.5
TRE		3.3	2.5
WECC		2.6	2.6

Reliability Assessment Questions		
	1. Effectively communicates reliability assessments to stakeholders, policy makers, and the public, to explain why certain actions are necessary or appropriate to ensure future adequacy and reliability of the BPS	2. Effectively reports on regional self-assessments of electric supply and bulk power transmission reliability, including emerging and long-term reliability issues of specific regional and North American concern
Average Score		
NERC	2.4	2.2

Performance Analysis and Metrics Questions		
	1. Compiles and publishes useful information on performance metrics and benchmarks to observe and understand trends in the reliability and performance of the BPS and in the reliability performance of users, owners and operators, and to highlight areas for potential improvements	2. Identifies reliability performance issues for consideration in the development or modification of Reliability Standards
Average Score		
NERC	2.7	2.7

Training, Education, and Personnel Certification Questions			
	1. Provides effective training to registered entities on complying with Reliability Standards	2. Provides effective training on how to demonstrate compliance to auditors	3. Has an effective program for issuing certification credentials to skilled, trained, and qualified BPS operators, and for the maintenance of those certification credentials
Average Score			
NERC	2	1.8	2.9
FRCC	3.7	3.6	
MRO	3.2	2.9	
NPCC	3.5	3.4	
RF	3.4	3.1	
SERC	3.6	3.4	
SPP RE	3.5	3.4	
TRE	3.8	3.5	
WECC	3.8	3.4	

Event Analysis Questions				
	1. Develops and disseminates timely and useful information about system events and specific reliability risks affecting reliable operation of BPS through the lessons learned processes	2. Effectively uses the Alert Level 2 (Recommendations) and Level 3 (Essential Actions) under Rules of Procedure Section 810 to effectively track specific reliability risks affecting the reliable operation of the BPS	3. Has an Event Analysis program that provides and supports analysis on reliability risks that is useful to the industry and focused on BPS reliability	4. Investigates and analyzes events in an efficient manner, appropriate to the severity of the event
Average Score				
NERC	2.3	1.4	2.7	2.7

FRCC	3.6		3.4	3.3
MRO	3.0		2.9	2.8
NPCC	3.3		3.3	3.4
RF	3.3		3.0	3.1
SERC	3.5		3.3	3.2
SPP RE	3.2		3.1	2.8
TRE	3.6		3.5	3.5
WECC	3.2		3.0	2.9

Critical Infrastructure Protection Questions		
	1. Serves as an effective leader and facilitator of the industry's efforts to identify and protect BPS critical infrastructure, including by identifying and publicizing threats to critical infrastructure	2. Provides cybersecurity alerts that are effective for notifying BPS owners, operators, and users of vulnerabilities and actions to address those vulnerabilities
Average Score		
NERC	2.3	1.7

Stakeholder Communications, Public Relations, and IT Questions			
	1. Provides a public website that is useful in meeting stakeholder needs and provides easy access to information	2. Provides newsletters, conferences, and other stakeholder communications that are effective in providing stakeholders with useful and timely information regarding reliability and ERO/Regional Entity activities	3. Provides effective outreach to all jurisdictional stakeholders, including smaller entities with limited ability to travel to meetings and conferences
Average Score			
NERC	3.3	4.1	3.9
FRCC	3.4	3.6	3.3
MRO	3.4	3.9	3.6
NPCC	3.6	3.8	3.4
RF	3.6	3.9	3.4
SERC	3.6	3.9	3.9
SPP RE	3.4	3.6	3.4
TRE	3.9	3.9	3.8
WECC	3.6	3.9	3.7

Business Plan and Budget Questions		
	1. Provides reasonable opportunity for members and other stakeholders to provide	2. Provides sufficient financial information in support of its business plan and budget and its

	input in the annual business plan and budgeting process	quarterly and annual financial reporting
Average Score		
NERC	2.4	2
FRCC	2.9	2.9
MRO	3.2	3.1
NPCC	2.8	2.7
RF	3.2	3.0
SERC	3.5	3.3
SPP RE	2.8	2.7
TRE	3.4	3.3
WECC	3.0	2.9

Independence and Stakeholder Input Questions				
	1. Retains staff that are independent of BPS owners, operators and users and responsive to the needs of reliability stakeholders	2. Effectively communicates a vision and expectations and provides effective leadership to achieve that vision consistent with the *ERO Enterprise Strategic Plan*	3. Performs statutory functions in a transparent manner with adequate opportunity for stakeholder input	4. Provides fair stakeholder representation in the selection of directors and other decision-making in committees or other subordinate organizational structures
Average Score				
NERC	3.8	2.3	3.7	3

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
DOCKET NO. RR14-___

NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY CORPORATION

ATTACHMENT 5

TO

FIVE-YEAR ELECTRIC RELIABILITY ORGANIZATION PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT REPORT

STATUS OF AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT IDENTIFIED IN THE ORDER ON THE THREE-YEAR ERO PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

JULY 21, 2014

Attachment 5: Status of Areas for Improvement Identified in the Order on the Three-Year ERO Performance Assessment

Citation to Order on the Three-Year ERO Performance Assessment (¶)	Areas for Improvement	Status Update[1]
100-102	Believes that NERC (along with its stakeholders) should prioritize those Reliability Standards projects that, in its expert judgment, are the most critical to the reliability of the Bulk-Power System (BPS).	The NERC Board of Trustees has established the Reliability Issues Steering Committee (RISC) to set priorities on issues of importance to the BPS, including the development of Reliability Standards. *See Overview of NERC Activities and Accomplishments in the Five-Year Period*, page 28.
104	Reach out to registered entities to provide expert volunteers on Reliability Standards drafting teams and continue streamlining NERC's procedure to aid in reducing the strain on industry resources overall.	NERC has increased focus on outreach to stakeholders for participation in the Reliability Standards development process. At the end of May 2014, 858 stakeholder representatives had registered their eligibility to vote on proposed Reliability Standards as members of the Registered Ballot Body, and in 2013 alone NERC hosted 43 Reliability Standard industry webinars attended by an average of 360 participants. During the last six months of 2013, standard drafting teams (SDTs) and five-year review teams made up of 195 industry volunteers participated in 60 team meetings to advance Reliability Standards development activities. NERC has also made revisions to the *Standard Processes Manual*, which were approved by the Commission on June 26, 2013. These revisions have, among other things, led to a substantial decrease in the time required to revise an existing Reliability Standard or to develop a new one. This reduction in time provides registered entities with increased flexibility in staffing SDTs due to the reduced time commitment.

		See Overview of NERC Activities and Accomplishments in the Five-Year Period, pages 5, 25.
108	NERC must clearly demonstrate that any proposed elimination of a requirement does not diminish the reliability and enforceability of the existing Reliability Standard.	In the first quarter of 2013, NERC assembled the Reliability Standards Independent Experts Review Panel (IERP) consisting of five independent industry experts and a sixth participant from the Commission. At the end of its review in August 2013, the IERP recommended (among other things) the retirement of 147 existing Requirements of Reliability Standards. In making this determination, the IERP assessed whether a requirement: (i) did not support a reliability principle; (ii) met the Paragraph 81 criteria for retirement; or (iii) was better suited as a guideline rather than as a part of a Reliability Standard. The IERP's recommendations set the course for delivering high quality, results-based Reliability Standards with sustainable requirements. For the remaining requirements that the IERP did not recommend for retirement, the IERP applied content and quality criteria to examine whether they were steady-state or needed additional work. The IERP evaluated whether these remaining requirements addressed a risk to reliability by examining: (i) the ranking developed by the NERC RISC; (ii) the violation risk factor (VRF) for each requirement; and (iii) the IERP members' own professional judgment The P 81 initiative identified three layers of criteria to determine whether a requirement should be recommended for retirement. These criteria were identified in a technical

[1] Status update references made to previous sections of this *Five-Year ERO Performance Report* include: (i) *Overview of NERC Activities and Accomplishments in the Five-Year Period*; (ii) Attachment 1: *Discussion of How NERC Meets the ERO Certification Criteria of 18 C.F.R. §39.3(b);* and (iii) Attachment 3: *NERC Assessment of Regional Entity Delegated Functions.*

		whitepaper dated December 20, 2012. The Commission issued an order on November 21, 2013 approving the retirement of 34 Requirements and sub-Requirements within 19 Reliability Standards. *See Overview of NERC Activities and Accomplishments in the Five-Year Period*, pages 14-17, 17-19.
103	NERC and the Regional Entities should also plan to complete the fill-in-the-blank Reliability Standards, which remain pending from Order No. 693. We agree with NERC that setting priorities regarding fill-in-the-blank standards is an issue that should be resolved jointly by NERC and the Regional Entities.	NERC and the Regional Entities have determined that replacing the fill-in-the-blank Reliability Standards with continent-wide Reliability Standards is the optimal approach to addressing outstanding fill-in-the-blank Reliability Standards. NERC has been steadily working to complete revisions to replace fill-in-the-blank Reliability Standards with continent-wide versions. These revisions have been completed for Reliability Standards in four areas: (1) Emergency planning for system restoration and blackstart; (2) Data for steady state and dynamic system modeling; (3) Transfer capability requirements; and (4) Underfrequency load-shedding programs. Revisions are in progress at the time of this writing for Reliability Standards in five additional areas: (1) Analysis and mitigation of protection system misoperations (two projects, one scheduled for completion in 2014 and one in 2015); (2) Undervoltage load-shedding (scheduled for completion in early 2015); (3) Facility connection requirements (scheduled for completion in 2014);

		(4) Disturbance monitoring (scheduled for completion in 2014); and (5) Data for modeling demand (scheduled for completion in 2014). Once these in-progress projects are completed, all of the fill-in-the-blank Reliability Standards will have been revised through a Commission-approved standards development process.
85	Renews the directive that NERC submit quarterly reports on Reliability Standards development for an additional three years, with additional detail of required analysis. The quarterly reports should include: (i) the time required to complete projects; (ii) the time required to complete projects initiated in response to NERC's urgent action progress; and (iii) the time required to complete projects in response to Commission directives. The analysis should include data on the time required for each stage of the process.	NERC has been filing quarterly analyses of Reliability Standards voting results in Docket No. RR06-1 since May 2007. NERC continued to file these quarterly reports, including the additional information directed in the Order on the Three-Year ERO Performance Assessment, through and including the fourth quarter of 2013.
107-112	The Commission provided guidance regarding NERC's initiative to transition to results-based Reliability Standards. 107-108: the revised Reliability Standards should incorporate the Commission's	During the assessment period, NERC launched several initiatives designed to evolve the Reliability Standards into "steady-state," which means a stable set of clear, concise, high-quality, and technically sound Reliability Standards. Several important components of this evolution are: (i) the results-based Reliability Standards initiative; (ii) the P 81

	directives from prior orders that address the substantive performance goals of the BPS. 109: expanded background sections, purpose sections, or explanations of intent, should not contradict or seek to supersede or interpret the requirements within a Reliability Standard. 110: a requirement cannot be retired without its associated reliability benefit being addressed fully in another requirement or Standard. 111: revised Reliability Standards should include objective language rather than subjective modifiers, and should not include language requiring NERC or a Regional Entity to assess whether a registered entity intended to violate a Standard, nor whether a registered entity failed to perform due to, for example, negligence or human error. 112: revised Reliability Standards should not reduce BPS reliability from that which would be required by the existing approved Standards.	project; (iii) changes to the *Standard Processes Manual*; (iv) reorganization of the NERC Standards department; and (v) the work of the IERP. 107-108: Addressing Commission directives relating to Reliability Standards is a major priority to facilitate the transformation to steady-state Reliability Standards. As of December 2012, there were 191 outstanding Commission directives that were related to Reliability Standards development. More than half of the total number of Commission-issued directives were addressed during 2013. At the February 2014 meeting of the NERC Standards Oversight and Technology Committee (SOTC), it was reported that 128 directives had been addressed by the end of 2013, with 107 remaining. NERC anticipates that 90% of Commission directives issued to date will be resolved between the end of 2014 and the first half of 2015. *See Overview of NERC Activities and Accomplishments in the Five-Year Period*, page 12. 109: The NERC *Standard Processes Manual* explicitly states that "[t]he only mandatory and enforceable components of a Reliability Standard are the: (1) applicability, (2) Requirements, and the (3) effective dates. The additional components are included in the Reliability Standard for informational purposes, to establish the relevant scope and technical paradigm, and to provide guidance to Functional Entities concerning how compliance will be assessed by the Compliance Enforcement Authority."

		See Section 2.5 of the NERC *Standard Processes Manual*, Appendix 3A to the NERC Rules of Procedure. 110: The IERP works in conjunction with the RISC to ensure requirements are not recommended for retirement so as to leave gaps in reliability. Additionally, NERC systematically manages the development of new Reliability Standards and revisions to standards, in areas of highest need and importance, through its rolling three-year *Reliability Standards Development Plan* (RSDP). The RSDP is revised annually and identifies and prioritizes Reliability Standards development projects in the immediate three-year time horizon, taking into account, among other information, perceived gaps in the Reliability Standards, proposals for closing those gaps, and timing priorities for standards development projects. *See Overview of NERC Activities and Accomplishments in the Five-Year Period*, pages 14-17, 85. 111: The IERP applies content and quality criteria when assessing whether standards are steady-state or need revisions. Additionally, Section 4.6 of the NERC *Standard Processes Manual* requires that NERC Standards staff conduct a quality review of the Reliability Standard, implementation plan, and VRFs and violation severity level (VSLs) in parallel with the development of the Reliability Standard and implementation plan, to assess whether the documents are within the scope of the associated standard authorization request (SAR), whether

		the Reliability Standard is clear and enforceable as written, and whether the Reliability Standard meets the criteria specified in NERC's Benchmarks for Excellent Standards and criteria for governmental approval of Reliability Standards. Item #4 of NERC's *Ten Benchmarks of an Excellent Reliability Standard* requires that "[e]ach performance requirement shall be stated so as to be objectively measurable by a third party with knowledge or expertise in the area. Each performance requirement shall have one or more associated measures used to objectively evaluate compliance with the requirement. If performance can be practically measured quantitatively, metrics shall be provided to determine satisfactory performance." *See Overview of NERC Activities and Accomplishments in the Five-Year Period*, pages 15-16; Section 4.6 of the NERC *Standard Processes Manual*, Appendix 3A to the NERC Rules of Procedure; and *Ten Benchmarks of an Excellent Reliability Standard*, available at: http://www.nerc.com/pa/Stand/Resources/Documents/10BenchmarksofExcellentReliabilityStandards.pdf. 112: Section 4.6 of the NERC *Standard Processes Manual* requires that NERC Standards staff conduct a quality review of the Reliability Standard, implementation plan, and VRFs and VSLs in parallel with the development or modification of the Reliability Standard and implementation plan, to assess whether the documents are within the scope of the associated SAR, whether the Reliability Standard is clear and enforceable as written, and whether the Reliability Standard meets the criteria specified in NERC's Benchmarks for

		Excellent Standards and criteria for governmental approval of Reliability Standards. *See* Section 4.6 of the *NERC Standard Processes Manual*, Appendix 3A to the NERC Rules of Procedure.
102	NERC should determine whether there are new or modified Reliability Standards that would address identified gaps that may belong in the high priority group.	Two of the recommendations made by the IERP when it presented its report to the NERC Board of Trustees in August 2013 were that NERC address seven areas (high-level gaps) not currently addressed by the Reliability Standards, and complete standards development projects to address gaps within individual requirements. The IERP also made recommendations regarding compliance monitoring, prioritization for addressing the identified gaps, using risk to determine whether a future standard is needed, and use of the IERP's identified criteria to determine the quality and content as future standards are developed. The potential reliability gaps identified by the IERP were evaluated by the RISC and assigned in some cases to active drafting projects. The IERP recommendations that apply to Reliability Standards that were not part of active drafting projects were assigned to teams that conduct periodic reviews of Reliability Standards in the future for consideration. Additionally, NERC systematically manages the development of new Reliability Standards and revisions to Reliability Standards, in areas of highest need and importance, through its rolling three-year RSDP. The RSDP is revised annually and identifies and prioritizes Reliability Standards development projects in the immediate three-year time horizon, taking into account, among other information, perceived gaps in the Reliability Standards, proposals for

		closing those gaps, and timing priorities for standards development projects. *See Overview of NERC Activities and Accomplishments in the Five-Year Period*, pages 15-17, 85.
74	Urge NERC to take measures, including hiring staff with the technical capability to independently advise the NERC Board of Trustees regarding the substantive content of a proposed Reliability Standard.	Although much of the work in the Reliability Standards development process is performed by committees and task groups comprised of volunteer technical experts, significant NERC professional staff resources are needed to facilitate and coordinate the work of industry volunteers, to administer the process and help ensure that it functions efficiently, and to provide input to support development of technically sound standards. NERC has budgeted 25.92 full-time equivalents (FTEs) for the Reliability Standards Program for 2014, which is a slight decrease of 0.58 FTEs from the 2013 budget and reflects the application of the 4% personnel attrition. In accordance with its 2013 business plan and budget, NERC has added 3 positions in the Reliability Standards Program in 2013. NERC has improved the composition of SDTs by enhancing the selection process to identify, for each project, the necessary technical, writing, and project management expertise to form a balanced team that will foster improved effectiveness and enhanced efficiency. In addition, SDTs now receive increased NERC staff support, including dedicated legal support for each project. Each standard development project is staffed by a lead standard developer, and many projects have a second supporting standard developer. Standard developers provide project management and facilitation experience as well as additional skills,

		including technical writing, legal skills, and outreach/ consensus-building skills, to the SDT, which contributes to the development of high-quality Reliability Standards. Additionally, Section 4.6 of the NERC *Standard Processes Manual* requires that NERC Standards staff conduct a quality review of the Reliability Standard, implementation plan, and VRFs and VSLs in parallel with the development of the Reliability Standard and implementation plan, to assess whether the documents are within the scope of the associated SAR, whether the Reliability Standard is clear and enforceable as written, and whether the Reliability Standard meets the criteria specified in NERC's Benchmarks for Excellent Standards and criteria for governmental approval of Reliability Standards. Item #5 of NERC's *Ten Benchmarks of an Excellent Reliability Standard* requires that "[e]ach reliability standard shall be based upon sound engineering and operating judgment, analysis, or experience, as determined by expert practitioners in the particular field." *See NERC 2014 Request for Acceptance of Business Plan and Budget*, page 42, Docket No. RR13-9-000; *Overview of NERC Activities and Accomplishments in the Five-Year Period*, pages 31-32; Section 4.6 of the NERC *Standard Processes Manual*, Appendix 3A to the NERC Rules of Procedure; and *Ten Benchmarks of an Excellent Reliability Standard*, available at: http://www.nerc.com/pa/Stand/Resources/Documents/10BenchmarksofExcellentReliabilityStandards.pdf.
152	Encourages NERC to intensify its efforts to provide additional oversight and guidelines to	

	assist registered entities in accurately determining that an asset is critical to the BPS (critical cyber asset identification).	The CIP Version 4 and 5 Reliability Standards move away from the use of the registered entities' risk-based assessment methodology in the identification of critical cyber assets. In Order No. 791, the Commission approved NERC's proposed implementation plan for CIP Version 5 to bypass CIP Version 4 and move directly to CIP Version 5. Recognizing that registered entities are in various stages of implementation of CIP Versions 3 and 4, NERC addressed the need for flexibility as well as the need to identify and address the associated transition challenges for the industry through guidance. *See Overview of NERC Activities and Accomplishments in the Five-Year Period*, pages 34-36; and *Cybersecurity Standards Transition Guidance*, available at: http://www.nerc.com/pa/comp/Resources/ResourcesDL/Cyber%20Security%20Standards%20Transition%20Guidance%20(Revised).pdf.
154	NERC's proposed action item for "fast-track" interpretations of CIP Reliability Standards lacks specificity. NERC states that this process would not require implementation of the full existing Reliability Standards development process, and could improve efficiency without sacrificing quality, but otherwise NERC does not provide any details how it would implement this proposal. While we support efforts to provide greater guidance on CIP	A CIP-specific fast-track process for interpretations of CIP Reliability Standards has not been developed during the assessment period. However, the revisions to the *Standard Processes Manual* approved by the Commission on June 26, 2013, included a waiver provision that allows for modifications to the Reliability Standards development process for good cause, with five days' notice and reporting of the exercise of a waiver to the NERC SOTC. This waiver provision could be used to fast-track the development of an interpretation of a Reliability Standard, including a CIP Reliability Standard.

	implementation, we are concerned whether "fast track" interpretations will provide the consistency, clarity and transparency for meaningful assistance to entities that must comply with the CIP Reliability Standards. If NERC develops this proposal, NERC should submit it to the Commission for review, possibly in the form of a petition for approval of modifications to NERC's Rules of Procedure.	*See Overview of NERC Activities and Accomplishments in the Five-Year Period*, page 24.
169	Regarding Event Analysis, directs NERC to establish criteria it will use to select a subset of events, which should focus on those with the highest impact to reliability, to provide important "lessons learned" and submit the criteria in the informational report.	NERC has developed a voluntary Event Analysis process, including criteria to categorize events, that delivers quality, timely and actionable lessons learned to registered entities. Development of the Event Analysis process was led by the Event Analysis Subcommittee (EAS), a cross-functional group of industry experts. The Event Analysis process begins with a registered entity making an initial assessment of an occurrence and determining if the occurrence falls within one of five qualifying event categories. The event category is determined by weighing the level of significance of a qualifying event and its impact on the interconnected BPS. After a qualifying event occurs, the applicable Regional Entity holds a planning meeting with all involved parties, including other registered entities. If a qualifying event is categorized as Category 3 or higher, the registered entity will prepare an Event Analysis Report (EAR), in which the registered entity describes the sequence of events and identifies causal factors and appropriate corrective actions. The registered entity then submits the EAR to the applicable Regional Entity or Entities for review, and then to NERC.

		The registered entity, in collaboration with the ERO, drafts the proposed lessons learned from the event and submits them to the applicable Regional Entity. Once the event analysis is complete, NERC shares any lessons learned with industry by publishing them as soon as practical. NERC staff analyzes EARs to identify reliability risks, trends, and potential gaps in Reliability Standards, compliance, and other programs. NERC also reviews the EARs to assign descriptive cause codes, which assist in identifying trends and corrective actions that will prevent recurrence of similar events. Since initial implementation of the Event Analysis process in 2010, there have been more than 388 qualified events reported to the ERO and more than 77 lessons learned, including 14 published in 2013. *See Overview of NERC Activities and Accomplishments in the Five-Year Period*, pages 68-71.

170-171, 173-178	170: Directs NERC to work with the Regional Entities to ensure that they provide to Commission staff sufficient and timely information on each event. NERC must report on steps it will take to implement this directive in the informational report. 171: Directs NERC to develop communication protocols between NERC, the Commission and the Regional Entities for use during events and report on its progress in the informational filing. 174: If a Compliance Violation Investigation (CVI) is initiated, it should be conducted concurrently with an Event Analysis and both processes should begin as soon as possible to the extent necessary. 175: maintain the respective focuses of the CVI and Event Analysis to ensure independence of the roles each mechanism is designed to fulfill. 176: In order to create more efficiency in the event analysis and CVI processes, all event analysis materials obtained by the event analysis team, including requests for information and responses, should be sent, at the same time as issued or collected, to the	170 - 171: NERC staff compiles and provides a daily summary of newly reported qualifying events to FERC staff, NERC's Event Investigation group under Compliance Operations, and Regional Entity situational awareness and event analysis points of contact. Event status is reviewed in a biweekly conference with NERC and FERC staff, and in a separate weekly conference call with NERC and Regional Entity staff. 174 - 178: Compliance Investigations (formerly CVIs) are governed by Section 3.4 of the *Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program* (CMEP), Appendix 4C to the NERC Rules of Procedure. Event Analysis is governed by Sections 807 and 808 of the NERC Rules of Procedure, along with Appendix 8. These are two separate processes within NERC. Additionally, widespread use of mechanisms like the voluntary Event Analysis process has in practice greatly reduced the need to initiate formal Compliance Investigations following events. *See Overview of NERC Activities and Accomplishments in the Five-Year Period*, pages 68-71.

	compliance staff in each applicable Regional Entity and to NERC compliance staff. These materials, insofar as they relate to a U.S. registered entity, also should be available to Commission staff upon request. 177: Any communication between an event analysis team and a corresponding CVI team generally should be one-way only: from the event analysis team to the CVI team. An exception to this practice would be appropriate only for factual information collected by a CVI team that bears on an important industry advisory that the event analysis team would make (or recommend that NERC make) as part of an initial event analysis determination. 178: NERC shall report on the steps it has taken to clarify the interface between event analyses and compliance activities, including Compliance Investigations, in response to the Commission's guidance in the informational filing.	
126	Directs NERC to continue its oversight of Regional Entity audits with NERC staff that are technically proficient.	As outlined in the NERC Rules of Procedure and the Regional Entity Delegation Agreements, NERC is responsible for oversight of the Regional Entities compliance monitoring program. NERC restructured its oversight process to include a participatory role during Regional Entity compliance. In addition to oversight engagements, NERC has developed the Key Reliability Standard Spot Check (KRSSC), performs

		capability assessments of the Regional Entities, reviews reports submitted by the Regional Entities and conducts two workshops per year in addition to other auditor and lead auditor training. The KRSSC is a study of a single Reliability Standard and a sampling multiple audits across all eight Regional Entities to determine consistency of approach. The results of the study are then provided to the regions to identify improvement opportunities. Starting in 2012, NERC began the process of reviewing the background, education and credentials of the regional compliance auditors and providing feedback to Regional Entities. NERC reads each audit report submitted by the Regional Entities prior to posting to FERC. NERC conducts auditor workshops, performs lead auditor training and provides resources to enhance the consistency of auditor practices across the Regional Entities as well as to improve the technical proficiency of those NERC staff that provide oversight of the Regional Entities' compliance monitoring activities. Finally, NERC participates in the ERO and Compliance and Enforcement Management Group (ECEMG) on a monthly basis where audit activities and projects that improve audit processes and identify opportunities to drive consistency are discussed. *See also* Sections 402 and 403 of the NERC Rules of Procedure; and Attachment 3, pages 16-21.
127	Directs NERC and Regional Entities to have their staff, and Commission staff where applicable, discuss the appropriate role of	Section 3.1.5.3 of the CMEP defines who may participate as an observer in a Regional Entity compliance audit of a Registered Entity. This section also stipulates that

	observers during their pre-audit meetings or conferences.	"Compliance Audit observers and attendees are not Compliance Audit team members and do not participate in conducting the Compliance Audit or in making Compliance Audit findings and determinations." *See* Section 3.1.5.3 of the CMEP, Appendix 4C to the NERC Rules of Procedure.
220	Direct NERC to explain how it would implement risk-based approaches to compliance activities and at the same time complete its currently-required audit cycles.	A key, strategic transformation that NERC, in collaboration with the Regional Entities and stakeholders, embarked upon during the assessment period is the construction of a risk-based model for compliance monitoring and enforcement. This risk-based approach enables NERC to focus ERO and industry resource investment on the most important issues to BPS reliability. *See Overview of NERC Activities and Accomplishments in the Five-Year Period*, pages 50-62.
153	NERC should ensure that there is quality, uniformity and consistency amongst the Regional Entities when conducting compliance audits and spot checks relating to CIP Reliability Standards. NERC should consider the worthiness of an ongoing "accreditation" of qualified auditor candidates through continued education. A program that establishes the requisite level of knowledge and skills needed to maintain necessary levels of technical expertise on a continuous basis should be the goal of the CIP	The NERC CIP audit staff works closely with the Regional Entity CIP staff and provides guidance to the ERO CIP Auditors. NERC provided direct feedback in the past on audit reports and has participated in post-audit phone calls to review best practices, lessons learned and staff qualifications. In order to share best practices and promote consistency, NERC has utilized Regional Entity working groups such as the CIP Compliance Working Group (CCWG) and the ECEMG to discuss technical and policy CIP issues. *See also Overview of NERC Activities and Accomplishments in the Five-Year Period*, pages 53-54, 61-62, for a discussion of the *ERO Enterprise Compliance Auditor Manual*, which

	audit program. These qualifications should be designed to verify the knowledge and skills of the auditor in the area of CIP, control systems and information technology.	includes the *Compliance Auditor Handbook* and *Compliance Auditor Checklist*, as well as auditor qualifications.
118	We suggest that NERC and Regional Entities consider providing ongoing training for their compliance auditors on effective auditing techniques. We expect that NERC's establishment of a Regional Operations Group that focuses on auditors will rapidly improve audit consistency and performance.	As part of its Compliance Operations function, NERC is responsible for supporting the development of qualified and trained compliance operations and auditing staffs at both NERC and the Regional Entities. In addition to the development of a common set of auditor qualifications, NERC ensures the proper qualifications of personnel for auditing and other essential compliance roles through training. *See Overview of NERC Activities and Accomplishments in the Five-Year Period*, page 62.
121	Encourages NERC to continually review its RSAWs to improve their quality and usefulness.	Prior to 2013, NERC developed RSAWs after regulatory approval of a Reliability Standard and at least six months before the Reliability Standard's enforcement date. Today, RSAWs are written concurrently with new Reliability Standard development projects. Each Reliability Standards project is assigned dedicated staff support and led by compliance. NERC compliance staff are coordinating with Regional Entity staff. This increased and ongoing coordination will help ensure that standard drafting teams, compliance staff and RSAWs are aligned with the intent of Reliability Standards, thereby increasing the quality and usefulness of these documents *See Overview of NERC Activities and Accomplishments in the Five-Year Period*, pages 19-21.

180	Directs NERC to continue developing scenario analysis in the long-term reliability assessments. The Commission requires NERC to update its reliability assessment protocols to establish a requirement for an annual scenario analysis and to file this update in the informational filing.	The latest version of the NERC *Reliability Assessment Guidebook* is version 3.1 (dated August 2012). This version was approved by the NERC Planning Committee in June 2012. *See* http://www.nerc.com/comm/PC/Pages/Reliability%20Assessment%20Subcommittee%20(RAS)/Reliability-Assessment-Guidebook.aspx. This version makes more explicit the requirement for an annual scenario analysis to be included in all future long-term reliability assessment (LTRA) reports. Since 2009, the following LTRAs include scenario analyses: • *2009 Long-Term Reliability Assessment* • *2010 Long-Term Reliability Assessmen*t • *2011 Long-Term Reliability Assessment* • *2012 Long-Term Reliability Assessment* Additional scenarios completed as part of the Reliability Assessment program in support of the LTRA: • *2013 Special Reliability Assessment: Accommodating an Increased Dependence on Natural Gas for Electric Power*: http://www.nerc.com/pa/RAPA/ra/Reliability%20Assessments%20DL/NERC_PhaseII_FINAL.pdf. • *2011 Potential Impacts of Future Environmental Regulations:* http://www.nerc.com/pa/RAPA/ra/Reliability%20Assessments%20DL/EPA%20Section.pdf.

		• *2010 Special Reliability Scenario Assessment: Resource Adequacy Impacts of Potential U.S. Environmental Regulations:* http://www.nerc.com/pa/RAPA/ra/Reliability%20Assessments%20DL/EPA_Scenario_Final_v2.pdf. • *2010 Special Reliability Scenario Assessment: Potential Reliability Impacts of Swift Demand Growth After a Long-Term Recession:* http://www.nerc.com/pa/RAPA/ra/Reliability%20Assessments%20DL/NERC_Swift_Scenario_Aug_2010.pdf. • *2010 Reliability Impacts of Climate Change Initiatives: Technology Assessment and Scenario Development:* http://www.nerc.com/pa/RAPA/ra/Reliability%20Assessments%20DL/RICCI_2010.pdf. *See also Overview of NERC Activities and Accomplishments in the Five-Year Period*, pages 71-73.
183	Directs NERC to develop a plan to address capacity and energy in its reliability assessment methodology and a timeline for executing the plan, and submit the plan and timeline as part of the 2011 LTRA and file its preliminary plan and timeline in the informational filing.	NERC implemented probabilistic assessments in the LTRA in 2012 with a trial phase based on voluntary participation occurring in 2011. A detailed plan was included in the 2011 LTRA. In summary, the plan includes the following milestone dates: (1) Request for participation in voluntary trial period (March 2011); (2) Draft methods due to NERC (May 2011); (3) Results of 2011 study (October 2011); (4) Trial view complete (March 2012);

		(5) 2011 trial results to be included in 2012 LTRA (October 2012); (6) Request for full participation (March 2012); and (7) 2012 results to be included in 2013 LTRA (October 2013). Additionally, appropriate modifications were made to NERC's *Reliability Assessment Guidebook* to reflect these changes in the reliability assessment process. NERC completed the "Pilot" assessment in July 2011. *See* NERC's *Pilot Probabilistic Assessment* (dated June 2012), available at: http://www.nerc.com/pa/RAPA/ra/Reliability%20Assessments%20DL/2012_ProbA.pdf. NERC completed the first NERC-wide probabilistic study using the 2012 LTRA reference case in June 2013. *See NERC Probabilistic Assessment*, available at: http://www.nerc.com/pa/RAPA/ra/Reliability%20Assessments%20DL/NERC_2012_Probabilistic_Assessment_Final.pdf. These probabilistic assessments will be completed on a biannual basis. *See* NERC's *2013 Long-Term Reliability Assessment* published in December 2013, available at: http://www.nerc.com/pa/RAPA/ra/Reliability%20Assessments%20DL/2013_LTRA_FINAL.pdf.
185	Directs NERC to consider establishing permanent databases that could be automatically populated with: (i) new	NERC and the Regional Entities are working on the development of the Reliability Assessment Data System (RADS). While this automated data system is still under

	transmission projects data from the Regional Entities; (ii) generation interconnection queue data; and (iii) other data relevant for reliability assessment. The Commission requires NERC to discuss the feasibility of this improvement, and to the extent databases covering this information already exist, discuss how to better utilize or integrate that information into the reliability assessments in the informational filing.	development, significant improvements to data collection and validation have already been made at the Regional Entity level to support RADS in 2014. The NERC Board of Trustees has also approved mandatory data reporting concerning conventional generating units, transmission outages, and demand response availability. NERC collects this data using its Generating Availability Data System (GADS), Transmission Availability Data System (TADS), and Demand Response Availability Data System (DADS) databases. This unique series of databases is used to collect, record, and retrieve operating information tracking, reporting, analyzing, and improving the reliability performance of the BPS. Regional Entity staff work with NERC staff to ensure the data submitted by entities is timely, complete, and accurate. *See* Attachment 3, pages 143, 145.
57	NERC should continue to seek recognition in Canada and Mexico, as appropriate and keep the Commission informed about the status of those efforts.	NERC continues to engage in substantial efforts to gain and maintain recognition as the ERO in Canada and Mexico. In Canada, where by its constitution the regulation of electricity is primarily within the jurisdiction of each province rather than the national government, NERC's activities to obtain and maintain recognition are conducted on a province-by-province basis. Depending on the particular circumstances of each province, NERC has gained recognition through statutes or other provisions of provincial law, or through a memorandum of understanding with appropriate entities in the province.

		With respect to Mexico, the Comisión Federal de Electricidad (CFE), through the Centro Nacional de Control de Energia (CENACE), and the Area de Control Baja California (ACBC), have entered into a membership and operating agreement (MOA) with WECC. The MOA provides for WECC to assist CENACE and ACBC in monitoring compliance by "Designated Entities" (the Mexican equivalent of U.S. registered entities) with Mexico Reliability Standards for Baja California, Mexico. CENACE has approved a total of ten Mexico Reliability Standards. Pursuant to the MOA, WECC monitors compliance with Mexico Reliability Standards, but does not have enforcement or registration (designation) authority for CFE. WECC provides compliance monitoring, reviews proposed and completed mitigation plans, and provides assessment recommendations with respect to alleged violations. *See Overview of NERC Activities and Accomplishments in the Five-Year Period*, pages 90-91. *See* Attachment 1, pages 34-52.
195	Directs NERC to include a report in the informational filing detailing the feasibility of establishing a NERC-led Strategic Planning initiative utilizing multiple year budgets.	NERC and the Regional Entities jointly develop a three-year rolling *ERO Enterprise Strategic Plan* which includes goals, objectives and deliverables over the planning period and is used in the development of each entity's business plan and budget. The development and implementation of these common formats and methodologies has helped to continuously improve the efficiency of the business plan and budget preparation process and enabled NERC and Regional Entity financial and accounting staffs and senior management to devote greater attention to more substantive budget issues.

		See Attachment 3, pages 155-156.
138, 217	138: Agrees that NERC should develop performance metrics that help to ensure consistent implementation of the compliance enforcement process across the Regional Entities. 217: Agree that the development of reasonable metrics for assessment of the Regional Entities' performance of their compliance functions will increase efficiency of the enforcement process, provide incentives for effectively, timely handling of Regional Entity caseloads, and furnish important data for the next Performance Assessment.	NERC and the Regional Entities continue to focus efforts on the development of a comprehensive and interrelated suite of metrics. Through the Enforcement Functional Group (EFG, formerly ESMWG) forum, NERC and the Regional Entities have worked together to develop a set of enforcement metrics for tracking of the ERO key compliance enforcement activities. A list of final metrics was agreed upon and a set of common parameters (i.e. business rules) was developed to ensure that metric measurements by NERC and the Regional Entities remained consistent. Parameters agreed upon included violation start date, dismissal date, violations active and in inventory among the Regional Entities and NERC. NERC and the Regional Entities developed four metrics that measure the performance of NERC and each of the Regional Entities with respect to enforcement processing. These metrics are as follows: (i) Caseload Index; (ii) Violations in Inventory; (iii) Violation Aging; and (iv) Mitigation Activity Aging. Future initiatives can take up discussion of additional metrics to add to this initial set, particularly in the areas of measuring enforcement quality and effectiveness. (1) The Caseload Index is a metric that computes the number of months that it would take to clear the violations that are either in the Regional Entity's inventory, NERC's

		inventory based upon the respective average monthly processing rate over the preceding twelve-month period. This metric is useful in evaluating the efficiency of processing violations over time. (2) The Violations in Inventory metric is related to the Caseload Index but is also reported separately. It shows how many violations are in the ERO caseload. Month to month comparisons of violations in inventory can show how the workload of each Regional Entity, NERC, and ERO is changing. (3) The Aging metric identifies where older violations, which have not been filed with FERC or otherwise resolved, are located. The Violation Aging chart, which represents this metric graphically, takes all violations in the ERO inventory and shows by region how many violations were discovered in each year from 2007 to 2013. (4) The fourth metric, Mitigation Activity Aging, identifies the status of mitigation activity based upon the age of violations. NERC's BOTCC receives quarterly updates on these enforcement metrics. The latest update was presented to the BOTCC in May 2014. The *ERO Enterprise Strategic Plan 2014-2017* includes ERO Enterprise performance metrics that will be initially used in 2014. These metrics are intended as indicators of the overall effectiveness of the ERO Enterprise in achieving its mission and the goals and objectives outlined in the *ERO Enterprise*

		Strategic Plan 2014-2017. There are four overarching metrics focused on overall effectiveness in addressing BPS risks and improving reliability. In addition, there are a number of supporting measures that assess the effectiveness of the key operational elements of the ERO Enterprise. The Caseload Index and the Mitigation Activity Aging are included in these supporting measures. NERC reports the results of these metrics on an ERO Enterprise-wide basis, and also, as applicable, distinguishes results for NERC and individual Regional Entities.
215	NERC must provide training to Regional Entities and disseminate to each Regional Entity information and direction resulting from its review of proposed violations and penalties from all eight Regional Entities.	NERC conducts separate workshops for Regional Entity staff and industry members. The workshops are offered in February and September of each year. The workshop includes instructions and practical examples and exercises on compliance and enforcement issues including risk assessments under various Find, Fix, Track and Report (FFT), Spreadsheet Notice of Penalty, and Notice of Penalty scenarios. On August 29, 2013, NERC provided training to industry and Regional Entities on finding and analyzing available public NERC enforcement data in order to identify pertinent reliability issues and trends. The training described the raw and analyzed data available on the NERC website. It also showed where NERC's compliance and enforcement trends documents, annual reports and directives could be found. NERC provides feedback and training to the Regional Entities on a monthly basis during its review of the proposed violations and penalties. This ongoing process allows NERC

		and the Regional Entities to target specific issues applicable to each specific Regional Entity. NERC disseminates to each Regional Entity information and directions on pressing compliance and enforcement matters. For example, in 2013, NERC provided guidance on the FFT process twice. The first guidance document was disseminated in March and explained how to address risk in FFT situations. The document included an updated template and requirements for FFT filings. The second guidance was issued in July, following the Commission's order approving NERC's proposed enhancements to the FFT process. The guidance included a detailed description of the updated FFT process and associated FFT templates. Furthermore, NERC conducts periodic spot checks on various aspects of the Regional Entities' processes and outcomes. For example, NERC conducted a spot check of letters of dismissals from the eight Regional Entities and disseminated issues identified during the spot check, and the potential areas of improvement. NERC developed standardized templates for letters of dismissals and distributed them to the Regional Entities along with its findings. NERC has also scheduled spot checks of mitigation plans and settlements agreements issued by the Regional Entities and will distribute appropriate guidelines based on its findings.
216	Support the suggestions of the Regional Entities for the NERC Board of Trustees Compliance Committee to increase communications with Regional Entities regarding its decisions.	NERC has increased communications with the Regional Entities by providing various forums and channels for communication.

		NERC disseminates compliance information and guidance to the eight Regional Entities mainly through the Enforcement Functional Group (EFG) and the Compliance Monitoring Process Working Group (CMPWG), both of which include representatives from each Regional Entity. The groups meet regularly to discuss compliance issues with NERC, and receive written guidance directives, as appropriate. Furthermore, NERC Enforcement staff is available to answer questions and respond to inquiries from the Regional Entities. For example, in addition to the written guidance on the enhanced FFT process, staff has provided the Regional Entities with additional guidance and assistance throughout the new FFT implementation process. *See also* Attachment 3, pages 66-69.
217	Directs NERC to report on the timeline and plan for development of a non-public central compliance data hub, including details regarding how it will operate, what information it will contain, and whether it will supplant existing processes for providing non-public data to the Commission.	The Regional Entities have implemented compliance data systems to collect and track violation data. These systems interface with NERC's centralized database. At the Regional Entity level, these systems have enabled substantial enforcement processing efficiencies. At the NERC level, these systems have enhanced NERC's ability to identify compliance and enforcement trends and compile accurate metrics. *See* Attachment 3, page 69.

Attachment 5: Status of Areas for Improvement Identified in the Order on the Three-Year ERO Performance Assessment

218-219	Provides that if NERC still wants to pursue a "warning ticket" mechanism, it must explain how the mechanism would work without running afoul of the concerns raised. NERC is free to provide that explanation in the informational filing or, if it chooses to take additional time to develop the mechanism, in a later filing.	NERC has not pursued a "warning ticket" mechanism. FFTs, for example, are remediated issues, are recorded, and can be used in a subsequent penalty matter. *See generally* Attachment 3, pages 66-69.
134	NERC should continue to encourage, and develop incentives for, registered entities to self-report potential violations to the Regional Entities.	Whether or not the registered entity self-reported is a factor considered under the NERC *Sanction Guidelines*. *See* Section 3.3.3 of the *Sanction Guidelines*, Appendix 4B to the NERC Rules of Procedure; and *Overview of NERC Activities and Accomplishments in the Five-Year Period*, pages 50-51, 55-56. *See* also Attachment 1, page 29.

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
DOCKET NO. RR14-___

NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY CORPORATION

ATTACHMENT 6

TO

FIVE-YEAR ELECTRIC RELIABILITY ORGANIZATION PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT REPORT

NERC'S PLAN AND INITIATIVE FOR IMPROVING COORDINATED OPERATIONS ACROSS THE ERO ENTERPRISE

JULY 21, 2014

Improving Coordinated Operations Across The Electric Reliability Organization (ERO) Enterprise

February 2014

Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to describe a vision and path forward to achieving a highly effective and efficient Electric Reliability Organization (ERO) Enterprise. The North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) and eight associated Regional Entities[1] comprise the ERO Enterprise[2]. Part I provides background on why the ERO Enterprise was created in its current form, the unique aspects of the regulatory and delegation models applied, the relationship with the regulated industry and governance, benefits and successes of the ERO Enterprise approach thus far, and remaining opportunities.

Part II lays out a vision for a successful end state, and identifies changes needed to get there, including:

- Refining roles and responsibilities
- Coordinating strategic planning
- Coordinating operational decision-making
- Achieving consistency
- Sharing tools and infrastructure for delegated functions
- Coordinating communications

PART I – BACKGROUND

Creation of the ERO Enterprise

The mission of the ERO Enterprise is to ensure the reliability of the bulk power system in North America, including the continental United States and Canada, and the northern portion of Baja California, Mexico. Entities under the jurisdiction of the ERO Enterprise are the approximately 1,900 registered users, owners, and operators of the North American bulk power system – a system that serves the needs of over 334 million people, includes installed electricity production capacity of approximately 1,200 gigawatts, and operates 211,000 miles of high voltage transmission.

In the face of increasing competition and industry restructuring, and in the context of the August 2003 Northeast Blackout, the U.S. Congress added §215 to the Federal Power Act as part of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to create the regime of mandatory reliability standards, to be developed and enforced in the U.S. by an Electric Reliability Organization (ERO) certified by, and operating under the oversight of, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. NERC was certified as the ERO in July 2006 and thereafter delegation agreements were established with the eight Regional Entities.

[1] The Regional Entities are: Florida Reliability Coordinating Council (FRCC), Midwest Reliability Organization (MRO), Northeast Power Coordinating Council (NPCC), Reliability First Corporation (RFC), SERC Reliability Corporation (SERC), Southwest Power Pool Regional Entity (SPP RE), Texas Reliability Entity (TRE), and Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC).

[2] As used here, "ERO Enterprise" refers to the informal affiliation of NERC and the eight Regional Entities for the purpose of coordinating goals, objectives, metrics, methods and practices across statutory activities. The ERO Enterprise does not supplant obligations of each organization through statutes, regulations, and delegation agreements, but rather enhances coordination through collaborative decision-making and communications.

Equivalent relationships have been sought and for the most part realized in Canada and Mexico. Prior to adoption of §215 in the U.S., the provinces of Ontario (in 2002) and New Brunswick (in 2004) adopted all reliability standards that were approved by the NERC Board as mandatory and enforceable within their respective jurisdictions through market rules. NERC presently has legislation in place or memoranda of understanding with governmental authorities in Ontario, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Québec, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta, and with the National Energy Board of Canada[3].

Regulatory Model

When enacting legal authority for mandatory and enforceable reliability standards, Congress chose the model of audited self-regulation[4], as reflected in the consensus legislative discussions. Audited self-regulation means congressional or agency (in this case FERC) delegation of power to a private organization to implement or enforce laws or agency regulations with respect to the regulated entities, with powers of independent action and review retained by the delegating agency. The advantage of the audited self-regulatory model is that the statute and agency rules are supplemented and enforced by those entities most directly involved in the regulated activity, which may provide more detailed knowledge of the operational or technical aspects of the regulated activities.

[3] NERC standards are mandatory and enforceable in Ontario and New Brunswick as a matter of provincial law. The provincial law now provides for mandatory compliance and enforcement with Reliability Standards. Manitoba has adopted legislation setting out a framework for standards to become mandatory for users, owners, and operators in the province. In addition, NERC has been designated as the "electric reliability organization" under Alberta's Transportation Regulation, and certain reliability standards have been approved in that jurisdiction; others are pending. NERC and the Northeast Power Coordinating Council (NPCC) have been recognized as standards setting bodies by the Régie de l'énergie of Québec, and Québec has the framework in place for reliability standards to become mandatory. NERC standards are now mandatory in British Columbia and Nova Scotia.

[4] U.S. Code of Federal Regulations, Title 1, Chapter III, Part 305.94-1: "Audited self-regulation is defined as congressional or agency delegation of power to a private self-regulatory organization to implement and enforce laws or agency regulations with respect to the regulated entities, with powers of independent action and review retained by the agency. This self-regulatory organization is often an association of regulated entities formed for the explicit purpose of self-regulation. Audited self-regulation is an alternative for Congress to consider in legislating any regulatory program. Properly implemented and monitored, a program of audited self-regulation may effectively advance the statutory objectives consistent with the public interest and the interests of the regulated entities. In certain circumstances, this approach may result in better regulation because the agency's statute and rules are supplemented and enforced by those entities directly involved in the regulated activity, which may have more detailed knowledge of the operational or technical aspects of that activity. The regulatory program also may be more effective because it can be tailored to the individual industry or group. In addition, the agency's regulatory enforcement costs may be reduced by this approach, although such cost reductions should be considered only if they can be achieved without eroding the effectiveness of enforcement. On the other hand, audited self-regulation may present the significant risks of uneven enforcement, capture of the regulators by the regulated industry, and creating barriers to entry or competition. Where the potential for institutional self-interest is too great, self-regulation is undesirable. Other risks can be lessened by requiring the self-regulatory organization to establish and follow procedures similar to those that would be applicable if the self-regulatory organization were an agency. For these procedures to work, effective interest groups must exist, and must have access to the agency, to raise concerns about the conduct of the self-regulatory organization. And of course, the agency itself must vigilantly oversee the activities of the self-regulatory organization and of the regulated entities themselves."

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As the international, multi-jurisdictional ERO, NERC is authorized to:

- Propose, monitor compliance with, and enforce mandatory reliability standards for the North American bulk power system, subject to regulatory oversight and approvals of FERC in the U.S. and applicable authorities in Canada;
- Conduct near-term and long-term assessments of the reliability and future adequacy of the North American bulk power system;
- Certify bulk power system operators as having and maintaining the necessary knowledge and skills to perform their reliability responsibilities;
- Maintain situational awareness of events and conditions that may threaten the reliability of the bulk power system;
- Coordinate efforts to improve physical and cyber security for the bulk power system of North America;
- Conduct detailed analyses and investigations of system disturbances and unusual events to determine root causes, uncover lessons learned, and issue relevant findings as advisories, recommendations, and essential actions to the industry; and
- Based on lessons learned identify the potential need for new or modified reliability standards, improved compliance, or other initiatives.

In executing its responsibilities, NERC delegates certain authorities to eight organizations, the Regional Entities. Under NERC's oversight, the Regional Entities perform certain aspects of the ERO functions through delegation agreements, which are approved by FERC in the U.S. The delegation agreements with each Regional Entity address, among other things: (i) development of regional reliability standards, (ii) monitoring compliance with and enforcing mandatory reliability standards (both North American wide and regional), certification of registered entities, registration of owners, operators and users of the BPS, (iii) reliability assessment and performance analysis, (iv) training and education, (v) event analysis and reliability improvement and (vi) situation awareness and infrastructure security.

The current regional delegation model was first adopted in 2006, with a January 1, 2007 effective date for the initial delegation agreements between NERC and the Regional Entities. It was at this time that NERC began approving regional business plans and budgets, and funding the statutory activities of the Regional Entities through revenues collected from Load-Serving Entities. NERC's oversight role and the obligations of the regions are addressed in NERC Rules of Procedure and the delegation agreements.

As shown in Figure 1, the international ERO footprint covers North America and is comprised of eight reliability regions.

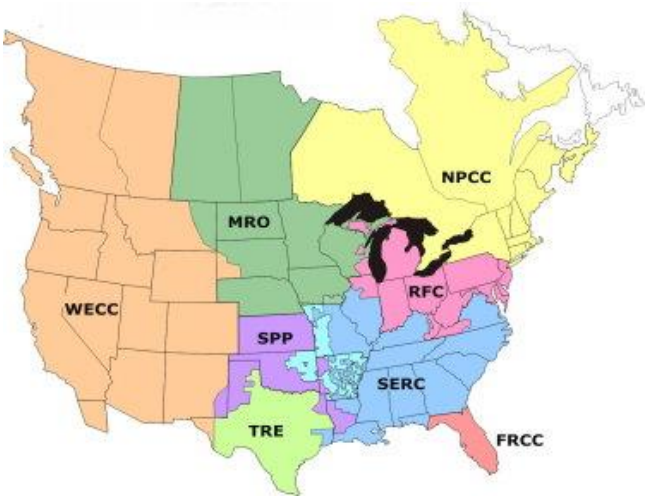


Figure 1 – Map of Regional Entities within NERC

The audited self-regulation model adopted by Congress and the further delegation of statutory functions to Regional Entities present some important benefits and opportunities, but also some challenges. Audited self-regulation results in better regulation because, "[t]he agency's statute and rules are supplemented and enforced by those entities directly involved in the regulated activity, which may have more detailed knowledge of the operational or technical aspects of that activity."[5] This has been the experience with NERC and the Regional Entities since the inception of the ERO in 2006.

The ERO Enterprise is able to directly engage and leverage local and regional technical expertise regarding reliability matters, drafting and commenting on reliability standards, reviewing system events and determining lessons learned, assessing reliability performance and future reliability impacts of emerging issues, just to name a few activities. There exist complex risks, with numerous interdependencies at both the regional and international level, and the regional structure allows us to leverage the expertise across this entire footprint. The regional structure brings greater input from industry experts than could be accommodated in a single ERO organization, and encourages senior utility executive involvement on Regional Entity boards. Experts participate in regional technical committees, providing local and regional system knowledge and experience essential in maintaining a strong technical understanding of the reliability of the interconnected bulk power system. Industry engagement in NERC and the Regional Entities builds commitment, or buy-in, from industry in successful reliability outcomes. The current model can foster reliability excellence whereas a traditional top down regulatory model would tend to enforce reliability adequacy.

Bulk power system risks are dispersed, interdependent and can be asymmetrical across North America. Combining centralized and regional activities is well-suited to identifying and addressing these risks. Given the highly technical and intricate complexities of planning and operating the bulk power system – and given that an interconnected system is a "system of systems" - the concept of local, regional and wide-area views

[5] U.S. Code of Federal Regulations, Title 1, Chapter III, Part 305.94-1

on risk is necessary and has been long accepted.[6] It follows that a "top-down" view of interconnected system risks and a "bottom-up" view of individual system risks is most effective at triangulating the priority risks to be addressed at both a local and interconnection-wide level.

With active engagement of industry experts in the ERO Enterprise technical committees and activities, it is important to maintain effective governance to ensure entities that are regulated do not unduly influence the determination and/or conclusions of the ERO Enterprise. Balance is achieved through governance controls including, but not limited to: an independent board at NERC and segregation of responsibilities and decision-making, especially on compliance and enforcement matters; governance measures at the regions, such as legal and operational separation from registered entities and in some regions the inclusion of independent directors; and, maintaining compliance and enforcement matters as confidential and separate from direct stakeholder participation. Independence and objectivity of NERC and the Regional Entities are further enhanced by government authority oversight, including periodic audits. This layered delegation approach – government to NERC, and NERC to Regional Entities – allows much more active participation by industry participants at the regional level, while maintaining independent oversight by NERC and applicable government agencies.

The distributed governance structure of the ERO Enterprise, with NERC and each Regional Entity having its own board, understandably presents challenges in coordinating ERO Enterprise activities and priorities. At the same time, this distributed governance provides an opportunity to create reliance and trust of the overall enterprise through greater transparency and accountability among all nine entities – the nine entities are mutually interdependent and must be transparently accountable to each other and their respective stakeholders to ensure overall success.

It is also significant that the North American bulk power system is an interconnected, international grid. A single integrated forum – the ERO Enterprise working at the North American and regional levels – ensures that the interests of multiple governmental jurisdictions and their stakeholders can be considered and addressed. Outcomes that are mutually satisfactory across all of North America can then be taken by NERC to the applicable regulatory authorities for approval, without concerns over intrusions by governmental agencies in one country over another country's sovereignty.

ERO Enterprise Progress and Accomplishments Through 2013

The ERO Enterprise has been effective in mitigating a number of important risks to the reliability of the bulk power system since 2006. Results do matter and the achievements since 2006 support the notion that the delegation model works. Using the ground-up approach, the ERO Enterprise has taken advantage of the ability of the Regional Entities to uncover trends and leading indicators of potential reliability problems, such as protection system misoperations and transmission facility right-of-way clearances. The ERO Enterprise was able to use this information to craft strategies to prevent these potential risks from causing actual harm to the bulk electric system. The ERO Enterprise has developed a system of bulk power system reliability metrics based on actual measured performance of the grid. This system of metrics is driven by analysis of event reports, transmission and generator outage data, and relay misoperations. The most recent annual *State of Reliability 2013* report indicates the bulk power system remains reliable and that certain risks have been reduced. Excluding weather-related events, the number of significant system events

[6] For example, over forty years ago, regional reliability organizations were formed; over fifteen years ago, regional reliability coordinators were formed.

resulting in loss of firm load decreased from nine per year on average from 2008 to 2011 down to two events in 2012, and a similar trend is continued through 2013.

Transmission outages caused by grow-in of vegetation, a major cause of the 2003 and several preceding large blackouts, have been virtually eliminated in recent years. NERC introduced a new mandatory standard in 2007 requiring transmission owners to implement vegetation management programs to maintain safe clearances. Strong enforcement actions by NERC and Regional Entities were effective in eliminating grow-ins and reducing the risk of cascading failures initiated from vegetation contacts as seen in the past. Industry experts helped to shape the standard, including a recent update to focus on reliability performance outcomes and risk management while maintaining practicality.

Working with industry system protection experts, NERC developed new relay-loadability requirements for transmission line relays. In the August 2003 Northeast Blackout, over 300 high voltage transmission lines tripped in a high speed cascade due to a previously little understood issue with the relay settings, even though no fault conditions existed on those lines. Industry experts were able to determine that the settings could be modified to prevent a similar future cascade and the requirements were included in new reliability standards. The risk of repeating this mode of uncontrolled high speed cascade of transmission lines has been substantively mitigated.

Industry experts have worked with NERC and the Regional Entities to develop new standards for frequency response to address decades of gradual decline in resources available to respond to frequency disturbances. Experts are currently developing technical methods and tools to mitigate the risks and potential consequences of solar magnetic disturbances. Guidelines have been developed and training implemented to prevent a repeat of a February 2011 loss of generation and firm load in Texas due to extreme cold weather. These are but a few examples of how direct engagement of industry experts through the ERO Enterprise can result in reliability improvements that benefit the public.

The compliance monitoring and enforcement program implemented by NERC and the Regional Entities has been effective in ensuring that compliance violations are identified and mitigated, thereby reducing reliability risk. The ERO Enterprise processed 5,115 confirmed violations of Reliability Standards through 2012 year end. Of these, 85% were deemed to present minimal risk to bulk power system reliability, 13% presented moderate risk, and 2% high risk. The *State of Reliability 2013* report indicates that risks due to noncompliance have trended significantly lower in recent years. NERC and Regional Entities have encouraged self-reporting of violations and timely mitigation – to date, more than 70% of all violations are self-identified by registered entities.

The ERO Enterprise has implemented uniform procedures for compliance monitoring and enforcement, including penalty guidelines, and continues to focus on improving consistency of implementation. FERC has approved the vast majority of notices of penalty without comment since 2008. In recent years, the ERO Enterprise developed greater efficiencies in processing enforcement issues through the find, fix and track (FFT) and spreadsheet notice of penalty (SNOP) initiatives. Work is now continuing to develop the Reliability Assurance Initiative (RAI) to ensure risks are effectively and efficiently addressed through the compliance monitoring and enforcement programs. RAI specifically seeks to improve the reliability of the BPS due to enhanced focus on high reliability risks and registered entities' internal controls relative to those risks, performance of self-assessments and corrective actions, and enhancement of the enforcement processes to process violations in accordance with risk.

The ERO Enterprise has implemented registration criteria to identify entities that can have an impact on bulk power system reliability. There are approximately 1,900 entities registered and an even greater number of entities engaged in reliability activities through the ERO Enterprise. Industry engagement is significantly greater than the number of entities that historically were engaged in NERC during the voluntary era.

The ERO Enterprise has developed a systematic approach to capturing and analyzing bulk power system events. Industry has been very responsive to a program established in 2011 for the voluntary reporting of system events, including sequence of events, root causes, and mitigating actions. Though voluntary, the ERO Enterprise is experiencing nearly 100% participation by industry. The information arising from this program is valuable in identifying reliability risks and trends and in developing lessons learned and mitigating actions for industry.

Since the initiation of the ERO model, major progress has been made in securing critical infrastructure in the bulk power system. Mandatory cyber security standards have been established, and the ERO Enterprise has actively monitored compliance with these standards, noting significant numbers of compliance gaps mitigated by registered entities.

Finally, NERC and the Regional Entities have developed electronic tools, forms, and templates to support information management across the ERO Enterprise, and NERC and Regional Entities are looking to standardize these tools to drive more efficiencies

The outcomes outlined above are a sampling of the positive results that have been developed within the current ERO Enterprise framework, demonstrating that the ERO Enterprise model based on the principles of audited self-regulation and delegation to Regional Entities can be and has been effective in improving reliability and serving the public interest.

PART II – VISION FOR A SUCCESSFUL END STATE

A Vision for the ERO Enterprise

Despite the successes outlined above, the current nine-entity model is not without challenges and risks. The formative years, identified as 2006 through 2013, were focused mainly on achieving the substantial work at hand, guided by the rules of procedure, delegation agreements, and extensive amounts of coordination of activities. With the experience gained and the maturation of the ERO Enterprise, however, it is clear that substantial benefits can be envisioned for an end state.

At its core, the ERO Enterprise must exercise effective and well-coordinated reliability oversight that mitigates reliability risks to the bulk power system. The ERO Enterprise programs must be effective at the mission of ensuring risks are addressed to maintain reliable operations of the bulk power system.

The end state should include more clarity around the roles and responsibilities between NERC and the Regional Entities which will lead to better coordination of goals, more uniform work processes/tools, and performance measures across the enterprise, along with an understanding that all parties comprising the ERO Enterprise must be vested in each other's success. These improvements will create a framework for higher levels of productivity, less duplication, and greater efficiency through more standardization.

The ERO Enterprise must adhere to certain principles. The ERO Enterprise must:

- Apply technical expertise that is focused on risks to the bulk power system and important reliability outcomes;
- Achieve results and methods across the enterprise that are predictable, consistent and timely;
- Share common goals, objectives and measures of success;
- Build relationships that are founded on candor and mutual trust, openness and cooperation;
- Apply collaborative decision-making;
- Ensure efficiencies, minimize duplication and any activities not affecting reliability outcomes;
- Avoid undue burden, discrimination, or capriciousness affecting regulated entities.

The remainder of this paper identifies a path forward to achieving excellence in the oversight and execution of statutory functions and mitigation of bulk power system reliability risks. This discussion is organized in the following areas:

- Clarifying and refining roles and responsibilities
- Coordinating strategic planning
- Coordinating operational decision-making
- Achieving consistency
- Sharing tools and infrastructure for delegated functions
- Coordinating communications

Each section describes the key goals that must be achieved to implement the ERO Enterprise vision for effective, coordinated operations across the enterprise.

Clarifying and Refining Roles and Responsibilities

Achieving the vision requires a clear understanding of the roles and responsibilities of both NERC and the Regional Entities and a clear set of expectations in the execution of the activities performed across the ERO Enterprise.

As the single ERO certified in the U.S. and sanctioned in Canada, NERC has unique responsibilities within the nine-entity ERO Enterprise. NERC is accountable to be the program designer and architect for statutory functions, setting necessary qualifications and expectations for the performance of delegated activities. NERC should respect and be responsive to the expertise and views of Regional Entities, whose staffs have a technical understanding of regional operations, are experienced in the direct interactions with registered entities, and promote the entire ERO Enterprise as one collective thought leader in setting direction and expectations. NERC should also set expectations, provide necessary training and coaching and assess performance of delegated statutory functions.

These roles suggest different qualifications and activities for NERC staff than in the past. Rather than observing regional activities and providing feedback or reviewing and approving final results submitted to

NERC, the emphasis needs to shift toward a different set of skills involving program design and setting management controls to ensure effectiveness. Essential capabilities at NERC include identifying personnel qualifications for program implementation, which itself suggests senior and experienced qualifications, and being able to determine when program adjustments are needed to address bulk power system risks or program risks.

All of this suggests NERC should design its oversight of program areas to encompass program design and development, operational oversight and leadership, coaching and support, and ongoing assessment with feedback to the corresponding regional programs. The goal is to add value and ensure the successful performance of the enterprise. The NERC program staffs must be experts in their field and competent program designers and managers, and teachers and coaches for the regional program staffs. The NERC staff needs to be able to recognize risks, to guide the program and introduce necessary adjustments along the way.

Furthermore, given the distributed and regional nature of the risks being managed and the external environment of a diverse industry across North America, this leadership role must be conducted in a consultative fashion. While NERC has overall responsibility for program design, the goal is to leverage the expertise across the ERO Enterprise in developing future program enhancements. Once designed, the program must be implemented by all Regional Entities consistently in accordance with the approved design. Any variations that do exist must be planned and coordinated for the overall betterment of the ERO Enterprise, within existing fiduciary responsibilities.

NERC is positioned to review data and information from all of the Regional Entities to identify trends and leading indicators of potential reliability risks, develop responsive strategies, and communicate this information to all of the Regional Entities to ensure a uniform, consistent manner of implementation. As the ERO Enterprise matures, process controls should be well established and routinely monitored, allowing greater emphasis on identifying and addressing threats and risks to reliability of the bulk power system.

Implementation of the oversight role must include well-defined and transparent procedures and controls so that all parties understand the qualifications and expectations surrounding execution of delegated functions and how results will be measured. Just as the delegated activities should apply consistent methods, practices, procedures, and tools, the oversight layer should also not be ad hoc, arbitrary, or opaque. It must be known and documented in advance, complete with reporting requirements and performance measures. NERC should be providing ongoing feedback to Regional Entities on patterns and trends, affecting both bulk power system risks and enterprise risks.

ERO Enterprise program oversight should include the following ***essential oversight elements*** to be provided by NERC in consultation with Regional Entities:

- An overall program design indicating the program purpose and goals, and design of controls to manage risks;
- Documentation of common methods, practices and procedures to be applied in the program and performance expectations for each;
- Statements of necessary qualifications of key positions within the regions for conducting certain statutory activities (*e.g.*, for auditors and investigators), and identification of any standards for critical positions;

- Training of NERC and Regional Entity staff for select positions in the conduct of delegated functions;
- A documented and transparent set of process controls and measures to assure delegated responsibilities are properly completed, and to assess the effectiveness of the delegated activities in assess effectiveness of delegated activities in managing bulk power system and enterprise risk; and
- Periodic reporting of results and feedback to Regional Entities on trends and providing opportunities to enhance consistency and effectiveness of results.

The objective is to integrate these elements into the ERO Enterprise operating model on a consistent basis across all the program areas. This is also an area where NERC executive management needs further work on a best design for managing functional area relationships with the regions.

The success of the ERO Enterprise requires NERC and the Regional Entities to recognize that each delegated activity is part of a single overall ERO Enterprise program, such as compliance assurance, enforcement, reliability assessment, or event analysis.

While NERC is responsible for the program design, the Regional Entities are responsible for providing insight and input into the overall design and development of each program area. In support of this, NERC should ensure there are mechanisms for the Regional Entities to provide meaningful insight and direction for incorporation into program design. Regional Entities should adopt conforming methods, practices, and procedures identified in the program design, with exceptions limited to those areas identified in coordinated plans for the purpose of promoting innovation or addressing material regional variations. Regional Entities need to report results using the tools provided, and consistent with reporting requirements identified in the program. Regional Entities should be receptive to feedback from NERC and making responsive adjustments. Regional Entities should ensure staffs are provided the training and development necessary to meet the qualifications required to implement the ERO Enterprise programs.

Regional Entity and NERC staff have an obligation to meet the highest ethical and professional standards in conducting ERO Enterprise work, including independence, objectivity, and providing the best available expertise for addressing bulk power system risks. Regional Entity staff should operate as part of the broader ERO Enterprise and communicate solidarity with the overall enterprise-wide program objectives, methods, and practices.

The ERO Enterprise is aimed at achieving the following goals:

<u>Action item 1</u> – NERC includes in its review of Regional Entity business plans adequacy of resources and alignment of the plans for achieving delegated function objectives and outcomes described in the three-year plan.

<u>Action item 2</u> – NERC, in collaboration with Regional Entities:

- ***a) develops a comprehensive overarching design and set of controls, reporting requirements, and feedback mechanisms for each delegated statutory function, including the essential oversight elements listed above;***
- ***b) reevaluates its organizational structure and leadership qualifications necessary to provide effective design and oversight of statutory activities;***

c) identifies functional qualifications for select delegated activities, such as auditors and investigators; and,

d) adopts risk-based approaches to monitoring performance of delegated functions and providing effective feedback and coaching to continuously improve overall ERO Enterprise performance;

Action item 3 – Regional Entities:

a) work in a coordinated fashion to support NERC in the development of comprehensive functional program designs and controls;

b) adapt existing regional programs for delegated functions to conform with emerging program designs provided by NERC; and

c) ensure Regional Entity staffs meet qualification and training requirements.

To improve the delegation process, NERC and the Regional Entities should work together to update and refine the delegation agreements, which are due for renewal in May 2015, to provide a clearer division of responsibilities, both related to the division of performance of statutory functions and oversight of those functions, and to provide effective mechanisms to resolve routine differences.

Coordinated Strategic and Business Planning

There has been significant progress, achieved through collaboration among senior executives of NERC and the regions, in developing a shared, rolling three-year strategic plan for the ERO Enterprise. Adoption of the ERO Enterprise goals and objectives into business plans across all of the regions has been varied and incomplete. Common performance measures are just emerging and have not yet been adopted into performance management systems across the ERO Enterprise.

The end state for enabling excellence in the execution of statutory reliability activities is that NERC and the eight Regional Entities must work from a common strategic plan, with success measured by a shared set of performance metrics. A common strategic plan and measures does not suggest performing every activity in lock step, but every activity must be coordinated across the enterprise and must be performed consistently. For example, several regions have been working on pilot programs to develop and demonstrate RAI methods as well as the transition to the CIP Version 5 standards.

Action item 4 – NERC and Regional Entities develop and maintain a joint three-year strategic plan for the ERO Enterprise describing the goals and deliverables for statutory functions and this plan should guide the development of each Regional Entity's annual business plans. Additional goals and deliverables that are complimentary or supplemental to the strategic plan may be developed at the Regional Entity level.

Action item 5 – NERC and Regional Entities develop and transparently report results based on a common set of performance measures focused on bulk power system reliability outcomes and effectiveness of the statutory programs. These measures are considered in the performance management program at each entity.

Coordinated Operational Decision-Making

The current model allows and depends on successful delegation of activities. Although statutory functions are delegated, there remains substantial need to coordinate operational decisions that arise in the execution of these duties.

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NERC and the Regional Entities have institutionalized a number of mechanisms to coordinate operational decisions across the enterprise. Note that this discussion and the ensuing recommendations focus on operational decisions that need to be made regarding implementation of statutory functions across the ERO Enterprise and is not intended to reach into the internal management decisions of each organization.

For policy and directional decisions, NERC and Regional Entity CEOs have been meeting periodically for most of the lifetime of the ERO Enterprise although more sporadically in the beginning. In the most recent two years, coordination meetings have been at least monthly, including 6-8 face to face meetings annually. There is an agreed upon protocol for reaching consensus decisions. Although this process has seen partial success, it is still a work in progress. The group is still working on issues such as what level of decisions should be brought to the CEO group for consensus decisions.

In addition to senior leadership coordination, there are approximately two dozen working groups collaborating across various functional areas of the ERO Enterprise. There are groups coordinating compliance monitoring and audits, enforcement, legal, finance, registration, and reliability assessments, just to name a few. Generally these groups are effective in working out common templates for information sharing and resolving common practices and methods at the working level. As with the senior leadership group, most of these groups have achieved good results and are effective in coordinating practices, methods and formats, but there remain opportunities for improvement. One challenge is shifting these working groups from being mainly self-directed problem solvers to being more focused on the strategic plan objectives and having accountability to the CEO leadership team. Also there are concerns that need to be addressed regarding the magnitude of the staff resource commitments stemming from these coordinating activities.

The preferred approach is to proactively establish a more collaborative model and recognize that regional staffs for most functions typically have valuable first-hand experience in implementing the activities on the front lines with registered entities. However, success depends on collaboration that results in timely and effective decisions that all entities in the enterprise agree to implement, and the avoidance of unilateral decision-making that steers portions of the ERO Enterprise off into alternative methods and practices for delegated functions.

<u>Action item 6</u> – ERO Enterprise senior leadership (ERO-Executive Management Group or "ERO-EMG") continues maturing the collaborative decision-making process and setting the direction and policy for the enterprise as well as driving this collaboration throughout the ERO Enterprise organizations.

<u>Action item 7</u> – All nine ERO entities abide by the joint enterprise decisions of the ERO-EMG, and the NERC CEO should make final determinations if consensus is otherwise not achievable for an action that is required.

Achieving Consistency

Consistency of methods, practices, procedures, and tools has been a challenge since the onset of the ERO Enterprise. Consistency is defined by the ERO Enterprise as the use of common methods, practices and tools. The principle initial challenge was that the majority of processes were new and NERC did not foresee the importance of developing common processes and procedures in effective oversight. Instead NERC relied on the Rules of Procedure and the Delegation Agreement to deliver a basic level of consistency which has failed to meet the expectations of industry. Therefore, given the lack of common processes and procedures from NERC, Regional Entities developed their own methods, practices, procedures and tools. While there has been significant progress in working out substantive differences through the leadership and working group processes described previously, there also remain significant variations in methods, practices, procedures, and tools across all nine entities. Today, the biggest challenge in addressing consistency is gaining common agreement on processes and procedures with the backdrop of years of institutionalized differences among NERC and the Regions. Over the past few years there has been significant work toward converging disparate practices across the enterprise. The recent RAI activity, for example, has resulted in some convergence of methods and practices in compliance. In 2013, joint projects saw the completion of a common auditor checklist and an auditor handbook.. A common business process has been developed for managing exceptions to the Bulk Electric System definition. Regions are implementing a common event analysis program and root cause analysis tools.

Some convergence has also been initiated through the use of common electronic tools. Early in the formative years of the ERO Enterprise some of the regions began to deploy common portals to manage compliance information. While these tools helped drive more consistent reporting of results from the regions, even today all nine entities are not using the same information management tools. Tools and infrastructure are covered in more detail in the next section.

Therefore, progress has been made but if common methods, practices, procedures and tools are the yardstick, the enterprise remains very immature. The ultimate success of the ERO Enterprise depends on there being one compliance program, one enforcement program, one event analysis program, etc. Regulated entities will have greater confidence and trust in the ERO Enterprise if they believe their regulatory oversight is not subject to arbitrary variations and possible discrimination from one region to the next. Outcomes will be more predictable and consistent if each statutory function is operated in a unified fashion across the ERO Enterprise. Outcomes will also be more readily measurable to demonstrate the reliability impacts and benefits of the enterprise programs. In the long term, getting past the transition from legacy approaches, there will be significant efficiencies. Such a transition requires the development of a core set of common methods, practices, procedures, and tools, which are principally the responsibility of NERC to produce, but in collaboration with Regional Entities.

Achieving consistency in the end state does not necessarily require identical internal procedures at each Regional Entity, although efficiency would dictate there should be more commonality than exists today. Consistency does not require that each Regional Entity produce identical outcomes given a particular set of circumstances. However, consistency does mean that the approach, methods and practices are the same across the ERO Enterprise and that outcomes produced from the application of local and regional expertise and judgment of the Regional Entity staff are fair, reasonable, and without bias. The goal is consistent methods, practices, procedures and tools that deliver fair and reasonable outcomes.

While consistency is desired, the ERO Enterprise must flexible to permit progress through innovation. Therefore, some variations may be necessary in the interest of progress. However, Regional Entity and NERC leadership need to be prepared to adapt to new approaches, methods, and practices. Some regional variations can actually have value, when implemented on a planned and coordinated basis. Differences for the purpose of testing new approaches, such as during the current RAI pilots and CIP Version 5 pilots, can be helpful in advancing innovation and experimenting with alternative methods. There may also be appropriate variations due to regional differences. An example would be the unique framework in Texas for involving the utility commission in review of enforcement actions. The drive to consistent methods, practices, procedures and tools should not inhibit innovation and the emergence of continuous learning and adaptation. However, managing the balance between consistent approaches and regional differences driven by necessity or creative adaptation should not succumb to the tendency to hold tightly to legacy methods. This shift must remain under the close scrutiny of the ERO-EMG, with accountability for progress to the respective boards, and all entities must be prepared to adopt changes to drive to more consistent methods, practices, procedures, and tools.

Action item 8 – With NERC leading, the ERO Enterprise develops a core set of methods, practices, procedures, and tools to support unified implementation of the major statutory functions of NERC. In doing so, the ERO Enterprise commits to put the best talent available throughout the collective organizations to achieve this goal.

Sharing Tools and Infrastructure for Delegated Functions

As previously described, the infrastructure and electronic tools used by NERC and the eight Regional Entities to implement delegated functions began the ERO era as nine islands. In 2008, the Regional Entities started collaborating on the sharing of portals in an effort to converge onto best practices and provide efficiencies. From this effort emerged two primary platforms for the management of information to support delegated functions. There are two systems which support regional CMEP work:

- OATI webCDMS. The Compliance Data Management System (CDMS) was internally developed by MRO and SPP during the voluntary compliance era of standards. The system was transferred to OATI, a Minneapolis-based software company, in 2008 and became webCDMS. The OATI webCDMS is used by MRO, RFC, WECC, TRE and SPP.
- Guidance. A portal system initially developed by SERC through Guidance a software company in Southern California. SERC, FRCC, and NPCC use the Guidance system.

These early implements were principally focused on compliance information management.

Beginning in 2009, NERC became engaged and built the Compliance Reporting and Tracking System (CRATS) as a further development of the Guidance portal solution. An interface was built to allow data from the CDMS solution to flow into CRATS. Since this time a majority of the regions use the CDMS solution, further emphasizing the importance of this data interface. For several years the flow of compliance information was subject to breakdowns and was very labor intensive for NERC and regional staffs to find the disconnects blocking the consistent flow of compliance information. In late 2012 and 2013 NERC contracted with OATI to manage the CRATS system and staffs across the enterprise were able to resolve the vast majority of information disconnects so that the compliance information flow today is reasonably satisfactory and consistent, albeit built on a patchwork underlying system.

During this evolution, each entity of the enterprise developed other tools as needed to implement activities. For example, NERC developed a tool for maintaining records of the standards registered ballot body and for the conduct of ballots on reliability standards. There are portals at NERC and some of the regions for issuing alerts and tracking recommendations. For the most part, these various applications were developed in isolation from other applications, using various contractors or using in-house resources. Many of these applications are running to the end of their lives and becoming increasingly difficult to maintain at an expected level of functionality.

In 2011 a shift started to take place from the top. The senior leadership across the ERO Enterprise began to articulate a common vision in support of unifying and modernizing the infrastructure and applications needed to support NERC statutory functions. Arriving at an integrated set of applications for management of information in each of the principle delegation areas would enable the enterprise to leverage future efficiencies and eliminate manual data manipulation and validation that is prevalent in the existing tools. Integrated applications across the enterprise would also lead to greater consistency and trust in the NERC processes, and registered entities would see a more seamless interface on which to manage all of its interactions with the ERO Enterprise. Another benefit, lacking today, would be the sharing of information across functional activities, such as information from event analysis and compliance providing useful feedback to standards development.

As part of this shift, NERC hired a contractor in 2011 to conduct a comprehensive study of the ERO Enterprise functional processes and needs. The final report at the end of 2011 led to the formation of an ERO Enterprise Project Management Organization (PMO) that was staffed by NERC but focused on enterprise-wide applications and enabling infrastructure and support services. A first application, the bulk electric system (BES) exception management tool, has been developed and tested ready to handle the expected flow of industry requests in response to the new BES definition. Plans and projects are underway for enterprise-wide applications to manage reliability assessments, event analysis, and establish a common database for information sharing.

In parallel NERC is developing several applications that are uniquely tied to NERC's responsibilities, such as standards information management and balloting tools. The path forward is that, where appropriate, enterprise-wide tools are being developed by NERC through the PMO under the oversight of the ERO-EMG and NERC is developing compatible applications on the same platform for NERC-only activities.

The vision of a comprehensive set of integrated and seamless applications to support the core delegated functions of the ERO Enterprise is essential for the future success of the entire enterprise. The necessary sharing of information between Regional Entities and NERC is essential and the efficiencies and consistencies in methods and practices will be unachievable without the infrastructure to manage extraordinarily large volumes of data that need to be converted into useful information for the purpose of identifying and managing bulk power system risks. However, any enterprise-wide systems approach presents significant risk itself and requires that the projects be executed well and the resulting applications fully meet the needs of the enterprise. A usable, uniform set of tools will drive consistency and lower costs across the ERO Enterprise.

<u>Action item 9</u> - The ERO EMG develops ERO Enterprise IT Applications, where appropriate, to support common processes, to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of Regional Entities' practices, to increase the consistency of the interface with registered entities, and to facilitate NERC's oversight function.

Coordinating External and Cross – ERO Enterprise Communications

Communications are important to the effectiveness of the ERO Enterprise. Communications can help set expectations for registered entities and stakeholders and demonstrate a common and consistent approach for regulators and the public.

Starting in May 2013, the NERC Board of Trustees initiated a practice of meeting twice yearly as a group with all of the chairs and vice chairs of the Regional Entities. A portion of the meeting is conducted with the NERC and regional CEOs present, followed by a session in-camera. This high level outreach among the nine boards holds significant promise in communicating common purpose and direction, and sharing any concerns among the boards of the ERO Enterprise. These meetings will further help to ensure the mutual accountability previously described that is essential to the successful operation of an enterprise comprised of nine distinct organizations.

A communications working group has been active for several years, coordinating consistent messaging across the ERO Enterprise, particularly with regard to media relations, incident response, and external branding.

NERC and Regional Entities have also coordinated outreach to FERC Commissioners and staff, and Canadian governments. These efforts are typically coordinated through the NERC Office of External Affairs.

The more challenging aspect of coordinating communications is around the operations of the enterprise and key initiatives, such as RAI. Although recent efforts to coordinate key messages and direction have been successful, there remain too many instances of disjointed communications across the entire spectrum of the enterprise. This creates confusion and anxiety with stakeholders and rather than gaining support for necessary initiatives, it creates concern and pushback over the uncertainty of direction.

***Action item 10** – All parties of the ERO Enterprise, including leadership and staffs, convey shared and consistent messages from the enterprise perspective and communicate together to minimize messages emphasizing self-importance or uniqueness.*

***Action item 11** – NERC and Regional Entities continue the joint board coordination to ensure oversight and accountability of all elements of the enterprise, and should continue to refine and expand coordinated outreach to government entities in the U.S. and Canada, stakeholders, and media.*

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D R A F T

2015 Business Plan and Budget

Florida Reliability Coordinating Council, Inc.

DATE: 5/16/2014 D R A F T

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Introduction

TOTAL RESOURCES (in whole dollars)	2015 Budget	U.S.	Canada	Mexico
Statutory FTEs	30.91			
Non-statutory FTEs	18.35			
Total FTEs	49.26			
Statutory Expenses	$ 7,179,844			
Non-Statutory Expenses	$ 8,422,053			
Total Expenses	$ 15,601,897			
Statutory Inc(Dec) in Fixed Assets	$ (17,611)			
Non-Statutory Inc(Dec) in Fixed Assets	$ (30,071)			
Total Inc(Dec) in Fixed Assets	$ (47,682)			
Statutory Working Capital Requirement*	**(657,395)**			
Non-Statutory Working Capital Requirement**	**122,583**			
Total Working Capital Requirement	**(534,812)**			
Total Statutory Funding Requirement	$ 6,504,838			
Total Non-Statutory Funding Requirement	$ 8,514,565			
Total Funding Requirement	$ 15,019,403			
Statutory Funding Assessments	$ 6,237,838	$ 6,237,838		
Non-Statutory Fees	$ 8,240,106	$ 8,240,106		
NEL				
NEL%				

*Refer to Table B-1 on page 42 in Section B.
**Refer to the Reserve Analysis on page 58 in Section C.

Organizational Overview

The Florida Reliability Coordinating Council (FRCC) is a Florida not-for-profit corporation that was formed in 1996 and is one of the eight regions of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC). The FRCC's mission is to ensure and enhance the reliability and adequacy of the Bulk Electric System (BES) in Florida now and into the future. The FRCC's Web site is www.frcc.com. The FRCC Region is comprised of all of Florida east of the Apalachicola River. Florida's unique geography and its highly integrated transmission system coupled with its single interface boundary to the rest of the Eastern Interconnection required the development of a reliability focus in the FRCC Region. Membership in the FRCC's Regional Entity Division is open to any entity, without cost, that has a material interest in the reliability of the BES in the FRCC Region. Currently there are 69 Registered Entities within the FRCC

Region. The FRCC is governed by a balanced stakeholder Board of Directors, and accomplishes its activities through qualified professional staff and standing committees which also have balanced stakeholder governance.

The FRCC provides the statutory functions and services for the FRCC Region through its Regional Entity Division. Non-statutory services for the FRCC Region are provided through its Member Services Division. This divisional structure is an efficient and effective means of clearly separating statutory and non-statutory activities and related funding for each. The revised FRCC Bylaws, creating this divisional structure, were first approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("FERC") on March 21, 2008.

The FRCC Regional Entity Division works to enhance the reliability of the BES in the FRCC Region pursuant to the approved Regional Delegation Agreement with NERC, as the Electric Reliability Organization ("ERO"), under the authority of the FERC. The functions performed by the FRCC Regional Entity Division include regional reliability standards development, compliance monitoring and enforcement of reliability standards, reliability assessment and performance analysis, event analysis and reliability improvement, training and education, situation awareness and infrastructure security. The Regional Entity division of the FRCC has one standing committee, the FRCC Regional Entity Committee and Compliance Forum (RECCF). This committee provides input to the FRCC in support of the delegated activities and functions.

The Member Services division of the FRCC provides, coordinates and administers a variety of services relating to the reliable planning and operation of the BES within the FRCC Region. These services are carried out by the FRCC Planning Committee (PC) and the FRCC Operating Committee (OC) and their various subcommittees, task forces and working groups, as well as FRCC Staff.

The FRCC PC and OC actively participate in the development and approval of their committee's budget. The budgets reflect activities of each committee's responsibilities, such as reliability coordination, resource adequacy, stability studies, transmission studies, operations tools, telecommunication tools and infrastructure.

Each year, the total FRCC budget is presented to the FRCC Board of Directors early in the second quarter for informational purposes prior to final approval in June. This process gives all FRCC members advanced indication of the funding level, both statutory and non-statutory, which will be required for the coming fiscal year (January 1 – December 31). This allows for timely inclusion of each member's funding responsibility in their individual budgeting process. The final budget is presented for approval to the FRCC Board of Directors in June of each year and is then submitted to NERC for approval by the NERC Board of Trustees and then by FERC.

Membership and Governance

The FRCC's members (in both divisions) include investor-owned utilities, cooperative utilities, municipal utilities, power marketers, independent power producers and others. Membership is currently 30 FRCC members in the Regional Entity Division and 23 FRCC members in the Member Services Division including affiliate and adjunct members.

The FRCC has six (6) membership sectors which include the following:

- Non-Investor Owned Utility Wholesale
- Load Serving Entity
- Generating Load Serving Entity
- Investor Owned Utility
- Suppliers
- General

There are currently two (2) members in the General Sector of the Regional Entity Division and no members in the General Sector of the Member Services Division.

The activities of FRCC are governed by its Board of Directors. The Board is comprised of senior level executives from members of FRCC.

As part of its responsibilities, NERC, as the ERO, delegates its authority to Regional Entities to perform certain functions through delegation agreements. On October 21, 2010, FERC approved revised delegation agreements between NERC and the eight (8) Regional Entities that became effective January 1, 2011 and will expire at the end of 2015. These delegation agreements describe the responsibility and authority delegated to the Regional Entities. NERC and the Regional Entities revised the delegation agreements in 2010 to improve the efficiency, transparency, quality and effectiveness of the combined NERC and Regional Entity operations. The funding for Regional Entities is approved separately with each Regional Entity submitting its own business plan and budget for consideration by NERC and FERC.

Statutory Functional Scope

The FRCC carries out its delegated functions as outlined and detailed in Exhibits A, B, C, D and E of the delegation agreement. NERC and the Regional Entities will continue to work under the existing regulatory framework governing the establishment and enforcement of reliability standards for the BPS. The existing delegation agreements expire on January 1, 2016. NERC and the Regional Entities will work collaboratively to identify any necessary revisions to the delegation agreements as renewal efforts begin in 2014 and continue through 2015. The delegated functions as defined by the NERC Rules of Procedures include:

- Reliability Standards Development (“RSD”) - Section 300
- Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement (“CMEP”) - Section 400
- Organization Registration and Certification - Section 500 (This program budget has been combined with the Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement function budget.)
- Reliability Assessment and Performance Analysis (“RA”) - Section 800 (including necessary data gathering activities and Events Analysis)
- Training, Education and Operator Certification (“TE”) - Section 900
- Situation Awareness and Infrastructure Security (“SA”) - Section 1000

2015 Key Assumptions

The NERC and Regional Entity business plans and budgets reflect a set of common assumptions (see Exhibit A of the 2015 NERC Business Plan and Budget) developed jointly by NERC and the Regional Entities as part of the annual business plan and budget process. The significant assumptions underlying FRCC's 2015 business plan include:

- NERC will provide oversight of the Regional Entities performance of their delegated functions to ensure that the delegated responsibilities are adequately performed. The Regional Entities are expected to continue to have the primary responsibility for day-to-day operations and interactions with Registered Entities. NERC and the Regional Entities will also work to refine and revise procedures and processes to eliminate duplication, increase operational efficiencies, to enhance ERO-wide consistency and to achieve measurable reliability outcomes, consistent with their respective roles and responsibilities.
- Cost pressures may affect some stakeholder resources available to participate in NERC and Regional Entity activities. However, the assumption of continued industry participation in support of key program areas such as event analysis, reliability assessments and standards development is included in this business plan and budget. NERC and the Regional Entities will evaluate projected initiatives involving stakeholder participation to determine the availability and adequacy of industry resources to support these undertakings.
- The effective date for compliance with the CIP Version 5 standards will be April 1, 2016 for High and Medium impact assets and April 1, 2017 for Low impact assets. The transition between V3 to V5 will be a mission critical activity in 2015. The Regional Entities must plan to support the ongoing CIP v5 transition plans and should anticipate an expansion in the number of Registered Entities that require guidance during 2015. For most CIP activities, the resource demands are expected to increase throughout the planning period.
- The implementation of a BES exception process will require the allocation of resource requirements from several FRCC departments. Resources are expected to manage the process execution, technical validation of the definition and exception requests, and requests for registration and certification reviews. However, the long-term impact cannot be fully assessed at this time as the resource requirements will be based on the number and complexity of exception and registration requests received.
- NERC will continue to budget and incur costs to operate and maintain the software applications and systems known as Situational Awareness for FERC, NERC, and Regional Entities ("SAFNR"). Additional resource investments may be required to enhance the capabilities of SAFNR throughout the planning period; however, there will be no increased cost to the Regional Entities. NERC will continue to review the appropriateness of continued funding of existing reliability tools, with any proposed changes thereto subject to review and input from the Regional Entities, appropriate NERC Committees and working groups, and other affected parties.
- NERC and the Regional Entities will collaboratively work to build and develop ERO Enterprise applications supporting both NERC and Regional Entity operations that will maximize efficiency of technology hardware, consistency of application, resources and data security. These will be managed by a single Project Management Office (PMO) at

NERC. ERO Enterprise funding for the development and maintenance of Enterprise applications will be subject to the budget and funding limits set forth in the approved Business Plan and Budget. The FRCC will also continue to fund applications and systems to satisfy our regional business needs.

- Improved disaster recovery mechanisms and improved IT security procedures will increase capital and operating costs at the Regional Entities.

2015 Goals and Key Deliverables (Regional Entity Division)

- Support NERC's goals that will continue to improve the quality and content of Reliability Standards, including a cost effectiveness assessment of proposed standards.
- Continue to encourage stakeholder awareness and participation in the NERC standards development process through educational outreach efforts and participation in Standard Drafting Teams, the NERC Standards Committee and related subcommittees. Support NERC's efforts to develop the bulk power system risk profile and assess standards compared to the profile and address the most important risk gaps.
- Work with NERC and the other Regional Entities, to continue refinement, improvement and prioritization of risk based compliance monitoring efforts. Continue support of the Reliability Assurance Initiative, including providing the necessary training for compliance and enforcement staff.
- Work with NERC and the other Regional Entities to register entities commensurate with risk to the Bulk Power System (BPS). Support the implementation of any changes resulting from the registration review that began in 2014.
- Continue the implementation of the BES exception process which began mid-2014.
- Work with NERC and the other Regional Entities to hold the industry accountable for violations that create serious risk to the BPS. Improve consistency, quality, and timeliness of compliance monitoring and enforcement activities while utilizing more enforcement discretion for those violations that have minimal impact to the reliability of the BES.
- Continue to be a strong enforcement authority that is independent, without conflict of interest, objective and fair, using enforcement discretion when warranted and imposing penalties and sanctions that are commensurate with risk.
- Support an ERO culture of reliability excellence. Work with NERC and the other Regional Entities to facilitate a learning environment throughout the industry. Work to improve event causal analysis, communication of lessons learned, tracking of recommendations, and implementation of best practices.
- Continue to improve consistency, quality, timeliness and cost effectiveness of NERC and Regional Entity data collection, analysis systems and capabilities through process improvements and more effective coordination and collaboration.
- Support NERC's efforts to move toward and implement an outcome based approach in Reliability Assessments to achieve measureable improvements in the BES reliability. Risks will be identified and prioritized based on reliability impacts, cost/practicality assessments, projected resources, and emerging issues.

- Work closely with the other Regional Entities and NERC to ensure that the delegated functions are implemented consistently and rationally and to promote the success of the ERO as a collaborative enterprise. Perform delegated functions with independence, without conflict of interest, with objectivity and fairness and with increased transparency.
- Support the ERO in addressing and mitigating reliability risks. Work with NERC and the other Regional Entities and the industry to effectively address security vulnerabilities and threats. During crisis situations, support ERO sharing of information among industry, Regions, and government.

2015 Overview of Cost Impacts

The FRCC's proposed 2015 Regional Entity budgeted expenses and net fixed assets (see page 12) is $7,162,233, which is a $368,944 or 5.4% increase over the 2014 budget. The major drivers of this increase are the net effect of:

- Increased compliance software maintenance and development to reflect current costs from the vendor, implement changes necessary to implement RAI and for needed portal efficiencies and program improvements.
- Increased allocated General and Administrative expense due to implementing succession plans for key functions involving a temporary increase of 1 FTE for training to succeed an anticipated retirement
- Budgeted 3% annual merit increase.
- Reduced Medical Benefits expense based on actual experience.
- Decrease in legal fees due to in house legal support.

Statutory Accounting Methodology

The FRCC, in order to be consistent with all the regions, has modified its accounting reporting as follows:

- ERO assessments needed to fund working capital are reflected in the General and Administrative Program within Administrative Services.
- The majority of the Operating Expenses are accounted for within their related department's budget. If an expense cannot be specifically linked to a department, it is included in the General and Administrative Program, within Administrative Services.
- All expenses for the Administrative Services Programs, referred to as indirect expenses for 2015, are allocated to the delegated program areas by their respective FTEs and are shown on one line of each delegated program area Statement of Activities as "Indirect Expenses".
- Capital expenditures are broken out as fixed assets at the end of each statement of activities rather than being included in their related lines in the operating expenses section.
- Expenses include depreciation, but since funding is not being requested for depreciation expense, it has been deducted from the funding requirement for capital expenditures.

2015 Key Deliverables by Program

In 2015, FRCC will achieve the following key deliverables:

- **Reliability Standards Development** — Continue support of NERC in its efforts to improve the quality and content of Reliability Standards and to support NERC's implementation of a cost effectiveness assessment of proposed standards. Support NERC in its efforts to evaluate significant BPS events (Category 3 and above) to identify gaps in standards and address any gaps identified. Support NERCs plan to develop or modify the Reliability Standard Audit Worksheets (RSAWs) by the time a Reliability Standard is balloted. Develop regional reliability standards as needed to support NERC's prioritized work plan and provide increased coordination of standards development activities.
- **Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement** — Continue to support the development and implementation of the Reliability Assurance Initiative, including implementation of the ERO Auditor Handbook and Manual and implementation of the common methodology to assess risk and determine the scope of monitoring activities. Ensure timely and thorough mitigation of all violations of mandatory reliability standards with the most focus on those violations that create serious risk to the Bulk Electric System. Promote a strong culture of compliance excellence, reliability improvement, and risk-based methods among all registered entities in the FRCC Region.
- **Event Analysis** — Continue to support improved reliability through reporting and categorizing of system events and security incidents. Consistently analyze events and system performance for sequence, cause, and remediation to identify reliability risks and trend, and to inform standards, compliance, and other programs. Work to ensure that the industry is well informed of system events, emerging trends, risk analysis, lessons learned and expected actions. Provide timely written lessons learned and recommendations from events and provide all BPS system event reports to the industry through a secure portal.
- **Critical Infrastructure Protection and Cyber Security** — Facilitate, educate and support Registered Entities in complying with CIP reliability standards and responding to cyber security alerts. Facilitate a proactive action plan by industry that demonstrates effective identification and mitigation of security risks, including safeguarding of assets, developing mitigation alternatives, and preparing and testing recovery plans. Support the transition from CIP V3 to V5 including provision of necessary training to FRCC staff, and providing education and outreach to stakeholders to ensure their understanding of the technical aspects of the requirements.
- **Reliability Assessments** — Provide annual, seasonal, probabilistic, scenario and special reliability assessments of the reliability of the FRCC BES in accordance with definitions and requirements. Work with NERC and the other Regional Entities to develop and demonstrate BES performance metrics for the purpose of analyzing and trending reliability improvements and benefits, as well as risk/severity based methods. Work with NERC and the other Regional Entities to support the exception process for the evaluation of Exception Requests as permitted by the revised definition of the BES and the NERC Rules of Procedure.

- **Situation Awareness** — Continue to support NERC in maintaining and enhancing the current and future situation awareness capabilities that include near real-time information and communications protocols that meet the needs of FERC, NERC, and applicable Registered Entities. Issue and track security recommendation to protect the Bulk Power System. Share information learned in Situation Awareness with the Events Analysis program to develop relevant lessons learned.
- **Effective Financial Controls** — Continue to provide rigorous cost controls and efficient management of resources to remain an efficient provider of ERO delegated functions.

Long Term Business Planning

NERC and the Regional Entities continue to work together to improve the overall ERO business planning and budgeting process, including long-term resource and financial planning. The 2015 Business Plan and Budget process builds upon the improvements made over the past several years including face-to-face meetings, conference calls and exchanges of documentation among senior management and staff of NERC and Regional Entities regarding budget assumptions, resource requirements, and opportunities to improve operational efficiency and effectiveness.

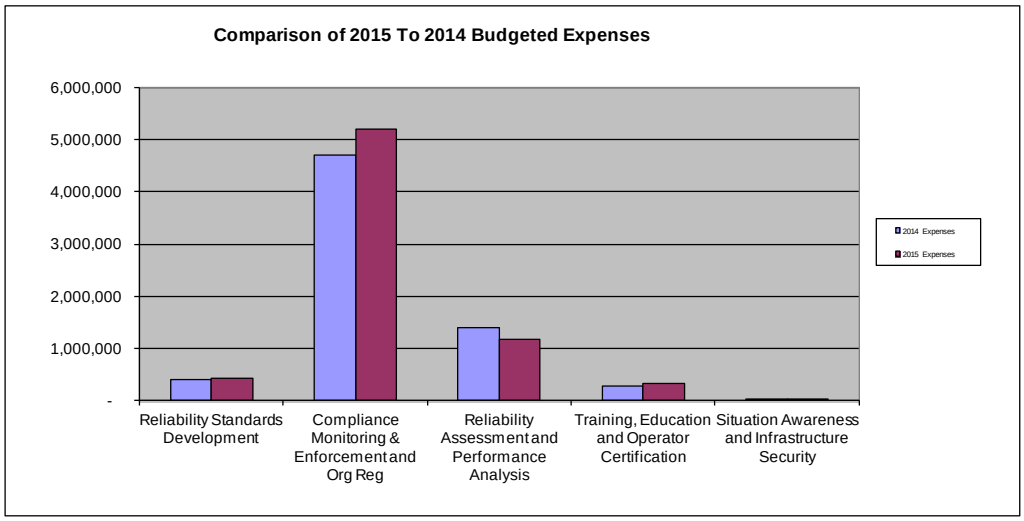
Throughout 2013 and into early 2014, NERC and the Regional Entities worked to develop a common operating model with defined roles and responsibilities that align with business planning goals, objectives, metrics and assumptions for the ERO Enterprise. As part of updating the ERO Strategic Plan, NERC and the Regional Entities consolidated five goals within the existing focus areas of standards; compliance, registration and certification; risks to reliability; and coordination and collaboration. A number of objectives and deliverables expected of the ERO Enterprise were identified. NERC and the Regional Entities added four overarching performance metrics to assess the overall effectiveness of the ERO Enterprise in addressing risk to the Bulk Power System and improving reliability. With the ERO Strategic Plan, the developed performance metrics, and the set of common assumptions, the 2015 Business Plan and Budgets of NERC and the Regional Entities will support and complement each other. The Shared Business Plan and Budget Assumptions (Exhibit A of the 2015 NERC Business Plan and Budget) incorporate assumptions affecting resource demands through the 2017 planning horizon.

NERC and the Regional Entities continue to work together to develop, strengthen and improve an integrated long term ERO business plan and budget that leverages and builds on the combined strengths and resources of NERC and the Regional Entities to improve the overall effectiveness and efficiency of ERO operations and improve the reliability of the BES of North America.

Detailed Business Plans and Budgets by Program

Details of the planning, operation, review, and adjustment for each program area are included in Section A. The corresponding budget details are shown in Section B. Below is an overall summary of the changes by program area.

Funding by Program	Budget 2014	Projection 2014	Budget 2015	Variance 2015 Budget v 2014 Budget	Variance %
Reliability Standards Development	409,591	409,592	423,143	13,552	3.3%
Compliance Monitoring & Enforcement and Org Reg	4,702,351	4,702,351	5,211,874	509,523	10.8%
Reliability Assessment and Performance Analysis	1,391,299	1,391,299	1,182,409	(208,890)	-15.0%
Training, Education and Operator Certification	272,310	297,679	321,525	49,215	18.1%
Situation Awareness and Infrastructure Security	19,380	19,380	23,281	3,901	20.1%
Total Funding All Sources	6,794,932	6,820,302	7,162,233	367,301	5.4%



This graphical representation does not include an allocation of working capital requirements among the Program Areas.

Total FTE's by Program Area	Budget 2014	Projection 2014	Direct FTEs 2015 Budget	Shared FTEs[1] 2015 Budget	Total FTEs 2015 Budget	Change from 2014 Budget
STATUTORY						
Operational Programs						
Reliability Standards Development	1.74	1.33	1.71		1.71	-0.03
Compliance Monitoring & Enforcement and Org Reg	19.26	18.25	19.77		19.77	0.51
Reliability Assessment and Performance Analysis	5.29	4.26		4.40	4.40	-0.89
Training, Education and Operator Certification	0.67	0.50		0.90	0.90	0.23
Situation Awareness and Infrastructure Security	0.08	0.06		0.09	0.09	0.01
Total FTEs Operational Programs	**27.04**	**24.40**	**21.48**	**5.39**	**26.87**	**-0.17**
Administrative Programs						
General & Administrative	3.36	3.57		4.04	4.04	0.68
Total FTEs Administrative Programs	**3.36**	**3.57**	**0.00**	**4.04**	**4.04**	**0.68**
Total FTEs	**30.40**	**27.97**	**21.48**	**9.43**	**30.91**	**0.51**

[1]A shared FTE is defined by NERC as an employee who performs both Statutory and Non-Statutory functions.

2014 Statutory Budget and Projection and 2015 Budget Comparisons

Statement of Activities, Fixed Assets Expenditures and Change in Working Capital
2014 Budget & Projection, and 2015 Budget

STATUTORY

	2014 Budget	2014 Projection	Variance 2014 Projection v 2014 Budget Over(Under)	2015 Budget	Variance 2015 Budget v 2014 Budget Over(Under)
Funding					
ERO Funding					
ERO Assessments	$ 5,488,057	$ 5,488,058	$ 0	6,237,838	$ 749,781
Penalty Sanctions	343,000	343,000	-	153,000	(190,000)
Total ERO Funding	**$ 5,831,057**	**$ 5,831,058**	**$ 0**	**$ 6,390,838**	**$ 559,781**
Membership Dues	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Testing Fees	-	-	-	-	-
Services & Software	24,000	24,000	-	24,000	-
Workshops	90,000	115,369	25,369	90,000	-
Interest	-	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	-
Total Funding	**$ 5,945,057**	**$ 5,970,427**	**$ 25,369**	**$ 6,504,838**	**$ 559,781**
Expenses					
Personnel Expenses					
Salaries	$ 3,806,631	3,630,346	$ (176,285)	$ 4,082,307	$ 275,676
Payroll Taxes	239,599	231,599	(8,000)	253,874	14,275
Benefits	657,255	608,521	(48,734)	579,483	(77,772)
Retirement Costs	602,881	594,403	(8,478)	666,669	63,788
Total Personnel Expenses	**$ 5,306,366**	**$ 5,064,869**	**$ (241,497)**	**$ 5,582,333**	**$ 275,967**
Meeting Expenses					
Meetings	$ 80,930	$ 48,138	$ (32,792)	$ 69,292	$ (11,638)
Travel	167,209	137,943	(29,266)	191,753	24,544
Conference Calls	18,771	14,732	(4,039)	9,482	(9,289)
Total Meeting Expenses	**$ 266,910**	**$ 200,813**	**$ (66,097)**	**$ 270,527**	**$ 3,617**
Operating Expenses					
Consultants & Contracts	$ 348,768	$ 416,262	$ 67,494	$ 393,718	$ 44,950
Office Rent	555,089	554,412	(677)	547,586	(7,503)
Office Costs	118,343	122,974	4,631	132,069	13,726
Professional Services	116,642	41,315	(75,327)	51,324	(65,318)
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	110,490	157,036	46,546	202,287	91,797
Total Operating Expenses	**$ 1,249,332**	**$ 1,291,999**	**$ 42,667**	**$ 1,326,984**	**$ 77,652**
Total Direct Expenses	**$ 6,822,608**	**$ 6,557,681**	**$ (264,927)**	**$ 7,179,844**	**$ 357,236**
Indirect Expenses	**$ (1,643)**	**$ -**	**$ 1,643**	**$ 0**	**$ 1,643**
Other Non-Operating Expenses	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**
Total Expenses	**$ 6,820,965**	**$ 6,557,681**	**$ (263,284)**	**$ 7,179,844**	**$ 358,879**
Change in Assets	**$ (875,908)**	**$ (587,254)**	**$ 288,653**	**$ (675,006)**	**$ 200,902**
Fixed Assets					
Depreciation	$ (110,490)	$ (157,036)	$ (46,546)	$ (202,287)	$ (91,797)
Total Fixed Asset Purchases	82,814	129,422	46,608	184,676	101,862
Change in Fixed Assets	**27,676**	**27,614**	**(62)**	**17,611**	**(10,065)**
TOTAL BUDGET	$ 6,793,289	$ 6,530,067	$ (263,222)	$ 7,162,233	$ 368,944
TOTAL CHANGE IN WORKING CAPITAL	**$ (848,232)**	**$ (559,640)**	**$ 288,591**	**$ (657,395)**	**$ 190,837**
FTEs	30.40	27.97	(2.43)	30.91	0.51

Section A – Statutory Programs
2015 Business Plan and Budget

Reliability Standards Development Program

Reliability Standards Development Program (in whole dollars)	2014 Budget	2015 Budget	Increase (Decrease)
Total FTEs	1.74	1.71	(0.03)
Direct Expenses	$ 369,582	$ 370,389	$ 807
Indirect Expenses	$ 40,021	$ 49,808	$ 9,787
Inc(Dec) in Fixed Assets	$ (12)	$ 2,946	$ 2,958
Total Funding Requirement	$ 409,591	$ 423,143	$ 13,552

Program Scope and Functional Description

The FRCC may develop, through the FRCC Regional Reliability Standards Development Process, separate Regional Reliability Standards that are specific to the FRCC Region and go beyond, add detail to, or implement NERC Reliability Standards. FRCC Regional Reliability Standards will not be inconsistent with or less stringent than NERC Reliability Standards.

The FRCC Regional Reliability Standards Development Process is an open, balanced and fair process that ensures all interested and affected parties have an opportunity to participate in the development of FRCC Regional Reliability Standards for the FRCC Region.

While the FRCC may develop separate Regional Reliability Standards, the preference is to support the development of continent wide reliability standards. The FRCC staff follows and participates in NERC's Standards Development Process. This includes FRCC standards staff participation in the NERC Standards Committee, the NERC Standards Committee Process Subcommittee, and NERC standards drafting teams as appropriate. In addition, the FRCC supports and encourages stakeholder awareness and participation in the NERC standards development process through educational outreach efforts at workshops, webinars and committee meetings.

2015 Key Assumptions

The key assumptions included in the Shared Business Plan and Budget Assumptions, Exhibit A, affecting the Reliability Standards Program include:

1. NERC will continue to focus on reaching a steady state, and improving quality and content of Reliability Standards. This will require the allocation of resources from NERC and the Regional Entities. The implementation of a cost effectiveness assessment of proposed standards and other reform activities are expected to require additional resources however the impacts are not fully known at this time.

2. The number of projects contained in NERC's Reliability Standards Development Plan is expected to increase over the planning period reflecting the transformation of standards to

a steady-state. However, the scope of these projects is expected to narrow as regulatory obligations in the form of directives and five-year reviews, Paragraph 81, and other recommendations are addressed.

3. The focus on improving the quality and content of standards will likely increase the demand on NERC, the Regional Entities and stakeholders to review and comment on proposed revisions to standards, support regulatory filings and support successful implementation of new standards as they become effective.

4. The number of interpretation and guidance requests is expected to remain low, reflecting the initiative to reach steady state and implementation of the Reliability Assurance Initiative (RAI).

5. NERC and the Regional Entities must provide sufficient resources to develop or modify the RSAWs by the time a Standard is balloted which is required to support the Reliability Standards Development Plan.

6. Activity associated with FRCC Regional Reliability Standards development is expected to remain low. FRCC will continue to keep several regional standards development projects on hold while NERC development, on standards addressing the same reliability issues, proceeds to a conclusion.

7. NERC and the Regional Entities will continue to provide communication and outreach opportunities, project level communications and will continue education and training for new or revised standards.

2015 Goals and Key Deliverables

The Standards Program objectives for 2015 are outlined below:

- Continue to follow and participate in NERC's Standards Development Process. This includes FRCC standards staff participation in the NERC Standards Committee, the NERC Standards Committee Process Subcommittee and on NERC standards drafting teams as appropriate.
- Continue to encourage stakeholder awareness and participation in the NERC standards development process.
- Continue to monitor the need for development of Regional Reliability Standards that are required by NERC Reliability Standards or are needed for reliability within the FRCC region.
- Assist the FRCC members and registered entities in following and understanding NERC standards development activities by increasing education and outreach programs to include:
    - Development and presentation at Standards Workshops, Webinars and committee meetings to address continent-wide and regional reliability issues.
    - Develop and deliver project level communications, education and training for new or revised reliability standards.
    - Review, analyze and identify potential Regional concerns associated with NERC Reliability Standards under development.

- Establish a stronger relationship with the FRCC Regional Entity Committee to fully vet and identify any concerns and assist in articulating the concern to standard drafting teams as appropriate.

Funding Sources and Requirements — Explanation of Increase (Decrease)

- **Personnel Expenses** – The slight decrease in the number of FTEs is due to the expectation of more time being spent in Reliability Assessment program implementing the NERC BES Definition and the BES Definition Exception Process and the expectation of more time being spent in review of Registered Entity registration. The increase in personnel expenses is due to budgeted annual merit increases partially offset by a reduction in Medical Benefit expense.
- **Meeting Expenses** - Less travel is expected in 2015 with the BES Standards Writing Project being complete.
- **Operating Expenses** – The decrease in Operating Expenses is primarily the anticipated decrease in legal fees partially offset by increased contract costs included in Contracts, Consultants and Software for a security improvement initiative.
- **Indirect Expenses -** The increase in Indirect Expense is the result of a succession plan for expected future retirements.
- **Fixed Assets –** The increase in Fixed Assets is due to increased physical and cyber security measures and planned replacement of old computer equipment.

Reliability Standards Development Program

Funding sources and related expenses for the reliability standards section of the 2015 business plan are shown in the table below.

Statement of Activities, Fixed Assets Expenditures and Change in Working Capital
2014 Budget & Projection, and 2015 Budget
Reliability Standards Development

	2014 Budget	2014 Projection	Variance 2014 Projection v 2014 Budget Over(Under)	2015 Budget	Variance 2015 Budget v 2014 Budget Over(Under)
Funding					
ERO Funding					
ERO Assessments	$ 387,520	$ 387,520	$ 0	$ 413,407	$ 25,887
Penalty Sanctions	$ 22,072	$ 22,072		9,737	(12,335)
Total ERO Funding	**$ 409,591**	**$ 409,592**	**$ 0**	**$ 423,143**	**$ 13,552**
Membership Dues	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Testing Fees	-	-	-	-	-
Services & Software	-	-	-	-	-
Workshops	-	-	-	-	-
Interest	-	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	-
Total Funding	**$ 409,591**	**$ 409,592**	**$ 0**	**$ 423,143**	**$ 13,552**
Expenses					
Personnel Expenses					
Salaries	$ 217,880	$ 173,035	$ (44,845)	$ 225,465	$ 7,585
Payroll Taxes	13,714	11,039	(2,675)	14,021	307
Benefits	33,809	23,651	(10,158)	32,602	(1,207)
Retirement Costs	34,595	28,420	(6,175)	36,074	1,479
Total Personnel Expenses	**$ 299,998**	**$ 236,145**	**$ (63,853)**	**$ 308,162**	**$ 8,164**
Meeting Expenses					
Meetings	$ 2,080	$ 969	$ (1,111)	$ 2,606	$ 526
Travel	24,913	16,324	(8,589)	17,469	(7,444)
Conference Calls	174	456	282	203	29
Total Meeting Expenses	**$ 27,167**	**$ 17,749**	**$ (9,418)**	**$ 20,278**	**$ (6,889)**
Operating Expenses					
Consultants & Contracts	$ 4,529	$ 5,222	$ 693	$ 7,381	$ 2,852
Office Rent	23,230	19,312	(3,918)	21,993	(1,237)
Office Costs	6,324	5,968	(356)	7,681	1,357
Professional Services	7,482	2,257	(5,225)	3,261	(4,221)
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	852	1,073	221	1,633	781
Total Operating Expenses	**$ 42,417**	**$ 33,832**	**$ (8,585)**	**$ 41,949**	**$ (468)**
Total Direct Expenses	**$ 369,582**	**$ 287,726**	**$ (81,856)**	**$ 370,389**	**$ 807**
Indirect Expenses	**$ 40,021**	**$ 37,186**	**$ (2,835)**	**$ 49,808**	**$ 9,787**
Other Non-Operating Expenses	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**
Total Expenses	**$ 409,603**	**$ 324,912**	**$ (84,691)**	**$ 420,197**	**$ 10,594**
Change in Assets	**$ (12)**	**$ 84,680**	**$ 84,692**	**$ 2,946**	**$ 2,958**
Fixed Assets					
Depreciation	$ (852)	$ (1,073)	$ (221)	$ (1,633)	$ (781)
Total Fixed Asset Purchases	840	371	(469)	4,579	3,739
Change in Fixed Assets	**$ 12**	**$ 702**	**$ 690**	**$ (2,946)**	**$ (2,958)**
TOTAL BUDGET	$ 409,591	$ 324,210	$ (85,381)	$ 423,143	$ 13,552
TOTAL CHANGE IN WORKING CAPITAL	**$ -**	**$ 85,382**	**$ 85,382**	**$ -**	**$ -**
FTEs	1.74	1.33	(0.41)	1.71	(0.03)

Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program and Organization Registration and Certification Program

Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement and Organization Registration and Certification Program (in whole dollars)	2014 Budget	2015 Budget	Increase (Decrease)
Total FTEs	19.26	19.77	0.51
Direct Expenses	$ 4,281,909	$ 4,658,890	$ 376,981
Indirect Expenses	$ 442,994	$ 575,856	$ 132,862
Inc(Dec) in Fixed Assets	$ (22,552)	$ (22,872)	$ (320)
Total Funding Requirement	$ 4,702,351	$ 5,211,874	$ 509,523

Program Scope and Functional Description

Monitoring, evaluating, investigating and enforcing compliance with Reliability Standards by owners, operators and users of the BES, as well as the development and adoption of the reliability standards themselves, are at the core of FRCC's mission. Reliable operation of the BES is in the public interest, because it will benefit all owners, operators and users of the BES, and, ultimately, all users and consumers of electric power in the FRCC Region.

Compliance and Enforcement activities are carried out by the FRCC compliance staff and are independent of all users, owners and operators of the BES. Compliance activities are governed by the delegation agreement between the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) and the FRCC. Through a risk-based program of monitoring, evaluating, enforcing, and if necessary, the imposition of penalties and sanctions for noncompliance with Reliability Standards, FRCC will strive to increase the level of reliable operation of the BES in the FRCC Region.

The NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program (CMEP) is the program used by the FRCC to monitor, assess, and enforce compliance with Reliability Standards within the FRCC Region. The FRCC compliance staff works with the compliance staff of the other Regional Entities and with NERC to achieve as much consistency and transparency as possible in the implementation of the CMEP. The development and implementation of the Reliability Assurance Initiative (RAI) throughout 2014 and into early 2015 provides the foundation and guidance for NERC and the Regional Entities in moving to a risk-based environment aimed at focusing on those risks that are most important to the reliability of the BES.

2015 Highlights Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Processes

In 2015 the FRCC will monitor, assess and enforce compliance with Reliability Standards using seven (7) monitoring processes (Compliance Audits, Self-Certifications, Spot Checking, Compliance Investigations, Self-Reporting, Periodic Data Submittals, and Complaints) to collect information in order to make assessments of compliance to Reliability Standards. However as risk based monitoring activities increase, strong consideration will be given by NERC and the

Regions to modify the current three (3) and six (6) year audit cycles for registered entities. The rigor, scope, depth and recurrence of audits and spot checks will be assessed by the reliability risk and not a predetermined schedule.

Registration and Certification

The FRCC has registered the organizations responsible for complying with Reliability Standards in accordance with Section 500 of the NERC Rules of Procedure. Currently there are 69 Registered Entities with a total of 244 registered functions. Maintaining a complete and accurate registration database will be an ongoing activity. The FRCC will develop, maintain and provide to NERC accurate information on entity registration within the FRCC Region with updates as changes occur. NERC and the Regional Entities began a review of the organization registration process in 2014 which may result in changes to the registration process that could begin in 2015. While expectations of increased activity are associated with the implementation of the BES Exception Process mid-2014, there is some uncertainty in the amount of activity associated with registration and certification of registered entities. The FRCC may consider the reallocation of existing resources should the need arise for additional support in this area.

Enforcement and Mitigation

Enforcement actions taken by FRCC may include the imposition of remedial action directives, sanctions and penalties which are applied per the NERC Rules of Procedure. Mitigation of violations of the approved Reliability Standards remains central to the FRCC's reliability focus. Registered Entities found in violation of a Reliability Standard will be required to fully mitigate the violation regardless of any enforcement actions taken. The year 2014 continued to bring advances in enforcement discretion of violations with minimal impact to the reliability of the BES. This additional discretion will continue in 2015 through the development and implementation of the NERC Reliability Assurance Initiative allowing for more focus being placed on those violations that pose a more serious risk to the reliability of the BES.

2015 Key Assumptions

- Audits are expected to continue under the current three and six year schedules until NERC and the Regional Entities transition to a more risk-based approach to compliance monitoring as developed in the Reliability Assurance Initiative (RAI).
- Reliability risk profiles for all Registered Entities will be developed and audit scopes will be tailored to the risk profiles which may increase the depth and complexity of some audits and decrease the depth and complexity of others. The consistent approach to audit scope methodology being developed as part of the RAI in 2014 is expected to be used in early 2015.
- Integration of the assessment of Registered Entity internal controls programs as part of the compliance monitoring program will allow NERC and the Regional Entities to further prioritize risk based compliance monitoring activities. Greater emphasis on internal controls provides positive incentives for industry to demonstrate effective management of compliance programs that are focused on reliability, as well as place downward pressure on compliance resource requirements for industry, NERC and the Regional Entities.
- The use of spot checks and self-certifications is expected to increase as risk-based monitoring is implemented, but that should have little effect on FRCC's overall resource requirements. The implementation of the Reliability Assurance Initiative and the

expansion of the Find Fix and Track (FFT) process will require resources to complete the design and to begin implementing RAI for both compliance and enforcement.

- The approval of CIP V5 is anticipated to significantly increase the compliance monitoring activities. The effective date for compliance with the CIP Version 5 standards will be April 1, 2016 for High and Medium impact assets and April 1, 2017 for Low impact assets. The transition between V3 to V5 will be a mission critical activity for the ERO Enterprise in 2015. FRCC plans to support the ongoing CIP v5 transition plans and anticipates an expansion in the number of Registered Entities that require guidance during 2015. Additional training requirements will be necessary to support the transition and will affect the annual training commitments. For most CIP activities, the resource demands are expected to increase throughout the planning period.
- The number of non-CIP violations is expected to decrease as most registered entities have been audited and the standards and RSAWs have matured.
- The Technical Feasibility Exception (TFE) program will continue however the processing per the revised Appendix 4D, of the NERC Rules of Procedure, is expected to drive a less onerous process for TFE reporting and reviewing.
- Applications planned to be centralized, such as a common audit management tool, at NERC to improve consistency and efficiency, will require Regional Entity support and resources for development and implementation. A significant multiyear investment will be required to develop and implement the system which will be funded by NERC.
- NERC and the Regional Entities are expected to utilize consistent audit practices and focus on higher target reliability risks to increase efficiency and mitigate overall compliance costs.
- NERC and the Regional Entities will provide sufficient resources to develop or modify the RSAWs by the time a Standard is balloted which is required to support the Reliability Standards Development Plan.
- NERC and the Regional Entities must plan to support the training requirements necessary to meet the criteria set forth by the ERO Auditor Manual and Handbook and the Compliance Auditor Capabilities and Competency Guide. Regional Entities will be expected to provide training documents and other related compliance guidance to compliance staff, review Auditor job descriptions and properly reflect the guidance provided in the Compliance Auditor Capabilities and Competency Guide, perform a gap analysis to identify both individual training needs and organizational compliance resource needs, provide an assessment process to evaluate audit team competencies and capability needs, and put a training program in place that addresses initial and continuing training for capability and competency development.
- NERC will continue to budget and incur the cost of a unified learning management system (LMS) for the regional audit staff and work with the Regional Entities to consolidate training resources and promote better coordination, planning, delivery and management of training efforts across the ERO.
- Additional resources will be required, and increases to NERC and Regional Entity training budgets are expected to support certain training initiatives of the RAI. Regional Entities are expected to allocate resources to meet the training requirements for the compliance and enforcement staff that are associated with the implementation of the RAI.

- Maintaining budgeted qualified compliance and enforcement staff will continue to be a challenge driven by a limited pool of qualified people and an aging work force. Investments in training less experienced personnel are likely to increase.

2015 Goals and Key Deliverables

The Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program objectives for 2015 are outlined below:

- Continue to assess and update entity registration and certification. The FRCC will support the implementation of the changes resulting from the registration review that began in 2014.
- Support the development and implementation of NERC's Reliability Assurance Initiative, including providing the necessary training for compliance and enforcement staff. Enforce compliance with mandatory reliability standards in accordance with the CMEP and ROP while improving consistency, quality, timeliness and utilizing more enforcement discretion for those violations that have minimal impact to the reliability of the BES.
- Develop and maintain reliability risk profiles of all registered entities in the FRCC Region for use in the continued transition to a more risk-based compliance monitoring.
- Implement the ERO Auditor Handbook and Manual and continue to work with NERC Compliance staff and other Regional Entity Compliance staff to modify compliance procedures to increase consistency in the determination of violations and penalties.
- Implement the common methodology developed in 2014 to assess risk and determine scope of monitoring activities. Conduct periodic audits, spot checks, self-certifications, and compliance investigations as required by the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program.
- Continue to promote the self-identification of non-compliance by Registered Entities and utilize increased discretion as appropriate. Ensure timely and thorough mitigation of all violations of mandatory reliability standards.
- Promote a culture of compliance excellence through education, transparency, information sharing and incentives.

Funding Sources and Requirements — Explanation of Increase (Decrease)

- **Personnel Expenses** – The increase in FTEs and personnel expense can be primarily attributed to expected increased effort in the Organization Registration Program and the effect of having an addition to staff budgeted for May of 2014 for a full year in 2015. The increase in personnel expense is also due to a budgeted annual merit increase. These increases are partially offset by reduced expected benefit expenses based from medical expenses being less than anticipated in the 2014 budget.
- **Meeting Expenses** – Increased travel is expected in 2015 to meet expectations of NERC for meetings to ensure consistent implementation of the Reliability Assurance Initiative (RAI), RAI associated updates to the Auditor Handbook, and to support ERO IT development projects.
- **Operating Expenses** – Anticipated increased cost of the Compliance Software to implement RAI and NERC business rules, increased contract costs included in Contracts,

Consultants and Software for a security improvement initiative and the increased depreciation effect of the additions of same in 2014 and 2015 partially offset by an anticipated decrease in legal fees.

- **Indirect Expenses -** The increase in Indirect Expense is the result of a succession plan for expected future retirements.
- **Fixed Assets –** The increase in Fixed Assets is due to increased cost in enhancements of the Compliance Software, increased physical and cyber security measures and planned replacement of old computer equipment.

Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program and Organization Registration and Certification Program

Funding sources and related expenses for the compliance enforcement and organization registration and certification section of the 2015 business plan are shown in the table below.

Statement of Activities, Fixed Assets Expenditures and Change in Working Capital 2014 Budget & Projection, and 2015 Budget

Compliance Monitoring & Enforcement and Organization Registration & Certification

	2014 Budget	2014 Projection	Variance 2014 Projection v 2014 Budget Over(Under)	2015 Budget	Variance 2015 Budget v 2014 Budget Over(Under)
Funding					
ERO Funding					
ERO Assessments	$ 4,458,040	$ 4,458,040	$ -	$ 5,099,302	$ 641,262
Penalty Sanctions	244,311	244,311	-	112,572	(131,739)
Total ERO Funding	**$ 4,702,351**	**$ 4,702,351**	**$ -**	**$ 5,211,874**	**$ 509,523**
Membership Dues	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Federal Grants	-	-	-	-	-
Services & Software	-	-	-	-	-
Workshops	-	-	-	-	-
Interest	-	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	-
Total Funding	**$ 4,702,351**	**$ 4,702,351**	**$ -**	**$ 5,211,874**	**$ 509,523**
Expenses					
Personnel Expenses					
Salaries	$ 2,411,701	$ 2,368,964	$ (42,737)	$ 2,611,174	$ 199,473
Payroll Taxes	151,798	151,129	(669)	162,386	10,588
Benefits	452,812	421,727	(31,085)	385,976	(66,836)
Retirement Costs	382,958	389,089	6,131	431,288	48,330
Total Personnel Expenses	**$ 3,399,269**	**$ 3,330,909**	**$ (68,360)**	**$ 3,590,824**	**$ 191,555**
Meeting Expenses					
Meetings	$ 4,915	$ 7,412	$ 2,497	$ 12,729	$ 7,814
Travel	92,966	81,240	(11,726)	122,194	29,228
Conference Calls	4,565	8,805	4,240	4,390	(175)
Total Meeting Expenses	**$ 102,446**	**$ 97,457**	**$ (4,989)**	**$ 139,313**	**$ 36,867**
Operating Expenses					
Consultants & Contracts	$ 119,235	$ 225,494	$ 106,259	$ 214,984	$ 95,749
Office Rent	406,366	413,633	7,267	404,082	(2,284)
Office Costs	69,926	74,111	4,185	80,150	10,224
Professional Services	83,069	30,900	(52,169)	37,762	(45,307)
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	101,598	148,536	46,938	191,775	90,177
Total Operating Expenses	**$ 780,194**	**$ 892,674**	**$ 112,480**	**$ 928,753**	**$ 148,559**
Total Direct Expenses	**$ 4,281,909**	**$ 4,321,040**	**$ 39,131**	**$ 4,658,890**	**$ 376,981**
Indirect Expenses	**$ 442,994**	**$ 509,116**	**$ 66,122**	**$ 575,856**	**$ 132,862**
Other Non-Operating Expenses	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**
Total Expenses	**$ 4,724,903**	**$ 4,830,156**	**$ 105,253**	**$ 5,234,746**	**$ 509,843**
Change in Assets	**$ (22,552)**	**$ (127,805)**	**$ (105,253)**	**$ (22,872)**	**$ (320)**
Fixed Assets					
Depreciation	$ (101,598)	$ (148,536)	$ (46,938)	$ (191,775)	$ (90,177)
Total Fixed Asset Purchases	79,046	127,708	48,662	168,903	89,857
Change in Fixed Assets	**$ 22,552**	**$ 20,828**	**$ (1,724)**	**$ 22,872**	**$ 320**
TOTAL BUDGET	$ 4,702,351	$ 4,809,328	$ 106,977	$ 5,211,874	$ 509,523
TOTAL CHANGE IN WORKING CAPITAL	**$ -**	**$ (106,977)**	**$ (106,977)**	**$ -**	**$ -**
FTEs	19.26	18.25	(1.01)	19.77	0.51

Reliability Assessment and Performance Analysis Program

Reliability Assessment and Performance Analysis Program (in whole dollars)	2014 Budget	2015 Budget	Increase (Decrease)
Total FTEs	5.29	4.39	(0.90)
Direct Expenses	$ 1,270,439	$ 1,049,392	$ (221,047)
Indirect Expenses	$ 121,674	$ 127,871	$ 6,197
Inc(Dec) in Fixed Assets	$ (814)	$ 5,146	$ 5,960
Total Funding Requirement	$ 1,391,299	$ 1,182,409	$ (208,890)

Program Scope and Functional Description

The FRCC will assess the reliability of the BES in the FRCC region and will continue to ensure that the planned system is robust, reliable and stable. The FRCC will participate in Event Analysis Teams to analyze any disturbances that may occur within the FRCC region.

The FRCC performs transmission reliability studies in order to provide an assessment to NERC for its periodic NERC Reliability Assessments. These studies evaluate regional and inter-regional facilities. The FRCC prepares a minimum of three reliability assessments each year and a probabilistic assessment every other year in support of NERC Reliability Assessments:

- A 20 year long-term reliability assessment report
- A summer assessment report
- A winter assessment report
- A probabilistic long-term reliability assessment (biennial)

These reports evaluate electricity demand, the adequacy of supply and its deliverability, fuel reliability and the adequacy of the transmission system within the FRCC. The FRCC will prepare special reliability assessment reports as conditions warrant.

The FRCC Reliability Assessment and Performance Analysis Program (RA) will support NERC's efforts to move toward and implement an outcome based approach in Reliability Assessments to achieve measureable improvements in the BES reliability. Risks will be identified and prioritized based on reliability impacts, cost/practicality of assessments, projected resources, and emerging issues. The FRCC will support NERC's efforts for collection and analysis of data, as well as support any of NERC's special reliability assessments and the efforts related to the collection of data via the Generation Availability Data System (GADS), Transmission Availability Data System (TADS) and Demand Response Availability Data System (DADS). In addition, the FRCC will work with NERC to gather data and/or complete

analysis in support of U.S. Federal initiatives, including high impact/low frequency events such as geomagnetic disturbances, system frequency response analysis, climate change and other environmental regulations.

The FRCC will support a new ERO initiative focused on identifying essential reliability services and providing the industry with technical papers and guidelines as appropriate.

The FRCC actively participates in the Eastern Interconnection Reliability Assessment Group (ERAG) which is responsible for the Eastern Interconnection transmission models and inter-regional studies. The FRCC will support NERC's and ERAG's efforts to improve the data quality of the Eastern Interconnection (EI) transmission models and validate the performance of these models compared to system events. The FRCC is an active participant on the NERC Reliability Assessment Subcommittee which is responsible for performing an independent review of reliability assessments.

The FRCC Events Analysis Program will analyze or support the analysis of significant events and system performance that impact the BES within the FRCC Region. The FRCC will facilitate consistent identification of sequence, root cause and remediation to identify reliability risks and trends, and lessons learned. FRCC's analysis will result in the identification of any gaps in standards, compliance effectiveness, registration and risk controls effectiveness. The FRCC will provide lessons learned and recommendations from events and identified risks.

The FRCC will support NERC to improve event causal analysis, communication of lessons learned, tracking of recommendations, and implementation of best practices. The FRCC will support NERC to continue to improve consistency, quality, timeliness and cost effectiveness of NERC and Regional Entity data collection, analysis systems and capabilities through process improvements and more effective coordination and collaboration.

2015 Key Assumptions

- NERC will continue to incrementally improve definitions, refine data reporting requirements for Registered Entities and review adequate level of reliability related metrics used in reliability assessments.
- NERC and Regional Entities will be requested to gather data or perform analysis in support of federal initiatives related to critical infrastructure protection including high impact/low frequency, climate change, environmental regulations, and/or renewable energy initiatives. Generation Availability Data System (GADS), Spare Equipment Database (SED) and Demand Response Data System (DADS) collection will continue to be mandatory in 2015.
- NERC and the Regional Entities are expected to provide independent reviews of assessments to assure a high level of technical rigor.
- Implementation of the BES exception process will require the re-allocation of resources from several NERC and Regional Entity departments. The resources will be expected to manage the process execution, technical validation of the definition and exception requests, self-determined notification submittals and requests for registration and certification review. The resource impacts are not fully known at this time, but are expected to be driven by the number and complexity of exception requests, self-determined notification submittals and registration requests received.

- NERC has established an Essential Reliability Services Task Force that may have an impact on resource requirements in order to support the work of this task force which is expected to have weekly conference calls and two or three in person meetings.
- NERC will sustain a Reliability Assessment and Performance Analysis team with representatives from the Regional Entities to:
    - Develop and implement improved enterprise-based data collection and analysis systems and capabilities
    - Support the integration of RAPA information systems for modeling and data requirements and achieve timelines for delivering high quality reports
    - Develop, verify and validate quality reliability assessment and analyses model and data quality characteristics
    - Address impacts of new technologies, changing resource or demand resource composition, and environmental related regulations or legislation
    - Support the compilation of long-term sustainable Eastern Interconnection models
    - Provide technical resources and expertise to perform analyses as needed for standards development, compliance and enforcement activities
    - Support quality analysis and overall assessment of the geomagnetic disturbance (GMD) vulnerability, planning guides and planning standards.
- The number of "qualified system events" as defined in the NERC Events Analysis Process, is expected to remain steady (approximately 10 per month across North America). Greater collaboration with the region and the registered entity is leading to more detailed analysis and supporting the identification of reliability issues and challenges.

2015 Goals and Key Deliverables

The Reliability Assessment and Performance Analysis Objectives for 2015 are outlined below:

- Perform a reliability assessment of the FRCC Region to determine if the planned resources and proposed transmission expansion plans will meet the needs of the projected demand throughout the planning horizon.
- Support NERC in preparing its reliability assessment reports.
- Support the implementation of the BES exception process. This will include providing a technical review of exception requests that are submitted by the registered entities.
- Support the work of the newly created Essential Reliability Services Task Force by assigning an FRCC Staff person to support this NERC initiative.
- Evaluate, track and assess severity/risk and reliability metrics and risk indices – including providing support to update reliability metrics and risk indices.
- Support data gathering and reporting efforts for the Generating Availability Data System (GADS), the Transmission Availability Data System (TADS), Spare Equipment Database (SED) and Demand Response Availability Data System (DADS).

- Strengthen data collection and validation processes by designing, creating, testing and implementing data checking systems to accommodate the increasing amount of data NERC collects for its long-term, seasonal, operational, scenarios and special reliability assessments along with the databases supporting reliability performance assessments.
- Review and/or analyze significant events that impact the FRCC BES and work with NERC to identify the root causes of events that may be precursors of potentially more serious events.
- Assess past reliability performance for potential lessons learned.
- Maintain relationships with NERC, regulatory and governmental organizations involved with BES reliability (e.g., Florida Public Service Commission (FPSC), Department of Energy (DOE), FERC, Energy Information Administration (EIA), etc.).
- Maintain a databank of power flow, short circuit and dynamic models to use in planning and evaluating future systems and current operating conditions.
- Work with ERAG Multi-Area Modeling Working Group (MMWG) to develop Eastern Interconnection steady-state and dynamics models and develop model validation processes.
- Conduct Loss of Load Probability and the Scenario Analysis studies as needed.

Funding Sources and Requirements — Explanation of Increase (Decrease)

- **Personnel Expenses** – In 2014, the committee structure was streamlined to reduce the amount of time that staff spent preparing for meetings and participating in meetings. Previously, the FRCC conducted business associated with Reliability Assessments in both the Operating Committee and the Planning Committee. This approach resulted in staff members attending multiple meetings each month to cover the same topics. With the revised structure, all Regional Entity activities will be conducted in one forum; the new Regional Entity Committee and Compliance Forum (RECCF). In addition to consolidating the Regional Entity activities under the RECCF, it was also determined that the RECCF will not need to meet monthly, but will meet face-to-face six times in 2015. This new construct will allow FRCC staff to complete the Reliability Assessment deliverables much more efficiently and drives the decrease to FTEs and personnel expenses.
- **Meeting Expenses** – With the formation of the RECCF, there will be fewer meetings required to complete the RA deliverables decreasing Meeting Expenses.
- **Operating Expenses** –The decrease is due to an anticipated decrease in legal fees and a reduction in certain consultant expenses which have been consistently over-budgeted.
- **Indirect Expenses -** The increase in Indirect Expense is the result of a succession plan for expected future retirements.
- **Fixed Assets –** The increase in Fixed Assets is due to increased physical and cyber security measures and planned replacement of old computer equipment.

Reliability Assessment and Performance Analysis Program

Funding sources and related expenses for the reliability assessment and performance analysis section of the 2015 business plan are shown in the table below.

Statement of Activities, Fixed Assets Expenditures and Change in Working Capital 2014 Budget & Projection, and 2015 Budget

Reliability Assessment and Performance Analysis

	2014 Budget	2014 Projection	Variance 2014 Projection v 2014 Budget Over(Under)	2015 Budget	Variance 2015 Budget v 2014 Budget Over(Under)
Funding					
ERO Funding					
ERO Assessments	$ 1,300,196	$ 1,300,196	$ -	$ 1,133,412	$ (166,784)
Penalty Sanctions	67,103	67,103	-	24,997	(42,106)
Total ERO Funding	**$ 1,367,299**	**$ 1,367,299**	**$ -**	**$ 1,158,409**	**$ (208,890)**
Membership Dues	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Testing Fees	-	-	-	-	-
Services & Software	24,000	24,000	-	24,000	-
Workshops	-	-	-	-	-
Interest	-	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	-
Total Funding	**$ 1,391,299**	**$ 1,391,299**	**$ -**	**$ 1,182,409**	**$ (208,890)**
Expenses					
Personnel Expenses					
Salaries	$ 662,404	$ 552,292	$ (110,112)	$ 580,711	$ (81,693)
Payroll Taxes	41,693	35,234	(6,459)	36,114	(5,579)
Benefits	99,378	84,437	(14,941)	82,646	(16,732)
Retirement Costs	105,185	90,711	(14,474)	92,914	(12,271)
Total Personnel Expenses	**$ 908,660**	**$ 762,674**	**$ (145,986)**	**$ 792,385**	**$ (116,275)**
Meeting Expenses					
Meetings	$ 6,674	$ 1,307	$ (5,367)	$ 1,612	$ (5,062)
Travel	43,265	34,637	(8,628)	47,375	4,110
Conference Calls	8,543	1,437	(7,106)	447	(8,096)
Total Meeting Expenses	**$ 58,482**	**$ 37,381**	**$ (21,101)**	**$ 49,434**	**$ (9,048)**
Operating Expenses					
Consultants & Contracts	$ 192,989	$ 130,637	$ (62,352)	$ 122,547	$ (70,442)
Office Rent	70,623	61,640	(8,983)	56,646	(13,977)
Office Costs	13,480	12,843	(637)	14,617	1,137
Professional Services	22,829	7,204	(15,625)	8,398	(14,431)
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	3,376	4,213	837	5,365	1,989
Total Operating Expenses	**$ 303,297**	**$ 216,537**	**$ (86,760)**	**$ 207,573**	**$ (95,724)**
Total Direct Expenses	**$ 1,270,439**	**$ 1,016,592**	**$ (253,847)**	**$ 1,049,392**	**$ (221,047)**
Indirect Expenses	**$ 121,674**	**$ 118,694**	**$ (2,980)**	**$ 127,871**	**$ 6,197**
Other Non-Operating Expenses	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**
Total Expenses	**$ 1,392,113**	**$ 1,135,286**	**$ (256,827)**	**$ 1,177,263**	**$ (214,850)**
Change in Assets	**$ (814)**	**$ 256,013**	**$ 256,827**	**$ 5,146**	**$ 5,960**
Fixed Assets					
Depreciation	$ (3,376)	$ (4,213)	$ (837)	$ (5,365)	(1,989)
Total Fixed Asset Purchases	2,562	1,186	(1,376)	10,511	7,949
Change in Fixed Assets	**$ 814**	**$ 3,027**	**$ 2,213**	**$ (5,146)**	**$ (5,960)**
TOTAL BUDGET	$ 1,391,299	$ 1,132,259	$ (259,040)	$ 1,182,409	$ (208,890)
TOTAL CHANGE IN WORKING CAPITAL	**$ -**	**$ 259,040**	**$ 259,040**	**$ -**	**$ -**
FTEs	5.29	4.26	(1.03)	4.40	(0.89)

Training, Education, and Operator Certification Program

Training, Education and Operator Certification Program (in whole dollars)	2014 Budget	2015 Budget	Increase (Decrease)
Total FTEs	0.67	0.91	0.24
Direct Expenses	$ 257,163	$ 295,452	$ 38,289
Indirect Expenses	$ 15,410	$ 26,506	$ 11,096
Inc(Dec) in Fixed Assets	$ (263)	$ (433)	$ (170)
Total Funding Requirement	$ 272,310	$ 321,525	$ 49,215

Program Scope and Functional Description

The FRCC is a NERC-approved Continuing Education (CE) Provider. The FRCC System Operator Subcommittee (SOS) develops and delivers training in which FRCC grants NERC CE hours to those individuals who successfully complete a course. FRCC will utilize the NERC database to accommodate the recordkeeping requirements for the continuing education program. Maintaining the reliability of the BES requires informed and trained personnel. The FRCC supports training activities through its staff and its System Operator Subcommittee which reports to the FRCC Operating Committee.

The FRCC provides educational workshops and web based seminars to improve Registered Entity understanding of the FRCC CMEP, NERC Standards Development and CIP topics and trends. These outreach efforts are aimed at improving the effectiveness, understanding of and adherence to NERC reliability initiatives. The workshops also improve the working relationships between the FRCC Regional Entity program areas and the Registered Entities within the FRCC region.

System Operator Certification Program

The FRCC SOS identifies and manages annual training activities for the FRCC System Operators and provides information to FRCC members regarding the NERC training standards and any issues they may have related to system operators obtaining/retaining required NERC Certification.

The training and education program activities are carried out by FRCC's professional/technical staff and SOS members possessing the appropriate technical knowledge and competencies. In addition, vendors that specialize in System Operator training are also used. Providing the FRCC training and education programs helps to achieve a high level of knowledge and competence among the operating personnel in the performance of their reliability-related functions.

Compliance Workshops

Compliance workshops will be held in the spring and fall of 2015 consisting of three (3) sessions each. These workshops will be aimed at providing updates to the Registered Entities on

compliance procedures, instructions on changes to FRCC compliance website, lessons learned for previous violations and providing sufficient and appropriate evidence in a compliance audit. The entities will also be apprised of changes in rules and expectations of NERC and FERC with regard to the CMEP. The effect on compliance monitoring as a result of on-going changes in the NERC and Regional Reliability Standards will also be addressed.

In addition, there will be at least one (1) CIP Compliance Workshop that will address technical aspects of the CIP Reliability Standards, including, providing quality evidence, lessons learned and compliance processes specific to the monitoring and enforcement of the CIP standards. In addition, particular focus will be made on the transition from CIP V3 to CIP V5 standards.

In addition to the face to face venues, in 2015 FRCC compliance staff projects holding at least three (3) webinars (two sessions each) that will address specific topics that may be identified by registered entities or by emerging trends within the FRCC.

Standards Workshops

The FRCC Standards Department will be supporting and participating in various FRCC sponsored workshops (e.g., FRCC Compliance Workshops and FRCC SOS seminars) throughout 2015. The Standards Department contribution to the workshops will be designed to promote stakeholder awareness of Reliability Standards activities as well as education and training for new or revised Reliability Standards. In addition, the FRCC Standards Department plans to hold at least four (4) workshops or webinars that will educate stakeholders on the NERC Reliability Standards Development Procedure, and specific changes to existing reliability standards or specifics on new reliability standards. To help encourage stakeholder participation at the continent-wide level, the workshops will provide stakeholders with details of associated NERC Reliability Standards Development Projects, identifying key areas that may be of concern or interest to the stakeholders and identifying areas that are in need of industry support.

2015 Key Assumptions

- The Operating Personnel Certification program is expected to remain at steady state therefore no significant changes are expected in System Operator Certification CEH requirements through 2015.
- The System Operator Certification Program and Continuing Education Program will continue to be self-funded through a fee based structure for the exams and applications for approval of continuing education activities.
- The Regional Entities are expected to help determine training needs and anticipate areas of support for standards, compliance monitoring and enforcement and information technology (IT) for their staffs and stakeholders.

2015 Goals and Key Deliverables

The training, education and operator certification program objectives for 2015 are outlined below:

- Provide assistance to Regional Entity members in any issues they may have related to System Operator Certification.

- Conduct the annual system operator training seminars over a five (5) week period, with two (2) days each for the training. The training seminars involve from two (2) to four (4) FRCC staff members, as well as industry volunteers who participate as presenters. This activity is funded primarily through registration fees.
- Host FRCC Compliance Workshops and Webinars open to all FRCC Members and Registered Entities aimed at providing updates on compliance procedures, instructions on changes to compliance tools, changes associated with the implementation of the RAI and guidance on the providing of appropriate and sufficient evidence in a compliance audit.
- Host Reliability Standards Workshops and Webinars open to all FRCC Members and Registered Entities aimed at providing information concerning reliability standards under development, as well as the identification of technical concerns or issues that may impact the reliability of the FRCC BES.
- Conduct FRCC Reliability Standards Department presentations to support multiple training objectives (i.e., FRCC Compliance Workshops and FRCC SOS Seminars) to promote stakeholder awareness of continent wide and regional standards activities.
- Work with NERC and the other Regional Entities to achieve improvements in the coordination, content and manner of internal and external training programs.

Funding Sources and Requirements — Explanation of Increase (Decrease)

- **Personnel Expenses** – The increase in FTEs and Personnel Expenses is due to more time planned to be spent on training and education of registered entities in elements pertaining to the Reliability Assurance Initiative and in expectation of the transition to CIP Version 5. The increase in personnel expense is also due to a budgeted annual merit increase.
- **Meeting Expenses** – The decrease in Meeting Expenses is due to the anticipation that the cost for the SOS meeting facility will be less than it has been in the past.
- **Operating Expenses** –The increase in Operating Expenses is due to the cost of a security improvement initiative offset by an anticipated decrease in legal fees.
- **Indirect Expenses -** The increase in Indirect Expense is the result of a succession plan for expected future retirements.

Training, Education, and Operator Certification Program

Funding sources and related expenses for the training, education, and operator certification section of the 2015 business plan are shown in the table below.

Statement of Activities, Fixed Assets Expenditures and Change in Working Capital 2014 Budget & Projection, and 2015 Budget

Training, Education and Operator Certification

	2014 Budget	2014 Projection	Variance 2014 Projection v 2014 Budget Over(Under)	2015 Budget	Variance 2015 Budget v 2014 Budget Over(Under)
Funding					
ERO Funding					
ERO Assessments	$ 173,812	$ 173,812	$ -	$ 226,344	$ 52,532
Penalty Sanctions	8,499	8,499	-	5,182	(3,317)
Total ERO Funding	**$ 182,310**	**$ 182,310**	**$ -**	**$ 231,525**	**$ 49,215**
Membership Dues	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Testing Fees	-	-	-	-	-
Services & Software	-	-	-	-	-
Workshops	90,000	115,369	25,369	90,000	-
Interest	-	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	-
Total Funding	**$ 272,310**	**$ 297,679**	**$ 25,369**	**$ 321,525**	**$ 49,215**
Expenses					
Personnel Expenses					
Salaries	$ 83,896	$ 65,388	$ (18,508)	$ 119,243	$ 35,347
Payroll Taxes	5,281	4,171	(1,110)	7,416	2,135
Benefits	11,616	20,293	8,677	14,228	2,612
Retirement Costs	13,325	10,740	(2,585)	19,079	5,754
Total Personnel Expenses	**$ 114,118**	**$ 100,592**	**$ (13,526)**	**$ 159,966**	**$ 45,848**
Meeting Expenses					
Meetings	$ 67,248	$ 38,432	$ (28,816)	$ 52,311	$ (14,937)
Travel	5,996	5,674	(322)	4,616	(1,380)
Conference Calls	5,481	4,013	(1,468)	4,433	(1,048)
Total Meeting Expenses	**$ 78,725**	**$ 48,119**	**$ (30,606)**	**$ 61,360**	**$ (17,365)**
Operating Expenses					
Consultants & Contracts	$ 29,259	$ 51,473	$ 22,214	$ 37,104	$ 7,845
Office Rent	8,945	7,298	(1,647)	11,632	2,687
Office Costs	22,610	26,705	4,095	22,613	3
Professional Services	2,916	853	(2,063)	1,725	(1,191)
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	590	774	184	1,052	462
Total Operating Expenses	**$ 64,320**	**$ 87,103**	**$ 22,783**	**$ 74,126**	**$ 9,806**
Total Direct Expenses	**$ 257,163**	**$ 235,814**	**$ (21,349)**	**$ 295,452**	**$ 38,289**
Indirect Expenses	**$ 15,410**	**$ 14,055**	**$ (1,355)**	**$ 26,506**	**$ 11,096**
Other Non-Operating Expenses	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**
Total Expenses	**$ 272,573**	**$ 249,869**	**$ (22,704)**	**$ 321,958**	**$ 49,385**
Change in Assets	**$ (263)**	**$ 47,810**	**$ 48,073**	**$ (433)**	**$ (170)**
Fixed Assets					
Depreciation	$ (590)	$ (774)	$ (184)	$ (1,052)	$ (462)
Total Fixed Asset Purchases	327	140	(187)	619	292
Change in Fixed Assets	**$ 263**	**$ 634**	**$ 371**	**$ 433**	**$ 170**
TOTAL BUDGET	$ 272,310	$ 249,235	$ (23,075)	$ 321,525	$ 49,215
TOTAL CHANGE IN WORKING CAPITAL	**$ -**	**$ 48,444**	**$ 48,444**	**$ -**	**$ -**
FTEs	0.67	0.50	(0.17)	0.90	0.23

Situation Awareness and Infrastructure Security Program

Situation Awareness and Infrastructure Security Program (in whole dollars)	2014 Budget	2015 Budget	Increase (Decrease)
Total FTEs	0.08	0.09	0.01
Direct Expenses	$ 19,932	$ 23,058	$ 3,126
Indirect Expenses	$ 1,840	$ 2,621	$ 781
Inc(Dec) in Fixed Assets	$ (2,392)	$ (2,398)	$ (6)
Total Funding Requirement	$ 19,380	$ 23,281	$ 3,901

Program Scope and Functional Description

The FRCC and the other Regional Entities support the ERO's situational awareness, cyber security preparedness and provide independent reliability information to policy makers and regulators. The Reliability Process for the FRCC Bulk Electric System documents the various reliability roles and functions that are coordinated, monitored and established by FRCC to provide situation awareness of the reliability of the FRCC BES. Two of the primary reliability goals of the FRCC are continuous improvement of the situation awareness of the operators within the FRCC and ensuring that adequate physical, operational and cyber security objectives are in place for the Regions' shared communications networks.

The FRCC supports NERC's situation awareness/event analysis coordination conference calls, the Situation Awareness for FERC, NERC and the Regions (SAFNR) Version 2 project and the FRCC satellite phone for situation awareness.

The NERC Rules of Procedure, Section 1000, requires that NERC monitor present conditions on the BES and provide leadership coordination, technical expertise and assistance to the industry in responding to events as necessary.

The Situation Awareness process will be used to support NERC and FERC's efforts for situation awareness of current system conditions.

2015 Key Assumptions

- NERC's Critical Infrastructure Department will have responsibility for the identification and management of the specialized critical infrastructure protection resources needed to support overall ERO CIP goals and objectives, as well as the specialized CIP resources needs of the other program areas (e.g., Standards, Compliance, Situation Awareness)

- NERC will continue to budget and incur costs to operate and maintain the software applications and systems known as Situational Awareness for NERC, FERC and Regions (SAFNR). NERC will also continue to fund the Grid Security Exercise (GridEx) and the Security Readiness Program to help Registered Entities with CIP compliance and security

awareness. The Regional Entities will be expected to provide subject matter experts for support of these activities.

- NERC will continue to fund, operate and maintain the Electricity Sector Information Sharing and Analysis Center (ES-ISAC), with no increased cost to Regional Entities.

- There will be increased need and demand for CIP-related training and workshops. CIP compliance activities are budgeted within compliance. FRCC will continue to support and facilitate the development of NERC's secure portal for the management of alerts and infrastructure security information.

- There will be continued focus on detecting off-normal events to be analyzed by the responsible entity, FRCC or NERC.

2015 Goals and Key Deliverables

- Ensure that FRCC goals and activities support the mission to provide FERC, NERC and the staffs from the eight Regional Entities a visualization tool that enables the appropriate level of situation awareness for the near real-time conditions on the BES. Continue to work with the FRCC Reliability Coordinator to ensure that SAFNR and appropriate hardware and software resources are allocated. Continue to support future development of the situation awareness project capabilities.
- Issue and track security recommendations to protect the Bulk Power System. Share information learned in Situation Awareness with the Events Analysis program to develop relevant lessons learned.

Funding Sources and Requirements — Explanation of Increase (Decrease)

- **Personnel Expenses** – There is a de minimus (0.01) increase in FTEs. The increase in personnel expense is due to a budgeted annual merit increase.
- **Operating Expenses** –The increase in Operating Expenses is driven by the cost of a security improvement initiative offset by an anticipated decrease in legal fees.
- **Indirect Expenses -** The increase in Indirect Expense is the result of a succession plan for expected future retirements.

Situation Awareness and Infrastructure Security Program

Funding sources and related expenses for the situation awareness and infrastructure security section of the 2015 business plan are shown in the table below.

Statement of Activities, Fixed Assets Expenditures and Change in Working Capital
2014 Budget & Projection, and 2015 Budget
Situation Awareness and Infrastructure Security

	2014 Budget	2014 Projection	Variance 2014 Projection v 2014 Budget Over(Under)	2015 Budget	Variance 2015 Budget v 2014 Budget Over(Under)
Funding					
ERO Funding					
ERO Assessments	$ 18,365	$ 18,365	$ -	$ 22,769	$ 4,404
Penalty Sanctions	1,015	1,015	$ -	512	(502)
Total ERO Funding	**$ 19,380**	**$ 19,380**	**$ -**	**$ 23,281**	**$ 3,901**
Membership Dues	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Testing Fees	-	-	-	-	-
Services & Software	-	-	-	-	-
Workshops	-	-	-	-	-
Interest	-	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	-
Total Funding	**$ 19,380**	**$ 19,380**	**$ -**	**$ 23,281**	**$ 3,901**
Expenses					
Personnel Expenses					
Salaries	$ 10,017	$ 7,735	$ (2,282)	$ 12,256	$ 2,239
Payroll Taxes	631	493	(138)	762	131
Benefits	1,387	1,015	(372)	1,463	76
Retirement Costs	1,591	1,270	(321)	1,961	370
Total Personnel Expenses	**$ 13,626**	**$ 10,513**	**$ (3,113)**	**$ 16,442**	**$ 2,816**
Meeting Expenses					
Meetings	$ 13	$ 18	$ 5	$ 34	$ 21
Travel	69	68	(1)	99	30
Conference Calls	8	21	13	9	1
Total Meeting Expenses	**$ 90**	**$ 107**	**$ 17**	**$ 142**	**$ 52**
Operating Expenses					
Consultants & Contracts	$ 209	$ 234	$ 25	$ 401	$ 192
Office Rent	1,068	863	(205)	1,196	128
Office Costs	2,162	1,540	(622)	2,237	75
Professional Services	346	101	(245)	178	(168)
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	2,431	2,440	9	2,462	31
Total Operating Expenses	**$ 6,216**	**$ 5,178**	**$ (1,038)**	**$ 6,474**	**$ 258**
Total Direct Expenses	**$ 19,932**	**$ 15,798**	**$ (4,134)**	**$ 23,058**	**$ 3,126**
Indirect Expenses	**$ 1,840**	**$ 1,660**	**$ (180)**	**$ 2,621**	**$ 781**
Other Non-Operating Expenses	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**
Total Expenses	**$ 21,772**	**$ 17,458**	**$ (4,314)**	**$ 25,679**	**$ 3,907**
Change in Assets	**$ (2,392)**	**$ 1,922**	**$ 4,314**	**$ (2,398)**	**$ (6)**
Fixed Assets					
Depreciation	$ (2,431)	$ (2,440)	$ (9)	$ (2,462)	$ (31)
Total Fixed Asset Purchases	39	17	(22)	64	25
Change in Fixed Assets	**$ 2,392**	**$ 2,423**	**$ 31**	**$ 2,398**	**$ 6**
TOTAL BUDGET	$ 19,380	$ 15,035	$ (4,345)	$ 23,281	$ 3,901
TOTAL CHANGE IN WORKING CAPITAL	**$ -**	**$ 4,345**	**$ 4,345**	**$ -**	**$ -**
FTEs	0.08	0.06	(0.02)	0.09	0.01

General and Administrative

General and Administrative (in whole dollars)	2014 Budget	2015 Budget	Increase (Decrease)
Total FTEs	3.36	4.04	0.68
Expenses	$ 623,583	$ 782,663	$ 159,080
Inc(Dec) in Fixed Assets	$ (1,643)	$ -	$ 1,643
Total Allocation to Statutory Programs	$ 621,940	$ 782,663	$ 160,723
Working Capital Requirement	$ (849,875)	$ (657,395)	$ 192,480

Program Scope and Functional Description Background

Charges included in General and Administrative are general legal expenses, executive time and expenses, human resources, information technology and accounting and finance. Every effort is made to charge items and time directly to activities and to designate as statutory or non-statutory. Undesignated items are shared costs between the Regional Entity Division and the Member Services Division and are allocated based on actual labor hours charged.

Legal and Regulatory Background

The FRCC General Counsel serves as the chief legal advisor to the President and CEO, Board of Directors, staff and stakeholders on all legal and regulatory matters affecting the FRCC. FRCC may use additional specialized legal resources on an as-needed basis, such as for tax matters, employee benefit plan issues and significant policy or FERC matters.

2015 Goals and Key Deliverables

- Assist the FRCC in carrying out its responsibilities as required by the approved delegation agreement between NERC and FRCC.
- Provide general corporate legal advice, legal training and timely, accurate filings to Regulatory authorities.

2015 Assumptions

In the 2015 Budget, as in the 2014 and 2013 budgets, there are no specific funds for hearings under CMEP Rules.

Information Technology Background

The FRCC maintains a number of tools and other support services for the benefit of its members, Registered Entities, Reliability Coordinator agent(s) and other system operators. These services include the FRCC Load and Resource Database (LRDB), the Compliance Tracking System (CTS), Compliance Issues Tracking System (CITS), Models on Demand (MOD), the FRCC corporate website, as well as other systems for collaboration, communication, data gathering and analysis.

Several years ago, NERC and the eight (8) Regional Entities formed an executive management group (known as the ERO EMG) which has, among other things, concentrated on developing enterprise-wide IT applications; with a goal of improving efficiency and consistency across NERC and the Regional Entities. As enterprise-wide projects are identified and prioritized by the ERO EMG, they are managed through a single Project Management Office (PMO) at NERC. The PMO has developed an ERO Enterprise application roadmap that will identify projects that NERC and the Regional Entities have agreed upon that are necessary to support improved efficiency and consistency across the ERO.

The NERC IT budget does not supplant the FRCC's need for IT expenditures for specific regional projects, but to the extent that agreed –upon ERO Enterprise applications provide greater efficiencies, there is no unnecessary, redundant expenditures contained in the FRCC business plan and budget.

2015 Goals and Key Deliverables

- Maintain IT and telecommunications systems and resources for efficient utilization of FRCC personnel.
- Improve the physical security of the FRCC office with additional access control and logging.
- Implement updated communications tools and technologies.
- Develop and enhance tools to automate and improve FRCC data collection and analysis processes.
- Expand IT support of the FRCC CMEP and provide additional metrics to improve accuracy and tracking within the CMEP processes.
- Continue the process of Document Management conversion in the Operating and Planning and Administrative programs.
- Implement needed changes to improve the FRCC corporate security posture as identified in the security assessment performed in 2014; improve overall security in all programs, enhance access controls with improved authentication mechanisms and increase security awareness and training.
- Improve disaster recovery and business continuity capabilities by implementing new geographically diverse data recovery solutions.

Human Resources Background

The FRCC has assembled an exceptional team of highly qualified employees to carry out the activities of the FRCC. The human resources department, in adherence with applicable federal and state laws, develops plans, and implements human resources policies and procedures, including staffing, compensation, benefits, employee relations, and training and development.

2015 Goals and Key Deliverables

- Recruit successful employees
- Improve human resource policies and procedures

- Provide management and training programs
- Ensure competitive employee compensation and benefits

Finance and Accounting Background

The FRCC will submit its annual budget for statutory and non-statutory activities to the FRCC Board of Directors for approval and then file the approved annual budget for statutory and non-statutory activities to NERC. This includes supporting materials such as a complete business plan and organizational chart, and the proposed expenditure of funds collected in sufficient detail to justify the requested funding collection and budget expenditures.

The Finance and Accounting Department will: direct the overall financial plans and accounting practices of the organization; oversee treasury, accounting, budget preparation and reporting, tax, and audit activities; and oversee financial and accounting system controls and standards.

2015 Goals and Key Deliverables

- Prepare the 2016 statutory and non-statutory budgets
- Report budget variances to the FRCC Corporate Compliance Finance and Audit Committee, the FRCC Board and to NERC on a quarterly basis
- Evaluate and advise on the impact of long-range planning
- Continue to provide on-going training to employees to ensure employees charge their time correctly
- Carry out succession planning and training in anticipation of retirement of key personnel

Funding Sources and Requirements — Explanation of Increase (Decrease)

- **Personnel Expenses** – The increase is the result of a succession plan for an anticipated retirement and the training costs associated with that transition. The increase in personnel expense is also due to a budgeted annual merit increase.
- Operating Expenses –The increase in Operating Expenses is driven by the increased contract costs included in Contracts, Consultants and Software for a security improvement initiative.

General and Administrative

Funding sources and related expenses for the general and administrative section of the 2015 business plan are shown in the table below.

Statement of Activities, Fixed Assets Expenditures and Change in Working Capital
2014 Budget & Projection, and 2015 Budget
General and Administrative

	2014 Budget	2014 Projection	Variance 2014 Projection v 2014 Budget Over(Under)	2015 Budget	Variance 2015 Budget v 2014 Budget Over(Under)
Funding					
ERO Funding					
ERO Assessments	$ (849,875)	$ (849,875)	$ -	$ (657,395)	$ 192,480
Penalty Sanctions			-		
Total ERO Funding	**$ (849,875)**	**$ (849,875)**	**$ -**	**$ (657,395)**	**$ 192,480**
Membership Dues	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Testing Fees	-	-	-	-	-
Services & Software	-	-	-	-	-
Workshops	-	-	-	-	-
Interest	-	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	-
Total Funding	**$ (849,875)**	**$ (849,875)**	**$ -**	**$ (657,395)**	**$ 192,480**
Expenses					
Personnel Expenses					
Salaries	$ 420,733	$ 462,932	$ 42,199	$ 533,458	$ 112,725
Payroll Taxes	26,482	29,533	3,051	33,175	6,693
Benefits	58,253	57,398	(855)	62,568	4,315
Retirement Costs	65,227	74,173	8,946	85,353	20,126
Total Personnel Expenses	**$ 570,695**	**$ 624,036**	**$ 53,341**	**$ 714,554**	**$ 143,859**
Meeting Expenses					
Meetings	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Travel	-	-	-	-	-
Conference Calls	-	-	-	-	-
Total Meeting Expenses	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**
Operating Expenses					
Consultants & Contracts	$ 2,547	$ 3,202	$ 655	$ 11,301	$ 8,754
Office Rent	44,857	51,666	6,809	52,037	7,180
Office Costs	3,841	1,807	(2,034)	4,771	930
Professional Services	-	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	1,643	-	(1,643)	-	(1,643)
Total Operating Expenses	**$ 52,888**	**$ 56,675**	**$ 3,787**	**$ 68,109**	**$ 15,221**
Total Direct Expenses	**$ 623,583**	**$ 680,711**	**$ 57,128**	**$ 782,663**	**$ 159,080**
Indirect Expenses	**$ (623,583)**	**$ (680,711)**	**$ (57,128)**	**$ (782,663)**	**$ (159,080)**
Other Non-Operating Expenses	$ -	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**
Total Expenses	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**
Change in Assets	**$ (849,875)**	**$ (849,875)**	**$ -**	**$ (657,395)**	**$ 192,480**
Fixed Assets					
Depreciation	$ (1,643)	$ -	$ 1,643	$ -	1,643
Total Fixed Asset Purchases	-	-	-	-	-
Change in Fixed Assets	**$ 1,643**	**$ -**	**$ (1,643)**	**$ -**	**$ (1,643)**
TOTAL BUDGET	$ -	$ -	$ 1,643	$ -	$ 1,643
TOTAL CHANGE IN WORKING CAPITAL	**$ (849,875)**	**$ (849,875)**	**$ (1,643)**	**$ (657,395)**	**$ 190,837**
FTEs	3.36	3.57	0.21	4.04	0.68

Section B – Supplemental Financial Information
2015 Business Plan and Budget

Reserve Balance

Table B-1

Working Capital Reserve Analysis 2014-2015		
STATUTORY		
Beginning Working Capital Reserve (Deficit), December 31, 2013		1,966,888
Less: Penalty sanctions being held to be used as offset to 2015 assessments	[1]	**(153,000)**
Plus: 2014 ERO Funding (from LSEs or designees)		5,488,058
Plus: Projected 2014 Other funding sources		139,369
Plus: Penalty Sanctions Applied		343,000
Less: 2014 Projected expenses & capital expenditures		**(6,530,067)**
Projected Working Capital Reserve Surplus/(Deficit), December 31, 2014		**1,254,248**
Desired Working Capital Reserve, December 31, 2015	[2]	596,853
Less: Projected Working Capital Reserve, December 31, 2014		**(1,254,248)**
Increase(decrease) in assessments to achieve desired Working Capital Reserve		**(657,395)**
2015 Assessment for Expenses and Capital Expenditures		7,162,233
Less: Penalty Sanctions	[1]	**(153,000)**
Less: Other Funding Sources		**(114,000)**
Adjustment to achieve desired Working Capital Reserve		**(657,395)**
2015 Assessment		6,237,838

[1] Represents collections prior to June 30, 2014.

[2] On June 26, 2013, the FRCC Board of Directors set a working capital and operating working capital and operating reserve requirement of one (1) month of the total annual budget. The FRCC has a $1.5 million line of credit.

Breakdown by Statement of Activity Sections

The following detailed schedules are in support of the Table on page 13, of the 2015 FRCC Business Plan and Budget. All significant variances have been disclosed by program area in the preceding pages.

Penalty Sanctions

Penalty monies received prior to June 30, 2014 are to be used to offset assessments in the 2015 Budget, as documented in the NERC Policy – ACCOUNTING, FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND BUDGETARY TREATMENT OF PENALTIES IMPOSED AND RECEIVED FOR VIOLATIONS OF RELIABILITY STANDARD. Penalty monies received from July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015 will be used to offset assessments in the 2016 Budget.

All penalties received prior to June 30, 2014 are detailed below.

Allocation Method: Penalty sanctions received have been allocated to the following statutory programs to reduce assessments: Reliability Standards; Compliance Monitoring & Enforcement and Organization Registration & Certification; Reliability Assessments and Performance Analysis; Training, Education and Operator Certification; and Situation Awareness and Infrastructure Security. Penalty sanctions are allocated based upon the number of FTEs in the Program divided by the aggregate total FTEs in the Programs receiving the allocation.

Table B-2

Penalty Sanctions Received On or Prior to June 30, 2014	Date Received	Amount Received
Penalty #1	10/25/2013	$ 38,000
Penalty #2	11/26/2013	100,000
Penalty #3	12/27/2013	7,000
Penalty #4	1/22/2014	2,000
Penalty #5	1/22/2014	2,000
Penalty #5	3/25/2014	4,000
Total Penalties Received		$ 153,000

Supplemental Funding

Table B-3

Outside Funding Breakdown By Program	Budget 2014	Projection 2014	Budget 2015	Variance 2015 Budget v 2014 Budget
Reliability Standards Development				
Total	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Compliance Monitoring, Enforcement & Org. Registration	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Total	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Reliability Assessment and Performance Analysis				
Services & Software Fees	$ 24,000	$ 24,000	$ 24,000	$ -
	-	-	-	-
Total	$ 24,000	$ 24,000	$ 24,000	$ -
Training, Education and Operator Certification				
Workshops	$ 90,000	$ 115,369	$ 90,000	$ -
Total	$ 90,000	$ 115,369	$ 90,000	$ -
Situation Awareness and Infrastructure Security	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Total	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
General and Administrative*				
Interest	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Total	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Total Outside Funding	$ 114,000	$ 139,369	$ 114,000	$ -

Assumes that no appreciable excess cash will be in the Bank Accounts and due to current low interest rates, no Interst is being budgeted.

Personnel Expenses

Table B-4

Personnel Expenses	Budget 2014	Projection 2014	Budget 2015	Variance 2015 Budget v 2014 Budget	Variance %
Salaries					
Total Salaries	$ 3,806,631	$ 3,630,346	$ 4,082,307	$ 275,676	7.24%
Total Payroll Taxes	$ 239,599	$ 231,599	$ 253,874	$ 14,275	5.96%
Benefits					
Workers Compensation	$ 10,241	$ 10,006	$ 11,179	$ 938	9.16%
Medical, LTD, STD Insurances	483,409	418,850	445,548	(37,861)	-7.83%
Employment Fees	-		-	-	
Education	100,319	88,994	100,676	357	0.36%
Employee Welfare & Contract Labor	18,936	55,671	22,080	3,144	16.60%
Relocation	44,350	35,000		(44,350)	-100.00%
Total Benefits	$ 657,255	$ 608,521	$ 579,483	$ (77,772)	-11.83%
Retirement					
Retirement Costs	$ 602,881	$ 594,403	$ 666,669	$ 63,788	10.58%
		-		-	
Total Retirement	$ 602,881	$ 594,403	$ 666,669	$ 63,788	10.58%
Total Personnel Costs	$ 5,306,366	$ 5,064,869	$ 5,582,333	$ 275,967	5.20%
FTEs	30.40	27.97	30.91	0.5	1.68%
Cost per FTE					
Salaries	$ 125,218	$ 129,794	$ 132,071	6,853	5.47%
Payroll Taxes	7,882	8,280	8,213	332	4.21%
Benefits	21,620	21,756	18,747	(2,873)	-13.29%
Retirement	19,832	21,251	21,568	1,736	8.76%
Total Cost per FTE	**$ 174,552**	**$ 181,082**	**$ 180,600**	**$ 6,048**	**3.46%**

Consultants and Contracts

Table B-5

Contracts & Consultants and Software & Licenses	Budget 2014	Projection 2014	Budget 2015	Variance 2015 Budget v 2014 Budget	Variance %
Contracts & Consultants and Software & Licenses					
Reliability Standards Development	$ 4,529	$ 5,222	$ 7,381	$ 2,852	62.97%
Compliance Monitoring & Enforcement and Org Reg	119,235	225,494	214,984	95,749	80.30%
Reliability Assessment and Performance Analysis	192,989	130,637	122,547	(70,442)	-36.50%
Training, Education and Operator Certification	29,259	51,473	37,104	7,845	26.81%
Situation Awareness and Infrastructure Security	209	234	401	192	91.87%
General and Administrative	2,547	3,202	11,301	8,754	343.70%
Total Contracts & Consultants and Software & Licenses	$ 348,768	$ 416,262	$ 393,718	$ 44,950	12.89%

"The amount for Consultants & Contracts in the Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program includes $16,000 in the 2014 budget, $25,500 in the projected 2014 and $3,500 in the 2015 budget estimated by SERC as the costs for SERC to perform compliance monitoring and enforcement responsibilities for the FRCC registered functions."

Office Rent

Table B-6

Office Rent	Budget 2014	Projection 2014	Budget 2015	Variance 2015 Budget v 2014 Budget	Variance %
Office Rent	$ 555,089	$ 554,412	$ 547,586	$ (7,503)	-1.35%
Total Office Rent	**$ 555,089**	**$ 554,412**	**$ 547,586**	**$ (7,503)**	**-1.35%**

Office Costs

Table B-7

Office Costs	Budget 2014	Projection 2014	Budget 2015	Variance 2015 Budget v 2014 Budget	Variance %
Telephone	$ 50,931	$ 49,865	$ 43,767	$ (7,164)	-14.07%
Internet	2,618	2,566	4,020	$ 1,402	53.55%
Office Supplies	14,172	19,313	17,719	$ 3,547	25.03%
Computer Supplies	4,226	4,191	9,322	$ 5,096	120.59%
Publications, Subscriptions & Dues	9,710	7,445	13,533	$ 3,823	39.37%
Postage	1,558	1,528	1,523	$ (35)	-2.25%
Equipment Maintenance	930	917	6,750	$ 5,820	625.81%
Copying	-			$ -	
Printing	23,166	26,334	21,069	$ (2,097)	-9.05%
Stationary Forms				$ -	
Commerical Insurance	11,032	10,815	14,366	$ 3,334	30.22%
Miscellaneous				$ -	
Total Office Costs	**$ 118,343**	**$ 122,974**	**$ 132,069**	**$ 13,726**	**11.60%**

Professional Services

Table B-8

Professional Services	Budget 2014	Projection 2014	Budget 2015	Variance 2015 Budget v 2014 Budget	Variance %
Outside Legal	$ 100,000	$ 25,000	$ 35,000	$ (65,000)	-65.00%
Accounting & Auditing Fees	16,642	16,315	16,324	$ (318)	-1.91%
Total Services	**$ 116,642**	**$ 41,315**	**$ 51,324**	**$ (65,318)**	**-56.00%**

Other Non-Operating Expenses

Table B-9

Other Non-Operating Expenses	Budget 2014	Projection 2014	Budget 2015	Variance 2015 Budget v 2014 Budget	Variance %
Interest Expense	$ -	$ -		$ -	
Office Relocation	-	-		$ -	
Total Non-Operating Expenses	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	

2015, 2016 and 2017 Projections

Table B-10

Statement of Activities and Capital Expenditures
2015, 2016 and 2017 Projections
Regional Entity

	2014 Budget	2015 Budget	$ Change 2015:2014 Over(Under)	% Chg 2015:2014 Over(Under)	2016 Projection	$ Change 2016:2015 Over(Under)	% Chg 2016:2015 Over(Under)	2017 Projection	$ Change 2017:2016 Over(Under)	% Chg 2017:2016 Over(Under)
Funding										
ERO Funding										
ERO Assessments	$ 5,488,057	$ 6,237,838	$ 749,781	13.66%	$ 7,271,064	$ 1,033,226	16.56%	$ 7,506,418	$ 235,354	3.24%
Penalty Sanctions	343,000	153,000	(190,000)	0.00%	-		-100.00%	-	-	
Total ERO Funding	**$ 5,831,057**	**$ 6,390,838**	**$ 559,781**	9.60%	**$ 7,271,064**	**$ 1,033,226**	13.77%	**$ 7,506,418**	**$ 235,354**	3.24%
Membership Dues	$ -	$ -	$ -		$ -	$ -		$ -	$ -	
Testing Fees	-	-	-		-	-		-	-	
Services & Software	24,000	24,000	-	0.00%	24,000	-	0.00%	24,000	-	0.00%
Workshops	90,000	90,000	-	0.00%	90,000	-	0.00%	90,000	-	0.00%
Interest	-	-	-		-	-		-	-	
Miscellaneous	-	-	-		-	-		-	-	
Total Funding	**$ 5,945,057**	**$ 6,504,838**	**$ 559,781**	9.42%	**$ 7,385,064**	**$ 1,033,226**	13.53%	**$ 7,620,418**	**$ 235,354**	3.19%
Expenses										
Personnel Expenses										
Salaries	$ 3,806,631	$ 4,082,307	$ 275,676	7.24%	$ 4,204,776	$ 122,469	3.00%	$ 4,330,919	$ 126,143	3.00%
Payroll Taxes	239,599	253,874	14,275	5.96%	261,490	7,616	3.00%	269,335	7,845	3.00%
Benefits	657,255	579,483	(77,772)	-11.83%	594,062	14,579	2.52%	609,082	15,020	2.53%
Retirement Costs	602,881	666,669	63,788	10.58%	686,264	19,595	2.94%	706,447	20,183	2.94%
Total Personnel Expenses	**$ 5,306,366**	**$ 5,582,333**	**$ 275,967**	5.20%	**$ 5,746,592**	**$ 164,259**	2.94%	**$ 5,915,783**	**$ 169,191**	2.94%
Meeting Expenses										
Meetings	$ 80,930	$ 69,292	$ (11,638)	-14.38%	$ 69,588	$ 296	0.43%	$ 69,892	$ 304	0.44%
Travel	167,209	191,753	24,544	14.68%	192,612	859	0.45%	193,497	885	0.46%
Conference Calls	18,771	9,482	(9,289)	-49.49%	9,564	82	0.86%	9,648	84	0.88%
Total Meeting Expenses	**$ 266,910**	**$ 270,527**	**$ 3,617**	1.36%	**$ 271,764**	**$ 1,237**	0.46%	**$ 273,037**	**$ 1,273**	0.47%
Operating Expenses										
Consultants & Contracts	$ 348,768	$ 393,718	$ 44,950	12.89%	$ 422,443	$ 28,725	7.30%	$ 448,117	$ 25,674	6.08%
Office Rent	555,089	547,586	(7,503)	-1.35%	559,532	11,946	2.18%	571,837	12,305	2.20%
Office Costs	118,343	132,069	13,726	11.60%	134,291	2,222	1.68%	136,578	2,287	1.70%
Professional Services	116,642	51,324	(65,318)	-56.00%	52,864	1,540	3.00%	54,450	1,586	3.00%
Miscellaneous	-	-	-		-	-		-	-	
Depreciation	110,490	202,287	91,797	83.08%	202,897	610	0.30%	203,525	628	0.31%
Total Operating Expenses	**$ 1,249,332**	**$ 1,326,984**	**$ 77,652**	6.22%	**$ 1,372,027**	**$ 45,043**	3.39%	**$ 1,414,507**	**$ 42,480**	3.10%
Total Direct Expenses	**$ 6,822,608**	**$ 7,179,844**	**$ 357,236**	5.24%	**$ 7,390,383**	**$ 210,539**	2.93%	**$ 7,603,327**	**$ 212,944**	2.88%
Indirect Expenses	**$ (1,643)**	$ 0	$ 1,643		**$ 0**	**$ 1,643**	0.00%	**$ -**	**$ 212,944**	-100.00%
Other Non-Operating Expenses	**$ -**	$ -	$ -		**$ -**	**$ -**		**$ -**	**$ -**	
Total Expenses	**$ 6,820,965**	**$ 7,179,844**	**$ 358,879**	5.26%	**$ 7,390,383**	**$ 212,182**	2.93%	**$ 7,603,327**	**$ 425,889**	2.88%
Change in Assets	**$ (875,908)**	**$ (675,006)**	**$ 200,902**	-22.94%	**$ (5,319)**	**$ 821,044**	-99.21%	**$ 17,091**	**$ (190,534)**	-421.32%
Fixed Assets										
Depreciation	$ (110,490)	$ (202,287)	$ (91,797)	83.08%	$ (202,897)	$ (610)	0.30%	$ (203,525)	$ (628)	0.31%
Total Fixed Asset Purchases	82,814	184,676	101,862	123.00%	197,578	12,902	6.99%	220,616	23,038	11.66%
								-	-	
Change in Fixed Assets	**$ 27,676**	**$ 17,611**	**$ (10,065)**	-36.37%	**$ 5,319**	**$ (12,292)**	-69.80%	**$ (17,091)**	**$ (22,410)**	-421.32%
TOTAL BUDGET	$ 6,793,289	$ 7,162,233	$ 368,944	5.43%	$ 7,385,064	$ 224,474	3.11%	$ 7,620,418	$ 448,299	3.19%
TOTAL CHANGE IN WORKING CAPITAL	**$ (848,232)**	**$ (657,395)**	**$ 190,837**	-22.50%	**$ -**	**$ 808,752**	-100.00%	**$ -**	**$ (212,944)**	
FTEs	30.40	30.91	0.51	1.68%	30.91	-	0.00%	30.91	-	0.00%

Section C – Non-Statutory Activities
2015 Business Plan and Budget

Member Services Activities (in whole dollars)	2014 Budget	2015 Budget	Increase (Decrease)
Total FTEs	16.8	18.4	1.5
Direct Expenses	7,454,381	8,422,053	967,672
Indirect Expenses	-	-	-
Inc(Dec) in Fixed Assets	1,614	(30,071)	(31,685)
Total Funding Requirement	7,455,995	8,391,982	935,987

Non-Statutory Functional Scope Background

The Member Services (MS) division of the FRCC provides, coordinates and administers a variety of services relating to the reliable planning and operation of the BES within the FRCC Region. These services are carried out by the FRCC Member Services Planning Committee (PC) and the FRCC Member Services Operating Committee (OC), various subcommittees, task forces and working groups, as well as FRCC Staff.

Member Services Objectives

- Ensure the reliability of the BES in the FRCC region.
- Coordination, planning, operation and maintenance of reliable bulk electricity supply in the FRCC region.

Membership and Governance

The FRCC's Members in the Member Services Division include investor-owned utilities, cooperative utilities, municipal utilities, power marketers and independent power producers. Current membership is 23 FRCC Members in 2014 and is not expected to change in 2015.

The activities of FRCC are directed by its Board of Directors. The Board is comprised of senior level executives from the FRCC membership.

Planning Committee (PC) Functional Scope

The PC promotes the reliability of the BES within the FRCC Region by assessing and encouraging generation and transmission adequacy. The PC assesses generation adequacy by performing a reliability assessment taking into account projected load and resources. The PC, through the FRCC Regional Transmission Planning Process, provides a vehicle for ensuring that transmission planning within the FRCC will provide for the development of a robust transmission network within the FRCC Region. The Regional Transmission Planning Process is a coordinated transmission planning process that evaluates all BES and non-BES transmission facilities. The major goal of this process is to ensure that the planning of transmission facilities

will meet the needs of all market participants in a coordinated, open and transparent transmission planning environment.

The FRCC will continue to develop, on an annual basis, a Regional Transmission Plan following the Regional Transmission Planning Process. The Regional Transmission Planning process will be revised to incorporate the planning principles from FERC Order 1000. The Regional Plan is based on the Ten Year Site Plans that are required to be submitted to the Florida Public Service Commission (FPSC) on April 1st of each year. The FRCC participates in an annual Ten Year Site Plan Workshop held by the FPSC where the results of resource and transmission adequacy assessments are presented.

The FRCC PC relies on the following subordinate groups to achieve its goals: Resource Working Group (RWG), Stability Working Group (SWG), and the Transmission Working Group (TWG).

The PC, supported by FRCC MS staff, has the primary responsibility of the Planning Authority (PA) function including implementation of all applicable PA NERC Reliability Standards.

Resource Working Group
The RWG performs reliability assessments of FRCC resource adequacy for the future 10-year period for peninsular Florida based on individual utility information that was the basis of their respective EIA-411 and Ten Year Site Plan filings with the Florida Public Service Commission. These reliability assessments are based upon the FRCC resource adequacy criteria.

Stability Working Group
The SWG is responsible for assessing the dynamic performance of the FRCC BES under various credible system conditions. In addition, the SWG performs the following assessments and studies: Coordination and performance of Special Protection Systems, the effectiveness of FRCC under-frequency load shedding program and coordination with other protection and control systems, Extreme Event Study and other assessments in support of the FRCC Regional Transmission Planning Process. The SWG annually develops FRCC dynamic models.

Transmission Working Group
The TWG engages in active coordination of transmission planning within the FRCC Region under the direction of the FRCC Planning Committee in support of the FRCC Regional Transmission Planning Process. The TWG annually performs a FRCC Long Range Study, sensitivity studies as directed by the PC, evaluates Transmission Service Requests and evaluates Generator Interconnection Service Requests. In addition, the TWG annually develops a FRCC Transmission Map, FRCC power flow models and FRCC short circuit models.

Operating Committee (OC) Functional Scope

The primary goal of the OC is to promote the reliability of the BES within the FRCC Region. The OC is responsible for the coordination, operations planning, operation and maintenance of the interconnected systems operating in the Region. The OC's primary reliability goals include effective implementation of the Regional Reliability Plan (*Reliability Process for the FRCC Bulk Electric System*), continuous improvement of operator awareness and communications and ensuring that adequate physical, operational and cyber security objectives are in place for the Region's shared communications network. The OC subordinate groups include the Operating

Reliability Subcommittee (ORS), Data Exchange Working Group (DEWG), Fuel Reliability Working Group (FRWG), Operations Planning Working Group (OPWG), Telecommunications Subcommittee (TS), System Protection and Control Subcommittee (SPCS) and the Critical Infrastructure Protection Subcommittee (CIPS). The OC ensures reliable operations are maintained through the implementation and oversight of the FRCC Reliability Coordinator (RC) functions as established in the Regional Reliability Plan.

The FRCC RC responsibilities include the real-time operating function and the next-day operations planning function. The RC tasks are performed by a designated agent of the FRCC with direction and oversight by FRCC committees and support staff. The designated agent performs real-time operations and next-day planning operations. FRCC staff supports Regional reliability by performing the roles of the Operations Planning Coordinator (OPC), and State Capacity Emergency Coordinator (SCEC) as defined in the *Reliability Process for the FRCC Bulk Electric System* document.

The FRCC RC function is accountable to the FRCC OC who has overall responsibility of the administration, development and implementation of operating procedures provided by the ORS for the NERC Operations & Planning (Non-CIP) Standards.

The FRCC continues to improve FRCC PA and RC compliance management programs under the Member Services Division based on the evolving regulatory requirements. The FRCC has improved its oversight of PA and RC functions by creating an independent Member Services Regulatory Department with a dedicated Regulatory Director who reports directly to the FRCC President and CEO and who has direct access to the FRCC Board of Directors. This position is responsible for the implementation, maintenance and oversight of the FRCC Internal Compliance Program (ICP) including all compliance activities for the FRCC registered entity functions and is the primary interface for all regulatory activities associated with the FRCC Member Services committees and is the FRCC liaison between external Compliance Enforcement Authorities.

Operating Reliability Subcommittee (ORS)

The ORS provides overall administration for the development and implementation of operating procedures and other reliability matters including the oversight of the FRCC RC function for Operating and Planning (non-CIP) NERC Standards. The ORS reviews and assesses regional import and export limits, scheduled transmission outages, real-time system reliability, events analysis, information and data exchange and other reliability issues. The ORS provides formal oversight and implementation of the Reliability Process for the FRCC Bulk Electric System which establishes the reliability responsibilities of the various entities within the Region and specifically monitors the agent responsible for performing the RC functions.

Data Exchange Working Group (DEWG)

The DEWG, subordinate to the ORS, supports the real-time data needs of the FRCC Reliability Coordinator and other operating entities. It is also responsible for developing methodologies to facilitate the exchange of real-time, modeling and other operational data to help ensure reliable electric power system operations. Accurate modeling of the FRCC BES is essential to maintaining situation awareness and ensuring reliability. Within the FRCC, operating entities provide system data via the FRCC Reliability Data Link (RDL). The FRCC RDL receives electric system reliability data from the operating entities on a real-time basis and allows the data to be made available.

Fuel Reliability Working Group (FRWG)
The FRWG, also subordinate to the ORS, has been established to deal with matters relating to fuel and impacts to BES reliability. Specifically, the FRWG provides the administrative oversight of a Regional fuel reliability forum that studies the interdependencies of fuel availability and electric reliability and supports coordinated Regional responses to fuel issues and fuel emergencies.

Operations Planning Working Group (OPWG)
The OPWG, as a part of the ORS, has been established to provide oversight, guidelines and procedures to the FRCC Operations Planning Coordinator (OPC) in accordance with the Reliability Process for the FRCC BES document. The OPWG focuses on BES reliability and developing processes and documentation that support regional reliability and adherence to the NERC Reliability Standards as they relate to the OPC function.

FRCC Telecommunications Subcommittee (TS)
The TS provides oversight for the TS budget which is included in the OC budget. The primary purpose of the TS is to ensure that adequate and redundant communications facilities are made available to the operating entities within the FRCC, including the FRCC Reliability Coordinator. The TS administers the FRCC Hotline program, Satellite phone program, and also ensures that reliable and redundant communications are maintained by the Eastern Interconnect Data Sharing Network, Inc. (EIDSN). All TS programs are non-statutory and support the Reliability Coordinator functions; with the exception of the FRCC satellite phone (located at the FRCC office) which is a tool that can be used by the Regional Entity to perform situation awareness and thus is budgeted as statutory.

FRCC System Protection and Control Subcommittee (SPCS)
The FRCC System Protection and Control Subcommittee (SPCS) has primary responsibility for the coordination of protection and control systems within the FRCC region, including regional disturbance monitoring equipment, review of protective mis-operations, protection related disturbance analysis and implementation of specific regional programs and procedures including the assessments of the FRCC Under-Frequency Load Shedding Program. The SPCS also reviews and coordinates system protection and control equipment installations, settings, protection philosophies and testing criteria within the region, when installations impact multiple entities. The SPCS serves as an important forum for sharing subject matter expert guidance and lessons learned / best practices for equipment issues and protection coordination.

FRCC Critical Infrastructure Protection Subcommittee (CIPS)
The purpose of the FRCC CIPS is to enhance the physical and cyber security of the critical BES infrastructure in the FRCC Region, with an emphasis on protecting, preventing, limiting and recovering from malicious activities directed at the FRCC critical energy infrastructure. The CIPS provides guidance to the OC on matters of critical energy infrastructure security, including cyber and physical security. The CIPS provides advice to the OC including implementation of all applicable FRCC RC CIP-002 through CIP-009 Reliability Standards.

Major 2015 Cost Impacts

The FRCC's proposed 2015 Members Services budgeted expenses and net fixed assets are $8,391,982, which is a $935,987 or 12.6% increase over the 2014 budgeted expenses. The cost impacts by function of this increase are:

Planning Committee (PC)
The Member Services Planning Committee (PC) expenses for 2015 are made up of the PC Committee budget, as well as the administrative costs to provide support personnel for implementation of the FRCC Planning Authority (PA) functions and all other Member Services PC activities. In 2015, staff will spend additional time enhancing FRCC steady state planning studies and has budgeted $150,000 for additional stability studies to prepare to meet the requirements of the new NERC Transmission Planning (TPL) Standard. In addition, staff is expected to add one FTE in 2015 to support the implementation of FERC Order 1000 as recommended by the PC.

The 2015 PC budget is developed based on the activities of the Resource Working Group (RWG), the Stability Working Group (SWG) and the Transmission Working Group (TWG). These budgets are primarily for the labor involved in coordination activities performed by member representatives, software and meeting costs.

Operating Committee (OC)
The Member Services Operating Committee (OC) expenses for 2015 are made up of a 2015 OC budget as well as the administrative costs to provide support personnel for implementation of the FRCC Reliability Coordinator (RC) functions and other Member Services OC activities. In 2015, staff will spend additional time coordinating activities with member companies to ensure continued reliability and compliance with changing NERC Reliability Standards.

The 2015 OC budget is developed based primarily on the activities of the Operating Reliability Subcommittee (ORS), the Telecommunications Subcommittee (TS), the Fuel Reliability Working Group (FRWG) and the Critical Infrastructure Protection Subcommittee (CIPS). These budgets are related to, or in support of both the FRCC Reliability Coordinator (RC) and Member Services entity's reliability functions and includes consulting costs, contract costs, computer software purchases and expenses to support the associated activities. These budgets do not include FRCC staff salaries or associated personnel costs.

The administrative costs associated with the FRCC OC support personnel include FRCC staff that support implementation of the FRCC RC functions and staff that support overall OC activities. The staff includes dedicated employees as well as shared employees.

Funding Sources and Requirements — Explanation of Increase (Decrease)

- **Personnel Expenses** – The increase in FTEs is attributed to an additional employee in the planning area to support new long range planning activities, the effect of a complete year for the 2014 addition to staff to support the Reliability Coordinator function that was budgeted to be filled in mid-2014 and the result of the implementation of a succession plan for a key accounting position.
- **Operating Expenses** – The increase in Operating Expenses is attributed to increases in consultant and contractor costs for the RC and PA functions.

2014 Member Services Budget and Projection and 2015 Budget Comparisons

Statement of Activities, Fixed Assets Expenditures and Change in Working Capital
2014 Budget & Projection, and 2015 Budget
NON-STATUTORY MEMBER SERVICES

	2014 Budget	2014 Projection	Variance 2014 Projection v 2014 Budget Over(Under)	2015 Budget	Variance 2015 Budget v 2014 Budget Over(Under)
Funding					
ERO Funding					
ERO Assessments	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Penalty Sanctions	-	-	-	-	-
Total ERO Funding	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**
Membership Dues	$ 6,916,762	$ 6,916,762	$ -	8,240,106	1,323,344
Testing Fees	-	-	-	-	-
Services & Software	277,419	312,531	35,112	254,459	(22,960)
Workshops	-	-	-	20,000	20,000
Interest	-	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	-
Total Funding	**$ 7,194,181**	**$ 7,229,293**	**$ 35,112**	**$ 8,514,565**	**$ 1,320,384**
Expenses					
Personnel Expenses					
Salaries	$ 2,108,824	$ 2,134,834	$ 26,010	$ 2,423,514	$ 314,690
Payroll Taxes	132,734	136,193	3,459	150,716	17,982
Benefits	350,795	320,232	(30,563)	351,746	951
Retirement Costs	328,267	343,386	15,119	387,762	59,495
Total Personnel Expenses	**$ 2,920,620**	**$ 2,934,645**	**$ 14,025**	**$ 3,313,738**	**$ 393,118**
Meeting Expenses					
Meetings	$ 37,515	$ 39,955	$ 2,440	$ 26,582	$ (10,933)
Travel	63,716	55,451	(8,265)	60,205	(3,511)
Conference Calls	27,108	30,959	3,851	45,286	18,178
Total Meeting Expenses	**$ 128,339**	**$ 126,365**	**$ (1,974)**	**$ 132,073**	**$ 3,734**
Operating Expenses					
Consultants & Contracts	$ 3,657,668	$ 3,843,855	$ 186,187	$ 4,260,160	$ 602,492
Office Rent	224,835	238,262	13,427	236,403	11,568
Office Costs	419,112	472,831	53,719	375,314	(43,798)
Professional Services	79,910	35,385	(44,525)	45,476	(34,434)
Miscellaneous	-	75,000	75,000	-	-
Depreciation	23,897	45,496	21,599	58,889	34,992
Total Operating Expenses	**$ 4,405,422**	**$ 4,710,829**	**$ 305,407**	**$ 4,976,242**	**$ 570,820**
Total Direct Expenses	**$ 7,454,381**	**$ 7,771,839**	**$ 317,458**	**$ 8,422,053**	**$ 967,672**
Indirect Expenses	$ -	$ -	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**
Other Non-Operating Expenses	$ -	$ -	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**
Total Expenses	**$ 7,454,381**	**$ 7,771,839**	**$ 317,458**	**$ 8,422,053**	**$ 967,672**
Change in Assets	**$ (260,200)**	**$ (542,546)**	**$ (282,346)**	**$ 92,512**	**$ (352,712)**
Fixed Assets					
Depreciation	$ (23,897)	$ (45,496)	$ (21,599)	$ (58,889)	$ (34,992)
Total Fixed Asset Purchases	25,511	78,929	53,418	28,818	3,307
	-	-			
Change in Fixed Assets	**$ (1,614)**	**$ (33,433)**	**$ (31,819)**	**$ 30,071**	**$ 31,685**
TOTAL BUDGET	$ 7,455,995	$ 7,805,272	$ 349,277	$ 8,391,982	$ 935,987
TOTAL CHANGE IN WORKING CAPITAL	**$ (261,814)**	**$ (575,979)**	**$ (314,165)**	**$ 122,583**	**$ 384,397**
FTEs	16.84	15.73	(1.11)	18.35	1.51

Personnel Analysis

Total FTE's by Program Area	Budget 2014	Projection 2014	Direct FTEs 2015 Budget	Shared FTEs[1] 2015 Budget	Total FTEs 2015 Budget	Change from 2014 Budget
NON-STATUTORY						
Operational Programs						
Operations Committee	10.48	9.94		10.27	10.27	-0.21
Planning Committee	3.27	3.52		4.57	4.57	1.30
Total FTEs Operational Programs	**13.75**	**13.46**	**0.00**	**14.84**	**14.84**	**1.09**
Administrative Programs						
General & Administrative	3.09	2.99		3.51	3.51	0.42
Total FTEs Administrative Programs	**3.09**	**2.99**	**0.00**	**3.51**	**3.51**	**0.42**
Total FTEs	**16.84**	**16.45**	**0.00**	**18.35**	**18.35**	**1.51**

[1]A shared FTE is defined by NERC as an employee who performs both Statutory and Non-Statutory functions.

Member Services Reserve Analysis — 2014 – 2015

Working Capital Reserve Analysis 2014-2015 NON-STATUTORY MEMBER SERVICES		
Beginning Working Capital Reserve (Deficit), December 31, 2013		587,073
Change in Post Retirement Benefit Obligation - Noncash Item		565,655
2014 Funding (from members)		6,916,762
2014 Projected Other funding sources		312,531
Total Cash Available 2014		8,382,021
Less: '2014 Projected expenses & capital expenditures		**(7,805,272)**
Projected Working Capital Reserve Surplus/(Deficit), December 31, 2014		**576,749**
Desired Working Capital Reserve, December 31, 2015	[1]	699,332
Less: Projected Working Capital Reserve, December 31, 2014		**(576,749)**
Increase(decrease) in assessments to achieve desired Working Capital Reserve		**122,583**
2015 Funding for Expenses and Capital Expenditures		8,391,982
Less: Other Funding Sources		**(274,459)**
Adjustment to achieve desired Working Capital Reserve		**122,583**
2015 Funding (reserve adjustment)		8,240,106

[1] On June 26, 2013, the FRCC Board of Directors set a working capital and operating working capital and operating reserve requirement of one (1) month of the total annual budget. The FRCC has a $1.5 million line of credit.

Section D – Additional Consolidated Financial Statements

2015 Business Plan and Budget

Section D — 2015 Additional Consolidated Financial Information

		Functions in Delegation Agreement							Non-Statutory Functions		
Statement of Activities and Capital Expenditures by Program 2014 Budget	Total	Statutory Total	Reliability Standards Development (Section 300)	Compliance Monitoring and Org Reg % Cert(Section 400 & 500)	Reliability Assessment and Performance Analysis (Section 800)	Training and Education (Section 900)	Situation Awareness and Infrastructure Security (Section 1000)	General and Administrative	Non-Statutory Total	Operating Committee	Planning Committee
Funding											
ERO Funding											
ERO Assessments	$ 6,237,838	$ 6,237,838	$ 413,407	$ 5,099,302	$ 1,133,412	$ 226,344	$ 22,769	$ (657,395)	$ -	$ -	$ -
Penalty Sanctions	153,000	153,000	9,737	112,572	24,997	5,182	512		-	-	-
Total ERO Funding	**6,390,838**	**6,390,838**	**423,143**	**5,211,874**	**1,158,409**	**231,525**	**23,281**	**(657,395)**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Membership Dues	$ 8,240,106	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 8,240,106	$ 6,792,087	$ 1,448,019
Testing Fees	-	-							-		
Services & Software	278,459	24,000			24,000				254,459	254,459	
Workshops	110,000	90,000				90,000			20,000	20,000	
Interest	-	-							-		
Miscellaneous	-	-							-		
Total Funding	**$ 15,019,403**	**$ 6,504,838**	**$ 423,143**	**$ 5,211,874**	**$ 1,182,409**	**$ 321,525**	**$ 23,281**	**$ (657,395)**	**$ 8,514,565**	**$ 7,066,546**	**$ 1,448,019**
Expenses											
Personnel Expenses											
Salaries	$ 6,505,821	$ 4,082,307	$ 225,465	$ 2,611,174	$ 580,711	$ 119,243	$ 12,256	$ 533,458	$ 2,423,514	$ 1,676,219	$ 747,295
Payroll Taxes	404,590	253,874	14,021	162,386	36,114	7,416	762	33,175	150,716	104,243	46,473
Benefits	931,229	579,483	32,602	385,976	82,646	14,228	1,463	62,568	351,746	235,709	116,037
Retirement Costs	1,054,431	666,669	36,074	431,288	92,914	19,079	1,961	85,353	387,762	268,195	119,567
Total Personnel Expenses	$ 8,896,071	$ 5,582,333	**$ 308,162**	**$ 3,590,824**	**$ 792,385**	**$ 159,966**	**$ 16,442**	**$ 714,554**	$ 3,313,738	$ 2,284,366	$ 1,029,372
Meeting Expenses											
Meetings	$ 95,874	$ 69,292	$ 2,606	$ 12,729	$ 1,612	$ 52,311	$ 34		$ 26,582	$ 18,286	$ 8,296
Travel	251,958	191,753	17,469	122,194	47,375	4,616	99		60,205	53,700	6,505
Conference Calls	54,768	9,482	203	4,390	447	4,433	9		45,286	30,491	14,795
Total Meeting Expenses	$ 402,600	$ 270,527	**$ 20,278**	**$ 139,313**	**$ 49,434**	**$ 61,360**	**$ 142**	**$ -**	$ 132,073	$ 102,477	$ 29,596
Operating Expenses											
Consultants & Contracts	$ 4,653,878	$ 393,718	$ 7,381	$ 214,984	$ 122,547	$ 37,104	$ 401	$ 11,301	$ 4,260,160	$ 4,036,905	$ 223,255
Office Rent	783,989	547,586	21,993	404,082	56,646	11,632	1,196	52,037	236,403	163,508	72,895
Office Costs	507,383	132,069	7,681	80,150	14,617	22,613	2,237	4,771	375,314	351,537	23,777
Professional Services	96,800	51,324	3,261	37,762	8,398	1,725	178		45,476	31,435	14,041
Miscellaneous	-	-							-		
Depreciation	261,176	202,287	1,633	191,775	5,365	1,052	2,462		58,889	50,230	8,659
Total Operating Expenses	$ 6,303,226	$ 1,326,984	**$ 41,949**	**$ 928,753**	**$ 207,573**	**$ 74,126**	**$ 6,474**	**$ 68,109**	$ 4,976,242	$ 4,633,615	$ 342,627
Total Direct Expenses	**$ 15,601,897**	**$ 7,179,844**	**$ 370,389**	**$ 4,658,890**	**$ 1,049,392**	**$ 295,452**	**$ 23,058**	**$ 782,663**	**$ 8,422,053**	**$ 7,020,458**	**$ 1,401,595**
Indirect Expenses	-	-	**49,808**	**575,856**	**127,871**	**26,506**	**2,621**	**(782,663)**			
Other Non-Operating Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Expenses	**$ 15,601,897**	**$ 7,179,844**	**$ 420,197**	**$ 5,234,746**	**$ 1,177,263**	**$ 321,958**	**$ 25,679**	**$ -**	**$ 8,422,053**	**$ 7,020,458**	**$ 1,401,595**
Change in Assets	**$ (582,494)**	**$ (675,006)**	**$ 2,946**	**$ (22,872)**	**$ 5,146**	**$ (433)**	**$ (2,398)**	**$ (657,395)**	**$ 92,512**	**$ 46,088**	**$ 46,424**
Fixed Assets											
Depreciation	$ (261,176)	$ (202,287)	$ (1,633)	$ (191,775)	$ (5,365)	$ (1,052)	$ (2,462)	$ -	$ (58,889)	$ (50,230)	$ (8,659)
Total Fixed Asset Purchases	213,494	184,676	4579	168,903	10,511	619	64		28,818	11,545	17,273
Change in Fixed Assets	**$ 47,682**	**$ 17,611**	**$ (2,946)**	**$ 22,872**	**$ (5,146)**	**$ 433**	**$ 2,398**	**$ -**	**$ 30,071**	**$ 38,685**	**$ (8,614)**
TOTAL CHANGE IN WORKING CAPITAL	**$ (534,812)**	**$ (657,395)**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ (657,395)**	**$ 122,583**	**$ 84,773**	**$ 37,810**

Statement of Financial Position

Statement of Financial Position
2013 Audited, 2014 Projection, 2015 Budget and 2016 Projected

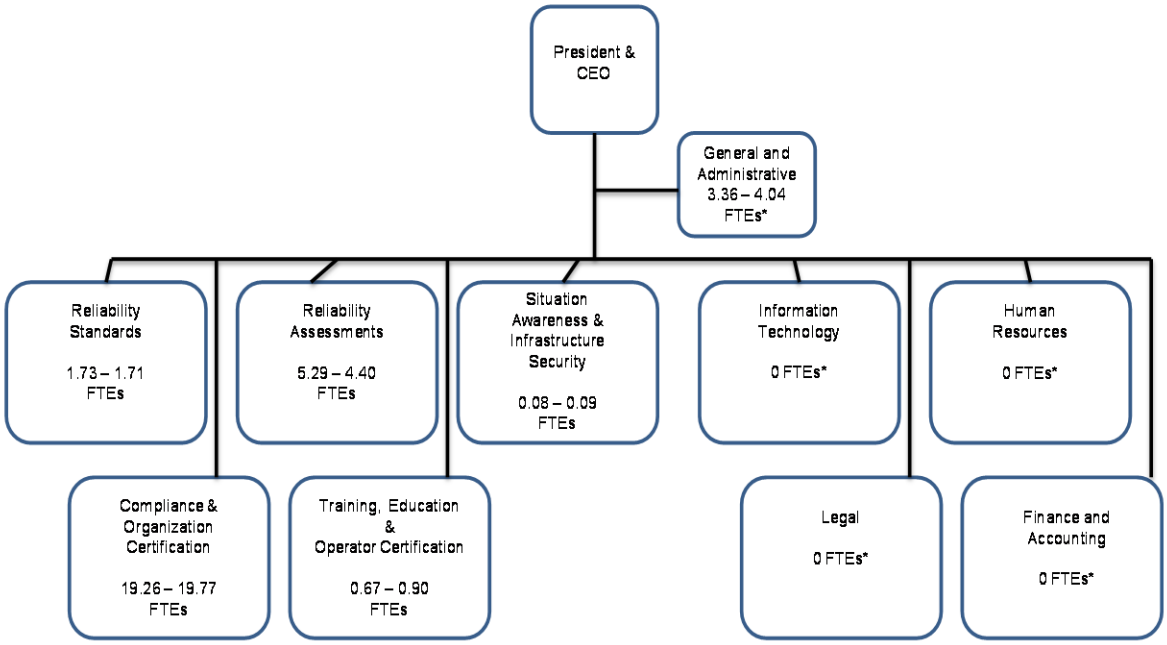
STATUTORY and NON-STATUTORY

	(Per Audit) 12/31/2013	Projected 12/31/2014	Budget 12/31/2015	Projected 12/31/2016
ASSETS				
Cash	6,558,632	4,763,059	3,577,263	3,665,908
Accounts receivable	2,855,070	2,955,070	3,155,070	3,355,070
Other receivables	-	-	-	-
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	18,526	15,000	15,000	15,000
Other Assets	259,175	150,000	150,000	150,000
Property and equipment (net of depreciation)	418,454	300,000	300,000	300,000
Total Assets	**10,109,857**	**8,183,129**	**7,197,333**	**7,485,978**
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS				
Liabilities				
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	2,556,119	2,540,000	1,800,000	1,900,000
Deferred income	3,111,955	3,657,736	3,846,312	3,957,406
Compliance Penalty Assessment	481,000	-	-	-
Accrued postretirement benefits obligation	1,406,822	1,477,163	1,551,021	1,628,572
Total Liabilities	**7,555,896**	**7,674,899**	**7,197,333**	**7,485,978**
Net Assets - unrestricted	2,553,961	508,230	-	-
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	**10,109,857**	**8,183,129**	**7,197,333**	**7,485,978**

Statutory Organizational Chart

Florida Reliability Coordinating Council, Inc.
Statutory Organization Chart

2014 Budgeted FTEs 30.40
2015 Budgeted FTEs 30.91



*All FTEs for Information Technology, Legal, Finance, and Human Resources, are recorded within General and Administrative

FRCC
Florida Reliability Coordinating Council, Inc.

FRCC 2015 Business Plan & Budget

(As Submitted to NERC and Posted for Comments on 5/16/2014)

(Not Approved by the FRCC Board of Directors)

NERC and Regional Entity Meeting with the NERC FAC

May 21, 2014

Reva R. Maskewitz - Controller

2015 Regional Entity Division Personnel Comparison

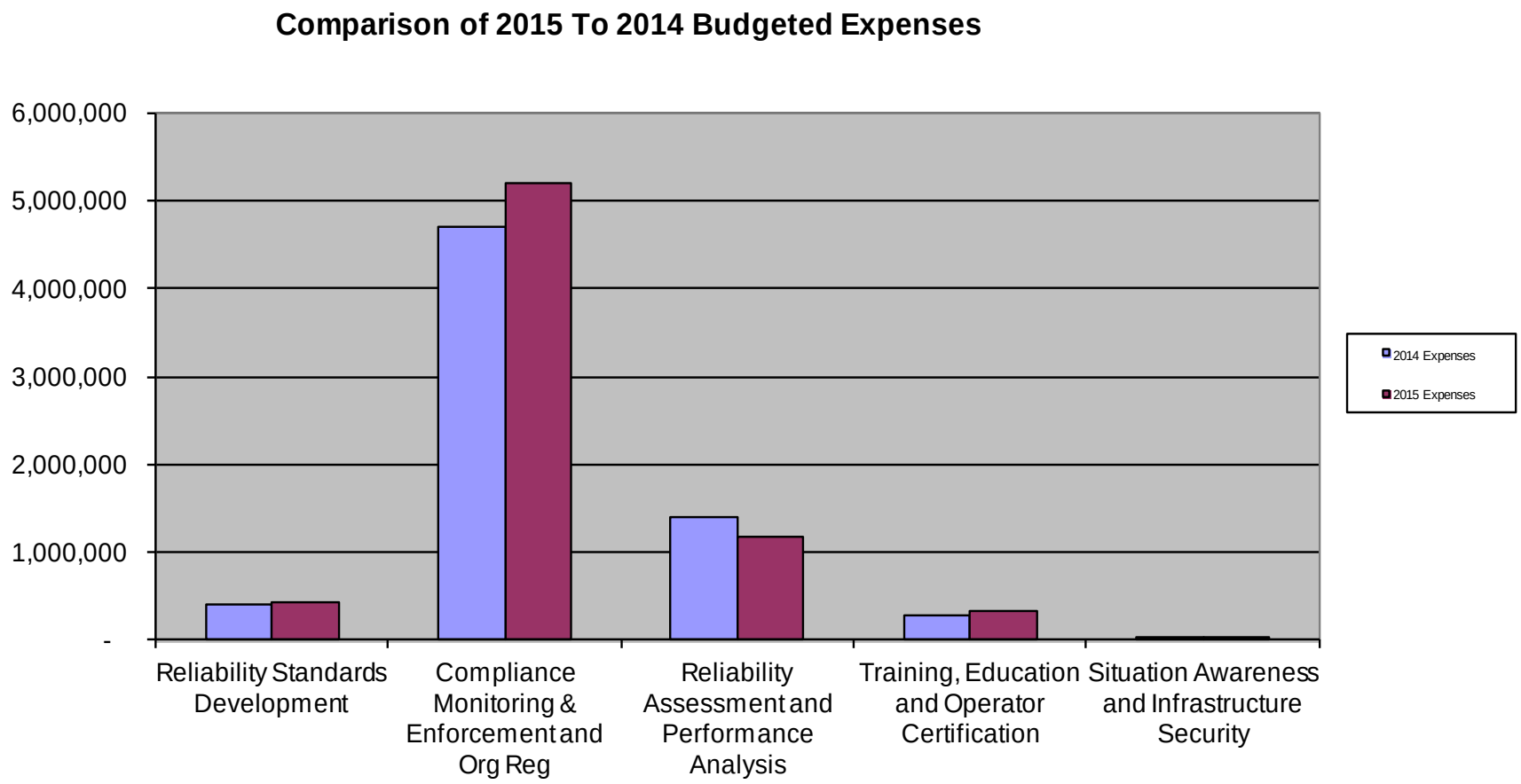
Total FTE's by Program Area	Budget 2014	Projection 2014	Direct FTEs 2015 Budget	Shared FTEs[1] 2015 Budget	Total FTEs 2015 Budget	Change from 2014 Budget
STATUTORY						
Operational Programs						
Reliability Standards Development	1.74	1.33	1.71		1.71	-0.03
Compliance Monitoring & Enforcement and Org Reg	19.26	18.25	19.77		19.77	0.51
Reliability Assessment and Performance Analysis	5.29	4.26		4.40	4.40	-0.89
Training, Education and Operator Certification	0.67	0.50		0.90	0.90	0.23
Situation Awareness and Infrastructure Security	0.08	0.06		0.09	0.09	0.01
Total FTEs Operational Programs	**27.04**	**24.40**	**21.48**	**5.39**	**26.87**	**-0.17**
Administrative Programs						
General & Administrative	3.36	3.57		4.04	4.04	0.68
Total FTEs Administrative Programs	**3.36**	**3.57**	**0.00**	**4.04**	**4.04**	**0.68**
Total FTEs	**30.40**	**27.97**	**21.48**	**9.43**	**30.91**	**0.51**

[1]A shared FTE is defined by NERC as an employee who performs both Statutory and Non-Statutory functions.

2015 RE Division Total Funding by Program Area

	2014	2015	% Change 2015:2014	$ Change 2015:2014
Reliability Standards Development	409,591	423,143	3.3%	13,552
Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement	4,700,708	5,211,874	10.9%	511,166
Reliability Assessment & Performance Analysis	1,391,299	1,182,409	-15.0%	(208,890)
Training, Education and Operator Certification	272,310	321,525	18.1%	49,215
Situational Awareness & Infrastructure Security	19,380	23,281	20.1%	3,901
Total Statutory Expenses & Net Fixed Assets	6,793,288	7,162,232	5.4%	368,944
Funding:				
Total Statutory Funding Assessment	5,488,056	6,237,837	13.7%	749,781
Pass ThruTraining & Education	90,000	90,000	0.0%	-
Pass Thru Software Maintenance	24,000	24,000	0.0%	-
Cash Reserve Refund (Requirement)	848,232	657,395	-22.5%	(190,837)
Penalty Assessment Allocation	343,000	153,000	-55.4%	(190,000)
Total Statutory Funding (Equals Total Expenses)	6,793,288	7,162,232	5.4%	368,944

2015 to 2014 RE Division Comparative Budgeted Funding



2015 RE Division Overview

- The FRCC will continue to evaluate the adequacy of its resources and to evaluate efficiencies in its processes in order to continue to carry out its delegated responsibilities.

- The FRCC will continue to align itself and support the ERO Strategic Plan for goals, activities and major activities which include:
  - Support of the RAI with training and implementation for compliance and enforcement staff.
  - Support NERC's plan to develop RSAW's concurrent with Reliability Standards.
  - Work with NERC and the other RE's to provide guidance to registered entities on CIP V5.
  - Work to refine and revise procedures and processes to eliminate duplication, increase operating efficiencies, enhance ERO-wide consistency and to achieve measurable reliability outcomes.

2015 RE Division Risks

- Roll out of RAI may require significantly more staff time than budgeted
- Compliance Software costs may be higher than budgeted due to RAI or unplanned NERC projects
- Additional costs may be incurred to implement recommendations from the FRCC Security Assessment Initiative
- As always, there could be a Compliance Hearing

2015 Proposed RE Division Working Capital Policy

- Working Capital and operating reserve requirements shall be one (1) month of the total annual budget
- A 1.5 million line of credit is available for short term and other risks that may be needed to bridge budget cycles and approved assessments.
- Working Capital shall be utilized to satisfy projected annual cash flow and cash balance requirements.
- Operating reserves shall be utilized to satisfy known contingencies where the specific timing and amount is uncertain.

FRCC Proposed 2015 Total Budget Compared to 2014

	2015 Budget	2014 Budget	$ Change	% Change
Regional Entity Division Expenses W/Fixed Assets	$ 7,162,233	$ 6,793,289	$368,944	5.4%
Member Services Division Expenses W/Fixed Assets	8,391,982	7,455,995	935,987	12.6%
Total Expenses	$15,554,214	$14,249,283	$1,304,931	9.2%
Other Funding – Workshops & Fees	388,459	391,419	2,960	(0.8%)
Cash Reserve (Requirement)/(Surplus)	534,812	1,110,046	575,234	(51.8%)
Penalty Sanctions	153,000	343,000	190,000	(55.4%)
Total FRCC Funding Assessment	$14,477,943	$12,404,818	$2,073,125	16.7%

2015 BP&B Summary

- **Regional Entity**
  - Budget increase of 5.4%
  - 0 new Staff
  - 0.5 increased FTEs

- **Member Services**
  - Budget increase of 12.6%
  - 1 new Staff
  - 1.5 increased FTEs

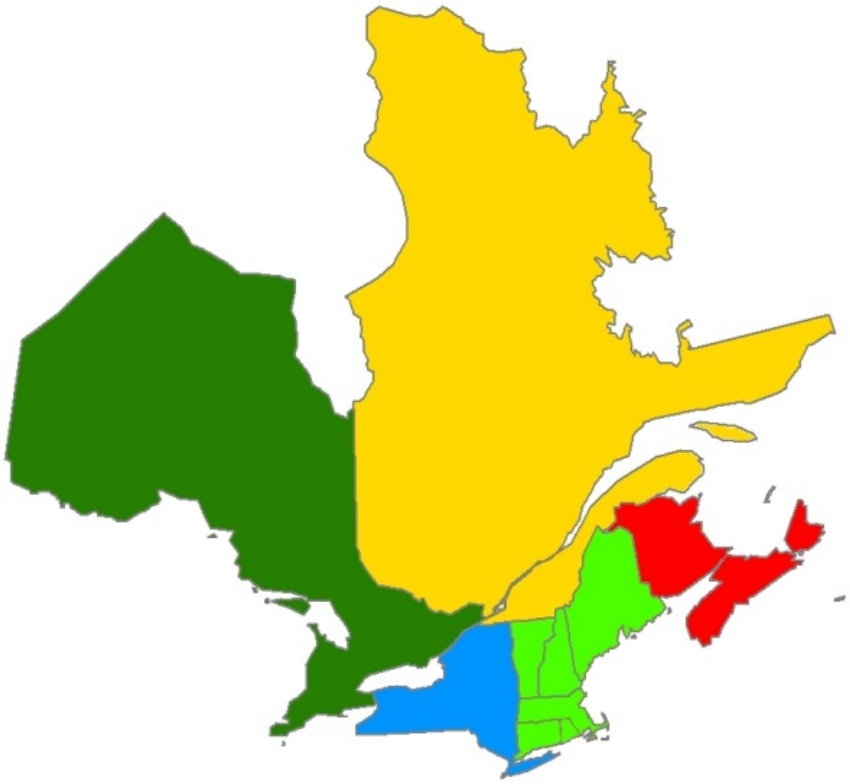
FRCC

QUESTIONS?

NORTHEAST POWER COORDINATING COUNCIL, INC.
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Northeast Power Coordinating Council, Inc. (NPCC)

Preliminary Draft 2015 Business Plan and Budget



Draft 1
Submitted to NERC
May 14, 2014

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Introduction

Total NPCC Resources (in whole dollars)	2015 Budget	U.S.	Canada	Mexico
Regional Entity Division FTEs	36.86			
Criteria Services Division FTEs	2.14			
Total FTEs	**39.0**			
Regional Entity Division Expenses	$14,758,558			
Criteria Services Division Expenses	$1,139,452			
Total Expenses	**$15,898,011**			
Regional Entity Division Inc(Dec) in Fixed Assets	**$19,981**			
Criteria Services Division Inc(Dec) in Fixed Assets	**($10,011)**			
Total Inc(Dec) in Fixed Assets	**$9,970**			
Regional Entity Division Working Capital Requirement**	**($355,161)**			
Criteria Services Division Working Capital Requirement***	**($94,220)**			
Total Working Capital Requirement	**($449,381)**			
Total Regional Entity Division Funding Requirement	$14,423,378			
Total Criteria Services Division Funding Requirement	$1,035,221			
Total Funding Requirement	**$15,458,599**			
Regional Entity Division Assessments	**$14,078,378**	$XXX,XXX	$XXX,XXX	
Regional Entity Division Assessments Percentage	**100.0%**	XX.X%	XX.X%	
Criteria Services Division Membership Fees	**$760,033**	$XXX,XXX	$XXX,XXX	
Total NPCC Assessments & Membership Fees	**$15,113,599**	$XXX,XXX	$XXX,XXX	
NEL	XX	XX	XX	
NEL %	100%	XX.XX%	XX.XX%	

** Refer to Table B-1 on page 78 in Section B.
*** Refer to the Reserve Analysis on page 97 in Section C.

2015 Overview of Total NPCC Resource Requirements

Due to the international nature of NPCC, the total resource requirements including both Regional Entity division and Criteria Services division are identified above. The individual divisional explanations are contained in subsequent sections.

NPCC proposes to increase its total funding requirement from $14,818,588 to $15,458,599 in 2015, an increase of $640,011 or 4.3%. The proposed 2015 funding requirements will be satisfied by a Regional Entity division assessment of $14,078,378 and Criteria Services division fees of $1,035,221, an overall increase of 3.5% compared to the 2014 total assessments and fees of $14,601,588. NPCC believes that the Region remains an effective provider of Regional Entity and Criteria Services division functions. NPCC's corporate culture centers on consistent delivery of excellent results at a cost that is considerate of the longstanding tradition in the Northeast of affordable and reliable electricity.

Organizational Overview

Northeast Power Coordinating Council, Inc. (NPCC) is a 501(c)(6) not-for-profit corporation in the state of New York responsible for promoting and improving the reliability of the international, interconnected bulk power systems in Northeastern North America through (i) the development of Regional Reliability Standards and compliance assessment and enforcement of continent-wide and Regional Reliability Standards, coordination of system planning, design and operations, and assessment of reliability (collectively, Regional Entity activities), and (ii) the establishment of Regionally-specific criteria, and monitoring and enforcement of compliance

with such criteria (collectively, criteria services activities). NPCC provides the functions and services for Northeastern North America of a cross-border Regional Entity through a Regional Entity division, as well as Regionally-specific criteria services for Northeastern North America through a criteria services division. NPCC's website is www.npcc.org.

The NPCC Region covers nearly 1.2 million square miles and is populated by more than 56 million people. NPCC U.S. includes the six New England states and the state of New York. NPCC Canada includes the provinces of Ontario, Québec and the Maritime provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. In total, from a net energy for load perspective, NPCC is approximately 45% U.S. and 55% Canadian. With regard to Canada, approximately 70% of Canadian net energy for load is within the NPCC Region.

Effective January 1, 2012, NPCC executed an Amended and Restated Regional Delegation Agreement with the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) that delegates to NPCC certain responsibilities and authorities of a cross-border Regional Entity as defined by *Section 215* of the Federal Power Act in the U.S. In addition, NPCC has executed Memoranda of Understanding or Agreements with Canadian provincial regulatory and/or governmental authorities in Ontario, Québec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

In this 2015 business plan, NPCC has included activities consistent with NERC initiatives including the implementation of the revised BES definition, risk-based registration, the Reliability Assurance Initiative, and expanded training for compliance auditing.

It is imperative that NPCC maintain its ability to carry out delegated authorities and responsibilities. NPCC has a flat 2015 targeted staffing level of 39 power industry professionals and support personnel. Details of the 2015 business plans and budget for each program area are included in Section A for the Regional Entity division. The 2015 Regional Entity division schedules are shown in Section B. Section C details the 2015 criteria services division business plan and budget.

Membership and Governance

NPCC monitors approximately 300 registered entities and some 602 functions in the Region for compliance with mandatory Reliability Standards. NPCC currently has approximately 78 members. There are two categories of membership, General and Full. The two categories distinguish between Regional Entity delegated services that are provided in support of the U.S. FERC and Canadian provincial MOUs or Agreements with regulatory and/or governmental authorities, and Criteria Services which FERC references as U.S. non-delegated activities.

General Membership is voluntary and is open to any person or entity, including any entity participating in the Registered Ballot Body of the Electric Reliability Organization (ERO) that has an interest in the reliable operation of the Northeastern North American bulk power system. General Members which are also registered entities within the NPCC Region are subject to compliance with Reliability Standards, consistent with their registration, and also receive additional services from the Regional Entity division of NPCC.

Full Membership is available to Members which are already General Members and participate in electricity markets in the Northeast. Independent system operators (ISOs), Regional transmission organizations (RTOs), Transcos and other organizations or entities that perform the Balancing Authority function operating in Northeastern North America are expected to be Full Members of NPCC. The New York State Reliability Council and any other sub-regional

reliability councils which may be formed are also expected to be Full Members. Full Members are subject to compliance with Regionally-specific more stringent reliability criteria for their generation and transmission facilities on which faults or disturbances can have a significant adverse impact outside of the local area and which are identified utilizing a reliability impact-based methodology, in addition to Reliability Standards, and receive additional services from the Criteria Services division of NPCC, which is not funded through the ERO.

Since January 1, 2012 NPCC is governed by a Board of Directors consisting of seven stakeholder voting sectors consisting of a maximum of two directors per sector, an independent sector consisting of two independent directors, an independent Board Chair with voting rights to preclude board deadlocks, and the President and CEO. Within NPCC, no two sectors can control and no one sector can block action. The voting sectors on the NPCC Board of Directors include:

Sector 1) Transmission Owners
Sector 2) Reliability Coordinators
Sector 3) Transmission Dependent Utilities, Distribution Companies, Load Serving Entities
Sector 4) Generator Owners
Sector 5) Marketers, Brokers and Aggregators
Sector 6) Regulators
Sector 7) Sub-Regional Reliability Councils, Customers, other Regional Entities and Interested Entities
Sector 8) Independent

A Finance and Audit Committee (FAC), a Pension Committee (PC), a Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee (CGNC), and a Management Development and Compensation Committee (MDCC) advise the Board on finance, governance, compensation and human resource matters. The Board endorses a non-employee, Certified Public Accountant for election by the NPCC Members as Treasurer of the corporation. The Treasurer chairs the FAC and works with the Chief Operating Officer who provides oversight of the finances of the corporation. The Treasurer reports to the Board on the corporation's financial position, on FAC activities, on tax code requirements, and on independent annual audit results and accounting practices.

The Regional Standards Committee (RSC), the Compliance Committee (CC), the Reliability Coordinating Committee (RCC), and the Public Information Committee, consistent with their approved scopes, are responsible for various reliability issues. The RSC, CC and RCC also provide technical policy recommendations to the Board. All General and Full Members are eligible for representation on the technical committees.

Industry technical experts from within the membership provide valuable input to the Board through various working groups and task forces as well as the committees. The *Amended and Restated Bylaws* establishes NPCC's independence from users, owners and operators of the bulk power system through the enhanced governance structure while providing fair stakeholder representation in the election of the Board of Directors and officers. The members, from each of the seven stakeholder voting sectors, vote to elect directors in their respective sector. The *Amended and Restated Bylaws* establish criteria for board service for both stakeholder and independent directors. Independent Directors are drawn from diverse backgrounds and possess a broad range of industry expertise, perspectives, experiences, skill sets and knowledge to contribute to the effective functioning of a hybrid board structure.

Compliance and enforcement activities are carried out by the NPCC compliance staff and are independent of all users, owners and operators of the international bulk electric system. Compliance activities are governed in the United States by the *Amended and Restated Regional Delegation Agreement* between NERC and NPCC, delegating portions of NERC's authority as the ERO to NPCC. NPCC compliance activities in Canada are governed by an individual provincial Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or Agreements with each province providing the unique parameters for compliance and enforcement activities for each of the provinces. A MOU between the Independent Electricity System Operator in Ontario (IESO), NERC and NPCC establishes roles and responsibilities with regard to that province. NPCC, NERC and the New Brunswick Energy and Utilities Board are parties to a MOU that sets forth reliability activities for New Brunswick. The Régie de l'énergie, NERC and NPCC executed an Agreement regarding the development of electric power transmission Reliability Standards and a program for the monitoring of the application of these standards for Québec. NPCC, NERC and Nova Scotia executed a MOU that sets forth the mutual understanding of the parties in relation to the approval and implementation of NERC Reliability Standards and NPCC Regional reliability criteria for the province of Nova Scotia.

International Foundation

The Regional Entity functions and services differ according to particular regulatory backstop:

a) U.S. Foundation

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) certified NERC as the Electric Reliability Organization (ERO) on July 20, 2006. The ERO is responsible for developing and enforcing reliability standards within the United States. In executing part of its responsibilities, NERC delegates authority to the Regional Entities to perform certain functions through delegation agreements. Ensuring the reliability of the bulk power system in the state of New York and the six New England States was delegated from NERC to NPCC through the Amended and Restated Regional Delegation Agreement.

b) Ontario

On February 5, 2010, NERC, NPCC and the IESO amended and restated their earlier MOU, dated November 29, 2006, setting forth their mutual understanding as regards NERC's and NPCC's status in Ontario with respect to standard and criteria development, compliance enforcement, and other related matters. The IESO, whose statutory responsibilities include making and enforcing reliability standards, and making and enforcing Ontario market rules that govern the IESO-controlled grid and the wholesale electricity market, was established April 1, 1999 as the Independent Electricity Market Operator in Ontario under the *Electricity Act, 1998* (Ontario). The IESO is subject to the regulatory oversight of the Ontario Energy Board (OEB).

Among other things, the MOU recognizes that NERC and NPCC are standards authorities under the *Electricity Act, 1998* (Ontario). Additionally, under the authority of that same legislation, and as memorialized in the MOU, the NERC reliability standards and NPCC reliability criteria have effect in Ontario. However a 2008 amendment to the Electricity Act, 1998 (Ontario) allows the OEB to review these standards and criteria and issue orders preventing their implementation and remanding them back to NERC and NPCC.

The IESO is subject to compliance monitoring and enforcement by NPCC. The IESO is also subject to compliance monitoring and enforcement of the Ontario market rules by the IESO's Market Assessment and Compliance Division (MACD) that operates at arm's length from the IESO's business units. The MOU notes that where MACD, NERC, and NPCC engage in

investigations pursuant to their respective mandates regarding compliance, MACD can request to take the lead. Moreover, of the three, MACD is the only entity that can assess financial penalties for any Ontario market participant's or the IESO's non-compliance with Ontario market rules, which includes non-compliance with NERC standards and NPCC criteria.

The MOU provides for a peer review process to promote the common compliance and enforcement objectives of NERC/NPCC and MACD. From the perspective of NPCC and NERC, this process, in part, is meant to assure registered entities outside of Ontario that the MACD program is rigorous, thorough and reliable.

The IESO is subject to NPCC assessments of compliance, including audits, as well as NPCC remedial action directives to correct non-compliance. In the event that the IESO disagrees with NPCC's finding of a violation or associated assessment of sanctions in connection with standards and criteria, the IESO has a right to a compliance hearing with NPCC.

c) Québec

The Régie de l'énergie, NERC and NPCC are parties to the May 8, 2009 *Agreement on the Development of Electric Power Transmission Reliability Standards and of Procedures and a Program for the Monitoring of the Application of These Standards for Québec* (the Agreement). Under the terms of the Agreement, the Régie de l'énergie , which is charged with ensuring the reliability of the electric transmission in Québec, retained NPCC and NERC as experts to develop reliability standards and monitoring program procedures for the Province.

The Régie de l'énergie is a public body established by the *Act respecting the Régie de l'énergie* (the Act). Pursuant to its authority under the Act, the Régie de l'énergie, through a series of decisions in 2007, designated Hydro-Québec TransÉnergie (HQTE) as the Reliability Coordinator for Québec. In accordance with its mandate and as recognized in the Agreement, it is this entity that is responsible for the filing with the Régie de l'énergie for approval of reliability standards in Québec. HQTE has filed for the approval of certain reliability standards and the Régie de l'énergie has begun the proceedings required to make such reliability standards mandatory in Québec.

The Agreement contemplates the execution of a second agreement that will detail the mandates granted by the Régie de l'énergie to NPCC and NERC with respect to the implementation of the procedures and program for the monitoring of the application of electric power transmission Reliability Standards in Québec and the provision of opinions and recommendations to the Régie in this regard. The second agreement is currently being negotiated by the Régie de l'énergie, NPCC and NERC. The intent, once all the appropriate authorizations are in place, is that NPCC and NERC will act as the Régie's agents in all compliance monitoring and enforcement activities through the implementation of a Québec specific compliance monitoring and enforcement program.

Currently, as there are only a limited number of mandatory standards that have come into effect, and as the second agreement and all the appropriate authorizations covering compliance monitoring and enforcement arrangements are not in place, there has been limited mandatory compliance activity under the formal Québec regime. However, the Hydro-Québec companies, including Hydro-Québec TransÉnergie and Hydro-Québec Production have been subject to voluntarily compliance monitoring, including comprehensive audits by NPCC. Additionally, NPCC has and continues to proceed with its reliability assurance activities within Québec,

including but not limited to events analysis, Reliability Assessment and Performance Analysis and compliance investigations, consistent with the NPCC *Amended and Restated Bylaws*.

d) New Brunswick

The New Brunswick Energy and Utilities Board ("EUB") and NPCC entered into an Agreement dated October 1, 2013, whereby NPCC provides services for the EUB. The EUB is a not-for-profit corporation which was established on October 1, 2004 under the Electricity Act (NB) and charged with developing and administering the wholesale electricity market and maintaining reliability of the integrated power system in New Brunswick.

Effective October 1, 2013, the Electricity Act (NB) and implementing regulations (together, "NB Electricity Act") amended how Reliability Standards are approved, monitored, and enforced in the province of New Brunswick. The NB Electricity Act designates NPCC as a compliance body and NERC as a standards body within the meaning of the NB Electricity Act. The October 1, 2013 Agreement between NPCC and the EUB is intended to be the preliminary step with respect to the implementation of the NB Electricity Act.

With respect to the approval of reliability standards, the NB Electricity Act provides that all of the NERC Reliability Standards that were effective in New Brunswick prior to October 1, 2013 continue to be effective in New Brunswick after October 1, 2013. Additionally, the New Brunswick Power Corporation (formed from several amalgamating corporations) ("NBPC") is required to file for approval, modification, or retirement of NERC Reliability Standards 60 days after a NERC Reliability Standard is approved, modified, or retired by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("FERC"). The EUB rules on the filed Reliability Standard after considering (a) the potential impact on the reliability of the bulk power system, (b) the potential cost and benefits (c) the public interest, and (d) any other factors that the NBUEB considers relevant. The Electricity Act requires the NBEUB to notify NPCC and NERC of an application by the NBPC with respect to reliability standards and provide for a 60 day comment period. The NBEUB is required to approve the reliability standards if there are not substantive modifications proposed from the FERC approved NERC Reliability Standard and there were no substantive comments filed. Amendments to the reliability standard to make them compatible with New Brunswick or Canadian law are considered non-substantive. The approval of reliability standards may be subject to a hearing for several reasons, including substantive comments from NPCC or NERC.

With respect to the monitoring and enforcement of the Reliability Standards in New Brunswick, the NB Electricity Act requires NPCC to identify entities that must register with the EUB in the New Brunswick specific registry. Additionally, NPCC is required to carry out the compliance monitoring and assessment for the EUB and assist and advise the enforcement for the EUB, including financial penalties. NPCC is also permitted to carry out or exercise any power in the implementing regulations that is specific to the EUB. Additionally, NPCC has the powers of an inspector, which permits NPCC to audit and spot check entities within New Brunswick.

e) Nova Scotia

Nova Scotia Power Incorporated (NSPI), NPCC and NERC are parties to a May 11, 2010 Memorandum of Understanding regarding the approval and implementation of mandatory NERC reliability standards and NPCC Regional reliability criteria. Pursuant to the MOU's terms, NERC and NPCC filed standards and criteria with the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board (NSUARB) for approval on June 30, 2010 and June 29, 2010, respectively. A decision from the NSUARB on both NERC and NPCC filings was rendered on July 20, 2011. Hence, the

standards and criteria are mandatory in Nova Scotia and NSPI will be subject to the NERC compliance monitoring and enforcement program, as implemented by NPCC.

NPCC will conduct compliance activities with respect to the standards and then forward any non-compliance information and recommendations to the NSUARB for use in enforcement proceedings. Enforcement will be administered by the NSUARB which will, among other things, determine whether a violation has occurred and, if so, what remedial measures or non-monetary penalties should be imposed.

Regional Entity Division Functional Scope

NPCC's Regional Entity division functions in support of the ERO include:

- Active participation in the development of North American Reliability Standards for the bulk electric system, and as needed development of Reliability Standards applicable within the NPCC cross-border Regional Entity
- Monitoring and enforcement of approved Reliability Standards, including the registration of responsible entities, and as needed certification of such entities
- Assessment of the present and future reliability of the bulk power system
- Operational coordination and situation awareness support
- Event analysis and identifying lessons learned to improve reliability
- Effective training and education of reliability personnel
- Promoting the protection of critical electric infrastructure

In recognition of the delegated compliance role of Regional Entities as an important means to enhancing reliability, NPCC has designated a significant percentage of its staff resources to compliance monitoring and enforcement. NPCC has also developed and deployed a robust set of online tools for gathering data, analysis, and tracking of compliance information to support its ability to carry out its responsibilities in a cost effective manner.

NPCC has organized the remaining staff into program areas consistent with EPAct 2005 to address the other functions listed above. These experts in operations, planning and reliability analysis assist registered entities in assessing and improving reliability. It is in support of these areas that NPCC engages the majority of industry experts on its technical committees.

2015 Key Assumptions and 2015 Goals and Key Deliverables

NERC and the eight Regional Entities collaborated in the development of a common operating model with complementary roles and responsibilities, an ERO Enterprise Strategic Plan, and a set of business planning assumptions, goals, metrics and key deliverables for the 2014 through 2017 period. The results from that collaboration are included as a set of Shared Business Plan and Budget Assumptions that will be contained in Exhibit A to the NERC 2015 Business Plan and Budget and may be referenced by the users of this document. In each of the following program area sections footnotes are used to reference the specific ERO Enterprise Goals that NPCC's activities support.

2015 Overview of Regional Entity Division Cost Impacts

NPCC proposes to increase its Regional Entity division funding requirement from $13,828,880 to $14,423,378 in 2015, an increase of $594,498 or 4.3%. The proposed Regional Entity division assessment of $14,078,378 to support the budget is an increase of 3.4% compared to the 2014 assessment of $13,611,880.

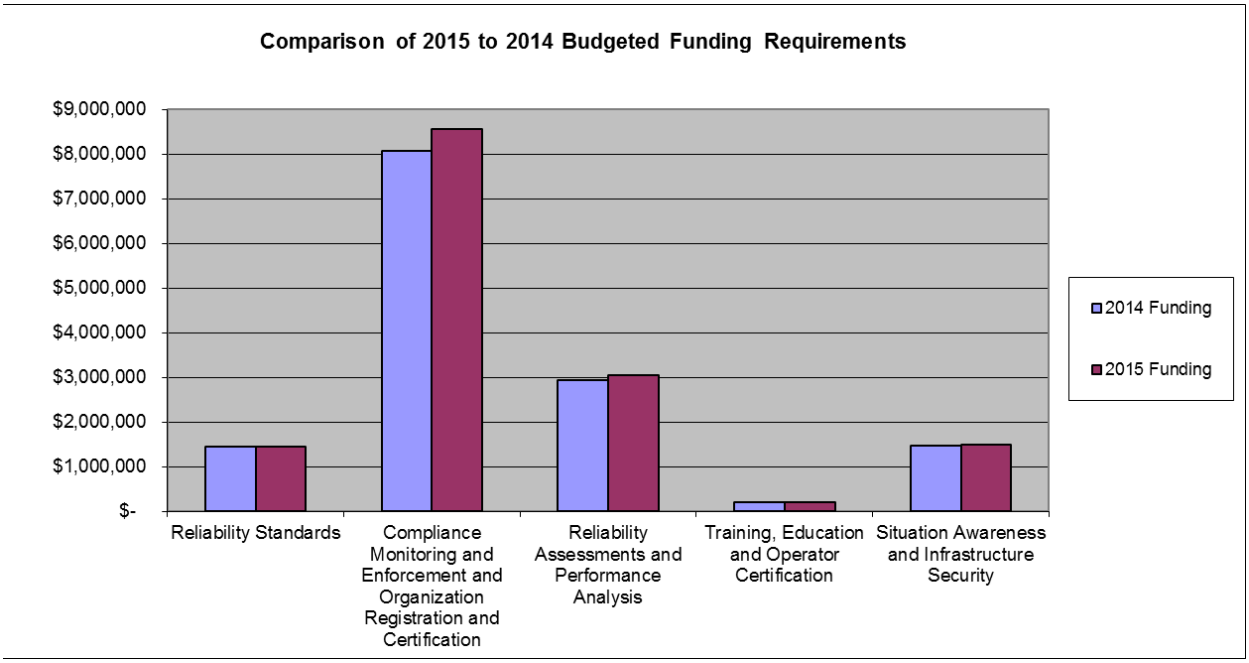
2014 Projections

Current year projections are taken into consideration in development of the budget. Expenses are currently projected to be on budget or slightly under budget in all areas. 2014 Projections reflect expectations based on the first quarter statement of activities. It is anticipated that projections could change throughout 2014 and would be reflected in each subsequent quarter's statement of activities.

Summary by Program

Program	Budget 2014	Projection 2014	Budget 2015	Variance 2015 Budget v 2014 Budget	Variance %
Reliability Standards	$ 1,447,330	$ 1,447,330	$ 1,456,129	$ 8,799	0.6%
Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement and Organization Registration and Certification	$ 8,079,371	$ 8,079,371	$ 8,568,145	$ 488,774	6.0%
Reliability Assessments and Performance Analysis	$ 2,942,339	$ 2,942,339	$ 3,053,923	$ 111,585	3.8%
Training, Education and Operator Certification	$ 195,855	$ 195,855	$ 199,010	$ 3,154	1.6%
Situation Awareness and Infrastructure Security	$ 1,464,111	$ 1,464,111	$ 1,501,332	$ 37,221	2.5%
Total	$ 14,129,006	$ 14,129,006	$ 14,778,539	$ 649,533	4.6%

This chart does not include allocation of working capital requirements among the Program Areas.



This chart does not include allocation of working capital requirements among the Program Areas.

Personnel Analysis

Total FTE's by Program Area	Budget 2014	Projection 2014	Direct FTEs 2015 Budget	Shared FTEs[1] 2015 Budget	Total FTEs 2015 Budget	Change from 2014 Budget
REGIONAL ENTITY DIVISION						
Operational Programs						
Reliability Standards	2.93	2.93	2.00	0.93	2.93	0.00
Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement and Organization Registration and Certification	16.00	16.00	16.00	0.00	16.00	0.00
Training, Education, and Operator Certification	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.00	0.10	0.00
Reliability Assessment and Performance Analysis	5.83	5.83	4.90	0.93	5.83	0.00
Situation Awareness and Infrastructure Security	3.00	3.00	3.00	0.00	3.00	0.00
Total FTEs Operational Programs	**27.86**	**27.86**	**26.00**	**1.86**	**27.86**	**0.00**
Administrative Programs						
Technical Committees and Member Forums	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.00	0.50	0.00
General and Administrative	2.50	2.50	2.50	0.00	2.50	0.00
Information Technology	3.00	3.00	3.00	0.00	3.00	0.00
Legal and Regulatory	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	1.00	0.00
Human Resources	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	1.00	0.00
Accounting and Finance	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	1.00	0.00
Total FTEs Administrative Programs	**9.00**	**9.00**	**9.00**	**0.00**	**9.00**	**0.00**
Total FTEs	**36.86**	**36.86**	**35.00**	**1.86**	**36.86**	**0.00**

[1]A shared FTE is defined as an employee who performs both Regional Entity and Criteria Services division functions.

2014 Budget and Projection and 2015 Budget Comparisons

Statement of Activities and Capital Expenditures
2014 Budget & Projection, and 2015 Budget

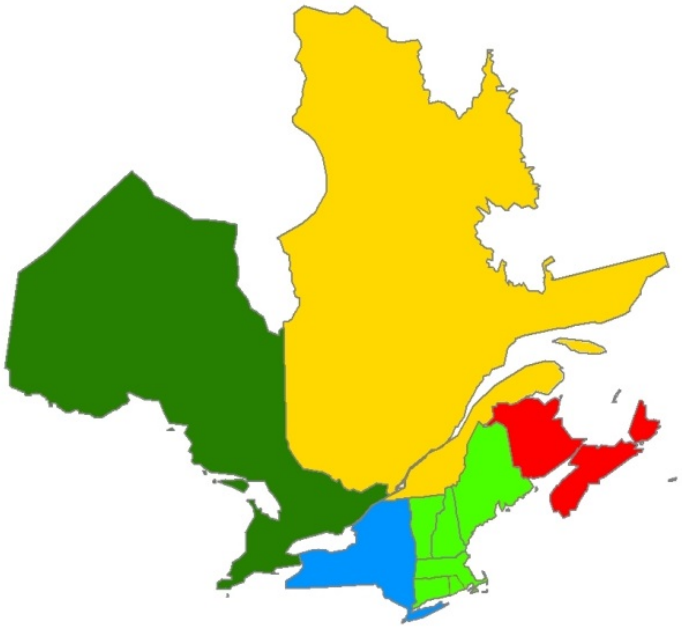
REGIONAL ENTITY DIVISION

		2014 Budget	2014 Projection	Variance[2] 2014 Projection v 2014 Budget Over(Under)	2015 Budget	Variance 2015 Budget v 2014 Budget Over(Under)
Funding						
ERO Funding						
	ERO Assessments	$ 13,611,880	$ 13,611,880	$ -	$ 14,078,378	$ 466,498
	Penalty Sanctions[1]	153,000	153,000	-	281,000	128,000
Total ERO Funding		**$ 13,764,880**	**$ 13,764,880**	**$ -**	**$ 14,359,378**	**$ 594,498**
	Membership Dues	-	-	-	-	-
	Testing Fees	-	-	-	-	-
	Services & Software	-	-	-	-	-
	Workshops	64,000	64,000	-	64,000	-
	Interest	-	-	-	-	-
	Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	-
Total Funding (A)		**$ 13,828,880**	**$ 13,828,880**	**$ -**	**$ 14,423,378**	**$ 594,498**
Expenses						
Personnel Expenses						
	Salaries	$ 5,911,227	$ 5,911,227	$ -	$ 6,195,425	$ 284,198
	Payroll Taxes	384,311	384,311	-	387,209	2,898
	Benefits	1,430,261	1,430,261	-	1,256,595	(173,666)
	Retirement Costs	1,124,361	1,124,361	-	1,090,013	(34,348)
Total Personnel Expenses		**$ 8,850,160**	**$ 8,850,160**	**$ -**	**$ 8,929,241**	**$ 79,081**
Meeting Expenses						
	Meetings	$ 365,000	$ 365,000	$ -	$ 365,000	$ -
	Travel	890,000	890,000	-	890,000	-
	Conference Calls	77,000	77,000	-	45,000	(32,000)
Total Meeting Expenses		**$ 1,332,000**	**$ 1,332,000**	**$ -**	**$ 1,300,000**	**$ (32,000)**
Operating Expenses						
	Consultants & Contracts	$ 1,924,433	$ 1,924,433	$ -	$ 2,342,000	$ 417,567
	Office Rent	737,272	737,272	-	751,500	14,228
	Office Costs	536,500	536,500	-	578,700	42,200
	Professional Services	966,500	966,500	-	1,025,000	58,500
	Computer & Equipment Leases	-	-	-	-	-
	Miscellaneous	80,000	80,000	-	40,000	(40,000)
	Depreciation	250,000	250,000	-	202,019	(47,981)
Total Operating Expenses		**$ 4,494,705**	**$ 4,494,705**	**$ -**	**$ 4,939,219**	**$ 444,514**
	Total Direct Expenses	**$ 14,676,865**	**$ 14,676,865**	**$ -**	**$ 15,168,460**	**$ 491,595**
Indirect Expenses		**$ (405,859)**	**$ (405,859)**	**$ -**	**$ (409,902)**	**$ (4,043)**
Other Non-Operating Expenses		**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**
Total Expenses (B)		**$ 14,271,006**	**$ 14,271,006**	**$ -**	**$ 14,758,558**	**$ 487,552**
Change in Assets		**$ (442,126)**	**$ (442,126)**	**$ -**	**$ (335,180)**	**$ 106,946**
Fixed Assets						
	Depreciation	$ (250,000)	$ (250,000)	$ -	$ (202,019)	$ 47,981
	Computer & Software CapEx	108,000	108,000	-	222,000	114,000
	Furniture & Fixtures CapEx	-	-	-	-	-
	Equipment CapEx	-	-	-	-	-
	Leasehold Improvements	-	-	-	-	-
	Allocation of Fixed Assets	(0)	(0)	-	(0)	-
Inc(Dec) in Fixed Assets (C)		**(142,000)**	**(142,000)**	**-**	**19,981**	**161,981**
TOTAL BUDGET (=B+C)		**$ 14,129,006**	**$ 14,129,006**	**$ -**	**$ 14,778,539**	**$ 649,533**
TOTAL CHANGE IN WORKING CAPITAL (=A-B-C)		**$ (300,126)**	**$ (300,126)**	**$ -**	**$ (355,161)**	**$ (55,035)**

[1] $281,000 of penalty sanctions collected to date and prior to June 30, 2014.

[2] 2014 Projections reflect expectations based on the 1st quarter statement of activities. It is anticipated that projections could change throughout 2014 and would be reflected in each subsequent quarter's statement of activities.

Section A – Regional Entity Division
2015 Business Plan and Budget



Section A — 2015 Business Plan

Reliability Standards Program

Reliability Standards Program Resources (in whole dollars)	2014 Budget	2015 Budget	Increase (Decrease)
Total FTEs	2.93	2.93	0.00
Direct Expenses	$917,936	$905,638	($12,299)
Indirect Expenses	$555,686	$561,221	$5,535
Other Non-Operating Expenses	$0	$0	$0
Inc(Dec) in Fixed Assets	($26,292)	($10,729)	$15,563
Total Funding Requirement	$1,447,330	$1,456,129	$8,799

Program Scope and Functional Description

The NPCC Reliability Standards program operates in accordance with NPCC's filed and approved Delegation Agreement "Exhibit C", and NERC Rules of Procedure Section 300. The program supports the ERO standards program area roles and responsibilities by providing supporting activities for the development of clear, concise, sustainable, high quality and technically sound mandatory "results based" reliability standards which provide for an adequate level of reliability in a timely and efficient manner. The primary objective of NPCC's program area is to support the development of ERO standards which establish threshold requirements for ensuring the bulk electric system is planned, operated, and maintained in a manner that minimizes risks of cascading failures, avoids damage to major equipment, is responsive to risks, or limits interruptions of bulk power supply. At a Regional level, the program develops Regional Reliability Standards and ensures that Regional reliability criteria, contained in the form of Directories, are not inconsistent with any applicable NERC and Regional Reliability Standards. The NPCC Reliability Standards program also supports and participates in the development, revision, and maintenance of NERC Reliability Standards, initiates new regional or continent wide reliability standards when necessary, and provides a forum for the comprehensive review and improvement of existing and developing standards.

The NPCC Reliability Standards Program Area supports the reliability of the bulk electric system by:

- Facilitating active participation of NPCC Regional industry stakeholders in all NERC Reliability Standards activities to promote the development of results based, cost effective quality standards in a timely and efficient manner.
- Promote awareness by holding workshops and conducting Regional Standards Committee meetings to inform and educate stakeholders.
- Internally and informally training staff for the new and developing standards through meetings.
- Regional coordination activities with Standards Program Areas from other Regions.

- Development and maintenance of Regional Standards as necessary to address Regional reliability related issues or risks and ensure those standards are not inconsistent with the NERC continent wide standards. These Regional standards contain requirements that are more stringent, add specificity to or augment the NERC Continent-wide standards.
- NPCC maintains and abides by the NPCC Regional Standards Processes Manual assuring compliance with all FERC filed documents with respect to standards development.

Funding Drivers and Reliability Benefits

- Expanded Scope of Standards activities
    - Utilize NPCC RSC, Task Forces and Working Groups to comment on developing NERC Standards to ensure they are results based and directionally consistent with the Independent Experts Review Panel Report (IERP)[1]
    - Develop process for ensuring lessons learned from Event Analysis are evaluated for any gaps in standards or criteria[2]
    - Responding to increasing amount of FERC Rulings, NOPRs, preliminary staff assessments, and FERC issued Directives[3]
    - Providing support for increased standard development activities as outlined in the NERC 2014-2016 Reliability Standards Development Plan and assuming an active role in the newly formed NERC Project Management Oversight Subcommittee ("PMOS")
    - Participating in informal activities of standards development to promote consensus early in project development and provide technical guidance
    - Providing a forum for all NPCC representatives on the NERC drafting teams
    - Actively coordinating and reviewing Reliability Standards Audit Worksheets (RSAW) for correctness
    - Provide NPCC Regional point of contact for the new Reliability Issues Steering Committee ("RISC") to provide emerging and existing BES reliability related risks and potential gaps in the existing NERC standards
- Increased Number of Standards Projects
    - Active NERC Projects in the standards area are also expected to increase to address FERC outstanding directives.
    - The concept of informal development was introduced in 2013 and will be expanded to include more standards development projects in 2015 requiring more technical support, participation, and facilitation.
    - NERC has developed procedures and processes to allow it to revise standards in a more expeditious manner that may need clarification or address some deficiency.
    - NPCC is assisting with the Project Management Oversight Subcommittee (PMOS) which is responsible for managing the development of NERC standards projects and tracking Paragraph 81 Phase 2 retirement candidates

[1] In support of ERO Goal 1a Develop Standards which are clear, responsive to reliability and security risks, practical to implement, and cost-effective

[2] In support of ERO Goal 1aDevelop Standards which are clear, responsive to reliability and security risks, practical to implement, and cost-effective

[3] In support of ERO Goal 1a Develop Standards which are clear, responsive to reliability and security risks, practical to implement, and cost-effective

  - Promote and assist with the Cost Effective Analysis Process ("CEAP") to ensure standards have the most cost effective requirements which meet the reliability objectives of standards under development[4]

- Further resources required to evaluate the standards from a "cost benefit" and also a "cost effectiveness" perspective will be required.
- NERC Reliability Standards will continue to require Violation Risk Factors (VRFs) to be developed and NERC is reviewing additional levels of VRF and development of a Sanction Matrix which is envisioned to replace the Violation Severity Levels (VSLs).
- Expanded efforts to educate and inform stakeholders in the areas of NERC and NPCC Regional Standards through NPCC Workshops and with anticipated additional forums such as increases in the amount of Internet based meetings and technical conferences. [5]

2015 Key Assumptions

- Facilitate stakeholder review, comment on, and develop ballot recommendations or list of Regional issues, for all NERC Reliability Standards Projects under informal or formal development or revision prior to the end of ballots
  - NERC and NPCC benefit from NPCC's Regional coordination consisting of a broad stakeholder review process and development of consensus recommendations to assure proposed standards will support international reliability and provide appropriate reliability objectives for the Continent-wide standards
  - Coordinate a comprehensive review of the results based standards initiative processes and standards being implemented
  - Conduct and obtain training for performing Quality Reviews of standards at both the Regional level and to assist the ERO with analysis of the continent wide standards
  - Coordinate the review of all Reliability Standards Audit Worksheets during their postings for comment for potential expansion of their associated standard's requirements
  - Refine the NPCC triage process to assess posted standards and related material to ensure it is properly routed to and addressed by the appropriate NPCC technical or process resources.
- Participate in the stakeholder efforts to develop Standards Authorization Requests (SARs) and Regional SARs to further improve standards in response to any potential inadequacies in reliability or to improve standards
- Monitor and participate in the drafting of key NERC Reliability Standards-CIP, Protections Systems, Balancing Control Performance, and Frequency Response, etc.
  - The NPCC monitoring of the development of standards helps to ensure reliability requirements that are clear, measureable, and enforceable and support international reliability in the Northeast
- Continue with the development and maintenance of a set of NPCC Phase II Directories not inconsistent with the NERC Reliability Standards which clearly delineate the more stringent NPCC criteria requirements

[4] In support of ERO Goal 1a Develop Standards which are clear, responsive to reliability and security risks, practical to implement, and cost-effective

[5] In support of ERO Goal 1a Develop Standards which are clear, responsive to reliability and security risks, practical to implement, and cost-effective

  - The combination of North American and Regional Reliability Standards with the more-stringent NPCC Regional criteria provides for consistency and operational clarity while providing robust defense in–depth, results based, standards to ensure BES reliability
  - Ensure no redundancies exist between the criteria found in the NPCC Directories and the ERO standards
  - Retire Directories that have been overtaken by improved NERC standards
  - Continually file the more stringent requirements with the New York State Department of Public Service and Canadian Provinces as applicable
- Review reliability requirements of ERO and NPCC Regional Standards, NPCC Criteria and ensure consistency, remove redundancies, adopt Functional Model language and ensure requirements are "results based"
  - The unambiguous assignment of reliability requirements to specific functional entities benefits international reliability
  - Participate in the continuing refinement of the Functional Model to capture evolving issues essential to reliability and new objectives in the industry, i.e. demand resource operator, planning functions, new activities yet to be identified such as those associated with Smart Grid, "Synchro-Phasor" technology, etc.
  - Participate in the continual improvement of the NERC standards development processes and initiatives such as the CEAP, PMOS and Single Portal Project.
  - Contribute to the improvement of process related to NERC providing interpretations.
- Review all FERC orders and Provincial regulations as they relate to the standards, their revision and adoption
  - Northeast reliability benefits from careful analyses of governmental orders or actions adopting standards to assure consistency in interpretation
  - Review rulings that are issued and all FERC Directives for potential reliability related issues
  - Conduct and support Regulatory/Governmental Provincial filings on a periodic basis based on individual Provincial Laws and requirements outlined in the Memorandum of Understandings for each Province.
- Enhance NPCC standards website pages to provide uniform and clear information to the stakeholders while also providing the historical and archived information to support NERC and FERC approvals and expanding requirements

2015 Goals and Key Deliverables

The Reliability Standards program goals and objectives for 2015 are grouped into seven categories:

1) Participate in the ERO Results-Based Standards Development

- Participate in the development and revision of the NERC three year work plan through review, commenting and drafting activities
- Participate in the Standards Committee Strategic initiatives to develop results based standards that will provide a defense in depth, complete the standards due for 5 year review, and address all existing and outstanding FERC Directives.
- Support the implementation of the NERC Board of Trustees ("BOT") resolutions specifically supporting the timeliness, cost effectiveness, timely development, and quality of new standards

- Coordinate the development of ERO Reliability Standards within NERC's three-year standards work plan with the emphasis placed on reducing the amount of new FERC Directives issues by closer coordination with the Commission staff
- Conduct thorough reviews of all NERC standards being developed or revised and coordinate comments for Northeastern North America driving consensus to the extent possible
- Facilitate and enhance the NERC Cost Effective Analysis Procedure both within NPCC throughout the industry
- Conduct thorough reviews of all Industry requested NERC Formal Interpretations of standards and develop and promote the NERC Informal Guidance Process, a comprehensive process to deal with all standards related questions, e.g. Single Portal
- NPCC staff along with NPCC solicited Regional drafting team volunteers, will participate in the drafting of all ERO standards affecting or potentially affecting reliability in the Eastern Interconnection and provide support for review and development of comments and propose improvements with specific emphasis on CIP
- NPCC and its members will review and coordinate potential comment on FERC preliminary staff assessments as appropriate
- Participate in ballots for ERO standards and provide consensus recommendations to the NPCC Members of the NERC Registered Ballot Body or provide a list of issues to allow the Members to cast a ballot based on Regional concerns prior to the end of the ballots
- Review and develop issues on FERC Notice of Proposed Rulemakings for any and all standards related issues as appropriate
- Coordinate and evaluate proposed standards utilizing NPCC's Regional technical task forces, working groups and committees
- Educate and notify stakeholders and regulators about issues related to standards development through various means such as webinars and workshops
- Provide outreach to industry trade groups to educate and drive consensus such as the North American Generator Forum and North American Transmission Forum
- Provide a forum for NPCC review of proposed and posted documents from the NERC Critical Infrastructure Protection Committee (CIPC) and NPCC Task Force on Infrastructure Security and Technology (TFIST)
- Provide support to NERC's strategy in the prioritization, identification, scheduling and development of NERC directed Regional Reliability Standards
- Participate in NERC's Standards Committee standards prioritization process, to identify immediate standards needs and prioritization based on need
- Participate in the NERC RISC by providing a Regional point of contact for all potential reliability related risks and gaps within the Northeast or as noted by NPCC stakeholders
- Participate in and provide support to critical standards, such as UVLS, Voltage and Reactive Control, Real Time Tools, Frequency Response, etc.
- Identify and initiate Regional Variances to the NERC Reliability Standards as soon as possible, allowing incorporation into the continent wide standard at its inception
- Identify potential drivers for standards revisions based on revisions to the BES to a bright line criteria and any document revisions required as a result of consideration of the "Exception Process".
- Support additional standards workload from further economic stimulus, i.e. standards on integrating variable generation resources or EHV backbone, Smart Grid, Electric Vehicles or "Synchro-Phasor" projects as necessary

- Provide continued input and leadership to NERC, based on NPCC experiences, regarding strategy for developing cost effectiveness analysis for standards and support activities to enhance this to identify "benefits" for the draft standards.
- Provide support and assistance to the ERO for conducting Quality Review activities on NERC continent-wide standards as possible
- Continually file the NPCC Directories with the Canadian Provincial Regulatory Authorities within the NPCC "footprint", on an as needed basis, as the directories are developed and revised and as the Provinces establish procedures and agreements with NPCC.
- Continue to develop new and innovative processes to better utilize the limited internal and external resources in the Region to enable sufficient technical review of posted standards and related materials
- Support the ERO and the relationships with FERC and the provincial governmental authorities for standards development activities as necessary to accomplish the ERO goals and objectives
- Support the development of system protection and control, communication, transmission operation standards and other critical standards efforts.

2) Regional Standards Development

- NPCC does not anticipate developing further Regional Standards but reserves the right to do so if a reliability issue exists that is not appropriate for Continent-wide development and also will perform clarifications as needed to existing approved Regional Standards.
- Draft any additional standard NERC directs NPCC to develop to meet an urgent reliability related needs, i.e. Geomagnetic disturbance system hardening
- Accomplish all directives of ERO and governmental and/or regulatory authorities with regard to Regional Standards development and procedures
- Adhere to and surpass, where practical, the 2014-2016 NERC Work plan milestones as they pertain to targets for the Regional Standards
- Respond to any FERC Directives that may arise as a result of the filing of NPCC's Regional Standards with the FERC or any Provincial "directives" that may be issued by the Canadian Regulatory Authorities

3) Standards Improvement

- Achieve NPCC reliability goals and objectives by initiating, participating in, and efficiently completing standards related activities
- Leverage internet and web based tools functionality to ensure inter-Regional consistency and quality of Regional Reliability Standards
- Establish long-term strategy for standards improvement and initiate implementation
- Continually identify additional future Regional Standard opportunities if Continent-wide standards are not an appropriate solution
- Ensure the topics addressed by the Reliability Standards parallel changing industry needs
- Participate in reliability metrics activities to identify potential measures for benchmarking of reliability to determine if an adequate level of reliability is being achieved
- Support and develop cost-benefit analysis activities to determine if any potential incremental increases in costs of implementing a standard have sufficient enough reliability benefit to implement that standard

4) Coordination of review of RSAWs

- Develop a process to review the RSAWs consisting of subject matter experts to determine if the RSAWs are technically representative of the standard's requirements and also to review the evidence suggested in the RSAW for satisfactory compliance assessment
- The Regional Standards Committee ("RSC") will oversee and provide the results of the coordination to the appropriate NERC SDT charged with development of the RSAW

5) Business Practices Interface

- Coordinate the review of standards through NPCC RSC, staff, and other members participating in activities of the North American Electric Standards Review Board (NAESB)
- Identify potential market related issues for Regional Standards through NPCC RSC coordination and reviews

6) Opportunities for Process Improvement

- Identify efficiencies for a coordinated NERC standards development process and NPCC Regional Standards Development Procedure and recommend revisions as applicable to either process
- Refine the NERC and NPCC CEAP s to evaluate the costs and effectiveness of proposed new and revised reliability standards to achieve an adequate level of reliability and a steady state set of standards
- Participate in any potential revision and redrafting of the NERC Standards Development Process to consider expedited standards development and cost effectiveness analysis and maintaining the ANSI Accreditation for standards development
- Participate in the enhancement of the Single Portal on the NERC website to provide one stop shopping for stakeholders seeking answers to questions.
- Identify potential future processes to obtain expedited interpretations
- Identify expedited processes for adjusting NERC glossary terms
- Identify refinements for credentialing standard drafting team members to ensure the correct subject matter experts are developing the standards at both the Regional level and the ERO level.
- Establish targets for NERC and NPCC standards procedure improvement and support initiation of implementation of the strategy
- Streamline and improve the Regional Standards program tools and IT based solutions
- Refine the records retention programs to ensure sufficient documentation exists for regulatory approvals
- Develop document management systems to allow the efficient and effective revisions of documents, control of authorship and security of documents
- Identify improvements in process for feedback loops to ensure that event analysis and investigation lessons learned and compliance issues involving violations are fed into the standards program area, as appropriate for review and potential consideration when revising standards
- Support the creation of an ERO standards database, available to industry and online, to identify and review issues related to all approved and developing standards
- Participate in the Functional Model Working Group activities to refine functions, tasks and responsibilities of applicable entities
- Solicit and provide outreach to FERC in the Regional Standards Development Processes

7) Communications

- Improve automated notifications process to assure awareness of dates and proceedings of all standard development activities
- Strengthen the relationship with the industry's technical committees to ensure adequate input to standards development, such as the North American Generator Forum.
- Participate in NPCC and NERC workshops as necessary, to promote awareness and educate the industry
- Develop and institute a consensus building and notification process(es) for engaging stakeholders and providing immediate notification for the need to review standards. Provide the associated coordination for this review utilizing subject matter experts, both internal and external to the Regional Entity staff
- Promote the reliability objectives of the NERC standards as appropriate to the NPCC members of the NERC Registered Ballot Body in order to achieve consensus and support of beneficial standards and to promote the "One-Enterprise" model.

Technically excellent, results based standards that enhance reliability and are developed in a timely and efficient fashion, require the full participation of the right industry experts from all Regional Entities when developing Reliability Standards. The NPCC RSC promotes the drafting team process and solicits drafting team members from appropriate NPCC technical bodies and others in the industry and adjoining Regional Entities. In addition the NPCC RSC works with the individual NERC standards developers to participate in Regional outreach and coordination of issues at each NPCC RSC meeting.

NPCC RSC will also assist in providing notifications and announcements to NPCC participants in the Northeastern North America NERC Registered Ballot Body of important applicable deadlines for ballot pool registration and for casting ballots thereby enhancing participation, promulgation of important information and increasing awareness. In the fourth quarter of 2014 NERC will "roll out" a new Standards Balloting System (SBS). This new system will require training and an implementation communication plan. NERC will develop the training and NPCC will assist in providing it throughout the Northeast. The SBS will require all users to reregister to cast ballots as well as submit comments. This support will enhance efficiency of the NERC procedure and help to ensure the necessary quorums are present at ballot and help to clean up the registered ballot body list. NPCC will also, when practical, promote important standards and the requirements of those standards through various communications.

NPCC will also participate in the development and revision of standards as directed by FERC, Canadian provincial and other regulatory and/or governmental authorities. FERC to date has identified numerous NERC Reliability Standards needing further work and has issued numerous Directives appearing in FERC Orders. In 2013 FERC also issued remanded interpretations and standards which require NERC to address commissions concerns as outlined in the associated Orders. These remands have created a need for NERC to review existing processes and determine approaches going forward. NPCC will support these efforts and will lead the review and potential revision of the NERC Interpretation process. These standards needing revision are delineated in the 2014 – 2016 NERC Reliability Standards Development Plan, and will be ready to be reviewed and revised throughout 2015.

NPCC will provide support and coordination of NERC standards development activities as outlined in the 2014-2016 Reliability Standards Development Plan and the Standards Committee and ERO strategic goals and initiatives.

Regional Standards Development

The NPCC currently has two FERC approved Regional standards, Disturbance Monitoring and Underfrequency Load Shedding. NPCC has undertaken the review of the Disturbance Monitoring standard for adequacy from the perspective of a "bright line" BES definition and currently developing PRC-002-2 Disturbance Monitoring continent wide standard. This review of the standard and proposed revision to the standard will be performed in the 2014-2015 timeframe. In addition there are two other Regional standards that NPCC may review to determine if they should move forward into active formal development. These Regional Standards will include, but not be restricted to the following:

- Special Protection Systems (SPS) scheduled to begin development in 2014
  Balancing Authority Controls (BA - Reserve Sharing)

Whether NPCC pursues these Regional standard will depend in large part to how comprehensive their associated continent-wide standards are. NPCC will review the continent wide standards as they are develop, participating in those activities and providing supporting subject matter expertise as it is available.

Based on the portion of professional/technical staff time and other resources devoted to Reliability Standards development, NPCC estimates that it will expend approximately 10 percent of its resources on this activity.

Funding Sources and Requirements — Explanation of Increase (Decrease)

Funding Sources (Other than ERO Assessments)

- U.S. Penalty Sanctions remitted from 7/1/13 through 6/30/14 reduce U.S. LSE designee assessments for 2015.

Personnel Expenses

- NPCC anticipates no need to hire additional personnel in this program area in 2015.
- Salaries expense reflects implementation of recommendations of NPCC's Management Development and Compensation Committee, which were based on an independent compensation study.
- Benefits expense decreased due to more staff opting out of company sponsored health insurance for superior coverage through prior employer or spouse.
- Retirement expense decreased due to transition of employees formerly accruing benefits under the defined benefit plan to receiving defined contribution benefits in 2015.

Meeting and Travel Expenses

- Meeting expenses will be minimized due to a continued effort to keep costs down by holding more meetings via WebEx and teleconferences, at the NPCC offices or member facilities when possible, as well as lower meeting space rental rates through negotiations. However, meeting volume is expected to increase in 2015. Travel expenses due to continued practice of advance bookings, adjustments to class of hotel used, increased meetings at NPCC's offices, and meetings conducted via teleconference will be held to a minimum. Conference calls and Internet meetings, which are budgeted as a part of G&A and then allocated to the direct programs through indirect expenses, will be conducted for business when practical.

Operating Expenses and Indirect Expenses

- 2015 Reliability Standards program funding is driven by the need for additional activities to support NERC standards activity to achieve a results based, adequate, set of steady state standards, FERC activity and increased number of rulings and directives are anticipated as a result of the NERC three year work plan. NPCC anticipates expanded activity and plans to prioritize the efforts of existing resources to meet this expanded workload to support reliability and the ERO Strategic Goals. In addition, as standards reviews increase in number, there may be a need to have contractors assist due to constrained resources of NPCC Staff and members.

- NPCC total overhead expenses, such as office rent and office costs will be charged to the Administrative Services Programs and then reallocated proportionately based on FTE to the programs through Indirect Expenses.

Other Non-Operating Expenses

- None

Fixed Asset Additions

- None

Reliability Standards Program

Funding sources and related expenses for the Reliability Standards section of the 2015 business plan are shown in the table below.

Statement of Activities and Capital Expenditures 2014 Budget & Projection, and 2015 Budget						
Reliability Standards						
		2014 Budget	2014 Projection	Variance 2014 Projection v 2014 Budget Over(Under)	2015 Budget	Variance 2015 Budget v 2014 Budget Over(Under)
Funding						
ERO Funding						
	ERO Assessments	$ 1,431,239	$ 1,431,239	$ -	$ 1,426,577	$ (4,663)
	Penalty Sanctions	16,091	16,091	-	29,552	13,462
Total ERO Funding		**$ 1,447,330**	**$ 1,447,330**	**$ -**	**$ 1,456,129**	**$ 8,799**
	Membership Dues	-	-	-	-	-
	Testing Fees	-	-	-	-	-
	Services & Software	-	-	-	-	-
	Workshops	-	-	-	-	-
	Interest	-	-	-	-	-
	Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	-
Total Funding (A)		**$ 1,447,330**	**$ 1,447,330**	**$ -**	**$ 1,456,129**	**$ 8,799**
Expenses						
Personnel Expenses						
	Salaries	$ 502,840	$ 502,840	$ -	$ 535,458	$ 32,618
	Payroll Taxes	31,305	31,305	-	31,420	115
	Benefits	131,342	131,342	-	93,684	(37,658)
	Retirement Costs	87,449	87,449	-	85,075	(2,374)
Total Personnel Expenses		**$ 752,936**	**$ 752,936**	**$ -**	**$ 745,638**	**$ (7,299)**
Meeting Expenses						
	Meetings	$ 25,000	$ 25,000	$ -	$ 20,000	$ (5,000)
	Travel	110,000	110,000	-	115,000	5,000
	Conference Calls	-	-	-	-	-
Total Meeting Expenses		**$ 135,000**	**$ 135,000**	**$ -**	**$ 135,000**	**$ -**
Operating Expenses						
	Consultants & Contracts	$ 30,000	$ 30,000	$ -	$ 25,000	$ (5,000)
	Office Rent	-	-	-	-	-
	Office Costs	-	-	-	-	-
	Professional Services	-	-	-	-	-
	Computer & Equipment Leases	-	-	-	-	-
	Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	-
	Depreciation	-	-	-	-	-
Total Operating Expenses		**$ 30,000**	**$ 30,000**	**$ -**	**$ 25,000**	**$ (5,000)**
	Total Direct Expenses	**$ 917,936**	**$ 917,936**	**$ -**	**$ 905,638**	**$ (12,299)**
Indirect Expenses		**$ 555,686**	**$ 555,686**	**$ -**	**$ 561,221**	**$ 5,535**
Other Non-Operating Expenses		**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**
Total Expenses (B)		**$ 1,473,622**	**$ 1,473,622**	**$ -**	**$ 1,466,858**	**$ (6,764)**
Change in Assets		**$ (26,292)**	**$ (26,292)**	**$ -**	**$ (10,729)**	**$ 15,563**
Fixed Assets						
	Depreciation	$ -	-	$ -	-	$ -
	Computer & Software CapEx	-	-	-	-	-
	Furniture & Fixtures CapEx	-	-	-	-	-
	Equipment CapEx	-	-	-	-	-
	Leasehold Improvements	-	-	-	-	-
	Allocation of Fixed Assets	(26,292)	(26,292)	-	(10,729)	15,563
Inc(Dec) in Fixed Assets (C)		**(26,292)**	**(26,292)**	**-**	**(10,729)**	**15,563**
TOTAL BUDGET (=B+C)		**$ 1,447,330**	**$ 1,447,330**	**$ -**	**$ 1,456,129**	**$ 8,799**
TOTAL CHANGE IN WORKING CAPITAL (=A-B-C)		**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 0**	**$ (0)**

Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement and Organization Registration and Certification Program

Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement and Organization Registration and Certification Program Resources (in whole dollars)	2014 Budget	2015 Budget	Increase (Decrease)
Total FTEs	16.00	16.00	0.00
Direct Expenses	$5,080,485	$5,440,048	$359,564
Indirect Expenses	$3,034,462	$3,064,686	$30,225
Other Non-Operating Expenses	$0	$0	$0
Inc(Dec) in Fixed Assets	($35,575)	$63,410	$98,985
Total Funding Requirement	$8,079,371	$8,568,145	$488,774

Program Scope and Functional Description

The Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement and Organization Registration and Certification Program (CORC) Program scope covers: 1) the identification, registration and certification of those entities responsible for meeting the NERC Reliability Standards and any approved Regional Standards; 2) the implementation of the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program (CMEP) in the United States, including the compliance monitoring, assessment and enforcement of NERC Reliability Standards and Regional Reliability Standards. and 3) the implementation of compliance monitoring, assessment and enforcement recommendations in accordance with individual executed MOUs or Agreements in the Canadian Provinces of Ontario, Québec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

The NPCC Compliance Committee (CC) is charged with providing objective stakeholder policy input to NPCC's implementation of the CMEP in the U.S. and compliance related activities under the above mentioned MOUs in the NPCC portion of Canada. With regard to NERC Reliability Standards and Regional Reliability Standards, the CC provides an oversight role of the independent NPCC compliance staff's implementation of the CMEP. In this oversight role the CC will review and endorse the processes used by the NPCC compliance staff in the conduct of the CMEP.

The NPCC compliance staff makes the initial and final determination of alleged violations and determines appropriate penalties and sanctions in accordance with the NERC *Sanction Guidelines*. To accomplish this objective, NPCC's compliance staff is further divided into four sub- program areas: Compliance Implementation and Registration; Compliance Audit Program; Compliance Enforcement; and Compliance Investigation:

Compliance Implementation and Registration

The Compliance Implementation and Registration sub-program is responsible for:

a) Identifying for registration, using a risk based registration model, all entities that are required to meet the NERC and Regional Reliability Standards. During the course of this activity, regular communication with registered entities is promoted through face-to face meetings, compliance workshops, teleconferences and email;
b) Development and maintenance of all CMEP Compliance Procedures, Compliance Instructions and all other CMEP related documentation;
c) Development and maintenance of Performance Metrics that are used to measure the quality and effectiveness of CMEP Implementation and its impact on the reliability of the Bulk Electric System;
d) Coordinating the implementation of NPCC Compliance Staff responsibilities as they pertain to the executed MOU with each of the Canadian Provinces in the NPCC Region.
e) Day-to-day implementation of the CMEP;
f) Development of annual CMEP Implementation Plan;
g) Monitoring and assessment of self-certification, self-report, exception reporting, periodic data and complaint submittals;
h) Development and maintenance of CMEP Data Administration Application (CDAA);
i) Development and maintenance of compliance website.
j) Support the anticipated expansion of the number of registered entities in NPCC due to the implementation of the FERC Order related to the definition of Bulk Electric System
k) Conduct Entity Impact Evaluations. Conduct certification(s) of newly identified Transmission Operators (TOPs), as needed.
l) Maintain database of BES assets subject to NERC and NPCC Reliability Standards
m) Participation on various NERC and NPCC working groups to remain apprised of changes to Compliance processes, and commonality of registration, monitoring, auditing, and enforcement approaches.

Compliance Audit Program

The Compliance Audit Program is charged with conducting both on-site and off-site compliance audits, and spot checks, of NERC Reliability Standards in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure and associated NPCC procedures developed under the NPCC Compliance Implementation Program. These audits are performed on the basis of risk to the BES. The yearly schedule is produced consistent with Risk Assessment of registered entities and the frequency of their last audit. The schedule is posted annually on NERC and NPCC public websites. Flexibility may be used in the predefined frequency based on the risk assessment and performance based assessment of each entity scheduled for an audit, and changes requiring certification. The audits are led by qualified senior NPCC Staff and the audit teams prepare public and non-public audit reports with their findings, including the identification of any possible violations. Contents and processing of the reports are in accordance with NERC directives for audit reporting. Specific lessons learned are factored into the audit program to promote continuous improvement and are presented at workshops in conjunction with the Compliance Implementation Program. The comprehensive spot-check program is established based on the NERC actively monitored list, NPCC's assessment of self-certifications, follow–ups on entities who have previously violated a Reliability Standard, follow-up on entities that have been involved in a significant system event, and other requirements which at the discretion

of NPCC could pose a higher risk to reliability if not followed properly. The schedule for Spot Checks is not public.

Resources from the Compliance Audit Program are also used to implement the Certification process for entities intending to register as new TOPs, BAs or RCs, as well as certification reviews of changes made by existing TOPs, BAs and RCs that meet the threshold requiring same. These actions are performed in support of the Compliance Registration Program which encompasses the Certification process. Resources for this activity, which is independent of the audit process, depend on the scope, function, and location of the entity being certified.

Compliance Investigation

A Compliance Investigation (CI) may be initiated at any time by NPCC in response to a system disturbance, complaint, or possible violation of a Reliability Standard identified by any other means. The CI process requires the establishment of an investigation team that coordinates with NERC and FERC as necessary; and also coordinates with the Situation Awareness Program Area.

Compliance Enforcement

In processing identified violations NPCC Compliance Enforcement will strive to promote both timeliness and transparency of compliance results, including those efforts associated with meeting the enforcement metrics described below. In addition NPCC will promote the use of self-identification of non-compliance and implementation of discretion, including increased utilization of streamlined tracks such as FFT and discretion as shown below.

Compliance Enforcement responsibilities:

a) Issuing all Notices as described in the CMEP including the Notice of Possible Violation (NOPV), Notice of Find, Fix and Track (FFT) Treatment; Notice of Alleged Violation (NOAV), and the Notice of Confirmed Violation (NOCV);
b) Conducting comprehensive enforcement investigations based on the facts and circumstances related to all possible violations of Reliability Standards, whether identified in an audit, a self-report, complaint, or other source, and determining whether further action is warranted;
c) Reviewing, approving, submitting to NERC and tracking the progress of all mitigation plans /mitigating activities associated with confirmed violations;
d) Coordinating settlement activities once they have been initiated and submitting settlement agreements to NERC for approval;
e) Identifying and processing candidates for the FFT Process;
f) Participating in the Hearing Process by representing NPCC before the Hearing Body. Compliance Hearings would be conducted at NPCC under the supervision of a qualified, independent hearing officer contracted by NPCC;
g) Issuing Remedial Action Directives when appropriate; and
h) Implementing of the Reliability Assurance Initiative (RAI), including :
    i. Notifying the registered entity, within 60 days on average, whether a non-compliance will proceed through enforcement, be treated as a compliance exception or additional information is needed (“Triage”);
    ii. Utilizing the Aggregation of Minimal Risk Process; and
    iii. Utilizing the Enforcement Discretion Process.

A set of enforcement metrics, that include those metrics included in the ERO Corporate Goals, are produced that cover the following:

a. Caseload Index and Violation Aging
b. Mitigation Aging
c. Percentage of self-identified violations
d. Percentage of minimal and moderate risk violations through FFT, SNOP or discretion

Each of these metrics will have target values defined that are consistent with those target values identified in the ERO Corporate Goals.

2015 Key Assumptions and Cost Impacts

2014	Projected 2015
3 Large On-Site Audits	4 Large On-Site Audits
0 Medium On-Site Audits	0 Medium On-Site Audits
3 Small On-Site Audits	3 Small On-Site Audits
12 On-Site CIP Audits	4 On-Site CIP Audits
20 Large Off-Site Audits	8 Large Off-Site Audits
7 Medium Off-Site Audits	21 Medium Off-Site Audits
7 Small Off-Site Audits	10 Small Off-Site Audits
22 Off-Site CIP Audits	24 Off-Site CIP Audits
300 Spot Checks	350 Spot Checks
8 On-site TFE Part B reviews	4 TFE Part B Reviews
200 Violations (Estimated)	200 Violations (Estimated)
Settlements Covering 100 Violations	Settlements Covering 100 Violations
2 Hearings (Unbudgeted)	2 Hearings (Unbudgeted)
1 CI (Estimated)	1 CI (Estimated)
0 Entity Certifications	2 Entity Certifications

- Regarding the Compliance Audit Program, Technical Feasibility Exception (TFE) reviews are conducted both on-site at the entity's facility and at the NPCC offices when possible. TFE's continue to be requested as entities replace and install new equipment/devices/components that meet the criteria set forth in Rules of Procedure Appendix 4D. Compliance estimates 4 on-site reviews will be performed in 2015.

- Increases in Audit costs reflect Risk Assessment activity that is the basis for audit scoping. The Risk Assessment includes an assessment of an entity's Internal Controls which will be used for future audits in the scoping and frequency of engagements.
- Potential increases due to the newly identified role related to implementing the QCMEP in Quebec and the continuing role of implementing the NB CMEP in New Brunswick.

- The 2015 Business Plan projects no increases in Enforcement Processing activities over the 2014 Budget.
- The 2015 Business Plan projects the need for 1 Compliance Investigation. These Compliance Investigations are manpower intensive for NPCC staff (requiring allocation of more resources and potentially higher than normal costs) since previous Compliance Investigations have also included entities outside of NPCC's footprint for which NPCC is the Compliance Enforcement Authority.

2015 Goals and Key Deliverables

- Conduct 2015 CMEP consistent with the Reliability Assurance Initiative, incorporating Risk Assessment; Internal Control assessment; Aggregation of Minimal Risk Violations; and Enforcement Discretion and all NERC Reliability Standards contained in the NERC actively-monitored list for 2015 and any approved and applicable Regional Reliability Standards
  - Process identified violations as effectively as possible, including the timely identification of a violation, timely issuance of violation notices including the NOPV; the Notice of Alleged Violation and the NOCV
  - Implement settlement process when applicable and send proper notifications to NERC and FERC
  - Conduct necessary Hearings related to resolution of outstanding disputes regarding violations and/or sanctions. Send results of hearings to NERC and FERC[17];
- Continue to enhance the settlement process by modifying existing practices and adopting new practices to reduce the duration of settlement negotiations without sacrificing the rigor and quality of the negotiated settlements. Develop and analyze appropriate performance metrics that track settlement process duration and utilize results of analysis to further enhance process.
- Implement compliance responsibilities identified in the approved Canadian MOUs[18];
- Annual report to NERC and Régie on NPCC implementation of QCMEP
- Annual report to NERC and New Brunswick Electric Utility Board (EUB) on NPCC implementation of NB CMEP.
- Review and revise NPCC Compliance Registry based on a risk-based approach[19] ;
- Evaluate CMEP and Canadian entity compliance program implementation with the objective of establishing a long-term strategy for compliance improvement, and initiate the implementation of the long term strategy[20];
- Provide NPCC Regional Entity input, through participation in appropriate NERC compliance committees, on policy and implementation issues related to compliance and enforcement including the development of compliance elements for all new or revised NERC Reliability Standards[21];

[17] In support of ERO Goal 2. Be a strong enforcement authority that is independent, without conflict of interest, objective and fair.
[18] In support of ERO Goal 3. Promote a culture of compliance that supports reliability excellence within industry.
[19] In support of ERO Goal 2. Be a strong enforcement authority that is independent, without conflict of interest, objective and fair.
[20] ERO Goal 2. Be a strong enforcement authority that is independent, without conflict of interest, objective and fair.
[21] ERO Goal 6. Promote a culture of reliability excellence.

- Provide required information to NERC on a timely basis including reporting of alleged violations and confirmed violations[22];
- Track the progress of, report status of, and approve mitigation plans[23];
- Conduct 2015 Compliance Audit Schedule based on risk to the BES and number of registered entities (Each audit covers a single registered entity that could be audited for multiple Functional Model types that they are registered for and is done in accordance with the 2015 Compliance Audit Program schedule)[24] ; and promote RAI initiatives by:
    - Utilizing the Audit Checklist and Auditor's Handbook for all on-site and off-site audits
    - Preparing a Risk Assessment and Internal Control Assessment for all on-site audits[25];
- In addition, 28 registered entities will be audited for the requirements of the version in place for CIP 002 to CIP 009. These will be separate audits. On-site CIP audits may be combined with the normally scheduled 2015 on-site audits[26];
- A spot check can be viewed as a limited unscheduled small off-site compliance audit that will be utilized to verify self-certification submittals that have been done earlier in the year or other requirements based on factors as described in the Compliance Audits section. In 2015 the number of spot checks to be done is estimated to be 350[27] ;
- Assure that NPCC Staff is trained to conduct Compliance Audits including CIP Compliance Audit training[28];
- Assure that NPCC Staff is trained to conduct Certification of entities intending to Register as BA, RC or TOP for the first time, or Certification Reviews of changes by existing BAs, RCs or TOPs that meet the criteria requiring a Certification Review[29];
- NPCC is working with the other Regions to access, train and perform certifications (and re-certification) in an effort to be consistent across the ERO[30] ;
- Continue to actively perform a risk profile of each entity prior to audit and upon completion of an audit, continue to identify risk and reliability gaps[31] ;

[22] ERO Goal 2. Be a strong enforcement authority that is independent, without conflict of interest, objective and fair.
[23] ERO Goal 2. Be a strong enforcement authority that is independent, without conflict of interest, objective and fair.; ERO Goal 5. Be accountable for mitigating reliability risks.
[24] In support of ERO Goal 3a. and 3b. Promote a culture of compliance that supports reliability excellence within industry.
[25] In support of ERO Goal 3. Promote a culture of compliance that supports reliability excellence within industry.
[26] In support of ERO Goal 3. Promote a culture of compliance that supports reliability excellence within industry.
[27] In support of ERO Goal 3. Promote a culture of compliance that supports reliability excellence within industry.
[28] In support of ERO Goal 3. Promote a culture of compliance that supports reliability excellence within industry.
[29] In support of Goal 2a. Be a strong enforcement authority that is independent, without conflict of interest, objective, and fair, and promote a culture of reliability excellence through risk-informed compliance monitoring and enforcement. a. The ERO registers and deregisters entities commensurate with risk to the BES and ensures all key reliability entities are certified to have essential capabilities.
[30] In support of Goal 2a. Be a strong enforcement authority that is independent, without conflict of interest, objective, and fair, and promote a culture of reliability excellence through risk-informed compliance monitoring and enforcement. a. The ERO registers and deregisters entities commensurate with risk to the BES and ensures all key reliability entities are certified to have essential capabilities.
[31] In support of Goal 4a. Identify the most significant risks to reliability, be accountable for mitigating reliability risks, and promote a culture of reliability excellence. a. Risks are identified and prioritized based on reliability impacts, cost and practicality of assessments, projected resources, and emerging issues.

- Develop and implement compliance reform via the Reliability Assurance Initiative (RAI) by being an integral participant in committees and workgroups involved in the RAI[32];
- Promote a culture of compliance that addresses reliability risks of NPCC registered entities by using reliability gap analysis. Assess and evaluate registered entity's Internal Controls as part of the audit and spot check process[33];
- Continue to expand the use of discretion through the utilization of compliance exception. [34] ;
- NPCC will collaborate with NERC to promote better coordination, planning, delivery and management of training efforts across the enterprise through a unified learning management system (LMS), without adversely impacting region-specific training requirements;
- Continue to implement physical security outreach and Cyber Security outreach by visiting four registered entity sites to perform an assessment of their physical security, evaluate their Cyber Security and supply recommendations for improvements[35];
- Enhance the CDAA to expand its capabilities from both the registered entity perspective and the NPCC Compliance Staff perspective[36];
- Conduct 2015 Compliance Workshops and interim information sessions for registered entities as necessary as a part of Training and Education program area[37].

Adopt and promote practices to enhance the benefits of the self-reporting of violations by both the Regional Entity and the registered entity. This would include improvement to the registered entity internal processes used for identifying and submitting self-reports (e.g. adoption of an aggregated approach for submittal of self-reports, etc.), improvement in the way Regional Entities process self-reports and the streamlining and standardizing of the amount and type of data needed to evaluate a self-report.

[32]In support of Goal 3a. Promote a culture of compliance that supports reliability excellence within industry. a. Industry has effective procedures and programs to monitor, detect, correct, report, and prevent compliance, reliability, and security issues.

[33]In support of Goal 3a and 4a Goal 3. Promote a culture of compliance that supports reliability excellence within industry. Industry has effective procedures and programs to monitor, detect, correct, report, and prevent compliance, reliability, and security issues. Goal 4. Identify the most significant risks to reliability, be accountable for mitigating reliability risks, and promote a culture of reliability excellence. a. Risks are identified and prioritized based on reliability impacts, cost and practicality of assessments, projected resources, and emerging issues.

[34]In support of Goal 2b. Goal 2. Be a strong enforcement authority that is independent, without conflict of interest, objective, and fair, and promote a culture of reliability excellence through risk-informed compliance monitoring and enforcement. 2.b. The ERO holds industry accountable for violations that create serious risk to the BES; resulting actions are timely and transparent to industry.

[35]In support of Goal 4c. Goal 4. Identify the most significant risks to reliability, be accountable for mitigating reliability risks, and promote a culture of reliability excellence. 4.c. ERO supports industry situational awareness and cybersecurity preparedness and provides independent reliability information to policy makers.

[36]In support of Goal 5c. Goal 5. Improve transparency, consistency, quality, and timeliness of results; operate as a collaborative enterprise; and improve efficiencies and cost-effectiveness. 5.c. The ERO internal risks are understood and managed; ERO processes are effective, efficient, and continuously improved.

[37]In support of Goal 5a. Goal 5. Improve transparency, consistency, quality, and timeliness of results; operate as a collaborative enterprise; and improve efficiencies and cost-effectiveness. 5.a. The ERO acts in a coordinated and collaborative manner with stakeholders.

Based on the portion of professional/technical staff time and other resources devoted to Compliance monitoring and enforcement and organizational registration and certification, NPCC estimates that it will expend 58 percent of its resources on this activity.

Funding Sources and Requirements — Explanation of Increase (Decrease)

Funding Sources (Other than ERO Assessments)

- U.S. Penalty Sanctions remitted from 7/1/13 through 6/30/14 reduce U.S. LSE designee assessments for 2015.

Personnel Expenses

- NPCC anticipates no need to hire additional personnel in this program area in 2015.
- Salaries expense reflects implementation of recommendations of NPCC's Management Development and Compensation Committee, which were based on an independent compensation study.
- Benefits expense decreased due to more staff opting out of company sponsored health insurance for superior coverage through prior employer or spouse.
- Retirement expense decreased due to transition of employees formerly accruing benefits under the defined benefit plan to receiving defined contribution benefits in 2015.

Meeting and Travel Expenses

- Meeting expenses will be minimized due to a continued effort to keep costs down by holding more meetings via teleconference, at the NPCC offices or member facilities, combining or appending meetings to other mandatory training/meetings, as well as lower meeting space rental rates through negotiations. Travel expenses due to continued practice of advance bookings, adjustments to class of hotel used, increased meetings at NPCC's offices, and meetings conducted via teleconference will be held to a minimum, however, the amount of activity is expected to increase in 2015. Conference calls and internet meetings, which are budgeted as a part of G&A and then allocated to the direct programs through indirect expenses, will be conducted for business when possible.

Operating Expenses and Indirect Expenses

- Consultant and contractor costs increased due to increased workload related to the initial implementation of RAI, incorporating Risk Assessment and Internal Control assessment. Without this one time ramp up in RAI endeavors for 2015, contractor costs would have remained relatively flat. These joint ERO Enterprise initiatives are intended to benefit the registered entities, Regional Entities and NERC. With a risk and performance based assessment of each registered entity, audits will transition to a periodicity more reflective of the risk profile of the entity such that some audits will be more in-depth while others may have a reduced scope which will require less independent contractor resources.

- NPCC total overhead expenses, such as office rent and office costs, will be charged to the Administrative Services Programs and then reallocated proportionately based on FTE to the programs through Indirect Expenses.

Other Non-Operating Expenses

- None

Fixed Asset Additions

- Software development costs related to CMEP Data Administration Application (CDAA) and Compliance Issues Tracking System (CITS) enhancements are projected to continue into 2015.

Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement and Organization Registration and Certification Program

Funding sources and related expenses for the compliance enforcement and organization registration and certification section of the 2015 business plan are shown in the table below.

Statement of Activities and Capital Expenditures
2014 Budget & Projection, and 2015 Budget
Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement and Organization Registration and Certification

	2014 Budget	2014 Projection	Variance 2014 Projection v 2014 Budget Over(Under)	2015 Budget	Variance 2015 Budget v 2014 Budget Over(Under)
Funding					
ERO Funding					
ERO Assessments	$ 7,991,503	$ 7,991,503	$ -	$ 8,406,767	$ 415,263
Penalty Sanctions	87,868	87,868	-	161,378	73,510
Total ERO Funding	**$ 8,079,371**	**$ 8,079,371**	**$ -**	**$ 8,568,145**	**$ 488,774**
Membership Dues	-	-	-	-	-
Testing Fees	-	-	-	-	-
Services & Software	-	-	-	-	-
Workshops	-	-	-	-	-
Interest	-	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	-
Total Funding (A)	**$ 8,079,371**	**$ 8,079,371**	**$ -**	**$ 8,568,145**	**$ 488,774**
Expenses					
Personnel Expenses					
Salaries	$ 2,287,504	$ 2,287,504	$ -	$ 2,393,832	$ 106,328
Payroll Taxes	162,571	162,571	-	162,511	(59)
Benefits	537,087	537,087	-	479,499	(57,588)
Retirement Costs	298,890	298,890	-	284,206	(14,684)
Total Personnel Expenses	**$ 3,286,052**	**$ 3,286,052**	**$ -**	**$ 3,320,048**	**$ 33,997**
Meeting Expenses					
Meetings	$ 25,000	$ 25,000	$ -	$ 32,000	$ 7,000
Travel	375,000	375,000	-	360,000	(15,000)
Conference Calls	-	-	-	-	-
Total Meeting Expenses	**$ 400,000**	**$ 400,000**	**$ -**	**$ 392,000**	**$ (8,000)**
Operating Expenses					
Consultants & Contracts	$ 1,394,433	$ 1,394,433	$ -	$ 1,728,000	$ 333,567
Office Rent	-	-	-	-	-
Office Costs	-	-	-	-	-
Professional Services	-	-	-	-	-
Computer & Equipment Leases	-	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	-	-	-	-	-
Total Operating Expenses	**$ 1,394,433**	**$ 1,394,433**	**$ -**	**$ 1,728,000**	**$ 333,567**
Total Direct Expenses	**$ 5,080,485**	**$ 5,080,485**	**$ -**	**$ 5,440,048**	**$ 359,564**
Indirect Expenses	**$ 3,034,462**	**$ 3,034,462**	**$ -**	**$ 3,064,686**	**$ 30,225**
Other Non-Operating Expenses	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**
Total Expenses (B)	**$ 8,114,946**	**$ 8,114,946**	**$ -**	**$ 8,504,735**	**$ 389,788**
Change in Assets	**$ (35,575)**	**$ (35,575)**	**$ -**	**$ 63,410**	**$ 98,985**
Fixed Assets					
Depreciation	$ -	-	$ -	$ -	$ -
Computer & Software CapEx	108,000	108,000	-	122,000	14,000
Furniture & Fixtures CapEx	-	-	-	-	-
Equipment CapEx	-	-	-	-	-
Leasehold Improvements	-	-	-	-	-
Allocation of Fixed Assets	(143,575)	(143,575)	-	(58,590)	84,985
Inc(Dec) in Fixed Assets (C)	**(35,575)**	**(35,575)**	**-**	**63,410**	**98,985**
TOTAL BUDGET (=B+C)	**$ 8,079,371**	**$ 8,079,371**	**$ -**	**$ 8,568,145**	**$ 488,774**
TOTAL CHANGE IN WORKING CAPITAL (=A-B-C)	**$ (0)**	**$ (0)**	**$ -**	**$ (0)**	**$ 0**

Reliability Assessment and Performance Analysis Program

Reliability Assessment and Performance Analysis Program Resources (in whole dollars)	2014 Budget	2015 Budget	Increase (Decrease)
Total FTEs	5.83	5.83	0.00
Direct Expenses	$1,888,972	$1,958,577	$69,605
Indirect Expenses	$1,105,682	$1,116,695	$11,013
Other Non-Operating Expenses	$0	$0	$0
Inc(Dec) in Fixed Assets	($52,315)	($21,349)	$30,967
Total Funding Requirement	$2,942,339	$3,053,923	$111,585

Program Scope and Functional Description

NPCC, through its top technical committee, the Reliability Coordinating Committee (RCC), integrates the deliverables of its Task Force's and Working Group's Reliability Assessment and Performance Analysis related activities. Consistent with the applicable NERC Reliability Standards, these efforts include:

- Reviewing the adequacy of the NPCC systems to supply load considering forecast demand, installed and planned supply and demand resources and required reserves in accordance with NPCC Reliability Directory No. 1 and other related reliability directories; and,
- Assessing the impact of planned transmission and resource additions or modifications on NPCC system reliability in accordance with NPCC Reliability Directory No. 1 and other related reliability directories.

Seasonal assessments of the overall NPCC resource adequacy assessments are performed and possible actions to mitigate any potential problems are identified. NPCC reviews operations and disturbances both internal and external to the Region in order to identify any lessons to be learned and recommends any necessary follow-up actions.

If appropriate, enhancements to Regional Standards or NPCC's more stringent, Regionally-specific reliability requirements are also recommended. NPCC promotes and conducts both inter-Area and inter-Regional studies to enhance reliability and operational effectiveness, and provides a forum for the discussion and coordination of operating issues within the NPCC Region and with other Regions.

2015 Key Assumptions

Support of identified key NERC Reliability Assessment and Performance Analysis (RAPA) projects; [38] NERC and Regional Entities will gather data or perform analysis in support of U.S. Federal and NERC initiatives, such as:

- Report Recommendation from the "*NERC Special Reliability Assessment Interim Report: Effects of Geomagnetic Disturbances (GMD) on the Bulk Power System*", including:
  i. enhancing system models in support of the study of GMD impacts;
  ii. Enhancing GMD notification procedures; and,
  iii. Determining optimum locations for monitoring capability on transformers, based on studies and operational experience.
- Follow-up study from the recommendations of the "*2013 NERC Special Reliability Assessment: Increasing Dependence on Natural Gas for Electric Power – Phase II: A Vulnerability and Scenario Assessment for the North American Bulk Power System;*"
- System frequency response analysis; and,
- Assessing reliability issues resulting from compliance to final EPA environmental regulations, reliable integration of new technologies as renewable energy, smart grid, energy storage, and/or reliability assessment of increased penetration of electric vehicles.

In support of NERC's 2015 Business Plan and Budget Program Area Services and Activities, NPCC will continue to:

- Vet proposed and future metric development, collection, and analysis with industry stakeholders and identify and spotlight trends through assessments of the availability data systems and metrics (e.g., TADS, DADS, GADS, TADS, SED, etc.)
- Conduct post-seasonal assessments (Summer and Winter) and additional scenario and special reliability assessments as required. Specialized contractors may be used to complete detailed analysis to support scenario assessments. Special reliability assessments currently proposed may include: changes in resource mix due to environmental regulations, electric/gas system interdependency, delays in proposed transmission development in the reliable integration of renewable resources.

In addition, NPCC supports:

- Development of NERC's Reliability Assessment Data System (RADS), [39] for the reporting and validation of the NERC Reliability Assessment Subcommittee Seasonal and Long-Term Reliability Assessment data requirements.

[38] In support of ERO Goal 4.- Identify the most significant risks to reliability, be accountable for mitigating reliability risks, and promote a culture of reliability excellence

[39] In support of ERO Goal 5.c - The ERO internal risks are understood and managed; ERO processes are effective, efficient, and continuously improved.

- Evaluation of a common set of probabilistic reliability indices and probabilistic-based work products to supplement the NERC Long-Term Reliability Assessments;
- Coordination with event analysis, lesson learned [40] and model validation activities. [41] Specialized contractors may be used to complete detailed analysis to support model data collection and validation;
- Support of NERC PMO IT deployments; [42] and,
- Provide support and technical input for related BES risks identified by the NERC Reliability Issues Steering Committee (RISC). [43]

Definition of the Bulk Electric System (BES) Definition [44]

Implementation of the Bulk Electric System (BES) definition and Exception Process as of the July 1, 2014 BES Effective Date is not expected to significantly impact resources requirements in this program area for 2015. NPCC's 2014 survey of its registered entities did not indicate that an overwhelming number of NPCC BES Exception requests would be sought based on the filed BES Definition. Based on the Commission approved BES Definition [45] and the NPCC BES 2014 survey results, the 2015 RAPA personnel should be sufficient to process any NPCC BES Exception requests received in 2015.

NPCC will use the NERC PMO developed BESnet application and related BES reference and guidance documents to assist industry in the implementation of the BES definition approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. The BES reference and guidance documents, processes and tool are designed to provide industry with certainty and clarity about the implementation of the revised BES definition.

The procedure to request an exception from application of the BES definition is set forth in Appendix 5C to the NERC Rules of Procedure, effective July 1, 2014. The REMG formed the BES Exception Process Working Group (BEPWG) in 2012 – comprised of representations from the eight Regional Entities and NERC staff - to help create an efficient and effective Regional mechanism for processing Entity self-determined BES notifications and BES Exception requests. The activities of the BEPWG are expected to continue in 2015, in order to provide a Regional forum for consistent Regional BES Exception request review and 'lessons learned.'

[40] In support of ERO Goal 4.b - Events and system performance are consistently analyzed for sequence, cause, and remediation to identify reliability risks and trends and lessons learned.
[41] In support of ERO Goal 4.d - Reliability models and data accurately represent system behavior and are shared among stakeholders.
[42] In support of ERO Goal 5.c - The ERO internal risks are understood and managed; ERO processes are effective, efficient, and continuously improved.
[43] In support of ERO Goal 4.a - Risks are identified and prioritized based on reliability impacts, cost and practicality of assessments, projected resources, and emerging issues.
[44] In support of ERO Goal 2.a - The ERO registers and deregisters entities commensurate with risk to the BES and ensures all key reliability entities are certified to have essential capabilities.
[45] FERC Order Accepting the Revised [BES] Definition at: http://www.nerc.com/pa/RAPA/BES%20DL/2014-03-20%20BES%20-%20FERC%20Order%20Approving%20Revised%20Definition.pdf

Eastern Interconnection Reliability Assessment Group [46]

The primary function of the Eastern Interconnection Reliability Assessment Group (ERAG) is to augment reliability of the bulk-power system in the Eastern Interconnection through periodic reviews of generation and transmission expansion. These assessments are conducted by the ERAG Steering Committees. In addition, ERAG has the responsibility to develop the annual set of seasonal and future steady state and dynamic simulation base cases for use by the Regional Entities and other industry groups in the Eastern Interconnection. This is done through the ERAG Multi-Regional Modeling Working Group (MMWG). NPCC participates in the ERAG activities as one of the six Eastern Interconnection Regional Entities.

NPCC RAPA staff participates with the ERAG Management Committee and acts as the liaison between the ERAG MMWG and the NPCC SS-37 Working Group; activities include:

Management Committee Activities

- ✓ Oversee the steady state and dynamic simulation base case development;
- ✓ Make necessary changes to the modeling of governor-turbine control systems to achieve frequency response that more closely reflects actual response during system frequency deviation events. Oversee ERAG Multi-Regional Modeling Working Group (MMWG) changes to the dynamics base cases;
- ✓ Continue the review of the NERC governor survey information to assess how to revise the governor-turbine plant control models at most generators;
- ✓ Review the 2015 Summer and 2015-2016 Winter Assessments, including, the MRSS (MRO-RFC-SERC-SPP) and the R-N (RFC-NPCC) Assessments of anticipated inter-Regional, inter-Balancing Authority transfer limit conditions and sensitivities;
- ✓ Participate in discussions with NERC staff, North American Transmission Forum, NERC System Analysis and Modeling Subcommittee, FERC staff and possibly North American Generation Forum representatives regarding base case modeling improvements and future general industry modeling improvements;
- ✓ Develop ERAG Strategic Direction (i.e. anticipated new developments in MMWG process and system assessments); and,
- ✓ Confirm MMWG cases and assessments continue to have sufficient protections in place for use and transmittal of confidential data and information.

Multi-Regional Modeling Working Group Items

- ✓ Complete the steady state and dynamic simulation base cases for the 2015 series of cases;
- ✓ Complete necessary changes to the modeling of governor-turbine control systems to achieve frequency response that more closely reflects actual response during system frequency deviation events;
- ✓ Continue the review of the NERC governor survey information to assess how to revise the governor-turbine plant control models at most generators. Recommend the necessary changes in the models for specific generators;
- ✓ Incorporate dispatch information into the future and seasonal ERAG MMWG base cases so that the dispatches are more closely aligned with economic dispatch practices;

[46] In support of ERO Goal 4.d - Reliability models and data accurately represent system behavior and are shared among stakeholders.

- ✓ Determine how the Regional MMWG case development processes will change due to the use of the new web-based System Dynamics Data Base program;
- ✓ Verify procedures in the MMWG manual are followed;
- ✓ Check and confirm that the dynamic model data passes all applicable checks and acceptance criteria. Include 60 second steady state simulation of each case to detect numerical errors; and,
- ✓ Apply changes to the MMWG dynamics case so they are available for interconnection dynamics studies.

System Assessments Items

- ✓ Completion of 2015 Summer and 2015-2016 Winter Assessments, including, the MRSS and the R-N Assessments of anticipated inter-Regional, inter-Balancing Authority transfer limit conditions and sensitivities; and,
- ✓ Take additional steps to achieve consistency among the MRSS and the R-N study forums assessments and practices. Make additional recommendations to the ERAG Management Committee on how to complete this process.

NERC [47]

Through its Task Forces and Working Groups, NPCC will continue to provide the NPCC Regional perspective with active NPCC RAPA staff participation on the NERC Planning and Operating Committees and key related NERC Subcommittees, Task Forces and Working Groups:

- ✓ Reliability Assessment Data Working Group (RADWG);
- ✓ Protection System Mis-operations Task Force (PSMTF);
- ✓ Spare Equipment Database Task Force (SEDTF);
- ✓ Demand Response Availability Data System Working Group (DADSWG);
- ✓ Generating Availability Data System Working Group (GADSWG);
- ✓ Transmission Availability Data System Working Group (TADSWG);
- ✓ Model Validation Working Group (MVWG);
- ✓ Reliability Assessment Subcommittee (RAS) - Seasonal and Long-Term Reliability Assessments;
- ✓ System Analysis and Modeling Subcommittee (SAMS);
- ✓ Performance Analysis Subcommittee (PAS);
- ✓ Regional support and coordination of the NERC:
  - o Generator Availability Data System (GADS);
  - o Demand Availability Data System (DADS);
  - o Transmission Availability Data System (TADS);
  - o Spare Equipment Data Base System (SEDS);
- ✓ Incorporating any probabilistic reliability metrics required for the 2015 NERC Long-Term Reliability Assessment through the NPCC 2015 Long Range Adequacy Overview;
- ✓ Providing analytic support to ERO-RAPA group for the:
  - o Analysis of Relay and Special Protection System mis-operations;
  - o Regional coordination of data required for the calculation of metrics proposed by the NERC Reliability Metrics Working Group; and,
  - o Other activities as directed by the ERO-Executive Management Group.

[47] In support of ERO Goal 4 - Identify the most significant risks to reliability, be accountable for mitigating reliability risks, and promote a culture of reliability excellence.

As well as:

- ✓ Updating the NPCC Electric System Map; Producing the annual NPCC Load, Capacity, Energy, Fuels, and Transmission (LCEFT) Report
- ✓ Liaison with the New York Defensive Strategies Working Group in coordination and implementation of Synchro-Phasor measurement devices on the NPCC and neighboring systems and monitor related efforts of the NERC North American Synchro-Phasor Initiative;
- ✓ Processing BES Exception requests received through the BES Exception Process;
- ✓ Participating in on-going NERC analysis of the Eastern Interconnection Frequency Response;
- ✓ Developing NPCC guidelines for load modeling in system reliability studies;
- ✓ Conducting NPCC resource adequacy assessments addressing impacts of emerging reliability issues identified by NERC (e.g., environmental requirements, gas-electric system interdependency, distributed generation, delays in transmission plans, etc.);
- ✓ Coordinating any resulting NPCC inter-Area reliability analyses required to assess the proposed integration of related large-scale renewable resource proposals from Regional activities;
- ✓ Completing the 2015 NERC Seasonal (and post Seasonal) Reliability Assessments; and,
- ✓ Completing the 2015 NERC Long-Term Reliability Assessment.

2015 Goals and Key Deliverables

Task Force on Coordination of Planning

The primary mission of the NPCC Task Force on Coordination of Planning (TFCP) is to promote reliability through the coordination of NPCC Area and NERC planning processes and activities. In addition, the TFCP provides technical support regarding operating expertise to the NPCC Regional Standards Committee and the NPCC Compliance Committee as requested.

TFCP activities include, but are not limited to:

- Leading the NPCC Task Force review of the revision of NPCC criteria, guidelines, and procedures related to planning, and of those documents which provide for the uniform implementation, interpretation and monitoring of compliance with criteria, guidelines and procedures related to planning.
- Supporting the NPCC Directory Project by either drafting, reviewing or approving directories.
- Coordinating, monitoring, reviewing, and making recommendations on proposed or modified Special Protection Systems.
- Facilitating Wide-Area Planning by supporting the Joint ISO/RTO Planning Committee Activities, implementation of the Northeast Planning Protocol, and performing any NPCC interconnection reliability analyses, as required.
- Reviewing the overall reliability of the NPCC Areas and performing multi-Area probabilistic reliability assessments.
- Identifying and assisting in the development of new Regional Reliability Standards.
- Assisting the NPCC Compliance Subcommittee, to monitor and coordinate the compliance efforts of the Areas with NPCC planning documents and registered entities with NERC Reliability Standards.

- Reviewing the Standards Authorization Requests and NERC Reliability Standards as well as participating in the NERC process. Educating and informing NPCC membership and registered entities of developments.
- Ensuring coordination of data and assumptions for conducting NPCC planning studies (i.e. load forecasts, reserve requirements, DOE EIA 411 data, and new facilities)
- Monitoring the activities of other NPCC Task Forces to ensure coordination with planning activities.
- Reviewing the adequacy of the NPCC systems to supply load considering forecast demand, installed and planned supply and demand resources and required reserve margins in accordance with NPCC Directory No. 1 based on a schedule set forth in the Reliability Assessment Program.
- Coordinating the review of the compliance of future Area plans with the Basic Criteria, including an analysis of resource and transmission system additions, and the potential inter-Area effects of special protection systems, in accordance with NPCC Reliability Directory No.1 based on a schedule set forth in the Reliability Assessment Program. (Specific projects, which in the opinion of the Task Force could have an impact on the reliability of the NPCC Bulk Power System, may be reviewed outside of the set schedule).

Key TFCP Reliability Assessment and Performance Analysis Deliverables

- ✓ Coordinating activities related to reactive power and voltage control practices, which includes Under Voltage Load Shedding (UVLS) with the Task Force on Coordination of Operation and the Task Force on System Studies to ensure that developments in the NERC Planning Committee and its Subcommittees are addressed.
- ✓ Monitoring the actions of the NERC Performance Analysis Subcommittee (PAS).
- ✓ Monitoring the actions of the NERC System Analysis and Modeling Subcommittee (SAMS).
- ✓ Overseeing the A-10 BPS Implementation Plan.
- ✓ Overseeing the summer 2015 and winter 2015-2016 NPCC multi-area probabilistic reliability evaluations.
- ✓ Overseeing the 2015 NPCC Long-Range Adequacy Overview.
- ✓ Evaluating and approving Balancing Authority Area Transmission Reviews.
- ✓ Coordinating, monitoring, reviewing, and making recommendations on the retirement of existing in-service Special Protection Systems (SPS); and the implementation of proposed new or modified Special Protection Systems.
- ✓ Review the NPCC SPS criteria with respect to proposed NERC SPS Standards.
- ✓ Monitoring industry practices and making recommendations to NPCC on transmission adequacy standards related to intermittent generation such as wind or solar-voltaic.
- ✓ Reviewing and giving direction to other task forces on changes required to the Underfrequency Load Shedding (UFLS) program required to take into account increasing amounts of distribution connected generation and/or intermittent generation.
- ✓ Evaluating and recommending approval of NPCC Balancing Authority Area Resource Adequacy Assessments.
- ✓ Monitoring the developments in demand resources, energy efficiency, distributed generation and conservation methods including all intermittent renewable resources.
- ✓ Conducting resource adequacy assessment studies addressing emerging reliability issues as identified by the NERC Planning Committee (e.g., environmental requirements, etc.)
- ✓ Supporting Joint ISO/RTO Planning Committee activities.

- ✓ Facilitating Wide-Area Planning through participation in Regional and coordinating any resulting required inter-Area Reliability Assessment of the proposed integration related large-scale renewable resource proposals.
- ✓ Completion of the NERC 2015 Long-Term Reliability Assessment.
- ✓ Completion of the 2015 Review of NPCC Interconnection Assistance Reliability Benefits Study.
- ✓ Review NERC Events Analysis Lessons Learned for consideration in TFCP activities and processes.

Task Force on System Studies

The primary mission of the NPCC Task Force on System Studies (TFSS) is to provide active overall coordination of system studies of the reliability of the interconnected bulk power systems and for the review of certain NPCC documents. In addition, the TFSS provides technical support regarding operating expertise to the NPCC Regional Standards Committee and the NPCC Compliance Committee as requested.

The activities of the TFSS include, but are not limited to:

- Participating with the Task Force on Coordination of Planning, the Task Force on Coordination of Operation, and the Task Force on System Protection in reviews of the NPCC Reliability Directory No.1 and other NERC Reliability Standards and NPCC criteria, guidelines, procedures and documents which provide for the uniform implementation, interpretation and monitoring of conformance to criteria, guidelines and procedures related to system studies.
- Conducting NPCC Balancing Authority Area Reviews, in accordance with NPCC Reliability Directory No. 1, based on material presented by the Balancing Authority Areas. These reviews will assess the impact of planned transmission and resource additions or modifications on system reliability, and determine the Balancing Authority Area's conformance with the NPCC Basic Criteria.
- Reviewing and approving changes to Balancing Authority Areas' lists of bulk power system elements, in accordance with the *Classification of Bulk Power System Elements* (Document A-10). Annually review and update the NPCC BPS List.
- Reviewing and classifying new and modified Special Protection Systems, in accordance with NPCC Reliability Directory No. 7. Annually reviewing and updating the NPCC Special Protection System List.
- Conducting such load flow, transient stability, and other studies as required analyzing the overall reliability of the planned bulk power transmission systems of NPCC and the interconnections between NPCC and other Regional reliability organizations. As a part of this effort, analyze potential inter-Area effects of Special Protection Systems.
- Conducting analytical studies as appropriate to support the coordination of system planning, system operation and system protection in NPCC.
- Maintaining, through the SS-37 Working Group, a library of load flow base cases and associated dynamics data, for use in and support of Balancing Authority Area Reviews, overall transmission assessments, operational studies, inter-Regional studies, etc. Coordinate this effort with the NERC inter-Regional base case development process.
- In conjunction with other Task Forces, reviewing major system disturbances to ascertain the adequacy of the interconnected systems. Also, reviewing any associated recommendations for system modifications and considering the need for criteria changes.

- Identifying and recommending improved system study techniques. This includes, but is not limited to, the following:
  - improved techniques and models for power system simulation;
  - improved techniques for power system Reliability Assessment;
- Conducting a periodic review of the adequacy of the NPCC underfrequency load shedding program. Annually reviewing and updating the NPCC underfrequency load shedding database.
- Maintaining a listing and monitoring the status of major transmission and generation projects within NPCC.
- Maintaining liaison with other NPCC Task Forces and report to the Reliability Coordinating Committee as required.
- Monitoring the work of industry research and development organizations such as the IEEE, Canadian Electricity Association, Electric Power Research Institute, CIGRE and other technical organizations.
- Annually developing updates to the NPCC Electric System Map

Key TFSS Reliability Assessment and Performance Analysis Deliverables:

- ✓ Conducting Balancing Authority Area reviews, in accordance with the *Guidelines for NPCC Area Transmission Reviews* (Appendix B of NPCC Reliability Directory No. 1), based on material presented by the Balancing Authority Areas. These reviews assess the impact of planned transmission and resource additions or modifications on system reliability, and determine the Area's conformance with the NPCC Basic Criteria. Through the Area Transmission Reviews, re-evaluate the performance and classification of existing SPSs and Dynamic Control Systems as appropriate.
- ✓ Reviewing and classifying new and modified Special Protection Systems, in accordance with NPCC Reliability Directory No. 7 *Procedure for NPCC Review of New or Modified Bulk Power System Special Protection Systems* as required.
- ✓ Reviewing and approving changes to the Balancing Authority Areas' lists of bulk power system elements, in accordance with the *Classification of Bulk Power System Elements* (Document A-10), as required.
- ✓ Updating the NPCC Bulk Power System List.
- ✓ Through the ad hoc Load Modeling Task Force, address the recommendations from the SS-38 Load Modeling White Paper regarding the use of dynamic load models for transient stability analysis.
- ✓ Perform the Overall NPCC Transmission Assessment.
- ✓ Reviewing and updating NPCC Undervoltage Load Shedding Database.
- ✓ Participation in on-going NERC analysis of the Eastern Interconnection Frequency Response.
- ✓ Through the SS-37 Working Group, develop the annual library of power flow base cases and associated dynamic models for use by NPCC members and input into the development of the MMWG library of power flow and dynamic cases and databases for the Eastern Interconnection
  - i. Final development of NPCC power flow models for 2015
  - ii. Final development of NPCC dynamic models for 2015
  - iii. Address wind modeling issues including maintaining a database of NPCC wind models for use in the MMWG library of power flow and dynamic cases and databases for the Eastern Interconnection.
- ✓ Annually performing event replication and exercise the procedure. Reviewing existing Regional criteria and procedures for validation of data used in power flow and dynamic

simulations by benchmarking against actual system performance. If the existing criteria or procedures are found to be deficient, propose changes to provide for adequate data validation

- ✓ Updating the NPCC SS-37 Working Group Procedure Manual and other related documents including the Master Tie line Data, and Interchange Schedule, as required.
- ✓ Providing mid-term updates to the Library of NPCC/MMWG cases
- ✓ Enhancing the governor modeling on a unit by unit basis suitable for use in the system simulation.
- ✓ Annually reviewing and updating a list of NPCC underfrequency load shedding.
- ✓ Coordinate activities with those of the New York State Defensive Strategies Working Group, regarding the coordination and implementation of Synro-Phasor measurement devices.
- ✓ Incorporate NPCC guidelines for load and power system modeling approved by the RCC
- ✓ Classification of Bulk Power System Elements.
- ✓ Participate at Siemens PTI User Group meetings to provide PSSE program enhancements
- ✓ Supporting Regional system studies to integrate large-scale renewable resources.
- ✓ Provide support to NERC Event Analysis process, as needed.
- ✓ Develop updates to the NPCC Electric System Map.
- ✓ Provide support to the NERC Model Validation Working Group (MVWG) as needed.
- ✓ Review NERC Events Analysis Lessons Learned for consideration in TFSS activities and processes.

Task Force on System Protection (TFSP)

The purpose of the NPCC Task Force on System Protection (TFSP) is to promote the reliable and efficient operation of the interconnected bulk power systems in Northeastern North America through the establishment of directories, criteria, guidelines, and procedures and coordination of design, relative to the protection associated with the bulk power systems. In addition, the TFSP provides technical support regarding operating expertise to the NPCC Regional Standards Committee and the NPCC Compliance Committee as requested.

The Reliability Assessment and Performance Analysis activities of the TFSP include, but are not limited to:

- Assessing proposed protection systems and special protection systems in accordance with NPCC Reliability Directory No. 4 and No. 7.
- Reviewing and analyzing the performance of protection systems following selected major power system disturbances and events, inside as well as outside NPCC in accordance with NPCC Reliability Directory No. 4. Issue recommendations for changes to NPCC Documents, as appropriate.
- Providing technical advice on protection issues to NPCC and coordinate with other Task Forces on the application of Intelligent Electronic Devices (IEDs) that include functions related to energy management systems in addition to their protective functions, in order to safeguard the integrity of the protective functions.
- Through the SP-7 Working Group, review, on a quarterly basis all protection system (including special protection system) misoperations reported to NPCC.
- Reviewing and assessing significant protection issues of common interest or informational value.
- Reviewing and assessing regulatory and industry based documents as they relate to system protection.

- Maintaining an effective liaison with North America groups working in the protection areas (for example: NERC System Protection & Control Subcommittee.)
- Exchanging information with other power pools, Regional Reliability Councils, Regional Transmission Organizations and other industry groups on matters concerned with system protection.
- Identifying the need for special studies and new documents, recommend action to the Reliability Coordinating Committee.

Key TFSP Reliability Assessment and Performance Analysis Deliverables:

- ✓ Assessing proposed protection systems and special protection systems for compliance with NPCC Directory No. 4 and No. 7 criteria.
- ✓ Reviewing and analyzing the performance of protection systems in power system disturbances and events, brought to the attention of the Task Force, inside as well as outside NPCC in accordance with *Procedures for Task Force on System Protection Review of Disturbances* (Document C-30). Issuing recommendations for changes to NPCC Documents, as appropriate.
- ✓ Develop a new NPCC Directory for Disturbance Monitoring Equipment for related criteria, guides and procedures.
- ✓ Participate or serve as lead Task Force in the development and/or implementation of Regional Reliability Standards.
- ✓ Providing support to the NERC Event Analysis process as required.
- ✓ Participate in the ongoing development and submission of NPCC input into the development of related NERC Reliability Standards.
- ✓ Conducting any follow-up to the bulk power system protection risk assessment as directed by the Reliability Coordinating Committee.
- ✓ Through the SP-7 Working Group, monitor the review of protection system (including special protection system) mis-operations as they occurred in the NPCC Region and participation in providing the NPCC input for NERC Metric ALR4-1 on Protection Mis-operations.
- ✓ Monitor and review industry activities on the mitigation of the effects of SMD on protection systems. Report to RCC on any significant findings.
- ✓ Review mitigations and/or progress reports for BPS Risk Reduction Implementation at each meeting and annually report to the RCC on the status of this implementation.
- ✓ Participate in the development and submission of NPCC inputs/comments into the development of protection related NERC technical documents.
- ✓ Review best practices from its members and industry to pull together design considerations for the new IEC 61850 protection implementation with the output being possible additions to NPCC Directory No. 4 and Directory No. 7.
- ✓ Review NERC Events Analysis Lessons Learned for consideration in TFSP activities and processes.

Task Force on Coordination of Operation

The NPCC Task Force on Coordination of Operation (TFCO) facilitates the coordination of operations among the NPCC Reliability Coordinator areas and adjacent NERC Regions to enhance the reliability of the bulk power system. In addition, the TFCO provides technical support regarding operating expertise to the NPCC Regional Standards Committee and the NPCC Compliance Committee as requested.

The activities of the NPCC TFCO include, but are not limited to:

- Conducting seasonal reviews of the overall reliability of the generation and transmission systems in NPCC, and coordinating these efforts with parallel assessments conducted by the NPCC Task Force on Coordination of Planning and by NERC. Reviewing the operational preparedness of NPCC and recommending possible actions to mitigate any potential problems identified for each operating period.
- Reviewing operations and system disturbances and providing any necessary follow-up, including the recommendation of remedial or mitigating actions.
- Facilitating the reliable operational integration of new bulk power system facilities.
- Coordinating the development of operating NPCC requirements and procedures affecting the reliability and operability of the bulk power system in coordination with, and as directed by, NERC and NPCC.
- Promoting and sponsoring inter-Balancing Authority Area and inter-Regional studies to enhance reliability and operational effectiveness of the bulk power system.
- Providing coordination of operating issues with other NPCC Task Forces and other Regions.
- Reviewing, and acting upon, NERC actions, motions and recommendations in relation to the operation of the power system.
- Formulating the position of the TFCO on NERC Standards, and providing this position to the NPCC Regional Standards Committee as appropriate.
- Providing assistance as requested by the NPCC Regional Standards Committee in the development of Regional Standards and Directories.
- Providing assistance as requested by the NPCC Compliance Committee in monitoring and coordinating the compliance efforts of the registered entities of NPCC.

Key TFCO Reliability Assessment and Performance Analysis Deliverables:

- ✓ Review and analyze the performance of Simultaneous Activation of Reserve implementation following an event to enhance the process. Manage the implementation of action items emanating from the NERC report, "High-Impact, Low-Frequency Event Risk to the North American Bulk Power System-June 2010," and its subsequent reports:
  - ➢ Severe Impact Resilience Severe Impact Resilience Task Force
  - ➢ Geomagnetic Disturbance Task Force
  - ➢ Cyber Attack Task Force
  - ➢ Spare Equipment Database Task Force
  - ➢ Smart Grid Task Force
- ✓ Monitor the development of the NERC North American Synchro-Phasor Initiative in its effort to establish an effective control monitoring tool.
- ✓ Provide assistance to the NPCC Regional Standards Committee in the second phase of the NPCC directories process.
- ✓ Review NPCC Reliability Coordinator Area Restoration Plans.
- ✓ Complete the NPCC 2015 summer and winter Operational Reliability Assessments.
- ✓ Completion of the NERC 2015 Seasonal Reliability Assessments.
- ✓ Review NERC Events Analysis Lessons Learned for consideration in TFCO activities and processes.
- ✓ Support the implementation of the NERC Cyber Standards, as required.

NPCC Regulatory/Governmental Affairs Advisory Group

The purpose of the NPCC Regulatory/Governmental Affairs Advisory Group is to promote NPCC interaction and coordination with Federal/State/Provincial governmental and/or regulatory agencies on a coordinated Regional basis, and identify and develop policy input for NPCC and Northeast Regional governmental and/or regulatory bodies.

The NPCC Governmental/Regulatory Affairs Advisory Group provides a forum where industry and governmental and/or regulatory representatives can exchange views and strive to develop consensus policy recommendations on reliability issues specific to the NPCC Region (Northeastern United States and Eastern Canada) and share actionable information among NPCC, NERC and other related governmental and/or regulatory agencies related to Regional energy and reliability matters.

Based on the portion of professional/technical staff time and other resources devoted to Reliability Assessment and Performance Analysis, NPCC estimates that it will expend 21 percent of its resources on these activities.

Funding Sources and Requirements — Explanation of Increase (Decrease)

Funding Sources (Other than ERO Assessments)

- U.S. Penalty Sanctions remitted from 7/1/13 through 6/30/14 reduce U.S. LSE designee assessments for 2015.

Personnel Expenses

- NPCC anticipates no need to hire additional personnel in this program area in 2015.
- Salaries expense reflects implementation of recommendations of NPCC's Management Development and Compensation Committee, which were based on an independent compensation study.
- Benefits expense decreased due to more staff opting out of company sponsored health insurance for superior coverage through prior employer or spouse.
- Retirement expense decreased due to transition of employees formerly accruing benefits under the defined benefit plan to receiving defined contribution benefits in 2015.

Meeting and Travel Expenses

- While the amount of activity continues to increase in 2015, due to the volume of work described above, meeting expenses will be minimized to the extent possible due to continued efforts to keep costs down by holding meetings via conference calls and internet meetings, which are budgeted as a part of G&A and then allocated to the direct programs through indirect expenses, conducting meetings at the NPCC offices or member facilities, as well as negotiating lower meeting space rental rates.

Operating Expenses and Indirect Expenses

- NPCC total overhead expenses, such as office rent and office costs will be charged to the Administrative Services Programs and then reallocated proportionately based on FTE to the programs through Indirect Expenses.

Other Non-Operating Expenses

- None

Fixed Asset Additions

- None

Reliability Assessment and Performance Analysis Program

Funding sources and related expenses for the Reliability Assessment and Performance Analysis section of the 2015 business plan are shown in the table below.

Statement of Activities and Capital Expenditures
2014 Budget & Projection, and 2015 Budget
Reliability Assessment and Performance Analysis

	2014 Budget	2014 Projection	Variance 2014 Projection v 2014 Budget Over(Under)	2015 Budget	Variance 2015 Budget v 2014 Budget Over(Under)
Funding					
ERO Funding					
ERO Assessments	$ 2,910,322	$ 2,910,322	$ -	$ 2,995,121	$ 84,799
Penalty Sanctions	32,017	32,017	-	58,802	26,785
Total ERO Funding	**$ 2,942,339**	**$ 2,942,339**	**$ -**	**$ 3,053,923**	**$ 111,585**
Membership Dues	-	-	-	-	-
Testing Fees	-	-	-	-	-
Services & Software	-	-	-	-	-
Workshops	-	-	-	-	-
Interest	-	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	-
Total Funding (A)	**$ 2,942,339**	**$ 2,942,339**	**$ -**	**$ 3,053,923**	**$ 111,585**
Expenses					
Personnel Expenses					
Salaries	$ 904,028	$ 904,028	$ -	$ 937,098	$ 33,070
Payroll Taxes	60,329	60,329	-	61,387	1,058
Benefits	226,225	226,225	-	196,252	(29,973)
Retirement Costs	190,390	190,390	-	172,840	(17,550)
Total Personnel Expenses	**$ 1,380,972**	**$ 1,380,972**	**$ -**	**$ 1,367,577**	**$ (13,395)**
Meeting Expenses					
Meetings	$ 45,000	$ 45,000	$ -	$ 41,000	$ (4,000)
Travel	175,000	175,000	-	185,000	10,000
Conference Calls	-	-	-	-	-
Total Meeting Expenses	**$ 220,000**	**$ 220,000**	**$ -**	**$ 226,000**	**$ 6,000**
Operating Expenses					
Consultants & Contracts	$ 275,000	$ 275,000	$ -	$ 365,000	$ 90,000
Office Rent	-	-	-	-	-
Office Costs	13,000	13,000	-	-	(13,000)
Professional Services	-	-	-	-	-
Computer & Equipment Leases	-	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	-	-	-	-	-
Total Operating Expenses	**$ 288,000**	**$ 288,000**	**$ -**	**$ 365,000**	**$ 77,000**
Total Direct Expenses	**$ 1,888,972**	**$ 1,888,972**	**$ -**	**$ 1,958,577**	**$ 69,605**
Indirect Expenses	**$ 1,105,682**	**$ 1,105,682**	**$ -**	**$ 1,116,695**	**$ 11,013**
Other Non-Operating Expenses	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**
Total Expenses (B)	**$ 2,994,654**	**$ 2,994,654**	**$ -**	**$ 3,075,272**	**$ 80,618**
Change in Assets	**$ (52,315)**	**$ (52,315)**	**$ -**	**$ (21,349)**	**$ 30,967**
Fixed Assets					
Depreciation	$ -	-	$ -	$ -	$ -
Computer & Software CapEx	-	-	-	-	-
Furniture & Fixtures CapEx	-	-	-	-	-
Equipment CapEx	-	-	-	-	-
Leasehold Improvements	-	-	-	-	-
Allocation of Fixed Assets	(52,315)	(52,315)	-	(21,349)	30,967
Inc(Dec) in Fixed Assets (C)	**(52,315)**	**(52,315)**	**-**	**(21,349)**	**30,967**
TOTAL BUDGET (=B+C)	2,942,339	2,942,339	-	3,053,923	111,585
TOTAL CHANGE IN WORKING CAPITAL (=A-B-C)	**$ 0**	**$ 0**	**$ -**	**$ 0**	**$ 0**

Training, Education, and Operator Certification Program

Training, Education, and Operator Certification Program Resources (in whole dollars)	2014 Budget	2015 Budget	Increase (Decrease)
Total FTEs	0.10	0.10	0.00
Direct Expenses	$177,787	$180,222	$2,434
Indirect Expenses	$18,965	$19,154	$189
Other Non-Operating Expenses	$0	$0	$0
Inc(Dec) in Fixed Assets	($897)	($366)	$531
Total Funding Requirement	$195,855	$199,010	$3,154

Program Scope and Functional Description

The NPCC Training, Education, and Operator Certification program supports NERC Rules of Procedure Section 900. The program provides education and training necessary to understand and operate the bulk electric system. The target audience of the program is bulk power system operating personnel - including system operations personnel, operations support personnel (engineering and information technology), supervisors and managers, and training personnel. This program also supports the administration of records necessary to maintain status as a NERC Continuing Education provider. NPCC staff training and development is incorporated within each respective program area.

Training Program Background and Description

NPCC establishes and coordinates programs for system operator training relating to inter-Reliability Coordinator area matters, criteria, terminology, standards and operating procedures and instructions. It develops and conducts training seminars, held twice yearly, at which potential operational problems for the coming season are discussed, the implementation of NPCC standards and procedures are discussed, significant disturbances are reviewed for lessons to be learned and table-top drills and communication and coordination exercises are conducted. The seminars promote camaraderie and better communication among system operators from the NPCC Reliability Coordinator Areas.

NPCC shares, evaluates and proposes new techniques and training aids as they become available; reviews opportunities to consolidate training among the NPCC Reliability Coordinators, which includes opportunities to share training material and training sessions and exchanges information on internal methods of system operator selection and training.

In addition, NPCC participates in the activities of the NERC Staff Training Group (STG). The main objective of the NERC STG is to coordinate the development of Regional Entity and NERC staff training and registered entity education materials to support and continually enhance reliability across North America for the benefit of all bulk electric system users, owners, and operators. The main focus of this group has been on NERC compliance auditor training.

Funding Drivers and Reliability Benefits

- Provide two high-quality continuing education seminars for system operators
    - System operators participating in the Seminars get exposure to NPCC issues and current industry operations topics, review recent NPCC or major external disturbances, discuss projected conditions for the coming summer or winter peak season and participate in hands on "table top exercises" pertaining to system operation practices. PJM operators also attend and participate in these seminars.
    - Seminar attendees also receive Continuing Education Hours (CEHs) and each Balancing Authority Area utilizes the seminar content by including it in their internal training programs to provide CEHs to all system operators
    - The seminars help to improve system operation coordination through better camaraderie among operators
- Review and revise the curriculum of the training seminars to better emphasize NERC standards, Regional Standards and business practices, NPCC wide-area operations and Regionally-specific criteria and procedures.[48]
- Enhance the system operator's awareness and knowledge of the standards, criteria and procedures they apply in real time operation.[49]
- Provide more sharing of new training approaches, exchange of information on internal methods of system operator selection, training material and training sessions.
    - Enhance efficiency and cost savings in the training programs in the NPCC Balancing Authority Areas
- Provide a forum among NPCC Reliability Coordinator / Balancing Authority (RC / BA) Areas for sharing of approaches to meet the requirements of the NERC PER standards. The sharing of approaches used by some NPCC Areas to address the PER-005-1, Requirement 3.1 on Training using simulator technology has been especially valuable to CO-2 Working Group members.
- Determine what changes would be needed for the NPCC Reliability Coordinator / Balancing Authority Areas to meet proposed expanded Systematic Approach to Training (SAT) requirement for operations support staff in PER-005-2.

2015 Key Assumptions

NPCC will conduct two workshops in 2015, for NPCC Stakeholders, for the express purpose of providing the most current and applicable information related to the development of NERC and Regional Reliability Standards and the implementation of the Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program (CMEP). These workshops are specifically designed, primarily through the conduct of targeted breakout class room sessions and presentations on current industry related activities, to provide for the most efficient exchange of information between the NPCC Compliance and Standards Staff and the NPCC Stakeholders. Presentations in the past have been conducted by FERC, NERC and Stakeholder representatives in addition to NPCC Staff members. To supplement these workshops, NPCC is also considering expanding the use of on-

[48] In support of ERO goal 4.b. Provide lessons learned and recommendations from events and identified risks.
[49] In support of ERO goal 4.b. Analyze significant events to identify gaps in standards, compliance effectiveness, registration, and risk controls effectiveness.

line webinars. These webinars will focus on a specific topic pertinent to developments related to compliance program implementation, standards development or technical topics.

NPCC also regularly conducts spring and fall System Operator Seminars. These seminars involve system operators from the NPCC Reliability Coordinator / Balancing Authority Areas and PJM. These will be held in early May and early November.

With the exception of meeting expenses, it is proposed that the NPCC resources to support Training and Education will remain virtually unchanged for the calendar year. In 2015, to be consistent with NERC and other Regional Entities, NPCC will charge for participation in NPCC workshops in an effort to defray some of the costs.

2015 Goals and Key Deliverables

- Prepare and conduct the spring and autumn NPCC System Operator Seminars
- Review approaches to reliability related-task definition, task instruction, and instruction tracking on an individual basis. Coordinate the effects of the PER-005-2 expanded SAT training requirements within the NPCC RC / BA Area programs.
- Expand the content of the Reliability Coordinator training programs, based on the new requirements generated by PER-005-2.
- Continue collaboration and sharing of the intended RC / BA approaches, experiences and materials to task identification and training development associated with NERC Standard PER-005-2.
- Create and expand the restricted-access NPCC repository of training resources and learning verification activities addressing fundamental power system topics, training methods and operation procedure training exercises, which may be shared as elements of operator training in compliance with NERC Standard PER-005, “System Personnel Training”.
- Participate in NERC Staff Training Group activities and provide NPCC input to the development of training policies by this group.

Based on the portion of professional/technical staff time and other resources devoted to training, education, and operator certification, NPCC estimates that it will expend 1 percent of its resources on this activity.

Funding Sources and Requirements — Explanation of Increase (Decrease)

Funding Sources (Other than ERO Assessments)

- U.S. Penalty Sanctions remitted from 7/1/13 through 6/30/14 reduce U.S. LSE designee assessments for 2015.

Personnel Expenses

- NPCC anticipates no need to hire additional personnel in this program area in 2015.
- Salaries expense reflects implementation of recommendations of NPCC's Management Development and Compensation Committee, which were based on an independent compensation study.
- Benefits expense decreased due to more staff opting out of company sponsored health insurance for superior coverage through prior employer or spouse.
- Retirement expense decreased due to transition of employees formerly accruing benefits under the defined benefit plan to receiving defined contribution benefits in 2015.

Operating Expenses and Indirect Expenses

- NPCC total overhead expenses, such as office rent and office costs will be charged to the Administrative Services Programs and then reallocated proportionately based on FTE to the programs through Indirect Expenses.

Other Non-Operating Expenses

- None

Fixed Asset Additions

- None

Training, Education, and Operator Certification Program

Funding sources and related expenses for the training, education, and operator certification section of the 2015 business plan are shown in the table below.

Statement of Activities and Capital Expenditures
2014 Budget & Projection, and 2015 Budget
Training, Education, and Operator Certification

		2014 Budget	2014 Projection	Variance 2014 Projection v 2014 Budget Over(Under)	2015 Budget	Variance 2015 Budget v 2014 Budget Over(Under)
Funding						
ERO Funding						
	ERO Assessments	$ 131,306	$ 131,306	$ -	$ 134,001	$ 2,695
	Penalty Sanctions	549	549	-	1,009	459
Total ERO Funding		**$ 131,855**	**$ 131,855**	**$ -**	**$ 135,010**	**$ 3,154**
	Membership Dues	-	-	-	-	-
	Testing Fees	-	-	-	-	-
	Services & Software	-	-	-	-	-
	Workshops	64,000	64,000	-	64,000	-
	Interest	-	-	-	-	-
	Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	-
Total Funding (A)		**$ 195,855**	**$ 195,855**	**$ -**	**$ 199,010**	**$ 3,154**
Expenses						
Personnel Expenses						
	Salaries	$ 17,448	$ 17,448	$ -	$ 18,460	$ 1,012
	Payroll Taxes	1,063	1,063	-	1,274	211
	Benefits	4,500	4,500	-	4,052	(448)
	Retirement Costs	4,776	4,776	-	4,436	(341)
Total Personnel Expenses		**$ 27,787**	**$ 27,787**	**$ -**	**$ 28,222**	**$ 434**
Meeting Expenses						
	Meetings	$ 135,000	$ 135,000	$ -	$ 137,000	$ 2,000
	Travel	15,000	15,000	-	15,000	-
	Conference Calls	-	-	-	-	-
Total Meeting Expenses		**$ 150,000**	**$ 150,000**	**$ -**	**$ 152,000**	**$ 2,000**
Operating Expenses						
	Consultants & Contracts	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
	Office Rent	-	-	-	-	-
	Office Costs	-	-	-	-	-
	Professional Services	-	-	-	-	-
	Computer & Equipment Leases	-	-	-	-	-
	Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	-
	Depreciation	-	-	-	-	-
Total Operating Expenses		**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**
	Total Direct Expenses	**$ 177,787**	**$ 177,787**	**$ -**	**$ 180,222**	**$ 2,434**
Indirect Expenses		**$ 18,965**	**$ 18,965**	**$ -**	**$ 19,154**	**$ 189**
Other Non-Operating Expenses		**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**
Total Expenses (B)		**$ 196,753**	**$ 196,753**	**$ -**	**$ 199,376**	**$ 2,623**
Change in Assets		**$ (897)**	**$ (897)**	**$ -**	**$ (366)**	**$ 531**
Fixed Assets						
	Depreciation	$ -	-	$ -	$ -	$ -
	Computer & Software CapEx	-	-	-	-	-
	Furniture & Fixtures CapEx	-	-	-	-	-
	Equipment CapEx	-	-	-	-	-
	Leasehold Improvements	-	-	-	-	-
	Allocation of Fixed Assets	(897)	(897)	-	(366)	531
Inc(Dec) in Fixed Assets (C)		**(897)**	**(897)**	**-**	**(366)**	**531**
TOTAL BUDGET (=B+C)		195,855	195,855	-	199,010	3,154
TOTAL CHANGE IN WORKING CAPITAL (=A-B-C)		**$ (0)**	**$ (0)**	**$ -**	**$ (0)**	**$ 0**

Situation Awareness and Infrastructure Security Program

Situation Awareness and Infrastructure Security Program Resources (in whole dollars)	2014 Budget	2015 Budget	Increase (Decrease)
Total FTEs	3.00	3.00	0.00
Direct Expenses	$922,070	$937,689	$15,619
Indirect Expenses	$568,962	$574,629	$5,667
Other Non-Operating Expenses	$0	$0	$0
Inc(Dec) in Fixed Assets	($26,920)	($10,986)	$15,935
Total Funding Requirement	$1,464,111	$1,501,332	$37,221

Program Scope and Functional Description

The Situation Awareness and Infrastructure Security Program is the combination of near real time awareness of conditions on the bulk power system with the programs necessary to increase the physical and cyber security of the electricity infrastructure, including the operation and maintenance of tools and other support services for the benefit of Reliability Coordinators and the system operators within the registered entities. Maintaining the real-time awareness of conditions on the interconnected bulk power systems by the NPCC Reliability Coordinator is critical to maintaining reliable operation within NPCC, including the communication of information concerning system conditions and abnormal events among the neighboring system operators responsible for the reliable operation of the bulk power systems. When a disturbance does occur, it is critical to use the event as a learning opportunity and provide a forum for the active coordination of reliability and operation among the NPCC Reliability Coordinator areas and neighboring NERC Regions to enhance the reliability of the interconnected bulk power system through the lessons to be learned which can be gleaned from such an event.

Event Analysis Program[50]

NERC and the industry pursue three avenues in the analysis of a disturbance: the identification of lessons to be learned, a formal cause code analysis and a review of applicable standards.

The Event Analysis Program recognizes that many events which occur on the bulk power system beyond the routine reporting requirements previously in place can have varying levels of significance to the electric system, providing otherwise unrealized lessons to be learned from these events and the trending of such events to identify possible reliability concerns. By integrating a "bottom-up" approach to a disturbance review within the framework of the NERC Event Analysis Program, consistency, comparability, flexibility and timeliness in the event analysis process will be promoted by NPCC, the registered entities and NERC in a collaborative initiative. Upon the identification of an event, the goal of the Event Analysis Program is to:

- identify what transpired;
- categorize the event within the NERC Event Analysis Program;

[50] In support of ERO Goal 4.b. Events and system performance are consistently analyzed for sequence, cause, and remediation to identify reliability risks and trends and lessons learned.

- establish the sequence of events;
- understand the essential root causes of the event;
- identify recommendations or corrective actions; and
- develop and disseminate to the industry, lessons to be learned so that the operational reliability of the bulk power system can be further enhanced.

In assessing any system event, it is recognized that, if the timely dissemination of lessons learned from an event or disturbance is to be realized, any potential compliance implications associated with an event must be addressed and dismissed. Throughout an event analysis effort, to make this process successful and complete, and to solidify the "bottom-up" approach, registered entities are encouraged to establish a liaison between the event analysis and compliance functions internal to the registered entity during the event analysis process. This serves to facilitate the development of a registered entity compliance self-assessment report which will perform a sufficiency review of the reliability standards deemed applicable to the event, assisting in the self-reporting of possible violations should any be discovered.

To complete this effort, the entity, the Region and NERC staff collaborate to assess the NERC Event Analysis Report and perform a formal cause code analysis, identifying a root cause and complementing any lessons learned gathered from the disturbance.

The adoption by NERC of the Event Analysis Program brings clarity and certainty about what system events are relevant to analyze and to what level of detail, targeting potential vulnerabilities to the reliability of the bulk power system for detailed and in depth analysis; only concise and succinct reviews are desired for more minor events. It also delineates the expectations of roles and responsibilities of the registered entities, NPCC and NERC in a uniform review of system disturbances by the industry, and, ultimately, the program promotes the timely development and dissemination of valuable lessons learned to the industry. The identification and tracking of emerging common elements in system events will further distinguish trends which may be of concern to reliability. By rigorously pursuing the lesser events on the system and learning from these disturbances, the larger event can be avoided or mitigated.

NPCC Staff works step-by-step with the registered entity in the total event analysis process, permitting the entity to assume the primary role in the initial analysis, the development of lessons learned which may benefit the industry and the Standards sufficiency review.

NERC Alert Process[51]

NPCC Staff works with the registered entities to appropriately respond to the NERC Alert system, a process through which notifications of potential threats to electric reliability are disseminated to the industry with the expectations placed on the entity proportional to the severity of the Alert being issued.

NPCC Staff is also working closely with the NERC Staff to incorporate greater efficiencies, industry input and precision into the NERC proposal for a more streamlined NERC Alert process which can disseminate critical information to the appropriate Subject Matter Expert within the organization who can promptly act on the alert.

[51] In support of ERO Goal 4.c. ERO supports industry situational awareness and cybersecurity preparedness and provides independent reliability information to policy makers.

Operational Status[52]

On an ongoing, but non-real time basis, NPCC monitors the operational status of the bulk power system and coordinates normal and pre-emergency communication, awareness and assistance in addition to the same during an emergency among the Reliability Coordinators within NPCC and its neighboring RCs: the New Brunswick Power Corporation, Hydro-Québec TransÉnergie, the ISO New England, Inc., the New York ISO and the Independent Electricity System Operator in Ontario. The industry is notified of significant bulk power system events that have occurred in one Reliability Coordinator Area, and which have the potential to impact reliability in other NPCC Reliability Coordinator Areas or Regions external to NPCC. These events include contingencies on the bulk power system, potential shortfalls of operating reserve, operating problems, potential security threats and potential threats or disruptions to the cyber systems.

The "NPCC Emergency Preparedness Conference Call Procedures" provide a mechanism that enables the Reliability Coordinator in NPCC, and, as circumstances may require, their counterparts in neighboring Regions, to rapidly communicate the status of current operating conditions, to facilitate the procurement of assistance during emergency conditions and to identify potential physical or cyber threats to the system.

Items of particular concern that can be discussed during the calls may include, but are not limited to, the following: anticipated weather conditions critical to the system or systems experiencing or projecting resource deficiencies; load forecast; largest first and second contingencies; potential need for emergency transfers; operating reserve requirements and expected available operating reserve capacity deficiencies; potential fuel shortages or potential fuel supply disruptions which could lead to energy shortfalls; identified or projected voltage conditions; status of short term transactions; additional capability available within four hours and additional capability available within twelve hours; generator outages; significant transmission outages; expected transfer limits and limiting elements; anticipated implementation of NERC Transmission Loading Relief (TLR); changes in the status of relay protection systems; arming of special protection systems not normally armed; and/or the application of abnormal operating procedures.

NPCC has also established a daily conference call to serve as a complement to the NPCC Emergency Preparedness Conference Call. The participants of the call are the Reliability Coordinators within NPCC and its neighboring RCs, the Midwest ISO and PJM. The conference call is implemented through a bridge, the initiation of the call quickly ringing all pre-selected telephones simultaneously. The goal of the call is to alert all Reliability Coordinators of emerging problems. If no system difficulties are anticipated for the day, no unnecessary information is to be discussed. Subjects for discussion are limited to credible events which could impact the ability of an entity to serve its load and meet its operating reserve obligations or would impose a burden to the interconnection, including the following: Projected Load; Adverse Weather; Operating Reserve; Generation; Transmission; and Sabotage. If conditions worsen in the course of the day, the NPCC Emergency Preparedness Conference Call will be implemented.

NPCC monitors the status of the bulk power system through the NERC Situational Awareness-FERC, NERC, Regions (SAFNR) initiative, a near real-time operating display for the United States portion of the Reliability Coordinators footprints of North America. Transmission voltage

[52] In support of ERO Goal 4.c. ERO supports industry situational awareness and cybersecurity preparedness and provides independent reliability information to policy makers.

levels of 230 kV and above are displayed, and the tool provides the ability to "drill down" to detailed bus information.

To ensure the capability for continued voice communications among NPCC and its Reliability Coordinators, a satellite telephone network was also established, and it is tested on a monthly basis. This back-up communications system will function in the event of a collapse of the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN), and cross-border voice communications can still be maintained among the Canadian Reliability Coordinators of NPCC and the Reliability Coordinators in the United States.

Critical Infrastructure Objectives

NPCC's critical infrastructure objectives are defined within the scope of the NPCC Task Force on Infrastructure Security & Technology, (TFIST) and include, but are not confined to:

- Providing a forum for NPCC review of proposed and posted documents from the NERC Critical Infrastructure Protection Committee (CIPC)
- Representing and advocating NPCC's position in the activities of NERC groups involved in the development and/or implementation of physical and cyber security

NPCC's 2015 critical infrastructure goals and objectives, as identified by the 2014-2015 Work Plan of the Task Force on Infrastructure Security and Technology include, but are not confined to:

- Oversee the implementation of version 5 of the CIP Standards
- Monitor the Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN), ES-ISAC, Critical Information Protection Information Sharing (CIPIS), NERC Alerts and Canadian Information Sharing and share information with CO-8[53]
- Coordinate Cyber Protection activities, discussions and hold workshops as may be required to maintain Cyber Security of BES Cyber Assets.[54]
- Provide continued support and participation in NERC's Critical Infrastructure Protection Committee (CIPC)[55]
- Review and submit comments on NERC proposed Reliability Standards, modified Reliability Standards, proposed Guidelines and modified Guidelines related to Infrastructure Security and Technology
- Keep current on all governmental agencies regarding applicable security recommendations and requirements, and other applicable security and reliability recommendations and keep the RCC and its committees appropriately informed, e.g. Sector Specific Plan.
- Develop and maintain levels of expertise in those areas of concern to the task force through activities such as periodic workshop presentations, seminars, and meetings, open to the general NPCC membership[56].
- Regarding the Cross Border Emergency Telecommunications recommendation
    - Continue to annually report to RCC on this testing

[53] In support of ERO Goal 5.b. Issue and track security recommendations to protect the bulk power system (related to 5.a.ii.)

[54] In support of ERO Goal 1. b. Facilitate smooth transition of new standards (e.g., CIP Version 5); and ERO Goal 3.a. Initiate compliance phase-in learning periods for new standards

[55] In support of ERO Goal 5.a. Manage risk control initiatives to be completed by ERO and coordinate other initiatives with industry (e.g., relay misoperations, situational awareness, human error, cyber attack)

[56] In support of ERO Goal 5.b. Expand the use and value of security threat and vulnerability information sharing, analytics, and analysis

    - Continue to support CO-8's monthly testing
- Assess the telecommunications industry's desire to convert Frame Relay customers to Multiprotocol Label Switching (MPLS) and potentially provide recommendations to RCC

System Operations Security Objectives

NPCC's system operations security objectives are defined within the scope of the NPCC Task Force on Coordination of Operation (TFCO) and include, but are not confined to:

- Coordinating inter-Regional pre-emergency actions in the event of a threat to the security of the Northeastern North American bulk power supply system[57]
- Assisting in the development of real time operating tools assuring cyber security concerns are addressed[58]

NPCC's 2015 operational situation awareness goals and objectives, as identified by the 2014-2015 Work Plan of the NPCC Task Force on Coordination of Operation (TFCO) include, but are not confined to:

- Continue to monitor the reliable implementation of version 5 of the Cyber Standards.[59]
- Work directly with applicable NPCC Task Forces to provide an in depth assessment of Lessons Learned unique to the NPCC members and NPCC criteria.

2015 Key Assumptions

- The monitoring of Lessons Learned will be a major focus of NERC in 2015.
- Critical infrastructure protection will fully integrate the requirements of version 5 of the Cyber Standards in 2015.

2015 Goals and Key Deliverables

- Continue to monitor the reliable implementation of version 5 of the Cyber Standards.
- Work directly with applicable NPCC Task Forces to provide an in depth assessment of Lessons Learned unique to the NPCC members and NPCC criteria.
- Establish a unique NPCC Event Analysis web site to post NPCC Lessons Learned.
- Contribute to the reduction of Category 3 events and no Category 4 or 5 events in NPCC- by disseminating to the RCC compiled information on NPCC Region specific, as well as industry wide, event related causal analysis and analysis of Lessons Learned.[60]

Based on the portion of professional/technical staff time and other resources devoted to situation awareness and infrastructure security, NPCC estimates that it will expend 10 percent of its resources on this activity.

[57] In support of ERO Goal 5.b.Issue and track security recommendations to protect the bulk power system (related to 5.a.ii.)

[58] In support of ERO Goal 5.a. Manage risk control initiatives to be completed by ERO and coordinate other initiatives with industry (e.g., relay misoperations, situational awareness, human error, cyber attack)

[59] In support of ERO Goal 5.a. Manage risk control initiatives to be completed by ERO and coordinate other initiatives with industry (e.g., relay misoperations, situational awareness, human error, cyber attack)

[60] In support of ERO Goal 4.b. Provide lessons learned and recommendations from events and identified risks

Funding Sources and Requirements — Explanation of Increase (Decrease)

Funding Sources (Other than ERO Assessments)

- U.S. Penalty Sanctions remitted from 7/1/13 through 6/30/14 reduce U.S. LSE designee assessments for 2015.

Personnel Expenses

- NPCC anticipates no need to hire additional personnel in this program area in 2015.
- Salaries expense relects implementation of recommendations of NPCC's Management Development and Compensation Committee, which were based on an independent compensation study.
- Benefits expense decreased due to more staff opting out of company sponsored health insurance for superior coverage through prior employer or spouse.
- Retirement expense decreased due to transition of employees formerly accruing benefits under the defined benefit plan to receiving defined contribution benefits in 2015.

Operating Expenses and Indirect Expenses

- NPCC total overhead expenses, such as office rent and office costs will be charged to the Administrative Services Programs and then reallocated proportionately based on FTE to the programs through Indirect Expenses.
- Consultants and contracts expense increase in support of NPCC's efforts to assess and improve system frequency and generator governor response.

Other Non-Operating Expenses

- None

Fixed Asset Additions

- None

Situation Awareness and Infrastructure Security Program

Funding sources and related expenses for the situation awareness and infrastructure security section of the 2015 business plan are shown in the table below.

Statement of Activities and Capital Expenditures
2014 Budget & Projection, and 2015 Budget
Situation Awareness and Infrastructure Security

	2014 Budget	2014 Projection	Variance 2014 Projection v 2014 Budget Over(Under)	2015 Budget	Variance 2015 Budget v 2014 Budget Over(Under)
Funding					
ERO Funding					
ERO Assessments	$ 1,447,636	$ 1,447,636	$ -	$ 1,471,074	$ 23,438
Penalty Sanctions	16,475	16,475	-	30,258	13,783
Total ERO Funding	**$ 1,464,111**	**$ 1,464,111**	**$ -**	**$ 1,501,332**	**$ 37,221**
Membership Dues	-	-	-	-	-
Testing Fees	-	-	-	-	-
Services & Software	-	-	-	-	-
Workshops	-	-	-	-	-
Interest	-	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	-
Total Funding (A)	**$ 1,464,111**	**$ 1,464,111**	**$ -**	**$ 1,501,332**	**$ 37,221**
Expenses					
Personnel Expenses					
Salaries	$ 522,672	$ 522,672	$ -	$ 541,258	$ 18,586
Payroll Taxes	32,961	32,961	-	32,811	(150)
Benefits	88,851	88,851	-	80,801	(8,049)
Retirement Costs	117,586	117,586	-	107,819	(9,767)
Total Personnel Expenses	**$ 762,070**	**$ 762,070**	**$ -**	**$ 762,689**	**$ 619**
Meeting Expenses					
Meetings	$ 25,000	$ 25,000	$ -	$ 15,000	$ (10,000)
Travel	60,000	60,000	-	60,000	-
Conference Calls	-	-	-	-	-
Total Meeting Expenses	**$ 85,000**	**$ 85,000**	**$ -**	**$ 75,000**	**$ (10,000)**
Operating Expenses					
Consultants & Contracts	$ 75,000	$ 75,000	$ -	$ 100,000	$ 25,000
Office Rent	-	-	-	-	-
Office Costs	-	-	-	-	-
Professional Services	-	-	-	-	-
Computer & Equipment Leases	-	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	-	-	-	-	-
Total Operating Expenses	**$ 75,000**	**$ 75,000**	**$ -**	**$ 100,000**	**$ 25,000**
Total Direct Expenses	**$ 922,070**	**$ 922,070**	**$ -**	**$ 937,689**	**$ 15,619**
Indirect Expenses	**$ 568,962**	**$ 568,962**	**$ -**	**$ 574,629**	**$ 5,667**
Other Non-Operating Expenses	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**
Total Expenses (B)	**$ 1,491,031**	**$ 1,491,031**	**$ -**	**$ 1,512,318**	**$ 21,286**
Change in Assets	**$ (26,920)**	**$ (26,920)**	**$ -**	**$ (10,986)**	**$ 15,935**
Fixed Assets					
Depreciation	$ -	-	$ -	$ -	$ -
Computer & Software CapEx	-	-	-	-	-
Furniture & Fixtures CapEx	-	-	-	-	-
Equipment CapEx	-	-	-	-	-
Leasehold Improvements	-	-	-	-	-
Allocation of Fixed Assets	(26,920)	(26,920)	-	(10,986)	15,935
Inc(Dec) in Fixed Assets (C)	**(26,920)**	**(26,920)**	**-**	**(10,986)**	**15,935**
TOTAL BUDGET (=B+C)	1,464,111	1,464,111	-	1,501,332	37,221
TOTAL CHANGE IN WORKING CAPITAL (=A-B-C)	**$ (0)**	**$ (0)**	**$ -**	**$ (0)**	**$ (0)**

Administrative Services

Administrative Services Program Resources (in whole dollars)	2014 Budget	2015 Budget	Increase (Decrease)
Total FTEs	9.00	9.00	0.00
Total Direct Expenses	$5,689,616	$5,746,287	$56,671
Other Non-Operating Expenses	$0	$0	$0
Inc(Dec) in Fixed Assets	$0	$0	$0
Less: Other Funding Sources	$0	$0	$0
Total Allocation to Regional Entity Division Programs as Indirect Expenses	($5,283,757)	($5,336,385)	($52,629)
Total Allocation to Criteria Services Division Programs as Indirect Expenses	($405,859)	($409,902)	($4,043)
Funding Requirement for Working Capital and Operating Reserves	($300,126)	($355,161)	($55,035)

Program Scope and Functional Description

Administrative services support the previously identified five program areas of: reliability standards; compliance monitoring and enforcement and organization registration and certification; training, education, and operator certification; reliability assessment and performance analysis; and situation awareness and infrastructure security. Administrative services consist of: technical committees and members' forums; general and administrative; legal and regulatory; information technology; human resources; and finance and accounting.

Methodology for Allocation of Administrative Services Expenses to Programs

NPCC total overhead expenses, such as office rent and office costs, will be charged to the Administrative Services Programs and then reallocated proportionately based on FTE to the programs through Indirect Expenses.

Funding Sources and Requirements — Explanation of Increase (Decrease)

Personnel Expenses

- NPCC anticipates no need to hire additional personnel in this program area in 2015.
- Salaries expense reflect implementation of recommendations of NPCC's Management Development and Compensation Committee, which were based on an independent compensation study.
- Benefits expense decreased due to more staff opting out of company sponsored health insurance for superior coverage through prior employer or spouse.
- Retirement expense decreased due to transition of employees formerly accruing benefits under the defined benefit plan to receiving defined contribution benefits in 2015.

Administrative Services

Funding sources and related expenses for the Administrative Services section of the 2015 business plan are shown in the table below.

Statement of Activities and Capital Expenditures 2014 Budget & Projection, and 2015 Budget ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES						
		2014 Budget	2014 Projection	Variance 2014 Projection v 2014 Budget Over(Under)	2015 Budget	Variance 2015 Budget v 2014 Budget Over(Under)
Funding						
ERO Funding						
	ERO Assessments	$ (300,126)	$ (300,126)	$ -	$ (355,161)	$ (55,035)
	Penalty Sanctions	-	-	-	-	-
Total ERO Funding		**$ (300,126)**	**$ (300,126)**	**$ -**	**$ (355,161)**	**$ (55,035)**
	Membership Dues	-	-	-	-	-
	Testing Fees	-	-	-	-	-
	Services & Software	-	-	-	-	-
	Workshops	-	-	-	-	-
	Interest	-	-	-	-	-
	Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	-
Total Funding (A)		**$ (300,126)**	**$ (300,126)**	**$ -**	**$ (355,161)**	**$ (55,035)**
Expenses						
Personnel Expenses						
	Salaries	$ 1,676,735	$ 1,676,735	$ -	$ 1,769,318	$ 92,583
	Payroll Taxes	96,083	96,083	-	97,804	1,722
	Benefits	442,256	442,256	-	402,307	(39,949)
	Retirement Costs	425,270	425,270	-	435,638	10,368
Total Personnel Expenses		**$ 2,640,344**	**$ 2,640,344**	**$ -**	**$ 2,705,068**	**$ 64,724**
Meeting Expenses						
	Meetings	$ 110,000	$ 110,000	$ -	$ 120,000	$ 10,000
	Travel	155,000	155,000	-	155,000	-
	Conference Calls	77,000	77,000	-	45,000	(32,000)
Total Meeting Expenses		**$ 342,000**	**$ 342,000**	**$ -**	**$ 320,000**	**$ (22,000)**
Operating Expenses						
	Consultants & Contracts	$ 150,000	$ 150,000	$ -	$ 124,000	$ (26,000)
	Office Rent	737,272	737,272	-	751,500	14,228
	Office Costs	523,500	523,500	-	578,700	55,200
	Professional Services	966,500	966,500	-	1,025,000	58,500
	Computer & Equipment Leases	-	-	-	-	-
	Miscellaneous	80,000	80,000	-	40,000	(40,000)
	Depreciation	250,000	250,000	-	202,019	(47,981)
Total Operating Expenses		**$ 2,707,272**	**$ 2,707,272**	**$ -**	**$ 2,721,219**	**$ 13,947**
	Total Direct Expenses	**$ 5,689,616**	**$ 5,689,616**	**$ -**	**$ 5,746,287**	**$ 56,671**
Indirect Expenses		**$ (5,689,616)**	**$ (5,689,616)**	**$ -**	**$ (5,746,287)**	**$ (56,671)**
Other Non-Operating Expenses		**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**
Total Expenses (B)		**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ (0)**	**$ (0)**
Change in Assets		**$ (300,126)**	**$ (300,126)**	**$ -**	**$ (355,161)**	**$ (55,035)**
Fixed Assets						
	Depreciation	(250,000)	(250,000)	$ -	(202,019)	$ 47,981
	Computer & Software CapEx	-	-	-	100,000	100,000
	Furniture & Fixtures CapEx	-	-	-	-	-
	Equipment CapEx	-	-	-	-	-
	Leasehold Improvements	-	-	-	-	-
	Allocation of Fixed Assets	250,000	250,000	-	102,019	(147,981)
Inc(Dec) in Fixed Assets (C)		**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
TOTAL BUDGET (=B+C)		-	-	-	(0)	(0)
TOTAL CHANGE IN WORKING CAPITAL (=A-B-C)		**$ (300,126)**	**$ (300,126)**	**$ -**	**$ (355,161)**	**$ (55,035)**

Technical Committees and Member Forums

Technical Committees and Members Forum Program Resources (in whole dollars)	2014 Budget	2015 Budget	Increase (Decrease)
Total FTEs	0.50	0.50	0.00
Total Direct Expenses	$75,711	$73,779	($1,932)
Other Non-Operating Expenses	$0	$0	$0
Inc(Dec) in Fixed Assets	$0	$0	$0
Working Capital Requirement	$0	$0	$0

Program Scope and Functional Description

The success of the NPCC programs depends on the active and direct volunteerism and participation of its members. The stakeholders are the source of expertise in the industry. To promote the reliable and efficient operation of the interconnected bulk power systems in Northeastern North America, NPCC invites high level policy makers from Federal, Provincial and State regulatory and/or governmental authorities and senior executives within NPCC and NERC to identify and discuss emerging issues related to the reliability of the NPCC Region.

2015 Key Assumptions

- NPCC's standing committee and subgroup structure for effective stakeholder involvement will continue in 2015
- NPCC will continue to utilize methods to encourage active involvement in its Regional programs that require less stakeholder travel and face-to-face meetings, as the economy improves in 2015
- NPCC will continue to invest in technology and innovation to allow efficient collaboration on technical issues related to reliability

2015 Goals and Key Deliverables

The 2015 NPCC General Meeting provides an opportunity for NPCC Members to meet high level policy makers from Federal, Provincial and State regulatory and/or governmental authorities and senior NERC and NPCC executives to discuss topics related to the reliable planning and operation of the power system, including consideration of emerging reliability, critical infrastructure and environmental issues.

2015 Public Information Committee Goals and Objectives

The objective of the NPCC Public Information Committee is to highlight and summarize NPCC activities and accomplishments in the past year, disseminate and coordinate the appropriate release of information to the media, respond to related requests for information, and coordinate with related NPCC Area, NERC media and public information activities. Activities anticipated for include, but are not limited to:

- Conducting the Media Event – release of the Summer 2015 NPCC Reliability Assessment

- Participation in NERC Regional communication initiatives:
    - Regional communications teleconferences as required
    - Coordination of Emergency or Blackout communications plans
    - Coordination with other NERC activities as required (i.e., situation awareness, event analysis, reliability assessments, etc.)

Funding Sources and Requirements — Explanation of Increase (Decrease)

Funding Sources (Other than ERO Assessments)

- Not applicable

Operating Expenses and Indirect Expenses

- NPCC total overhead expenses, such as office rent and office costs will be charged to the Administrative Services Programs and then reallocated proportionately based on FTE to the programs through Indirect Expenses.

Other Non-Operating Expenses

- None

Fixed Asset Additions

- None

General and Administrative

General and Administrative Program Resources (in whole dollars)	2014 Budget	2015 Budget	Increase (Decrease)
Total FTEs	2.50	2.50	0.00
Total Direct Expenses	$3,293,356	$3,209,290	($84,066)
Other Non-Operating Expenses	$0	$0	$0
Inc(Dec) in Fixed Assets	$0	$0	$0
Working Capital Requirement	($300,126)	($355,161)	($55,035)

Program Scope and Functional Description

The NPCC general and administrative function provides executive management of the corporation, management of NPCC office, and other administrative support programs.

NPCC total overhead expenses, such as office rent and office costs, will be charged to the Administrative Services Programs and then reallocated proportionately based on FTE to the programs through Indirect Expenses.

Funding Requirements — Explanation of Increase (Decrease)

Funding Sources (Other than ERO Assessments)

- Not applicable

Operating Expenses and Indirect Expenses

- NPCC total overhead expenses, such as office rent and office costs will be charged to the Administrative Services Programs and then reallocated proportionately based on FTE to the programs through Indirect Expenses.

Other Non-Operating Expenses

- None

Fixed Asset Additions

- None

Legal and Regulatory

Legal and Regulatory Program Resources (in whole dollars)	2014 Budget	2015 Budget	Increase (Decrease)
Total FTEs	1.00	1.00	0.00
Total Direct Expenses	$621,004	$628,183	$7,179
Other Non-Operating Expenses	$0	$0	$0
Inc(Dec) in Fixed Assets	$0	$0	$0
Working Capital Requirement	$0	$0	$0

Program Scope and Functional Description

NPCC's professional legal services provide counsel to the President and CEO, Board of Directors, Vice President and COO, Treasurer and staff on a wide range of legal and regulatory matters including legislation, corporate law, code of conduct, confidentiality, governance, employment law, tax matters, contract law and other areas affecting NPCC. Regulatory counsel provides legal advice to advance significant corporate policy and strategic planning initiatives and also provides legal support to other program areas on matters arising in connection with the performance of NPCC's delegated functions. Regulatory counsel drafts agreements and pleadings and provides interpretations of relevant statutes, regulations, court opinions, and regulatory decisions of FERC, state agencies and provincial authorities. Outside counsel, as necessary, reviews items filed with the governmental agencies for legal sufficiency, maintains relationships with U.S. and Canadian jurisdictions and provides contract review.

Funding Sources (Other than ERO Assessments)

- Not applicable

Operating Expenses and Indirect Expenses

- NPCC total overhead expenses, such as office rent and office costs will be charged to the Administrative Services Programs and then reallocated proportionately based on FTE to the programs through Indirect Expenses.

Other Non-Operating Expenses

- None

Fixed Asset Additions

- None

Information Technology

Information Technology Program Resources (in whole dollars)	2014 Budget	2015 Budget	Increase (Decrease)
Total FTEs	3.00	3.00	0.00
Total Direct Expenses	$1,037,624	$1,111,674	$74,050
Other Non-Operating Expenses	$0	$0	$0
Inc(Dec) in Fixed Assets	$0	$0	$0
Working Capital Requirement	$0	$0	$0

Program Scope and Functional Description

NPCC's Information Technology services ensure information assets and the environment in which they operate are secure and in conformance to NPCC IT Policies and Procedures. NPCC maintains an offsite backup server for continuity of essential operations in the event that its primary location is unavailable.

2015 Key Assumptions

- Continue to develop and maintain the compliance portal through collaboration with other Regions and NERC (CUG).
- Achieve greater consistency with the other Regions and NERC by participating in the NERC IT Steering Group (ITSG) and deriving the efficiencies and cost savings which may result from the projects of this group.[61]
    - The ERO EMG identifies and prioritizes ERO-wide applications to be developed under a PMO housed at NERC. The NERC IT budget does not supplant the Regional Entities' need for IT expenditures for specific regional projects, but to the extent that agreed-upon ERO Enterprise applications provide greater efficiencies, there should not be any unnecessary, redundant expenditures at the regional level.
- Support the Event Analysis program through continued participation in the tools used for the tracking and analysis of system events.[62]
- Support the Bulk Electric System Exception Process "BEP" to enable and facilitate tracking and processing of exceptions submitted.[63] Maintenance of the BESNET support services such as updates, patching, coordinating issues with NERC.
- Support Cyber Security Reviews done by compliance to provide advisory role during those reviews.

[61] ERO Goal 7.b. Develop test and deploy ERO enterprise applications, platform and database

[62] ERO Goal 6.b. Evaluate event disturbances using phasor measurements and other methods to assess sufficiency of data and models;
ERO Goal 4.b. Provide lessons learned and recommendations from events and identified risks;
ERO Goal 4.b. Merge event driven databases and cause codes into one (e.g., event analysis, TADS, GADS, relay mis-operations)

[63] ERO Goal 2.a. Develop and implement BES exception process.

2015 Goals and Key Deliverables

Responsibilities encompass a variety of complex technical, administrative, and supervisory work in the development, installation, and maintenance of information technology systems. IT goals include, but are not limited to:

- Create an information security program and environment aimed at reducing breach of security risks
- Determine long-term software and systems needs and hardware acquisitions
- Develop and implement information security standards and procedures
- Ensure all information systems are functional and secure, and that all applications running on those systems meet business requirements for performance, availability, and security
- Plan and implement organization-wide information systems, services, and network facilities, including local area networks, wide-area networks, and peripheral systems
- Provide outreach and education to NPCC members in IT best practices
- Continually improve Disaster Recovery policies and practices to ensure continuity of service

Funding Sources and Requirements — Explanation of Increase (Decrease)

Funding Sources (Other than ERO Assessments)

- Not applicable

Operating Expenses and Indirect Expenses

- NPCC total overhead expenses, such as office rent and office costs will be charged to the Administrative Services Programs and then reallocated proportionately based on FTE to the programs through Indirect Expenses.

Other Non-Operating Expenses

- None

Fixed Asset Additions

- None

Human Resources

Human Resources Program Resources (in whole dollars)	2014 Budget	2015 Budget	Increase (Decrease)
Total FTEs	1.00	1.00	0.00
Total Direct Expenses	$178,931	$183,817	$4,886
Other Non-Operating Expenses	$0	$0	$0
Inc(Dec) in Fixed Assets	$0	$0	$0
Working Capital Requirement	$0	$0	$0

Program Scope and Functional Description

NPCC has assembled an exceptional team of highly qualified employees to carry out the activities of NPCC. The human resources function, in adherence with applicable federal and state laws, designs, plans, and implements human resources policies and procedures, including staffing, compensation, benefits, employee relations, and training and development.

An enhanced employee time tracking system was implemented in 2013 based on FERC audit recommendations. Employee time tracking and reporting is also handled by the human resources program area.

Funding Sources (Other than ERO Assessments)

- Not applicable

Operating Expenses and Indirect Expenses

- NPCC total overhead expenses, such as office rent and office costs will be charged to the Administrative Services Programs and then reallocated proportionately based on FTE to the programs through Indirect Expenses.

Other Non-Operating Expenses

- None

Fixed Asset Additions

- None

Accounting and Finance

Accounting and Finance Program Resources (in whole dollars)	2014 Budget	2015 Budget	Increase (Decrease)
Total FTEs	1.00	1.00	0.00
Total Direct Expenses	$482,991	$494,544	$11,554
Other Non-Operating Expenses	$0	$0	$0
Inc(Dec) in Fixed Assets	$0	$0	$0
Working Capital Requirement	$0	$0	$0

Program Scope and Functional Description

The accounting and finance function directs the overall financial plans and accounting practices of the organization; oversees treasury, accounting, budget, tax, and audit activities; and oversees financial and accounting system controls and standards. NPCC uses a CPA firm to prepare its unaudited statements of activities and financial statements for quarterly reviews. Independent audits have identified this system as a best practice.

2015 Goals and Key Deliverables

The objectives are to provide or obtain the financial and accounting services for NPCC and coordinate with NERC requirements:

- Utilize the NERC System of Accounts for consistency
- Utilize an accrual method of accounting for consistency with NERC in methodology
- Cash Management
- Budget Development using the NERC budget template formats
- Forecasts and Projections
- Alignment of NPCC Committees, Task Forces and Working Groups with the programs
- Payroll and expense administration
- Preparation of unaudited Quarterly Financial Statements
- IRS Reporting
- Annual Independent Audit initiated by the Regional Entity

Funding Sources and Requirements — Explanation of Increase (Decrease)

Funding Sources (Other than ERO Assessments)

- Not applicable

Operating Expenses and Indirect Expenses

- NPCC total overhead expenses, such as office rent and office costs will be charged to the Administrative Services Programs and then reallocated proportionately based on FTE to the programs through Indirect Expenses.

Other Non-Operating Expenses

- None

Fixed Asset Additions

- None

Regional Entity Assessment Analysis

In the area of assessments there are distinct funding mechanisms as outlined in the following table. For the Regional Entity division, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) will assess load serving entities (LSEs) or their designees (within NPCC the designees are the Balancing Authority Areas (BAAs) for New York, New England, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Ontario and Québec) based upon 2013 proportional Net Energy for Load (NEL) and other specific program area funding arrangements and make quarterly remittances to the Regional Entity on or about the 15th day of January, April, July and October. For funding associated with the criteria services division, the Independent System Operators/Balancing Authority Areas (ISO/BAAs) will be assessed by NPCC for their proportional share of the divisional budget based upon 2012 NEL within the Region. Non ISO/BAA Full Members will be assessed no membership fee.

NPCC Cost Allocation Methodology

The accompanying table provides information regarding cost allocation for both the Regional Entity division and the criteria services division of NPCC, including the details associated with the funding of the Compliance Program within the RE division. For purposes of determining assessments to support NPCC's resource requirements, costs are allocated among the BAAs within NPCC as the designees for the load-serving-entities in New York, New England, Ontario, Québec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia (Column A-1).

In order to reflect and respect the international membership and nature of NPCC, the compliance responsibilities and authorities within the U.S., and the specific compliance responsibilities within each of the Canadian provinces within NPCC, the attendant costs of portions of the compliance program differ among the areas within the Regional Entity. Within the U.S. portion of NPCC all costs attributable to delegated (statutory) functions performed by NPCC, including all compliance functions, are assessed based on a NEL allocation. Within the Canadian portion of NPCC those costs attributable to compliance functions performed by NPCC on behalf of provincial governmental and/or regulatory authorities are allocated consistent with the unique Memoranda of Understanding or Agreements that have been entered into for those provinces. To address these different compliance regimes, NPCC developed a composite cost allocation methodology that allocates compliance costs on a fair and equitable basis within the Regional Entity.

As an initial step of that methodology, the NEL for each of the BAAs and their relative percentage to the NPCC total NEL is calculated for the most recent year for which data is available, the second previous year (Columns B-1 and C-1, respectively). In order to establish the RE division funding requirements for each balancing authority area on a NEL basis for all programs except for compliance (Column F-1), the proposed expenses and fixed assets of all other programs are calculated (Column D-1) and the adjustment for the RE division cash reserve requirement is identified (Column E-1). Any penalty monies received from NPCC registered entities within the U.S. prior to June 30th of the year preceding the business plan and budget year are then allocated among the NPCC program areas based on their FTE ratio and between the U.S. BAAs based on their relative NELs (Columns B-1a., C-1a. and G-1, respectively). Consistent with each of the Canadian provincial MOUs and agreements, all penalty monies resulting from compliance actions within Canada, if any, would remain within the applicable province. The total budgeted fees for NPCC workshop participation are indicated as a credit

(Column H-1), with the resultant addition being the RE division assessment, without the compliance program costs, calculated on a NEL basis (Column I-1).

In accordance with the *NPCC Amended and Restated Bylaws* the CS division proposed expenses and fixed assets of all programs are calculated (Column J-1) and the adjustment for the CS division cash reserve requirement is identified (Column K-1), with the resultant addition being the CS division funding requirement and assessment, calculated on a NEL basis (Column L-1).

For costs associated with the RE division compliance program, NPCC's allocation methodology apportions X% of the costs for the program, attributed to CORC Fundamentals (CF), between the BAAs in the United States and Canada on a NEL basis (Column B-2).

Audits and Investigations (AI) related costs, representing X% of the costs of the compliance program, are allocated between U.S. and Canadian BAAs in NPCC, and among the Canadian provinces, using an audit-based methodology (Columns C-2a., C-2c., and D-2b., respectively). The audit-based methodology incorporates relative costs based on categories of compliance audits which are reflective of their size and complexity, as well as the differing compliance program implementation models that are utilized in NPCC due to the international nature of the Regional Entity. The portion allocated to the U.S. BAAs in NPCC is calculated using the audit-based methodology, and this amount is then re-allocated between the New York and New England BAAs based on their relative NEL (Columns C-2b. and D-2a.).

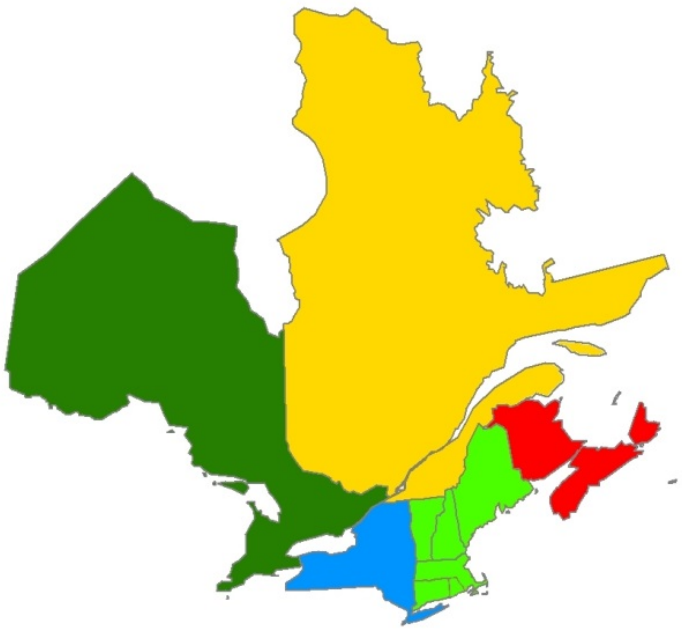
The remaining X% of the costs of the compliance program represent Mitigation and Enforcement (ME) related costs and are allocated between U.S. and Canadian BAAs in NPCC, and among the Canadian provinces, using an enforcement activity based methodology, (Columns E-2a., E-2c., and F-2b., respectively). Based on historical data, NPCC reviewed each BAAs percentage of violations, mitigation plans and settlement agreements to determine each BAAs total average percentage of enforcement activities. The portion allocated to the U.S. BAAs in NPCC is calculated using the enforcement activity based methodology, and this amount is then re-allocated between the New York and New England BAAs based on their relative NEL (Columns E-2b. and F-2a.).

Any penalty monies received from NPCC registered entities within the U.S. by June 30th of the year preceding the business plan and budget year are then allocated among the NPCC program areas based on their FTE ratio and between the U.S. BAAs based on their relative NELs, and then added to the total compliance program expenses and fixed assets to yield a total compliance program assessment (Columns C-1a., H-2, G-2 and I-2, respectively).

Finally, the total RE division funding requirements and assessments by BAA are tabulated and the total funding requirements and assessments for NPCC, both the RE and CS divisions, are combined (Column M).

Table to be Inserted

Section B – Supplemental Financial Information
2015 Business Plan and Budget



Section B — Supplemental Financial Information

Reserve Balance

Table B-1 – Reserve Balance

Working Capital and Operating Reserve Analysis 2014-2015
REGIONAL ENTITY DIVISION

	Total Reserve	Operating Reserve	Working Capital
Beginning Total Reserve, December 31, 2013	**5,245,194**	4,013,698	1,231,496
Plus: 2014 ERO Funding (from LSEs or designees)	13,611,880	13,611,880	0
Plus: 2014 Other funding sources	217,000	217,000	0
Less: 2014 Projected expenses & capital expenditures	(14,129,006)	(14,129,006)	0
Projected Total Reserve, December 31, 2014	**4,945,068**	**3,713,572**	**1,231,496**
Desired Total Reserve, December 31, 2015 [1]	**4,589,907**	3,358,411 [2]	1,231,496 [3]
31.06% of Total Regional Entity Budget of $14,778,539			
Less: Projected Working Capital and Operating Reserve, December 31, 2014	(4,945,068)	(3,713,572)	(1,231,496)
Increase(decrease) in assessments to achieve desired Total Reserve	**(355,161)**	(355,161)	0

2015 Expenses and Capital Expenditures	14,778,539
Less: Penalty Sanctions [4]	(281,000)
Less: Other Funding Sources	(64,000)
Adjustment to achieve desired Total Reserve balance	(355,161)
2015 Assessment	**14,078,378**

[1] Total Reserve within a range of 16.67% - 33.33% of Budget.
[2] Operating Reserve within a range from 8.33% to 25.00% of Budget. $3,358,411 represents 22.72% of the 2015 budget of $14,778,539
[3] Working Capital equal to 8.33% of Budget. $1,231,496 represents 8.33% of the 2015 budget of $14,778,539
[4] Represents collections prior to June 30, 2014.

Explanation of Changes in Reserve Policy from Prior Year

On October 29, 2013 NPCC's Board of Directors approved management's proposed Working Capital and Operating Reserve Policy. The policy calls for a range between 8.33% (30 days) and 25.00% (90 days) rather than the specific required level of Operating Reserves of 8.33%. This range will allow for more stability in Assessments. The Working Capital required balance remains unchanged at 8.33% (30 days).

Breakdown by Statement of Activity Sections

The following detailed schedules are in support of the Regional Entity division Statement of Activities on page 13 of the 2015 Business Plan and Budget. All significant variances have been disclosed by program area in the preceding pages.

Penalty Sanctions

U.S. penalty monies received prior to June 30, 2014 are to be used to offset assessments in the 2015 Budget, as documented in the NERC Policy – Accounting, Financial Statement, and Budgetary Treatment of Penalties Imposed and Received for Violations of Reliability Standard. Penalty monies received from July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015 will be used to offset U.S. load serving entity designee assessments in the 2016 Budget.

All penalties received prior to June 30, 2014 are detailed below, including date received and the penalty amount.

Allocation Method: U.S. penalty sanctions received have been allocated to the following Regional Entity division programs to reduce assessments: Reliability Standards; Compliance Monitoring & Enforcement and Organization Registration & Certification; Reliability Assessments and Performance Analysis; Training, Education and Operator Certification; and Situation Awareness and Infrastructure Security. U.S. penalty sanctions are allocated based upon the number of FTEs in the Program divided by the aggregate total FTEs in the Programs receiving the allocation.

Table B-2 – Penalty Sanctions

Penalty Sanctions Received Prior to June 30, 2014	Date Received	Amount Received
Penalty Payment 1	7/5/2013	$ 50,000.00
Penalty Payment 2	7/5/2013	$ 10,000.00
Penalty Payment 3	7/5/2013	$ 30,000.00
Penalty Payment 4	7/5/2013	$ 25,000.00
Penalty Payment 5	9/4/2013	$ 7,000.00
Penalty Payment 6	10/16/2013	$ 25,000.00
Penalty Payment 7	11/1/2013	$ 5,000.00
Penalty Payment 8	1/8/2014	$ 25,000.00
Penalty Payment 9	3/6/2014	$ 14,000.00
Penalty Payment 10	4/30/2014	$ 90,000.00
Total Penalties Received		**$ 281,000.00**

Table B-3 – Supplemental Funding

Outside Funding Breakdown By Program (excluding ERO Assessments & Penalty Sanctions)	Budget 2014	Projection 2014	Budget 2015	Variance 2015 Budget v 2014 Budget
Reliability Standards				
Total	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Compliance Monitoring, Enforcement & Org. Registration				
	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
	-	-	-	-
Total	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Reliability Assessment and Performance Analysis				
	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
	-	-	-	-
Total	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Training and Education				
Workshops	$ 64,000	$ 64,000	$ 64,000	$ -
Total	$ 64,000	$ 64,000	$ 64,000	$ -
Situation Awareness and Infrastructure Security				
	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Total	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Technical Committees and Member Forums				
	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Total	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Administrative Services Programs				
	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Total	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Total Outside Funding	$ 64,000	$ 64,000	$ 64,000	$ -

Explanation of Significant Variances –2015 Budget versus 2014 Budget

- NPCC assumed no interest income because of continuing low market interest rates.

Table B-4 – Personnel Expenses

Personnel Expenses	Budget 2014	Projection 2014	Budget 2015	Variance 2015 Budget v 2014 Budget	Variance %
Salaries					
Salary	$ 5,886,227	$ 5,886,227	$ 6,175,425	$ 289,198	4.9%
Employment Agency Fees	$ 15,000	$ 15,000	$ 10,000	$ (5,000)	-33.3%
Temporary Office Services	$ 10,000	$ 10,000	$ 10,000	$ -	0.0%
Total Salaries	$ 5,911,227	$ 5,911,227	$ 6,195,425	$ 284,198	4.8%
Total Payroll Taxes	$ 384,311	$ 384,311	$ 387,209	$ 2,898	0.8%
Benefits					
Education Reimbursement	$ -	$ -	$ 10,000	$ 10,000	-
Training and Seminars	$ 36,123	$ 36,123	$ 36,123	$ -	0.0%
Medical Insurance	$ 915,306	$ 915,306	$ 720,337	$ (194,969)	-21.3%
Life-LTD-STD Insurance	$ 63,552	$ 63,552	$ 64,366	$ 815	1.3%
Worker's Compensation	$ 14,700	$ 14,700	$ 14,700	$ -	0.0%
Vacation	$ 400,580	$ 400,580	$ 410,868	$ 10,288	2.6%
Relocation	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	-
Total Benefits	$ 1,430,261	$ 1,430,261	$ 1,256,395	$ (173,866)	-12.2%
Retirement					
Pension Contribution	$ 590,892	$ 590,892	$ 353,723	$ (237,169)	-40.1%
Employee Savings Plan	$ 478,469	$ 478,469	$ 644,290	$ 165,821	34.7%
Savings Admin	$ 32,000	$ 32,000	$ 32,000	$ -	0.0%
Deferred Compensation	$ 23,000	$ 23,000	$ 60,000	$ 37,000	160.9%
Total Retirement	$ 1,124,361	$ 1,124,361	$ 1,090,013	$ (34,348)	-3.1%
Total Personnel Costs	**$ 8,850,160**	**$ 8,850,160**	**$ 8,929,041**	**$ 78,881**	**0.9%**
FTEs	36.86	36.86	36.86	-	0.0%
Cost per FTE					
Salaries	$ 160,370	$ 160,370	$ 168,080	$ 7,710	4.8%
Payroll Taxes	$ 10,426	$ 10,426	$ 10,505	$ 79	0.8%
Benefits	$ 38,803	$ 38,803	$ 34,086	$ (4,717)	-12.2%
Retirement	$ 30,504	$ 30,504	$ 29,572	$ (932)	-3.1%
Total Cost per FTE	**$ 240,102**	**$ 240,102**	**$ 242,242**	**$ 2,140**	**0.9%**

Explanation of Significant Variances –2015 Budget versus 2014 Budget

- The increase in Salaries reflects an overall general wage increase of 3%, at risk (variable incentives) compensation at less than 100% of program levels, and implementation of recommendations of NPCC's Management Development and Compensation Committee, which were based on an independent compensation study.
- Benefits expense decreased due to more staff opting out of company sponsored health insurance for superior coverage through prior employer or spouse.
- Pension contribution decreased while employee savings plan increased due to transition of employees formerly accruing benefits under the defined benefit plan to receiving defined contribution benefits in 2015.
- The decrease in Employment Agency Fee is due to no planned staff additions in 2015. Agencies would be used only to fill positions vacated during the year.
- A 2% vacancy factor is assumed based on historical vacancy trends.

Table B-5 – Consultants and Contracts

Consultants	Budget 2014	Projection 2014	Budget 2015	Variance 2015 Budget v 2014 Budget	Variance %
Consultants					
Reliability Standards	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	-
Compliance Enforcement and Organization Registration and Certification	$ 10,000	$ 10,000	$ 15,000	$ 5,000	50.0%
Reliability Assessment and Performance Analysis	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	-
Training and Education	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	-
Situation Awareness and Infrastructure Security	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	-
Member Forums	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	-
General and Administrative	$ 50,000	$ 50,000	$ 35,000	$ (15,000)	-30.0%
Legal and Regulatory	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	-
Information Technology	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	-
Human Resources	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	-
Accounting and Finance	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	-
Consultants Total	**$ 60,000**	**$ 60,000**	**$ 50,000**	**$ (10,000)**	**-16.7%**

Contracts	Budget 2014	Projection 2014	Budget 2015	Variance 2015 Budget v 2014 Budget	Variance %
Reliability Standards	$ 30,000	$ 30,000	$ 25,000	$ (5,000)	-16.7%
Compliance Enforcement and Organization Registration and Certification	$ 1,384,433	$ 1,384,433	$ 1,713,000	$ 328,567	23.7%
Reliability Assessment and Performance Analysis	$ 275,000	$ 275,000	$ 365,000	$ 90,000	32.7%
Training and Education	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	-
Situation Awareness and Infrastructure Security	$ 75,000	$ 75,000	$ 100,000	$ 25,000	33.3%
Member Forums	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	-
General and Administrative	$ 90,000	$ 90,000	$ 82,000	$ (8,000)	-8.9%
Legal and Regulatory	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	-
Information Technology	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	-
Human Resources	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	-
Accounting and Finance	$ 10,000	$ 10,000	$ 7,000	$ (3,000)	-30.0%
Contracts Total	**$ 1,864,433**	**$ 1,864,433**	**$ 2,292,000**	**$ 427,567**	**22.9%**
Total Consultants and Contracts	**$ 1,924,433**	**$ 1,924,433**	**$ 2,342,000**	**$ 417,567**	**21.7%**

Explanation of Significant Variances –2015 Budget versus 2014 Budget

- Compliance Enforcement and Organization Registration and Certification consultant and contractor costs increased due to increased workload related to the initial implementation of the RAI, incorporating Risk Assessment and Internal Control assessment. Without this one time ramp up in RAI endeavors for 2015, contractor costs would have remained relatively flat. These joint ERO Enterprise initiatives are intended to benefit the registered entities, Regional Entities and NERC. With a risk and performance based assessment of each registered entity, audits will transition to a periodicity more reflective of the risk profile of the entity such that some audits will be more in-depth while others may have a reduced scope which will require less independent contractor resources.

- Reliability Assessment and Performance Analysis contracts expense increase is related to implementation of the revised BES definition.

Table B-6 – Office Rent

Office Rent	Budget 2014	Projection 2014	Budget 2015	Variance 2015 Budget v 2014 Budget	Variance %
Office Rent	$ 654,772	$ 654,772	$ 645,000	$ (9,772)	-1.5%
Utilities	$ 35,000	$ 35,000	$ 40,000	$ 5,000	14.3%
Maintenance	$ 15,000	$ 15,000	$ 22,000	$ 7,000	46.7%
Security	$ 2,500	$ 2,500	$ 2,500	$ -	0.0%
Real Estate Taxes	$ 30,000	$ 30,000	$ 42,000	$ 12,000	40.0%
Total Office Rent	**$ 737,273**	**$ 737,273**	**$ 751,501**	**$ 14,228**	**1.9%**

Table B-7 – Office Costs

Office Costs	Budget 2014	Projection 2014	Budget 2015	Variance 2015 Budget v 2014 Budget	Variance %
Telephone	$ 110,000	$ 110,000	$ 110,000	$ -	0.0%
Internet Expense	$ 80,000	$ 80,000	$ 80,000	$ -	0.0%
Office Supplies	$ 35,000	$ 35,000	$ 36,000	$ 1,000	2.9%
Computer Supplies and Maintenance	$ 213,000	$ 213,000	$ 260,000	$ 47,000	22.1%
Subscriptions & Publications	$ 13,000	$ 13,000	$ 13,500	$ 500	3.8%
Dues	$ 4,000	$ 4,000	$ 4,000	$ -	0.0%
Postage	$ 1,500	$ 1,500	$ 1,200	$ (300)	-20.0%
Express Shipping	$ 10,000	$ 10,000	$ 10,000	$ -	0.0%
Copying	$ 25,000	$ 25,000	$ 25,000	$ -	0.0%
Reports	$ -	$ -	$ 5,000	$ 5,000	-
Stationary and Office Forms	$ 5,000	$ 5,000	$ 3,000	$ (2,000)	-40.0%
Equipment Repair/Service Contracts	$ 10,000	$ 10,000	$ 8,000	$ (2,000)	-20.0%
Bank Charges	$ 30,000	$ 30,000	$ 23,000	$ (7,000)	-23.3%
Sales and Use Tax	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	-
Merchant Credit Card Fees	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	-
Presentation and Publicity	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	-
Total Office Costs	**$ 536,500**	**$ 536,499**	**$ 578,700**	**$ 42,200**	**7.9%**

Explanation of Significant Variances –2015 Budget versus 2014 Budget

- Computer Supplies and Maintenance expense is based on contracts currently in place and historical actual expense.

Table B-8 - Professional Services

Professional Services	Budget 2014	Projection 2014	Budget 2015	Variance 2015 Budget v 2014 Budget	Variance %
BOT Fee	$ 280,000	$ 280,000	$ 325,000	$ 45,000	16.1%
BOT Search Fee	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	-
Legal - Reorganization	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	-
Accounting & Auditing Fees	$ 300,000	$ 300,000	$ 310,000	$ 10,000	3.3%
Legal Fees - Other	$ 350,000	$ 350,000	$ 350,000	$ -	0.0%
Insurance - Commercial	$ 36,500	$ 36,500	$ 40,000	$ 3,500	9.6%
Total Services	**$ 966,500**	**$ 966,501**	**$ 1,025,000**	**$ 58,500**	**6.1%**

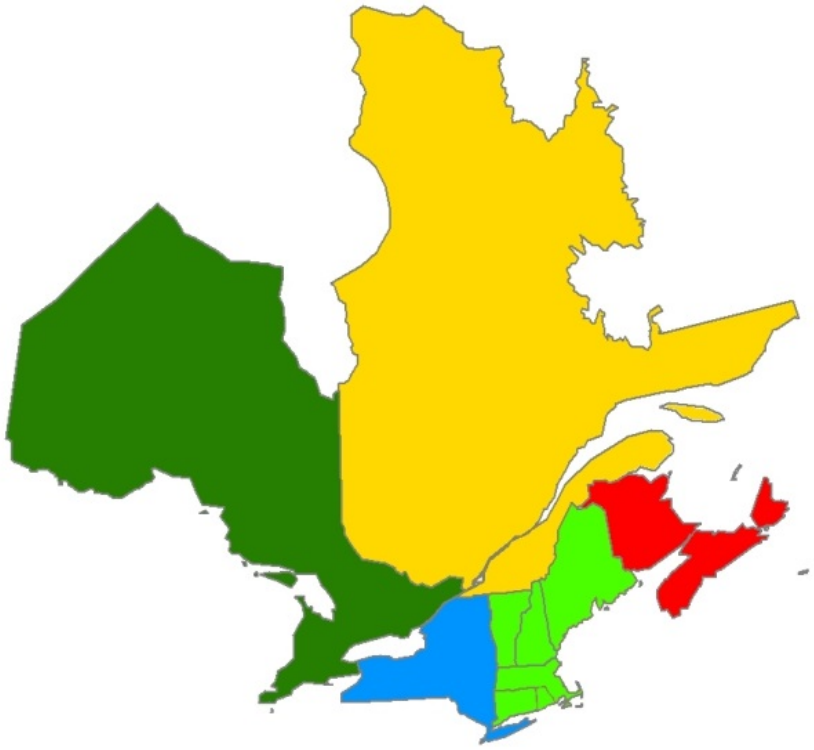
Table B-9 – Other Non-Operating Expenses

Other Non-Operating Expenses	Budget 2014	Projection 2014	Budget 2015	Variance 2015 Budget v 2014 Budget	Variance %
Interest Expense	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	-
Office Relocation	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	-
Total Non-Operating Expenses	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**-**

Table B-10 – 2016 and 2017 Projections

Table to be Inserted

Section C – Criteria Services Division Activities
2015 Business Plan and Budget



Section C —2014 Criteria Services Division Business Plan and Budget

Criteria Services Division (in whole dollars)	2014 Budget	2015 Budget	Increase (Decrease)
Total FTEs	2.14	2.14	0.00
Total Direct Expenses	$683,240	$729,550	$46,310
Total Indirect Expenses	$405,859	$409,902	$4,043
Other Non-Operating Expenses	$0	$0	$0
Working Capital and Operating Reserves Requirement	($75,391)	($94,220)	($18,829)
Inc(Dec) in Fixed Assets	($24,000)	($10,011)	$13,989
Funding Requirement	$989,708	$1,035,221	$45,513

NPCC Regionally-Specific Criteria Services Background

NPCC Criteria Services division activities are based on the development, maintenance and promulgation of Regionally-specific more stringent criteria as well as criteria establishing resource adequacy requirements within the Region. These criteria contain requirements which are more stringent and more specific than the existing NERC Reliability Standards requirements. These criteria require continual evaluation to ensure they are "not inconsistent with" any NERC reliability standards.

Membership and Governance

Full members are subject to compliance with Regionally-specific criteria, in addition to continent-wide Reliability Standards, and receive criteria-related services from the Criteria Services division.

Full Members, aside from those who perform the Balancing Authority function, are not assessed an annual membership fee. Those that perform Balancing Authority functions are assessed and remit a proportional net energy for load share of expenses for criteria services. NPCC would also directly assign criteria service division costs to a Balancing Authority Area or entity, where significant costs are incurred for that Balancing Authority Area. The funding for NPCC's Criteria Services division is approved by the NPCC Board of Directors.

Criteria Services Division Functional Scope

Through its Criteria Services division, NPCC promotes the reliable and efficient operation of the international, interconnected bulk power systems in Northeastern North America through the establishment of Regionally-specific criteria, and monitoring and enforcement of compliance with such criteria.

NPCC provides Full Members with Regional reliability assurance services, and acts as the vehicle through which States and Provinces can fulfill their political mandates, with respect to resource adequacy, as well as overseeing the Northeastern North American electric infrastructure.

Major 2015 Assumptions and Cost Impacts

The Criteria Services division services are expected to remain stable throughout 2015 when compared to the Regional Entity division.

- The Criteria Compliance Enforcement Program (CCEP) review and evaluation process has matured and been enhanced after its inception in 2012. Criteria Compliance submittals to the CC are done as necessary.
- Past non-compliances, if any, followed the due process stated in the CCEP-1 process document and proper resolution/enforcement action taken.

2015 Primary Goals and Objectives

- Review, maintain, and revise the NPCC Regional Reliability Directories to facilitate compliance assessments and ensure the Criteria portions of the Directories are "not inconsistent" with, nor duplicative with, the approved and effective NERC Standards.
- The criteria services division and CCEP Working Group (reporting to the Compliance Committee) will work with the various Task Forces to develop Criteria Compliance Reporting Forms for additional NPCC Directories to ensure that the more stringent or Regionally-specific criteria is being met.
- The criteria services division and CCEP working group will work with TFCO, TFCP, TFSS, and TFSP to review criteria and measures within each specific NPCC Directory to identify and develop them into specific reporting forms for approval.
- Review impact of Bulk Electric System definition on Directory and Criteria content and compliance reporting.
- Review impact of Sector or NPCC organizational changes on the Directory and Criteria review, enforcement and arbitration processes
- Assist Legal with preparation of revised Directories for Regulatory filings with the individual Provinces in accordance with their respective Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs) as well as the State of New York Public Service Commission
- Facilitate any requested interpretations for NPCC Criteria with the necessary subject matter experts and identify potential opportunities for clarifications of the Criteria.

NPCC Reliability Directory Maintenance and Development

The NPCC Regional Reliability Directories were developed to demonstrate that the NPCC more stringent criteria are not inconsistent with the NERC Reliability Standards as mandated by the NERC Rules of Procedure. The Directory project was also undertaken to remove any redundancies with the NERC Reliability Standards and to clearly delineate the more stringent NPCC criteria requirements. In 2013 the directories were further reviewed and revision of the directories is underway to transition the criteria language into a "requirement type" format. This further revision facilitates the NPCC Region's CCEP and ensures the continued delineation of the more stringent and more specific Regional criteria from the latest approved and effective set of NERC ERO standards.

In 2015, work will proceed with maintenance and revision of the Directories to address any future redundancies with NERC or NPCC Reliability Standards as well as the continued need for additional more stringent or specific NPCC Regional criteria requirements as new NERC Reliability Standards are developed and existing standards are revised. NPCC will continue to rely on contractors for subject matter expertise on an as-needed basis throughout 2015. The amount of Regional documents being converted into Directories and the maintenance of the Directories require subject matter expert input. In addition, changes will be necessary to bring the Phase II Directory project to completion. This project will require significant resources to translate the existing criteria language into "requirements" that are clear, concise and measurable. Also a standards template will be applied to the existing Directories to make them more consistent with the look of the standards. As NERC standards improve, the need for NPCC Directories and amount of criteria contained therein will gradually decrease over time however in the interim, significant review is necessary to ensure the criteria remain "not inconsistent with" the NERC standards as outlined in the NERC Rules of Procedure.

The following Directories will either be under revision or reviewed for further development based on a schedule set forth in the NPCC Reliability Assessment Program:

Operations and Planning Directories

Directory #1, *Basic Criteria for Design and Operation of Interconnected Power Systems*
This directory documents NPCC's Regionally-specific, more stringent criteria, and demonstrates coordination and consistency with all the existing NERC TPL, BAL, IRO, INT, MOD, TOP, PRC and VAR standards. The NPCC Task Force on Coordination of Planning will lead a multi-disciplinary working group, consisting of operations and planning subject matter experts to review and revise this directory to reflect the FERC ruling on TPL and other TOP changes.

Directory #2, *Emergency Operations*
This directory documents NPCC's Regionally-specific, more stringent criteria, and demonstrates coordination and consistency with all the existing NERC EOP and TOP standards. The NPCC Task Force on Coordination of Operation will lead this review and revision.

Directory # 3, *Maintenance Requirements for BPS Protection*
This Directory documents NPCC's Regionally-specific, more stringent criteria, and demonstrates coordination and consistency with certain applicable NERC PRC standards. The NPCC Task Force on System Protection will lead this review and revision.

Directory # 4, *BPS Protection*
This Directory documents NPCC's Regionally-specific, more stringent criteria, and demonstrates coordination and consistency with certain applicable NERC PRC standards. The NPCC Task Force on System Protection will lead this review and revision.

Directory # 5, *Operating Reserve Requirements*
This directory documents NPCC's Regionally-specific, more stringent criteria, and demonstrates coordination and consistency with all the existing applicable NERC BAL, INT, and IRO standards. The NPCC Task Force on Coordination of Operation will lead this review and revision.

Directory # 7, *Special Protection Systems*
This Directory documents NPCC's Regionally-specific, more stringent criteria for application and approval of SPS. The NPCC Task Force on System Protection will lead this review and revision.

Directory # 8 System Restoration
This Directory documents NPCC's Regionally-specific, more stringent criteria with which each applicable entity must plan for and perform power system restoration following a major or a total blackout, and demonstrates coordination and consistency with applicable NERC EOP standards. The NPCC Task Force on Coordination of Operation will lead this review and revision.

Directory # 9, *Verification of Generator Gross and Net Reactive Power Capability*
This Directory documents NPCC's Regionally-specific, more stringent criteria for verifying the Gross Reactive Power
Capability and Net Reactive Power Capability of generators or generating facilities. The NPCC Task Force on Coordination of Operation will lead this review and revision.

Directory # 11, *Disturbance Monitoring*, This directory documents NPCC's Regionally-specific, more stringent criteria, and demonstrates coordination and consistency with certain existing NERC PRC standards. The NPCC Task Force on System Protection will lead this review and revision until such time as the NPCC PRC-002-01 Disturbance Monitoring Regional Standard is adopted by FERC and the applicable governmental authorities.

Directory # 12, *UFLS Program*, This directory documents NPCC's Regionally-specific, more stringent criteria, and demonstrates coordination and consistency with certain existing NERC and NPCC developing PRC standard(s). The NPCC Task Force on System Studies will lead this review and revision until such time as the NPCC PRC-006-01 UFLS Regional Standard is approved by the NPCC membership, NERC BOT, the FERC and all the applicable governmental authorities in the Provinces of Canada within NPCC's footprint.

NPCC Criteria Compliance Background

The NPCC criteria services division promotes the reliable operation of the bulk power system through implementation of a comprehensive compliance program. The compliance program that includes monitoring, assessing and enforcing compliance with more stringent, Regionally specific NPCC Criteria requirements, is known as the NPCC Criteria Compliance and Enforcement Program (CCEP) described in process document CCEP-1. This program was developed by the criteria services division and the CCEP Working Group under the purview of the NPCC Compliance Committee. The products of this program support the various Task Forces in their assessments of the NPCC Directories in meeting their goals for the Reliability Coordinating Committee as stated in Section A of this Business Plan.

The more stringent, Regionally-specific NPCC Criteria requirements reflect the unique operational and planning aspects of the bulk power system within the NPCC Region and are included in the NPCC "A" documents and their successors, the NPCC Directories.

NPCC issues non-monetary sanctions to enforce compliance with NPCC Criteria.

- The CCEP program is described in document CCEP-1, *NPCC Criteria Compliance and Enforcement Program (CCEP) Process Document*
- The implementation plan is described in document CCEP-2, *Implementation Plan for 2011 NPCC Criteria Compliance and Enforcement Program*
- On April 5, 2011, the above became effective upon Full Member approval of CCEP-1, and CCEP-2 and retired the following
    - NPCC Criteria A-8, Reliability Compliance and Enforcement Program (RCEP)
    - NPCC Guide B-22, Guidelines for Implementation of the NPCC Inc. Compliance Program
    - NPCC Procedure C-32, Review Process for NPCC Reliability Compliance Enforcement Program
    - Each of the above have been annotated as "retired effective 4/5/11 upon Full Member approval of CCEP-1… and CCEP-2…" on the NPCC public website

The CCEP-1 document

- recognizes the applicability of NPCC's Regionally-specific, more stringent reliability criteria to the Full Members of NPCC, consistent with the *Amended and Restated ByLaws*, and respects the provisions of the several Canadian Memoranda of Understanding in the execution of the processes described
- provides a comprehensive CCEP Process Diagram showing the process of evaluating and approving Criteria Certification submittals, and additional processes and responsibilities in the event that non-compliances, disputes and sanctions arise
- describes the roles and responsibilities of Reporting Members, CC, RCC and Enforcement Panel in the compliance review and enforcement process
- describes Levels of Non-Compliance, associated non-monetary Sanctions, Lateness Policy and the Arbitration/Dispute Resolution process
- addresses Mitigation Plans for any violations under the enforcement process; and
- lists the mandatory Certification Forms to be submitted for review by the Task Forces to ensure compliance with NPCC Directories are being met

The CCEP currently requires annual submittal of Certification Forms by the Reliability Coordinators and Balancing Authorities to confirm compliance with various NPCC Directories. Currently the required Certification forms are for Directory #1- *Area Transmission Review*, Directory #8 - *Key Facility List*, Directory #9 – *Generator Real Power Verification*, Directory #10 - *Verification of Generator Gross and Net Reactive Power Capability*, and Directory #12 - *UFLS Program Requirements*. In 2014 NPCC anticipates expansion of the CCEP to include compliance assessment activities to all active Directories.

The CCEP identifies those specific NPCC Directories that are subject to monitoring, assessment and enforcement. These Directories also are subject to NPCC Criteria Compliance Audits.

The NPCC Compliance Committee (CC) has final approval of compliance assessments related to CCEP. The CCEP describes the roles and responsibilities of committees and panels used to resolve contested compliance and/or sanction or penalty determinations related to NPCC Directories.

Explanation of Significant Variances – 2015 Budget versus 2014 Budget

Personnel Expenses

- Salaries expense reflects implementation of recommendations of NPCC's Management Development and Compensation Committee, which were based on an independent compensation study.

2014 Budget and Projection and 2015 Budget Comparisons

Statement of Activities 2014 Budget & Projection, and 2015 Budget CRITERIA SERVICES DIVISION						
		2014 Budget	2014 Projection	Variance 2014 Projection v 2014 Budget Over(Under)	2015 Budget	Variance 2015 Budget v 2014 Budget Over(Under)
Funding						
ERO Funding						
	ERO Assessments	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
	Penalty Sanctions	-	-	-	-	-
Total ERO Funding		**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**
	Membership Dues	989,708	989,708	-	760,033	(229,675)
	Testing Fees	-	-	-	-	-
	Services & Software	-	-	-	-	-
	Workshops	-	-	-	-	-
	Interest	-	-	-	-	-
	Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	-
Total Funding (A)		**$ 989,708**	**$ 989,708**	**$ -**	**$ 760,033**	**$ (229,675)**
Expenses						
Personnel Expenses						
	Salaries	$ 312,166	$ 312,166	$ -	$ 369,319	$ 57,153
	Payroll Taxes	21,536	21,536	-	22,681	1,145
	Benefits	64,153	64,153	-	76,900	12,747
	Retirement Costs	129,818	129,818	-	145,639	15,821
Total Personnel Expenses		**$ 527,674**	**$ 527,674**	**$ -**	**$ 614,539**	**$ 86,866**
Meeting Expenses						
	Meetings	$ 10,000	$ 10,000	$ -	$ 10,000	$ -
	Travel	63,000	63,000	-	63,000	-
	Conference Calls	-	-	-	-	-
Total Meeting Expenses		**$ 73,000**	**$ 73,000**	**$ -**	**$ 73,000**	**$ -**
Operating Expenses						
	Consultants & Contracts	$ 55,000	$ 55,000	$ -	$ 30,000	$ (25,000)
	Office Rent	-	-	-	-	-
	Office Costs	-	-	-	-	-
	Professional Services	-	-	-	-	-
	Computer & Equipment Leases	-	-	-	-	-
	Miscellaneous	3,567	3,567	-	2,000	(1,567)
	Depreciation	24,000	24,000	-	10,011	(13,989)
Total Operating Expenses		**$ 82,567**	**$ 82,567**	**$ -**	**$ 42,011**	**$ (40,556)**
	Total Direct Expenses	**$ 683,240**	**$ 683,240**	**$ -**	**$ 729,550**	**$ 46,310**
Indirect Expenses		**$ 405,859**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 409,902**	**$ 4,043**
Other Non-Operating Expenses		**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**
Total Expenses (B)		**$ 1,089,100**	**$ 1,089,100**	**$ -**	**$ 1,139,452**	**$ 50,353**
Change in Assets		**$ (99,391)**	**$ (99,391)**	**$ -**	**$ (379,419)**	**$ (280,027)**
Fixed Assets						
	Depreciation	$ (24,000)	(24,000)	$ -	$ (10,011)	$ 13,989
	Computer & Software CapEx	-	-	-	-	-
	Furniture & Fixtures CapEx	-	-	-	-	-
	Equipment CapEx	-	-	-	-	-
	Leasehold Improvements	-	-	-	-	-
	Allocation of Fixed Assets	-	-	-	-	-
Inc(Dec) in Fixed Assets (C)		**(24,000)**	**(24,000)**	**-**	**(10,011)**	**13,989**
TOTAL BUDGET (=B+C)		1,065,100	1,065,100	-	1,129,441	64,342
TOTAL CHANGE IN WORKING CAPITAL (=A-B-C)		**$ (75,391)**	**$ (75,391)**	**$ -**	**$ (369,408)**	**$ (294,016)**

Personnel Analysis

Total FTE's by Program Area	Budget 2014	Projection 2014	Direct FTEs 2015 Budget	Shared FTEs[1] 2015 Budget	Total FTEs 2015 Budget	Change from 2014 Budget
CRITERIA SERVICES DIVISION						
Operational Programs						
Reliability Standards	1.07	1.07	1.00	0.07	1.07	0.00
Compliance Enforcement and Organization Registration and Certification	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Training and Education	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Reliability Assessment and Performance Analysis	1.07	1.07	1.00	0.07	1.07	0.00
Situation Awareness and Infrastructure Security	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total FTEs Operational Programs	**2.14**	**2.14**	**2.00**	**0.14**	**2.14**	**0.00**
Administrative Programs						
Member Forums	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
General and Administrative	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Information Technology	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Legal and Regulatory	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Human Resources	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Accounting and Finance	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total FTEs Administrative Programs	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**
Total FTEs	**2.14**	**2.14**	**2.00**	**0.14**	**2.14**	**0.00**

[1]A shared FTE is defined as an employee who performs both Regional Entity and Criteria Services division functions.

Reserve Analysis 2014-2015

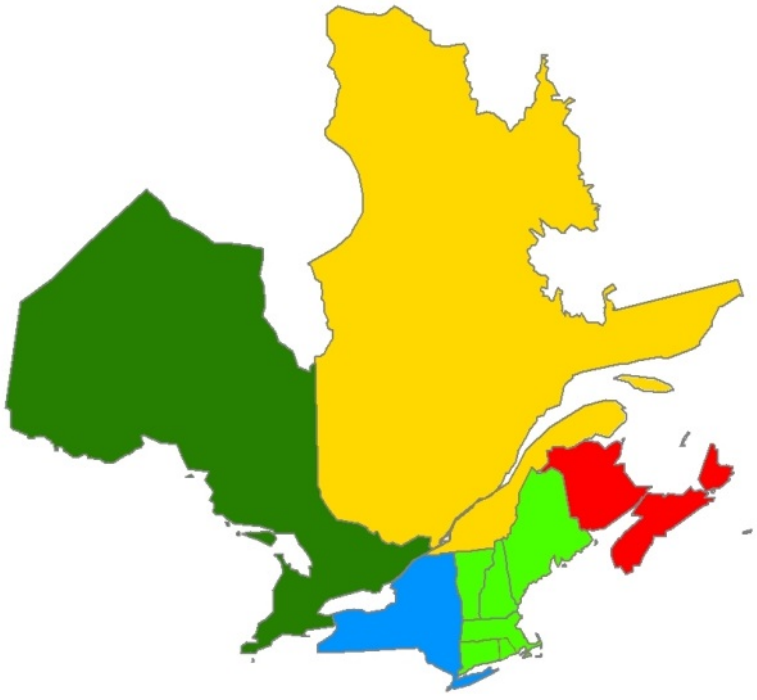
Working Capital and Operating Reserve Analysis 2014-2015			
CRITERIA SERVICES DIVISION			
	Total Reserve	**Operating Reserve**	**Working Capital**
Beginning Working Capital and Operating Reserves, December 31, 2013	816,612	727,857	88,755
2014 Non-Statutory Funding (from members)	989,708	989,708	0
2014 Other funding sources	0	0	0
Less: 2014 Projected expenses & fixed asset additions	(1,065,100)	(1,065,100)	0
Projected Working Capital, December 31, 2014	**741,220**	**652,465**	**88,755**
Desired Working Capital and Operating Reserve, December 31, 2015	**647,000**	552,884	94,116
Less: Projected Working Capital Reserve Balance December 31, 2014	(741,220)	(652,465)	(88,755)
Increase(decrease) in assessments to achieve desired Total Reserve	(94,220)	(99,581)	5,361
2015 Funding requirement for expenses and fixed asset additions	1,129,441		
Adjustment to achieve desired Working Capital and Operating Reserve balance	(94,220)		
2015 Funding and reserve requirement	1,035,221		

Explanation of Changes in Reserve Policy from Prior Year

On October 29, 2013 NPCC's Board of Directors approved management's proposed Working Capital and Operating Reserve Policy. The policy calls for a range between 8.33% (30 days) and 25.00% (90 days) rather than the specific required level of Operating Reserves of 8.33%. This range will allow for more stability in Assessments. The Working Capital required balance remains unchanged at 8.33% (30 days).

Section D – Additional Consolidated Financial Statements

2015 Business Plan and Budget



Section D

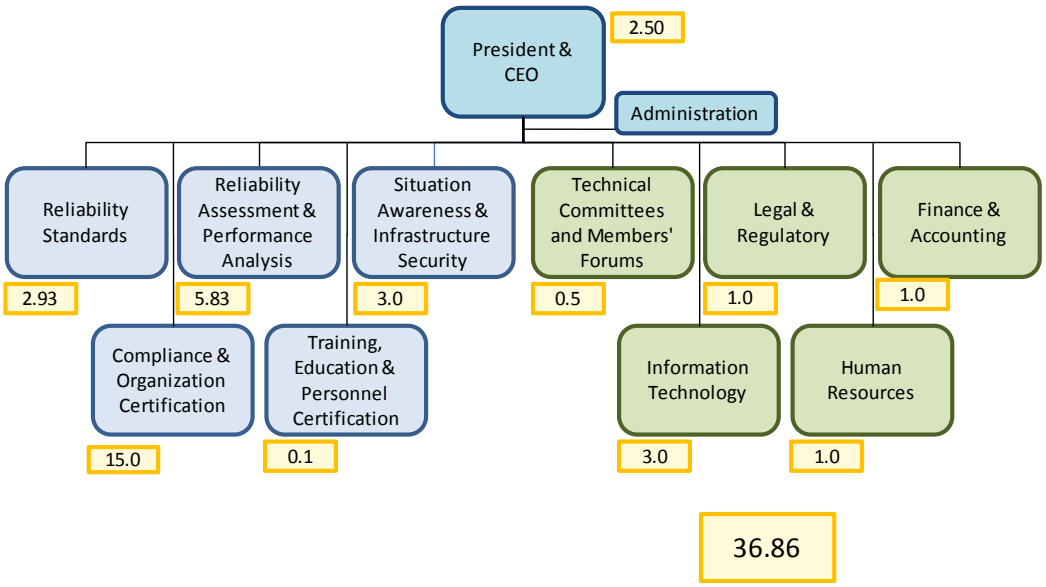
Statement of Financial Position

Table to be Inserted

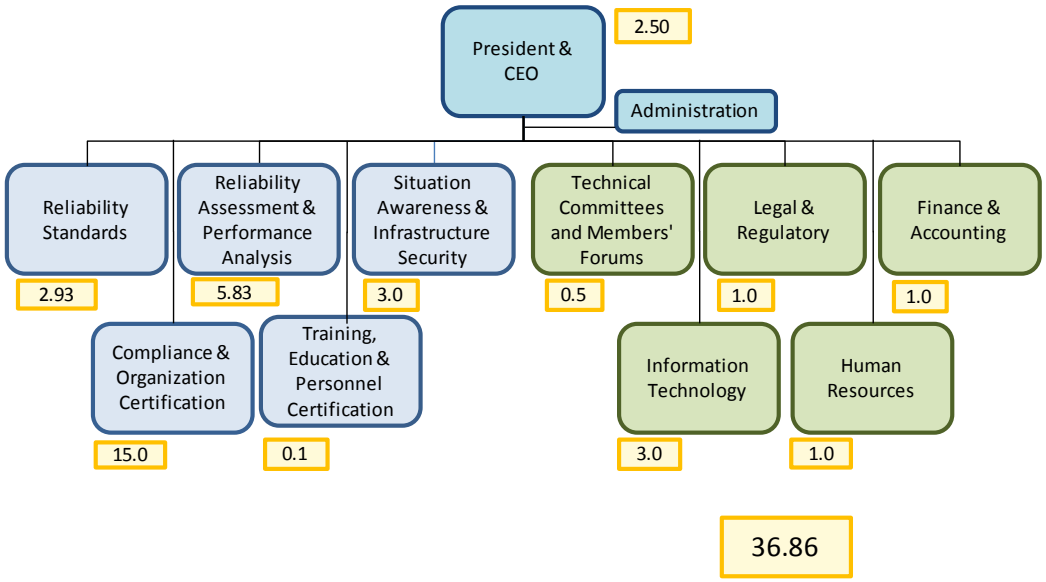
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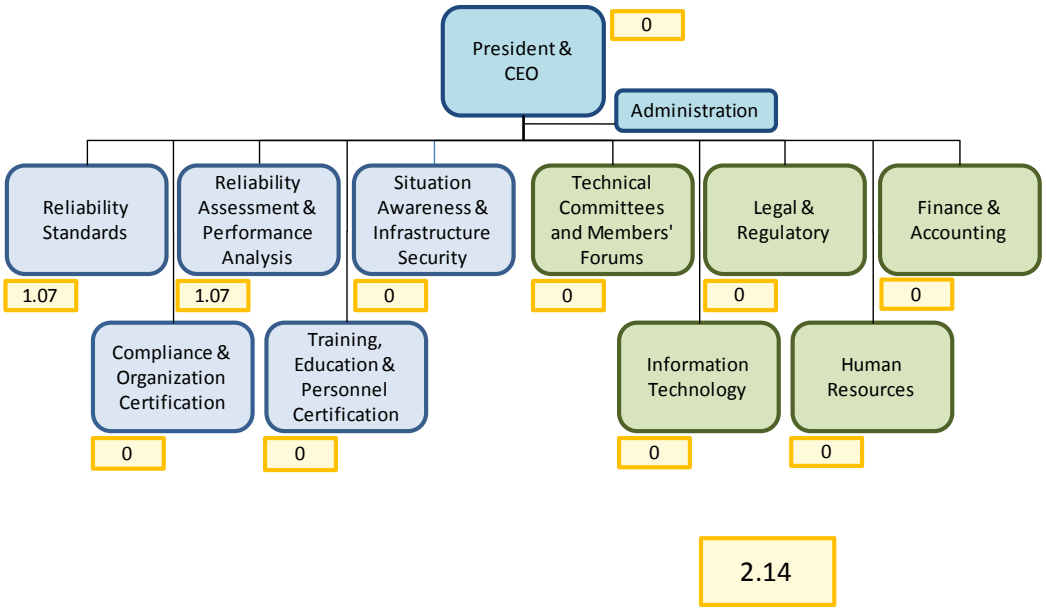
2014 Budget Staff Allocations - RE Division



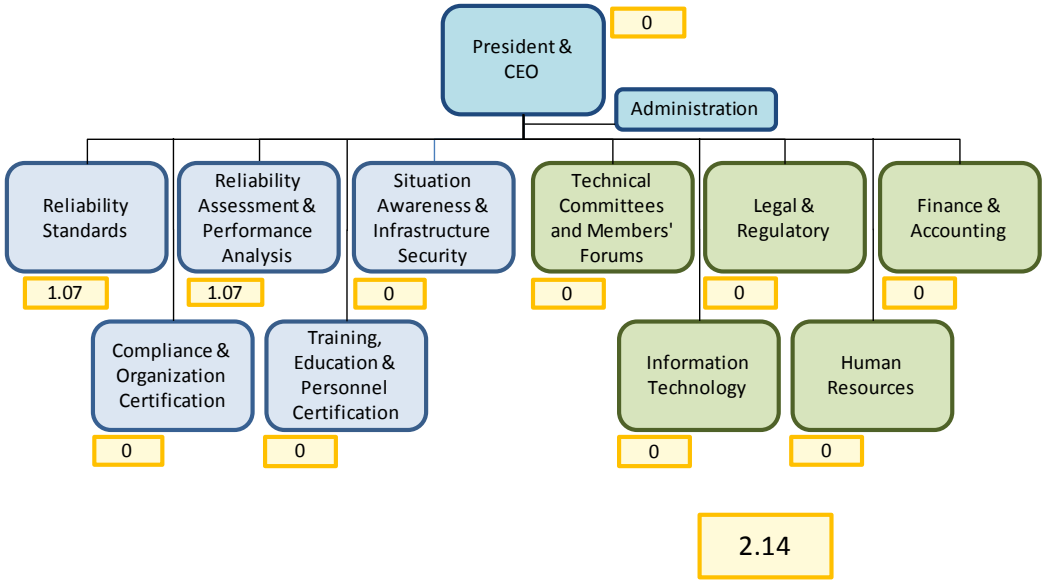
2015 Budget Staff Allocations - RE Division

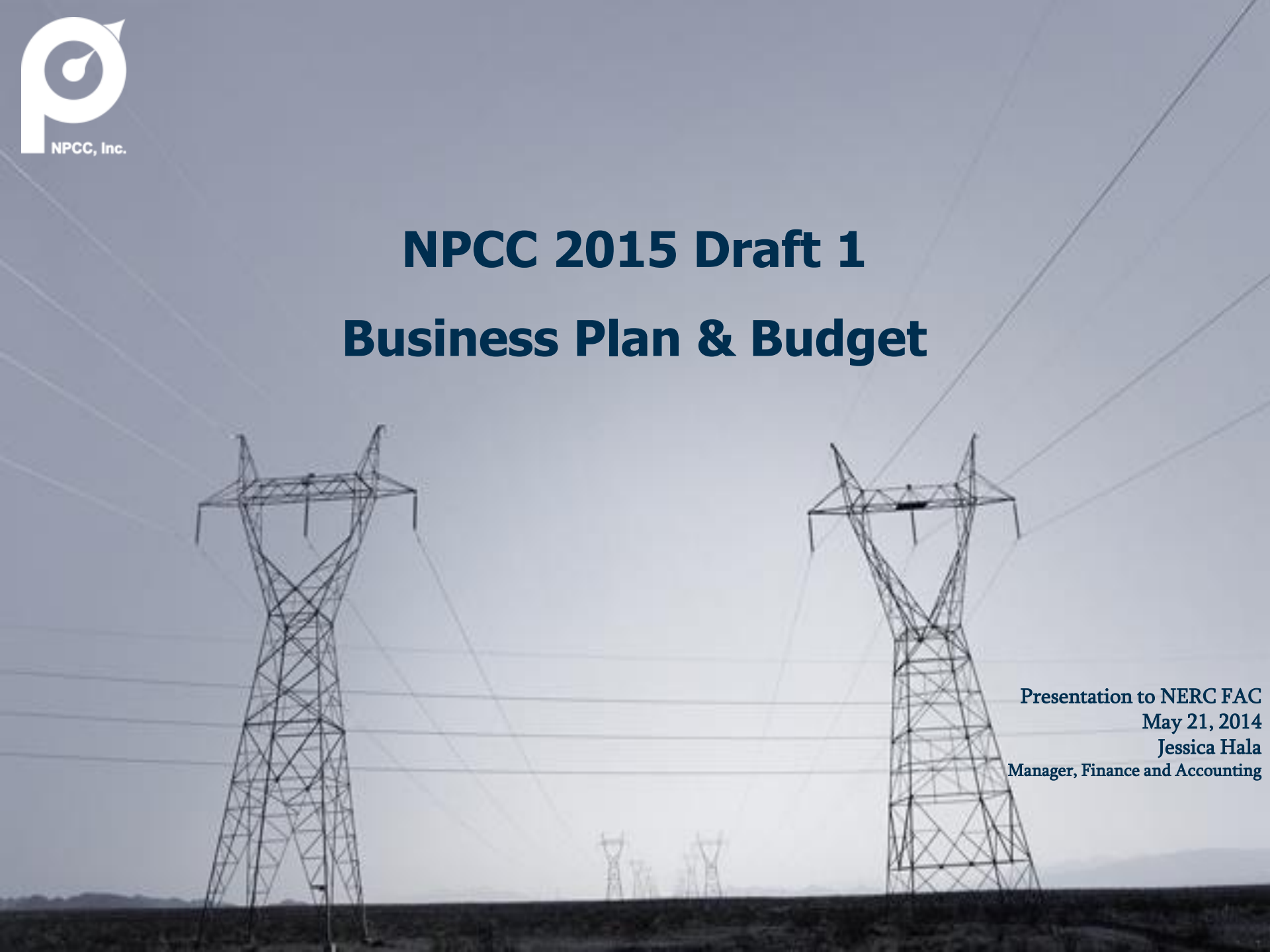


2014 Budget Staff Allocations - CS Division



2015 Budget Staff Allocations - CS Division





NPCC 2015 Draft 1

Business Plan & Budget

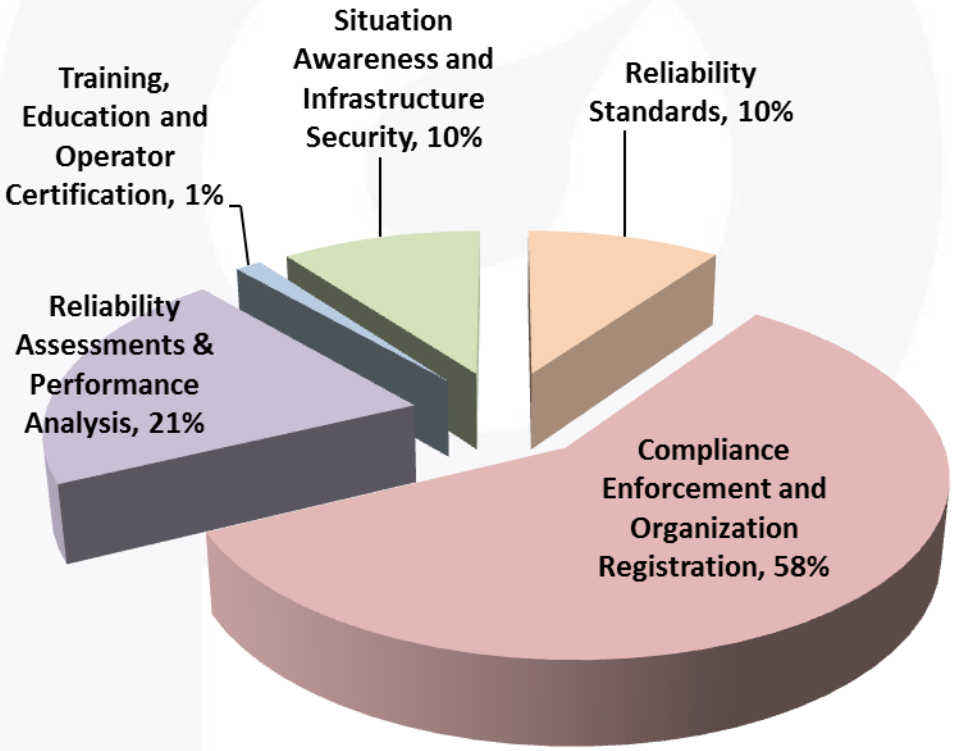
Presentation to NERC FAC
May 21, 2014

Jessica Hala
Manager, Finance and Accounting

2015 Budget Overview

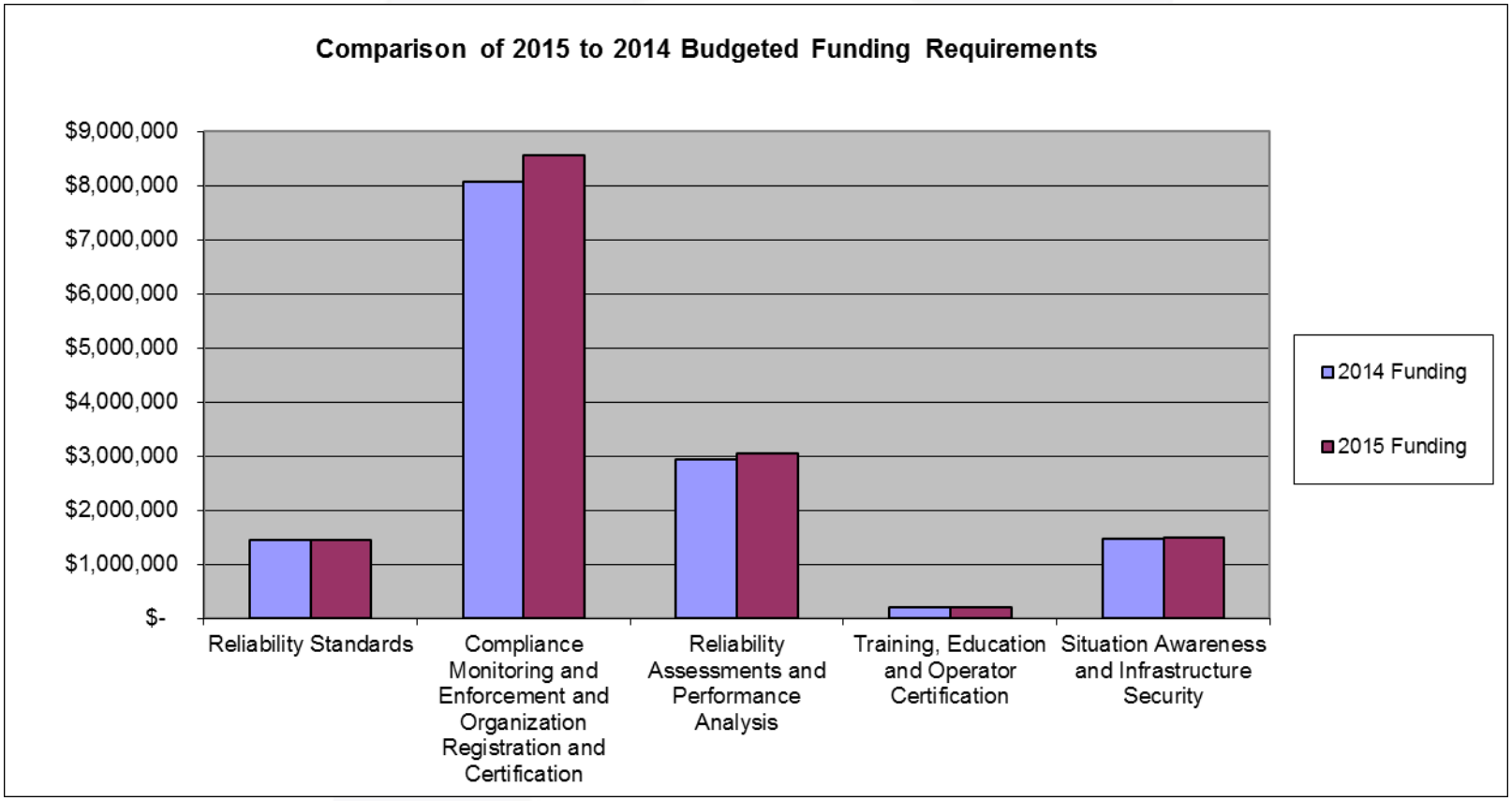
- Staffing Flat
  - 39 FTEs (Regional Entity Division 36.86, Criteria Services Division 2.14)
  - Currently one open position in Standards program area
- Salaries
  - Average wage package increase of 3%
  - Vacancy rate of 2% based on recent trends (currently one open position after 6 months fully staffed)
- Change in Operating Reserves requirement from fixed 8.33% (30 days) to a range between 8.33% and 25.00% (90 days) to provide more stability in annual funding assessments

2015 Total Resources by Program Area Regional Entity (RE) Division



Summary Comparison by Program

Regional Entity (RE) Division



2014-2015 RE Budget Comparison

	2015	2014	Variance	% Variance	Explanation
Funding					
Assessments	14,078,378	13,611,880	466,498	3.43%	
Penalties	281,000	153,000	128,000	83.66%	
Other Income	64,000	64,000	-	0.00%	
Total Funding	14,423,378	13,828,880	594,498		
Expenses					
Personnel Expenses	8,929,241	8,850,160	79,081	0.89%	3% average wage package increase; 2% vacancy rate
Meetings	365,000	365,000	-	0.00%	
Travel	890,000	890,000	-	0.00%	
Conference Calls	45,000	77,000	(32,000)	-41.56%	Lower negotiated rate with a new vendor
Consultants and Contracts	2,342,000	1,924,433	417,567	21.70%	Increase in compliance and RAPA
Rent & Improvements	751,500	737,272	14,228	1.93%	
Office Costs	578,700	536,500	42,200	7.87%	Increase in computer/network maintenance costs
Professional Services	1,025,000	966,500	58,500	6.05%	
Miscellaneous	40,000	80,000	(40,000)	-50.00%	Continuing efforts to control costs
Depreciation	202,019	250,000	(47,981)	-19.19%	Assets becoming fully depreciated in 2014
Indirect Expenses	(409,902)	(405,859)	(4,043)	1.00%	
Other Non-Operating Expenses	-	-	-		
Total Expenses	14,758,558	14,271,006	487,552	3.42%	
Increase(Decrease) in Fixed Assets	19,981	(142,000)	161,981		
Total Budget	14,778,539	14,129,006	649,533	4.60%	
Change in Working Capital	(355,161)	(300,126)	(55,035)		

NPCC, Inc.

FTE Comparison

Total FTE's by Program Area	Budget 2014	Projection 2014	Direct FTEs 2015 Budget	Shared FTEs[1] 2015 Budget	Total FTEs 2015 Budget	Change from 2014 Budget
REGIONAL ENTITY DIVISION						
Operational Programs						
Reliability Standards	2.93	2.93	2.00	0.93	2.93	0.00
Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement and Organization Registration and Certification	16.00	16.00	16.00	0.00	16.00	0.00
Training, Education, and Operator Certification	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.00	0.10	0.00
Reliability Assessment and Performance Analysis	5.83	5.83	4.90	0.93	5.83	0.00
Situation Awareness and Infrastructure Security	3.00	3.00	3.00	0.00	3.00	0.00
Total FTEs Operational Programs	**27.86**	**27.86**	**26.00**	**1.86**	**27.86**	**0.00**
Administrative Programs						
Technical Committees and Member Forums	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.00	0.50	0.00
General and Administrative	2.50	2.50	2.50	0.00	2.50	0.00
Information Technology	3.00	3.00	3.00	0.00	3.00	0.00
Legal and Regulatory	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	1.00	0.00
Human Resources	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	1.00	0.00
Accounting and Finance	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	1.00	0.00
Total FTEs Administrative Programs	**9.00**	**9.00**	**9.00**	**0.00**	**9.00**	**0.00**
Total FTEs	**36.86**	**36.86**	**35.00**	**1.86**	**36.86**	**0.00**

[1]A shared FTE is defined as an employee who performs both Regional Entity and Criteria Services division functions.

Resource Adequacy

- Resource assessment and reprioritization from the 2014 Business Plan and Budget has been conducted and will continue through 2015.

- Full impact of Reliability Assurance Initiative (RAI), Risk Assessment, Internal Control Evaluation, and CIP V5 implementation is currently unknown
  - Compliance staffing, in combination with increase in contractors, is expected to be adequate
- Full impact of revised BES definition implementation is currently unknown
  - RAPA staffing, in combination with increase in contractors, is expected to be adequate to address BES identification/exception requests

Process Improvements

- Implementation of CEAP in NERC Standards Development Process
- Utilization of consistent audit checklist and handbook with audits informed by evaluation of entity risk profile
- Enhanced FFT and introduction of compliance exception principles
- Expedited processing of self-reports
- Increased scheduling rigor in settlement processing
- Implementation of efficient BES Notification and Exception Processing
- Improved integration of Events Analysis processing across ERO

Alignment of RE and ERO

- Fully aligned with ERO Enterprise Strategic Plan and Performance Metrics
- Functional initiatives/activities within program areas references applicable ERO goals within the business plan using footnotes
- CS Division continues to support international, interconnected BPS reliability through compliance monitoring with more-stringent, regionally-specific reliability criteria

Efficiency and Controlling Costs

- Ongoing efforts to hold more meetings on site and via conference call or webinar.
- Limiting number of staff attending offsite meetings.
- Continued expansion of pre-audit processing to contain the time required of an audit team to be on-site in order to complete an audit and, therefore, to complete audits more cost-efficiently.

Working Capital and Operating Reserves

- Change in Operating Reserves requirement from fixed 8.33% (30 days) to a range between 8.33% and 25.00% (90 days) to provide more stability in annual funding assessments.

- Working Capital requirement remains unchanged with a targeted level of 8.33% (30 days) of the annual budget.

- No utilization of reserves is contemplated; Board authorization would be required

Questions?

NERC

NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY CORPORATION

Standard Processes Manual

VERSION 3

Effective: June 26, 2013

to ensure the reliability of the bulk power system

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Section 1.0: Introduction

1.1: Authority
This manual is published by the authority of the NERC Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees, as necessary to maintain NERC's certification as the Electric Reliability Organization ("ERO"), may file the manual with Applicable Governmental Authorities for approval as an ERO document. When approved, the manual is appended to and provides implementation detail in support of the ERO Rules of Procedure Section 300 — Reliability Standards Development.

Capitalized terms not otherwise defined herein, shall have the meaning set forth in the Definitions Used in the Rules of Procedure, Appendix 2 to the Rules of Procedure.

1.2: Scope
The policies and procedures in this manual shall govern the activities of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation ("NERC") related to the development, approval, revision, reaffirmation, and withdrawal of Reliability Standards, Interpretations, Violation Risk Factors ("VRFs"), Violation Severity Levels ("VSLs"), definitions, Variances, and reference documents developed to support standards for the Reliable Operation and planning of the North American Bulk Power Systems.

This manual also addresses the role of the Standards Committee, drafting team and ballot body in the development and approval of Compliance Elements in conjunction with standard development.

1.3: Background
NERC is a nonprofit corporation formed for the purpose of becoming the North American ERO. NERC works with all stakeholder segments of the electric industry, including electricity users, to develop Reliability Standards for the reliability planning and Reliable Operation of the North American Bulk Power Systems. In the United States, the Energy Policy Act of 2005 added Section 215 to the Federal Power Act for the purpose of establishing a framework to make Reliability Standards mandatory for all Bulk Power System owners, operators, and users. Similar authorities are provided by Applicable Governmental Authorities in Canada. NERC was certified as the ERO effective July 2006. *North American Electric Reliability Corp*., 116 FERC ¶ 61,062, *order on reh'g and compliance*, 117 FERC ¶ 61,126 (2006), *order on compliance*, 118 FERC ¶ 61,030 (2007).

1.4: Essential Attributes of NERC's Reliability Standards Processes
NERC's Reliability Standards development processes provide reasonable notice and opportunity for public comment, due process, openness, and balance of interests in developing a proposed Reliability Standard consistent with the attributes necessary for American National Standards Institute ("ANSI") accreditation. The same attributes, as well as transparency, consensus-building, and timeliness, are also required under the ERO Rules of Procedure Section 304.

- ***Open Participation***
  Participation in NERC's Reliability Standards development balloting and approval processes shall be open to all entities materially affected by NERC's Reliability Standards. There shall be no financial barriers to participation in NERC's Reliability Standards balloting and approval processes. Membership in the Registered Ballot Body shall not be conditional upon membership in any organization, nor unreasonably restricted on the basis of technical qualifications or other such requirements.

- ***Balance***
  NERC's Reliability Standards development processes shall not be dominated by any two interest categories, individuals, or organizations and no single interest category, individual, or organization is able to defeat a matter.

  NERC shall use a voting formula that allocates each industry Segment an equal weight in determining the final outcome of any Reliability Standard action. The Reliability Standards development processes shall have a balance of interests. Participants from diverse interest categories shall be encouraged to join the Registered Ballot Body and participate in the balloting process, with a goal of achieving balance between the interest categories. The Registered Ballot Body serves as the consensus body voting to approve each new or proposed Reliability Standard, definition, Variance, and Interpretation.

- ***Coordination and harmonization with other American National Standards activities***
  NERC is committed to resolving any potential conflicts between its Reliability Standards development efforts and existing American National Standards and candidate American National Standards.

- ***Notification of standards development***
  NERC shall publicly distribute a notice to each member of the Registered Ballot Body, and to each stakeholder who indicates a desire to receive such notices, for each action to create, revise, reaffirm, or withdraw a Reliability Standard, definition, or Variance; and for each proposed Interpretation. Notices shall be distributed electronically, with links to the relevant information, and notices shall be posted on NERC's Reliability Standards web page. All notices shall identify a readily available source for further information.

- ***Transparency***
  The process shall be transparent to the public.

- ***Consideration of views and objections***
  Drafting teams shall give prompt consideration to the written views and objections of all participants as set forth herein. Drafting teams shall make an effort to resolve each objection that is related to the topic under review.

- ***Consensus Building***
  The process shall build and document consensus for each Reliability Standard, both with regard to the need and justification for the Reliability Standard and the content of the Reliability Standard.

- ***Consensus vote***
  NERC shall use its voting process to determine if there is sufficient consensus to approve a proposed Reliability Standard, definition, Variance, or Interpretation. NERC shall form a ballot pool for each Reliability Standard action from interested members of its Registered Ballot Body. Approval of any Reliability Standard action requires:

  - A quorum, which is established by at least 75% of the members of the ballot pool submitting a response excluding unreturned ballots; and
  - A two-thirds majority of the weighted Segment votes cast shall be affirmative. The number of votes cast during all stages of balloting except the final ballot is the sum of affirmative and negative votes with comments, excluding abstentions, non-responses, and

negative votes without comments. During the final ballot, the number of votes cast is the sum of affirmative and negative votes, excluding abstentions and non-responses.

- ***Timeliness***
  Development of Reliability Standards shall be timely and responsive to new and changing priorities for reliability of the Bulk Power System.

- ***Metric Policy***
  The International System of units is the preferred units of measurement in NERC Reliability Standard. However, because NERC's Reliability Standards apply in Canada, the United States and portions of Mexico, where applicable, measures are provided in both the metric and English units.

1.5: Ethical Participation

All participants in the NERC Standard development process, including drafting teams, quality reviewers, Standards Committee members and members of the Registered Ballot Body, are obligated to act in an ethical manner in the exercise of all activities conducted pursuant to the terms and conditions of the Standard Processes Manual and the standard development process.

Section 2.0: Elements of a Reliability Standard

2.1: Definition of a Reliability Standard

A Reliability Standard includes a set of Requirements that define specific obligations of owners, operators, and users of the North American Bulk Power Systems. The Requirements shall be material to reliability and measurable. A Reliability Standard is defined as follows:

> "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. *See* Appendix 2 to the NERC Rules of Procedure, Definitions Used in the Rules of Procedure.

2.2: Reliability Principles

NERC Reliability Standards are based on certain reliability principles that define the foundation of reliability for North American Bulk Power Systems.[1] Each Reliability Standard shall enable or support one or more of the reliability principles, thereby ensuring that each Reliability Standard serves a purpose in support of reliability of the North American Bulk Power Systems. Each Reliability Standard shall also be consistent with all of the reliability principles, thereby ensuring that no Reliability Standard undermines reliability through an unintended consequence.

2.3: Market Principles

Recognizing that Bulk Power System reliability and electricity markets are inseparable and mutually interdependent, all Reliability Standards shall be consistent with the market interface principles.[2] Consideration of the market interface principles is intended to ensure that Reliability Standards are written such that they achieve their reliability objective without causing undue restrictions or adverse impacts on competitive electricity markets.

2.4: Types of Reliability Requirements

Generally, each Requirement of a Reliability Standard shall identify what Functional Entities shall do, and under what conditions, to achieve a specific reliability objective. Although Reliability Standards all follow this format, several types of Requirements may exist, each with a different approach to measurement.

- **Performance-based Requirements** define a specific reliability objective or outcome achieved by one or more entities that has a direct, observable effect on the reliability of the Bulk Power System, *i.e.* an effect that can be measured using power system data or trends. In its simplest form, a performance-based requirement has four components: *who,*

[1] The intent of the set of NERC Reliability Standards is to deliver an adequate level of reliability. The latest set of reliability principles and the latest set of characteristics associated with an adequate level of reliability are posted on the Reliability Standards Resources web page.

[2] The latest set of market interface principles is posted on the Reliability Standards Resources web page.

under what conditions (if any), shall perform what action, to achieve what particular result or outcome.

- **Risk-based Requirements** define actions by one or more entities that reduce a stated risk to the reliability of the Bulk Power System and can be measured by evaluating a particular product or outcome resulting from the required actions. A risk-based reliability requirement should be framed as: *who, under what conditions (if any), shall perform what action, to achieve what particular result or outcome that reduces a stated risk to the reliability of the Bulk Power System.*

- **Capability-based Requirements** define capabilities needed by one or more entities to perform reliability functions and can be measured by demonstrating that the capability exists as required. A capability-based reliability requirement should be framed as: *who, under what conditions (if any), shall have what capability, to achieve what particular result or outcome to perform an action to achieve a result or outcome or to reduce a risk to the reliability of the Bulk Power System.*

The body of reliability Requirements collectively provides a defense-in-depth strategy supporting reliability of the Bulk Power System.

2.5: Elements of a Reliability Standard

A Reliability Standard includes several components designed to work collectively to identify what entities must do to meet their reliability-related obligations as an owner, operator or user of the Bulk Power System.

The components of a Reliability Standard may include the following:

Title: A brief, descriptive phrase identifying the topic of the Reliability Standard.

Number: A unique identification number assigned in accordance with a published classification system to facilitate tracking and reference to the Reliability Standards.[3]

Purpose: The reliability outcome achieved through compliance with the Requirements of the Reliability Standard.

Applicability: Identifies which entities are assigned reliability requirements. The specific Functional Entities and Facilities to which the Reliability Standard applies.

Effective Dates: Identification of the date or pre-conditions determining when each Requirement becomes effective in each jurisdiction.

Requirement: An explicit statement that identifies the Functional Entity responsible, the action or outcome that must be achieved, any conditions achieving the action or outcome, and the reliability-related benefit of the action or outcome. Each Requirement shall be a statement for which compliance is mandatory.

Compliance Elements: Elements to aid in the administration of ERO compliance monitoring and enforcement responsibilities.[4]

[3] Reliability Standards shall be numbered in accordance with the NERC Standards Numbering Convention as provide on the Reliability Standards Resources web page.

- ***Measure:*** Provides identification of the evidence or types of evidence that may demonstrate compliance with the associated requirement.

- ***Violation Risk Factors and Violation Severity Levels:*** Violation risk factors (VRFs) and violation severity levels (VSLs) are used as factors when determining the size of a penalty or sanction associated with the violation of a requirement in an approved reliability standard.[5] Each requirement in each reliability standard has an associated VRF and a set of VSLs. VRFs and VSLs are developed by the drafting team, working with NERC Staff, at the same time as the associated reliability standard, but are not part of the reliability standard. The Board of Trustees is responsible for approving VRFs and VSLs.

  - ***Violation Risk Factors***
    VRFs identify the potential reliability significance of noncompliance with each requirement. Each requirement is assigned a VRF in accordance with the latest approved set of VRF criteria.[6]

  - ***Violation Severity Levels***
    VSLs define the degree to which compliance with a requirement was not achieved. Each requirement shall have at least one VSL. While it is preferable to have four VSLs for each requirement, some requirements do not have multiple "degrees" of noncompliant performance and may have only one, two, or three VSLs. Each requirement is assigned one or more VSLs in accordance with the latest approved set of VSL criteria.7

Version History: The version history is provided for informational purposes and lists information regarding prior versions of Reliability Standards.

Variance: A Requirement (to be applied in the place of the continent-wide Requirement) that is applicable to a specific geographic area or to a specific set of Registered Entities.

Compliance Enforcement Authority: The entity that is responsible for assessing performance or outcomes to determine if an entity is compliant with the associated Reliability Standard. The Compliance Enforcement Authority will be NERC or the Regional Entity in their respective roles of monitoring and enforcing compliance with the NERC Reliability Standards.

***Application guidelines*:** Guidelines to support the implementation of the associated Reliability Standard.

***Procedures*:** Procedures to support implementation of the associated Reliability Standard.

The only mandatory and enforceable components of a Reliability Standard are the: (1) applicability, (2) Requirements, and the (3) effective dates. The additional components are included in the Reliability Standard for informational purposes, to establish the relevant scope and technical paradigm, and to

---

[4] It is the responsibility of the ERO staff to develop compliance tools for each standard; these tools are not part of the standard but are referenced in this manual because the preferred approach to developing these tools is to use a transparent process that leverages the technical and practical expertise of the drafting team and ballot pool..
[5] The *Sanction Guidelines of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation* identifies the factors used to determine a penalty or sanction for violation of reliability standard and is posted on the NERC Web Site.
[6] The latest set of approved VRF Criteria is posted on the Reliability Standards Resources Web Page.
[7] The latest set of approved VSL Criteria is posted on the Reliability Standards Resources Web Page.

provide guidance to Functional Entities concerning how compliance will be assessed by the Compliance Enforcement Authority.

Section 3.0: Reliability Standards Program Organization

3.1: Board of Trustees

The NERC Board of Trustees shall consider for adoption Reliability Standards, definitions, Variances and Interpretations and associated implementation plans that have been processed according to the processes identified in this manual. Once the Board adopts a Reliability Standard, definition, Variance or Interpretation, the Board shall direct NERC Staff to file the document(s) for approval with Applicable Governmental Authorities.

3.2: Registered Ballot Body

The Registered Ballot Body comprises all entities or individuals that qualify for one of the Segments approved by the Board of Trustees[8], and are registered with NERC as potential ballot participants in the voting on Reliability Standards. Each member of the Registered Ballot Body is eligible to join the ballot pool for each Reliability Standard action.

3.3: Ballot Pool

Each Reliability Standard action has its own ballot pool formed of interested members of the Registered Ballot Body. The ballot pool comprises those members of the Registered Ballot Body that respond to a pre-ballot request to participate in that particular Reliability Standard action. The ballot pool votes on each Reliability Standards action. The ballot pool remains in place until all balloting related to that Reliability Standard action has been completed.

3.4: Standards Committee

The Standards Committee serves at the pleasure and direction of the NERC Board of Trustees, and the Board approves the Standards Committee's Charter.[9] Standards Committee members are elected by their respective Segment's stakeholders. The Standards Committee consists of two members of each of the Segments in the Registered Ballot Body.[10] A member of the NERC Reliability Standards Staff shall serve as the non-voting secretary to the Standards Committee.

The Standards Committee is responsible for managing the Reliability Standards processes for development of Reliability Standards, definitions, Variances and Interpretations in accordance with this manual. The responsibilities of the Standards Committee are defined in detail in the Standards Committee's Charter. The Standards Committee is responsible for ensuring that the Reliability Standards, definitions, Variances and Interpretations developed by drafting teams are developed in accordance with the processes in this manual and meet NERC's benchmarks for Reliability Standards as well as criteria for governmental approval.[11]

The Standards Committee has the right to remand work to a drafting team, to reject the work of a drafting team, or to accept the work of a drafting team. The Standards Committee may disband a drafting team if it determines (a) that the drafting team is not producing a standard in a timely manner; (b) the drafting

[8] The industry Segment qualifications are described in the Development of the Registered Ballot Body and Segment Qualification Guidelines document posted on the Reliability Standards Resources web page and are included in Appendix 3D of the NERC Rules of Procedure.

[9] The Standards Committee Charter is posted on the Reliability Standards Resources web page.

[10] In addition to balanced Segment representation, the Standards Committee shall also have representation that is balanced among countries based on Net Energy for Load ("NEL"). As needed, the Board of Trustees may approve special procedures for the balancing of representation among countries represented within NERC.

[11] The Ten Benchmarks of an Excellent Reliability Standard and FERC's Criteria for Approving Reliability Standards are posted on the Reliability Standards Resources web page.

team is not able to produce a standard that will achieve industry consensus; (c) the drafting team has not addressed the scope of the SAR; or (d) the drafting team has failed to fully address a regulatory directive or otherwise provided a responsive or equally efficient and effective alternative. The Standards Committee may direct a drafting team to revise its work to follow the processes in this manual or to meet the criteria for NERC's benchmarks for Reliability Standards, or to meet the criteria for governmental approval; however, the Standards Committee shall not direct a drafting team to change the technical content of a draft Reliability Standard.

The Standards Committee shall meet at regularly scheduled intervals (either in person, or by other means). All Standards Committee meetings are open to all interested parties.

3.5: NERC Reliability Standards Staff

The NERC Reliability Standards Staff, led by the Director of Standards, is responsible for administering NERC's Reliability Standards processes in accordance with this manual. The NERC Reliability Standards Staff provides support to the Standards Committee in managing the Reliability Standards processes and in supporting the work of all drafting teams. The NERC Reliability Standards Staff works to ensure the integrity of the Reliability Standards processes and consistency of quality and completeness of the Reliability Standards. The NERC Reliability Standards Staff facilitates all steps in the development of Reliability Standards, definitions, Variances, Interpretations and associated implementation plans.

The NERC Reliability Standards Staff is responsible for presenting Reliability Standards, definitions, Variances, and Interpretations to the NERC Board of Trustees for adoption. When presenting Reliability Standards-related documents to the NERC Board of Trustees for adoption or approval, the NERC Reliability Standards Staff shall report the results of the associated stakeholder ballot, including identification of unresolved stakeholder objections and an assessment of the document's practicality and enforceability.

3.6: Drafting Teams

The Standards Committee shall appoint industry experts to drafting teams to work with stakeholders in developing and refining Standard Authorization Requests ("SARs"), Reliability Standards, definitions, and Variances. The NERC Reliability Standards Staff shall appoint drafting teams that develop Interpretations. The NERC Reliability Standards Staff shall provide, or solicit from the industry, essential support for each of the drafting teams in the form of technical writers, legal, compliance, and rigorous and highly trained project management and facilitation support personnel.

Each drafting team may consist of a group of technical, legal, and compliance experts that work cooperatively with the support of the NERC Reliability Standards Staff.[12] The technical experts provide the subject matter expertise and guide the development of the technical aspects of the Reliability Standard, assisted by technical writers, legal and compliance experts. The technical experts maintain authority over the technical details of the Reliability Standard. Each drafting team appointed to develop a Reliability Standard is responsible for following the processes identified in this manual as well as procedures developed by the Standards Committee from the inception of the assigned project through the final acceptance of that project by Applicable Governmental Authorities.

Collectively, each drafting team:

- Drafts proposed language for the Reliability Standards, definitions, Variances, and/or Interpretations and associated implementation plans.

[12] The detailed responsibilities of drafting teams are outlined in the Drafting Team Guidelines, which is posted on the Reliability Standards Resources web page.

- Develops and refines technical documents that aid in the understanding of Reliability Standards.
- Works collaboratively with NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Staff to develop Reliability Standard Audit Worksheets ("RSAWs") at the same time Reliability Standards are developed.
- Provides assistance to NERC Staff in the development of Compliance Elements of proposed Reliability Standards.
- Solicits, considers, and responds to comments related to the specific Reliability Standards development project.
- Participates in industry forums to help build consensus on the draft Reliability Standards, definitions, Variances, and/or Interpretations and associated implementation plans.
- Assists in developing the documentation used to obtain governmental approval of the Reliability Standards, definitions, Variances, and/or Interpretations and associated implementation plans.

All drafting teams report to the Standards Committee.

3.7: Governmental Authorities

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("FERC") in the United States of America, and where permissible by statute or regulation, the provincial government of each of the eight Canadian Provinces (Manitoba, Nova Scotia, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Ontario, British Columbia, New Brunswick and Quebec) and the National Energy Board of Canada have the authority to approve each new, revised or withdrawn Reliability Standard, definition, Variance, VRF, VSL and Interpretation following adoption or approval by the NERC Board of Trustees.

3.8: Committees, Subcommittees, Working Groups, and Task Forces

NERC's technical committees, subcommittees, working groups, and task forces provide technical research and analysis used to justify the development of new Reliability Standards and provide guidance, when requested by the Standards Committee, in overseeing field tests or collection and analysis of data. The technical committees, subcommittees, working groups, and task forces provide feedback to drafting teams during both informal and formal comment periods.

The Standards Committee may request that a NERC technical committee or other group prepare a Technical document to support development of a proposed Reliability Standard.

The technical committees, subcommittees, working groups, and task forces share their observations regarding the need for new or modified Reliability Standards or Requirements with the NERC Reliability Standards Staff for use in identifying the need for new Reliability Standards projects for the three-year *Reliability Standards Development Plan*.

3.9: Compliance and Certification Committee

The Compliance and Certification Committee is responsible for monitoring NERC's compliance with its Reliability Standards processes and procedures and for monitoring NERC's compliance with the Rules of Procedure regarding the development of new or revised Reliability Standards, definitions, Variances, and Interpretations. The Compliance and Certification Committee may assist in verifying that each proposed Reliability Standard is enforceable as written before the Reliability Standard is posted for formal stakeholder comment and balloting.

3.10: Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program

As applicable, the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program Staff manages and enforces compliance with approved Reliability Standards. Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Staff are responsible for the development of select compliance tools. The drafting team and the Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program Staff shall work together during the Reliability Standard development process to ensure an accurate and consistent understanding of the Requirements and their intent, and to ensure that applicable compliance tools accurately reflect that intent. The goal of this collaboration is to ensure that application of the Reliability Standards in the Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program by NERC and the Regional Entities is consistent.

The Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program is encouraged to share its observations regarding the need for new or modified Requirements with the NERC Reliability Standards Staff for use in identifying the need for new Reliability Standards projects.

3.11: North American Energy Standards Board ("NAESB")

While NERC has responsibility for developing Reliability Standards to support reliability, NAESB has responsibility for developing business practices and coordination between reliability and business practices as needed. NERC and NAESB developed and approved a procedure[13] to guide the development of Reliability Standards and business practices where the reliability and business practice components are intricately entwined within a proposed Reliability Standard.

[13] The NERC NAESB Template Procedure for Joint Standards Development and Coordination is posted on the Reliability Standards Resources web page.

Section 4.0: Process for Developing, Modifying, Withdrawing or Retiring a Reliability Standard

There are several steps to the development, modification, withdrawal or retirement of a Reliability Standard.[14]

The development of the *Reliability Standards Development Plan* is the appropriate forum for reaching agreement on whether there is a need for a Reliability Standard and the scope of a proposed Reliability Standard. A typical process for a project identified in the *Reliability Standards Development Plan* that involves a revision to an existing Reliability Standard is shown below. Note that most projects do not include a field test.

[14] The process described is also applicable to projects used to propose a new or modified definition or Variance or to propose retirement of a definition or Variance.

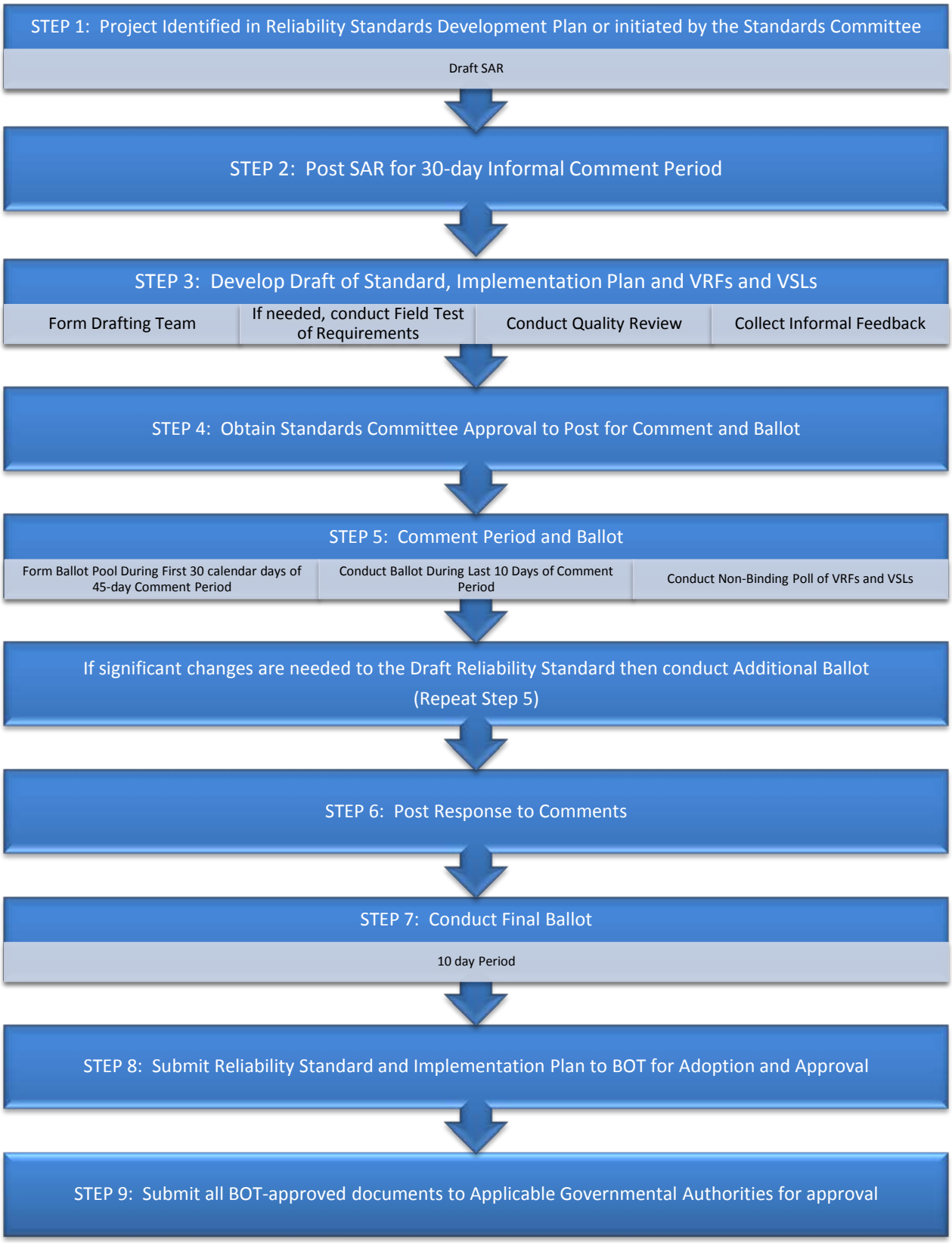


FIGURE 1: Process for Developing or Modifying a Reliability Standard

4.1: Posting and Collecting Information on SARs

Standard Authorization Request

A Standard Authorization Request ("SAR") is the form used to document the scope and reliability benefit of a proposed project for one or more new or modified Reliability Standards or definitions or the benefit of retiring one or more approved Reliability Standards. Any entity or individual, including NERC committees or subgroups and NERC Staff, may propose the development of a new or modified Reliability Standard, or may propose the retirement of a Reliability Standard (in whole or in part), by submitting a completed SAR[15] to the NERC Reliability Standards Staff. The Standards Committee has the authority to approve the posting of all SARs for projects that propose (i) developing a new or modified Reliability Standard or definition or (ii) propose retirement of an existing Reliability Standard (or elements thereof).

The NERC Reliability Standards Staff sponsors an open solicitation period each year seeking ideas for new Reliability Standards projects (using *Reliability Standards Suggestions and Comments forms*). The open solicitation period is held in conjunction with the annual revision to the *Reliability Standards Development Plan*. While the Standards Committee prefers that ideas for new projects be submitted during this annual solicitation period through submittal of a *Reliability Standards Suggestions and Comments Form*,[16] a SAR proposing a specific project may be submitted to the NERC Reliability Standards Staff at any time.

Each SAR that proposes a "new" or substantially revised Reliability Standard or definition should be accompanied by a technical justification that includes, as a minimum, a discussion of the reliability-related benefits and costs of developing the new Reliability Standard or definition, and a technical foundation document (*e.g.*, research paper) to guide the development of the Reliability Standard or definition. The technical document should address the engineering, planning and operational basis for the proposed Reliability Standard or definition, as well as any alternative approaches considered during SAR development.

The NERC Reliability Standards Staff shall review each SAR and work with the submitter to verify that all required information has been provided. All properly completed SARs shall be submitted to the Standards Committee for action at the next regularly scheduled Standards Committee meeting.

When presented with a SAR, the Standards Committee shall determine if the SAR is sufficiently complete to guide Reliability Standard development and whether the SAR is consistent with this manual. The Standards Committee shall take one of the following actions:

- Accept the SAR.
- Remand the SAR back to the requestor or to NERC Reliability Standards Staff for additional work.
- Reject the SAR. The Standards Committee may reject a SAR for good cause. If the Standards Committee rejects a SAR, it shall provide a written explanation for rejection to the sponsor within ten days of the rejection decision.
- Delay action on the SAR pending one of the following: (i) development of a technical justification for the proposed project; or (ii) consultation with another NERC Committee to determine if there is another approach to addressing the issue raised in the SAR.

If the Standards Committee is presented with a SAR that proposes developing a new Reliability Standard or definition but does not have a technical justification upon which the Reliability Standard or definition

[15] The SAR form can be downloaded from the Reliability Standards Resources web page.
[16] The *Reliability Standards Suggestions and Comments Form* can be downloaded from the Reliability Standards Resources web page.

can be developed, the Standards Committee shall direct the NERC Reliability Standards Staff to post the SAR for a 30-day comment period solely to collect stakeholder feedback on the scope of technical foundation, if any, needed to support the proposed project. If a technical foundation is determined to be necessary, the Standards Committee shall solicit assistance from NERC's technical committees or other industry experts to provide that foundation before authorizing development of the associated Reliability Standard or definition.

During the SAR comment process, the drafting team may become aware of potential regional Variances related to the proposed Reliability Standard. To the extent possible, any regional Variances or exceptions should be made a part of the SAR so that if the SAR is authorized, such variations shall be made a part of the draft new or revised Reliability Standard.

If the Standards Committee accepts a SAR, the project shall be added to the list of approved projects. The Standards Committee shall assign a priority to the project, relative to all other projects under development, and those projects already identified in the *Reliability Standards Development Plan* that are already approved for development.

The Standards Committee shall work with the NERC Reliability Standards Staff to coordinate the posting of SARs for new projects, giving consideration to each project's priority.

4.2: SAR Posting

When the Standards Committee determines it is ready to initiate a new project, the Standards Committee shall direct NERC Staff to post the project's SAR in accordance with the following:

- For SARs that are limited to addressing regulatory directives, or revisions to Reliability Standards that have had some vetting in the industry, authorize posting the SAR for a 30-day informal comment period with no requirement to provide a formal response to the comments received.
- For SARs that address the development of new projects or Reliability Standards, authorize posting the SAR for a 30-day formal comment period.

If a SAR for a new Reliability Standard is posted for a formal comment period, the Standards Committee shall appoint a drafting team to work with the NERC Staff coordinator to give prompt consideration of the written views and objections of all participants. The Standards Committee may use a public nomination process to populate the Reliability Standard drafting team, or may use another method that results in a team that collectively has the necessary technical expertise and work process skills to meet the objectives of the project. In some situations, an *ad hoc* team may already be in place with the requisite expertise, competencies, and diversity of views that are necessary to refine the SAR and develop the Reliability Standard, and additional members may not be needed. The drafting team shall address all comments submitted, which may be in the form of a summary response addressing each of the issues raised in comments received, during the public posting period. An effort to resolve all expressed objections shall be made, and each objector shall be advised of the disposition of the objection and the reasons therefore. If the drafting team concludes that there is not sufficient stakeholder support to continue to refine the SAR, the team may recommend that the Standards Committee direct curtailment of work on the SAR.

While there is no established limit on the number of times a SAR may be posted for comment, the Standards Committee retains the right to reverse its prior decision and reject a SAR if it believes continued revisions are not productive. The Standards Committee shall notify the sponsor in writing of the rejection within 10 calendar days.

If stakeholders indicate support for the project proposed with the SAR, the drafting team shall present its work to the Standards Committee with a request that the Standards Committee authorize development of the associated Reliability Standard.

The Standards Committee, once again considering the public comments received and their resolution, may then take one of the following actions:

- Authorize drafting the proposed Reliability Standard or revisions to a Reliability Standard.
- Reject the SAR with a written explanation to the sponsor and post that explanation.

4.3: Form Drafting Team

When the Standards Committee is ready to have a drafting team begin work on developing a new or revised Reliability Standard, the Standards Committee shall appoint a drafting team, if one was not already appointed to develop the SAR. If the Standards Committee appointed a drafting team to refine the SAR, the same drafting team shall work to develop the associated Reliability Standard.

If no drafting team is in place, then the Standards Committee may use a public nomination process to populate the Reliability Standard drafting team, or may use another method that results in a team that collectively has the necessary technical expertise, diversity of views and work process skills to accomplish the objectives of the project on a timely basis. In some situations, an ad hoc team may already be in place with the requisite expertise, competencies, and diversity of views that are necessary to develop the Reliability Standard, and additional members may not be needed.

The NERC Reliability Standards Staff shall provide one or more members as needed to support the team with facilitation, project management, compliance, legal, regulatory and technical writing expertise and shall provide administrative support to the team, guiding the team through the steps in completing its project. In developing the Reliability Standard, the individuals provided by the NERC Reliability Standards Staff serve as advisors to the drafting team and do not have voting rights but share accountability along with the drafting team members assigned by the Standards Committee for timely delivery of a final draft Reliability Standard that meets the quality attributes identified in NERC's Benchmarks for Excellent Standards. The drafting team members assigned by the Standards Committee shall have final authority over the technical details of the Reliability Standard, while the technical writer shall provide assistance to the drafting team in assuring that the final draft of the Reliability Standard meets the quality attributes identified in NERC's Benchmarks for Excellent Standards.

Once it is appointed by the Standards Committee, the Reliability Standard drafting team is responsible for making recommendations to the Standards Committee regarding the remaining steps in the Reliability Standards process. Consistent with the need to provide for timely standards development, the Standards Committee may decide a project is so large that it should be subdivided and either assigned to more than one drafting team or assigned to a single drafting team with clear direction on completing the project in specified phases. The normally expected timeframes for standards development within the context of this manual are applicable to individual standards and not to projects containing multiple standards. Alternatively, a single drafting team may address the entire project with a commensurate increase in the expected duration of the development work. If a SAR is subdivided and assigned to more than one drafting team, each drafting team will have a clearly defined portion of the work such that there are no overlaps and no gaps in the work to be accomplished.

The Standards Committee may supplement the membership of a Reliability Standard drafting team or provide for additional advisors, as appropriate, to ensure the necessary competencies and diversity of views are maintained throughout the Reliability Standard development effort.

4.4: Develop Preliminary Draft of Reliability Standard, Implementation Plan and VRFs and VSLs

4.4.1: Project Schedule

When a drafting team begins its work, either in refining a SAR or in developing or revising a proposed Reliability Standard, the drafting team shall develop a project schedule which shall be approved by the Standards Committee. The drafting team shall report progress to the Standards Committee, against the initial project schedule and any revised schedule as requested by the Standards Committee. Where project milestones cannot be completed on a timely basis, modifications to the project schedule must be presented to the Standards Committee for consideration along with proposed steps to minimize unplanned project delays.

4.4.2: Draft Reliability Standard

The team shall develop a Reliability Standard that is within the scope of the associated SAR that includes all required elements as described earlier in this manual with a goal of meeting the quality attributes identified in NERC's Benchmarks for Excellent Standards and criteria for governmental approval. The team shall document its justification for the Requirements in its proposed Reliability Standard by explaining how each meets these criteria. The standard drafting team shall document its justification for selecting each reference by explaining how each Requirement fits the category chosen.

4.4.3: Implementation Plan

As a drafting team drafts its proposed revisions to a Reliability Standard, that team is also required to develop an implementation plan to identify any factors for consideration when approving the proposed effective date or dates for the associated Reliability Standard or Standards. As a minimum, the implementation plan shall include the following:

- The proposed effective date (the date entities shall be compliant) for the Requirements.
- Identification of any new or modified definitions that are proposed for approval with the associated Reliability Standard.
- Whether there are any prerequisite actions that need to be accomplished before entities are held responsible for compliance with one or more of the Requirements.
- Whether approval of the proposed Reliability Standard will necessitate any conforming changes to any already approved Reliability Standards – and identification of those Reliability Standards and Requirements.
- The Functional Entities that will be required to comply with one or more Requirements in the proposed Reliability Standard.

A single implementation plan may be used for more than one Reliability Standard. The implementation plan is posted with the associated Reliability Standard or Standards during the 45 (calendar) day formal comment period and is balloted with the associated Reliability Standard.

4.4.4: Violation Risk Factors and Violation Severity Levels

The drafting team shall work with NERC Staff in developing a set of VRFs and VSLs that meet the latest criteria established by NERC and Applicable Governmental Authorities. The drafting team shall document its justification for selecting each VRF and for setting each set of proposed VSLs by explaining how its proposed VRFs and VSLs meet these criteria. NERC Staff is responsible for ensuring that the VRFs and VSLs proposed for stakeholder review meet these criteria.

Before the drafting team has finalized its Reliability Standard, implementation plan, and VRFs and VSLs, the team should seek stakeholder feedback on its preliminary draft documents.

4.5: Informal Feedback[17]

Drafting teams may use a variety of methods to collect informal stakeholder feedback on preliminary drafts of its documents, including the use of informal comment periods,[18] webinars, industry meetings, workshops, or other mechanisms. Information gathered from informal comment forms shall be publicly posted. While drafting teams are not required to provide a written response to each individual comment received, drafting teams are encouraged, where possible, to post a summary response that identifies how it used comments submitted by stakeholders. Drafting teams are encouraged, where possible, to reach out directly to individual stakeholders in order to facilitate resolution of identified stakeholder concerns. The intent is to gather stakeholder feedback on a "working document" before the document reaches the point where it is considered the "final draft."

4.6: Conduct Quality Review

The NERC Reliability Standards Staff shall coordinate a quality review of the Reliability Standard, implementation plan, and VRFs and VSLs in parallel with the development of the Reliability Standard and implementation plan, to assess whether the documents are within the scope of the associated SAR, whether the Reliability Standard is clear and enforceable as written, and whether the Reliability Standard meets the criteria specified in NERC's Benchmarks for Excellent Standards and criteria for governmental approval of Reliability Standards. The drafting team shall consider the results of the quality review, decide upon appropriate changes, and recommend to the Standards Committee whether the documents are ready for formal posting and balloting.

The Standards Committee shall authorize posting the proposed Reliability Standard, and implementation plan for a formal comment period and ballot and the VRFs and VSLs for a non-binding poll as soon as the work flow will accommodate.

If the Standards Committee finds that any of the documents do not meet the specified criteria, the Standards Committee shall remand the documents to the drafting team for additional work.

If the Reliability Standard is outside the scope of the associated SAR, the drafting team shall be directed to either revise the Reliability Standard so that it is within the approved scope, or submit a request to expand the scope of the approved SAR. If the Reliability Standard is not clear and enforceable as written, or if the Reliability Standard does not meet the specified criteria, the Reliability Standard shall be returned to the drafting team by the Standards Committee with specific identification of any Requirement that is deemed to be unclear or unenforceable as written.

4.7: Conduct Formal Comment Period and Ballot

Proposed new or modified Reliability Standards require a formal comment period where the new or modified Reliability Standard, implementation plan and associated VRFs and VSLs or the proposal to retire a Reliability Standard, implementation plan and associated VRFs and VSLs are posted.

The formal comment period shall be at least 45-days long. Formation of the ballot pool and Ballot of the Reliability Standard take place during this formal 45-day comment period. The intent of the formal

[17] While this discussion focuses on collecting stakeholder feedback on proposed Reliability Standards and implementation plans, the same process is used to collect stakeholder feedback on proposed new or modified Interpretations, definitions and Variances.

[18] The term "informal comment period" refers to a comment period conducted outside of the ballot process and where there is no requirement for a drafting team to respond in writing to submitted comments.

comment period(s) is to solicit very specific feedback on the final draft of the Reliability Standard, implementation plan and VRFs and VSLs.

Comments in written form may be submitted on a draft Reliability Standard by any interested stakeholder, including NERC Staff, FERC Staff, and other interested governmental authorities. If stakeholders disagree with some aspect of the proposed set of products, comments provided should explain the reasons for such disagreement and, where possible, suggest specific language that would make the product acceptable to the stakeholder.

4.8: Form Ballot Pool

The NERC Reliability Standards Staff shall establish a ballot pool during the first 30 calendar days of the 45-day formal comment period. The NERC Reliability Standards Staff shall post the proposed Reliability Standard, along with its implementation plan, VRFs and VSLs and shall send a notice to every entity in the Registered Ballot Body to provide notice that there is a new or revised Reliability Standard proposed for approval and to solicit participants for the associated ballot pool. All members of the Registered Ballot Body are eligible to join each ballot pool to vote on a new or revised Reliability Standard and its implementation plan and to participate in the non-binding poll of the associated VRFs and VSLs.

Any member of the Registered Ballot Body may join or withdraw from the ballot pool until the ballot window opens. No Registered Ballot Body member may join or withdraw from the ballot pool once the first ballot starts through the point in time where balloting for that Reliability Standard action has ended. The Director of Standards may authorize deviations from this rule for extraordinary circumstances such as the death, retirement, or disability of a ballot pool member that would prevent an entity that had a member in the ballot pool from eligibility to cast a vote during the ballot window. Any approved deviation shall be documented and noted to the Standards Committee.

4.9: Conduct Ballot and Non-binding Poll of VRFs and VSLs[19]

The NERC Reliability Standards Staff shall announce the opening of the Ballot window and the non-binding poll of VRFs and VSLs. The Ballot window and non-binding poll of VRFs and VSLs shall take place during the last 10 calendar days of the 45-day formal comment period and for the Final Ballot shall be no less than 10 calendar days. If the last day of the ballot window falls on a Saturday or Sunday, the period does not end until the next business day.[20]

The ballot and non-binding poll shall be conducted electronically. The voting window shall be for a period of 10 calendar days but shall be extended, if needed, until a quorum is achieved. During a ballot window, NERC shall not sponsor or facilitate public discussion of the Reliability Standard action under ballot.

There is no requirement to conduct a new non-binding poll of the revised VRFs and VSLs if no changes were made to the associated standard, however if the requirements are modified and conforming changes are made to the associated VRFs and VSLs, another non-binding poll of the revised VRFs and VSLs shall be conducted.

[19] While RSAWs are not part of the Reliability Standard, they are developed through collaboration of the SDT and NERC Compliance Staff. A non-binding poll, similar to what is done for VRFs and VSLs may be conducted for the RSAW developed through this process to gauge industry support for the companion RSAW to be provided for informational purposes to the NERC Board of Trustees.

[20] Closing dates may be extended as deemed appropriate by NERC Staff.

4.10: Criteria for Ballot Pool Approval

Ballot pool approval of a Reliability Standard requires:

A quorum, which is established by at least 75% of the members of the ballot pool submitting a response; and

A two-thirds majority of the weighted Segment votes cast shall be affirmative. The number of votes cast is the sum of affirmative votes and negative votes with comments. This calculation of votes for the purpose of determining consensus excludes (i) abstentions, (ii) non-responses, and (iii) negative votes without comments.

The following process[21] is used to determine if there are sufficient affirmative votes.

- For each Segment with ten or more voters, the following process shall be used: The number of affirmative votes cast shall be divided by the sum of affirmative and negative votes with comments cast to determine the fractional affirmative vote for that Segment. Abstentions, non-responses, and negative votes without comments shall not be counted for the purposes of determining the fractional affirmative vote for a Segment.
- For each Segment with less than ten voters, the vote weight of that Segment shall be proportionally reduced. Each voter within that Segment voting affirmative or negative with comments shall receive a weight of 10% of the Segment vote.
- The sum of the fractional affirmative votes from all Segments divided by the number of Segments voting[22] shall be used to determine if a two-thirds majority has been achieved. (A Segment shall be considered as "voting" if any member of the Segment in the ballot pool casts either an affirmative vote or a negative vote with comments.)
- A Reliability Standard shall be approved if the sum of fractional affirmative votes from all Segments divided by the number of voting Segments is at least two thirds.

4.11: Voting Positions

Each member of the ballot pool may **only** vote one of the following positions on the Ballot and Additional Ballot(s):

- Affirmative;
- Affirmative, with comment;
- Negative with comments;
- Abstain.

Given that there is no formal comment period concurrent with the Final Ballot, each member of the ballot pool may **only** vote one of the following positions on the Final Ballot:

- Affirmative;
- Negative;[23]
- Abstain.

[21] Examples of weighted segment voting calculation are posted on the Reliability Standards Resources web page.

[22] When less than ten entities vote in a Segment, the total weight for that Segment shall be determined as one tenth per entity voting, up to ten.

[23] The Final Ballot is used to confirm consensus achieved during the Formal Comment and Ballot stage. Ballot Pool members voting negative on the Final Ballot will be deemed to have expressed the reason for their negative ballot in their own comments or the comments of others during prior Formal Comment periods.

4.12: Consideration of Comments
If a stakeholder or balloter proposes a significant revision to a Reliability Standard during the formal comment period or concurrent Ballot that will improve the quality, clarity, or enforceability of that Reliability Standard, then the drafting team may choose to make such revisions and post the revised Reliability Standard for another 45 calendar day public comment period and ballot. Prior to posting the revised Reliability Standard for an additional comment period, the drafting team must communicate this decision to stakeholders. This communication is intended to inform stakeholders that the drafting team has identified that significant revisions to the Reliability Standard are necessary and should note that the drafting team is not required to respond in writing to comments from the previous ballot. The drafting team will respond to comments received in the last Additional Ballot prior to conducting a Final Ballot.

There is no formal comment period concurrent with the Final Ballot and no obligation for the drafting team to respond to any comments submitted during the Final Ballot.

4.13: Additional Ballots
A drafting team must respond in writing to every stakeholder written comment submitted in response to a ballot prior to conducting a Final Ballot. These responses may be provided in summary form, but all comments and objections must be responded to by the drafting team. All comments received and all responses shall be publicly posted.

However, a drafting team is not required to respond in writing to comments to the previous ballot when it determines that significant changes are needed and an Additional Ballot will be conducted.

4.14: **Conduct Final Ballot**
When the drafting team has reached a point where it has made a good faith effort at resolving applicable objections and is not making any substantive changes from the previous ballot, the team shall conduct a "Final Ballot." A non-substantive revision is a revision that does not change the scope, applicability, or intent of any Requirement and includes but is not limited to things such as correcting the numbering of a Requirement, correcting the spelling of a word, adding an obviously missing word, or rephrasing a Requirement for improved clarity. Where there is a question as to whether a proposed modification is "substantive," the Standards Committee shall make the final determination.

In the Final Ballot, members of the ballot pool shall again be presented the proposed Reliability Standard along with the reasons for negative votes from the previous ballot, the responses of the drafting team to those concerns, and any resolution of the differences.

All members of the ballot pool shall be permitted to reconsider and change their vote from the prior ballot. Members of the ballot pool who did not respond to the prior ballot shall be permitted to vote in the Final Ballot. In the Final Ballot, votes shall be counted by exception only — members on the Final Ballot may indicate a revision to their original vote; otherwise their vote shall remain the same as in their prior ballot.

4.15: Final Ballot Results
There are no limits to the number of public comment periods and ballots that can be conducted to result in a Reliability Standard or interpretation that is clear and enforceable, and achieves a quorum and sufficient affirmative votes for approval. The Standards Committee has the authority to conclude this process for a particular Reliability Standards action if it becomes obvious that the drafting team cannot develop a Reliability Standard that is within the scope of the associated SAR, is sufficiently clear to be enforceable, and achieves the requisite weighted Segment approval percentage.

The NERC Reliability Standards Staff shall post the final outcome of the ballot process. If the Reliability Standard is rejected, the Standards Committee may decide whether to end all further work on the

proposed standard, return the project to informal development, or continue holding ballots to attempt to reach consensus on the proposed standard. If the Reliability Standard is approved, the Reliability Standard shall be posted and presented to the Board of Trustees by NERC management for adoption and subsequently filed with Applicable Governmental Authorities for approval.

4.16: Board of Trustees Adoption of Reliability Standards, Implementation Plan and VRFs and VSLs

If a Reliability Standard and its associated implementation plan are approved by its ballot pool, the Board of Trustees shall consider adoption of that Reliability Standard and its associated implementation plan and shall direct the standard to be filed with Applicable Governmental Authorities for approval. In making its decision, the Board shall consider the results of the balloting and unresolved dissenting opinions. The Board shall adopt or reject a Reliability Standard and its implementation plan, but shall not modify a proposed Reliability Standard. If the Board chooses not to adopt a Reliability Standard, it shall provide its reasons for not doing so.

The board shall consider approval of the VRFs and VSLs associated with a reliability standard. In making its determination, the board shall consider the following:

- The Standards Committee shall present the results of the non-binding poll conducted and a summary of industry comments received on the final posting of the proposed VRFs and VSLs.
- NERC Staff shall present a set of recommended VRFs and VSLs that considers the views of the standard drafting team, stakeholder comments received on the draft VRFs and VSLs during the posting for comment process, the non-binding poll results, appropriate governmental agency rules and directives, and VRF and VSL assignments for other Reliability Standards to ensure consistency and relevance across the entire spectrum of Reliability Standards.

4.17: Compliance

For a Reliability Standard to be enforceable, it shall be approved by its ballot pool, adopted by the NERC Board of Trustees, and approved by Applicable Governmental Authorities, unless otherwise approved by the NERC Board of Trustees pursuant to the NERC Rules of Procedure (*e.g*, Section 321) and approved by Applicable Governmental Authorities. Once a Reliability Standard is approved or otherwise made mandatory by Applicable Governmental Authorities, all persons and organizations subject to jurisdiction of the ERO will be required to comply with the Reliability Standard in accordance with applicable statutes, regulations, and agreements.

4.18: Withdrawal of a Reliability Standard, Interpretation, or Definition

The term "withdrawal" as used herein, refers to the discontinuation of a Reliability Standard, Interpretation, Variance or definition that has been approved by the Board of Trustees and (1) has not been filed with Applicable Governmental Authorities, or (2) has been filed with, but not yet approved by, Applicable Governmental Authorities. The Standards Committee may withdraw a Reliability Standard, Interpretation or definition for good cause upon approval by the Board of Trustees. Upon approval by the Board of Trustees, NERC Staff will petition the Applicable Governmental Authorities, as needed, to allow for withdrawal. The Board of Trustees also has an independent right of withdrawal that is unaffected by the terms and conditions of this Section.

4.19: Retirement of a Reliability Standard, Interpretation, or Definition

The term "retirement" refers to the discontinuation of a Reliability Standard, Interpretation or definition that has been approved by Applicable Governmental Authorities. A Reliability Standard, Variance or Definition may be retired when it is superseded by a revised version, and in such cases the retirement of

the earlier version is to be noted in the implementation plan presented to the ballot pool for approval and the retirement shall be considered approved by the ballot pool upon ballot pool approval of the revised version.

Upon identification of a need to retire a Reliability Standard, Variance, Interpretation or definition, where the item will not be superseded by a new or revised version, a SAR containing the proposal to retire a Reliability Standard, Variance, Interpretation or definition will be posted for a comment period and ballot in the same manner as a Reliability Standard. The proposal shall include the rationale for the retirement and a statement regarding the impact of retirement on the reliability of the Bulk Power System. Upon approval by the Board of Trustees, NERC Staff will petition the Applicable Governmental Authorities to allow for retirement.

Section 5.0: Process for Developing a Defined Term

NERC maintains a glossary of approved terms, entitled the *Glossary of Terms Used in NERC Reliability Standards*[24] ("Glossary of Terms"). The Glossary of Terms includes terms that have been through the formal approval process and are used in one or more NERC Reliability Standards. Definitions shall not contain statements of performance Requirements. The Glossary of Terms is intended to provide consistency throughout the Reliability Standards.

There are several methods that can be used to add, modify or retire a defined term used in a continent-wide Reliability Standard.

- Anyone can use a Standard Authorization Request ("SAR") to submit a request to add, modify, or retire a defined term.
- Anyone can submit a Standards Comments and Suggestions Form recommending the addition, modification, or retirement of a defined term. (The suggestion would be added to a project and incorporated into a SAR.)
- A drafting team may propose to add, modify, or retire a defined term in conjunction with the work it is already performing.

5.1: Proposals to Develop a New or Revised Definition

The following considerations should be made when considering proposals for new or revised definitions:

- Some NERC Regional Entities have defined terms that have been approved for use in Regional Reliability Standards, and where the drafting team agrees with a term already defined by a Regional Entity, the same definition should be adopted if needed to support a NERC Reliability Standard.
- If a term is used in a Reliability Standard according to its common meaning (as found in a collegiate dictionary), the term shall not be proposed for addition to the Glossary of Terms.
- If a term has already been defined, any proposal to modify or delete that term shall consider all uses of the definition in approved Reliability Standards, with a goal of determining whether the proposed modification is acceptable, and whether the proposed modification would change the scope or intent of any approved Reliability Standards.
- When practical, where NAESB has a definition for a term, the drafting team shall use the same definition to support a NERC Reliability Standard.

Any definition that is balloted separately from a proposed new or modified Reliability Standard or from a proposal for retirement of a Reliability Standard shall be accompanied by an implementation plan.

If a SAR is submitted to the NERC Reliability Standards Staff with a proposal for a new or revised definition, the Standards Committee shall consider the urgency of developing the new or revised definition and may direct NERC Staff to post the SAR immediately, or may defer posting the SAR until a later time based on its priority relative to other projects already underway or already approved for future development. If the SAR identifies a term that is used in a Reliability Standard already under revision by a drafting team, the Standards Committee may direct the drafting team to add the term to the scope of the existing project. Each time the Standards Committee accepts a SAR for a project that was not identified in the *Reliability Standards Development Plan*, the project shall be added to the list of approved projects.

[24] The latest approved version of the Glossary of Terms is posted on the NERC website on the Standards web page.

5.2: Stakeholder Comments and Approvals

Any proposal for a new or revised definition shall be processed in the same manner as a Reliability Standard and quality review shall be conducted in parallel with this process. Once authorized by the Standards Committee, the proposed definition and its implementation plan shall be posted for at least one formal stakeholder comment period and shall be balloted in the same manner as a Reliability Standard. If a new or revised definition is proposed by a drafting team, that definition may be balloted separately from the associated Reliability Standard.

Each definition that is approved by its ballot pool shall be submitted to the NERC Board of Trustees for adoption and then filed with Applicable Governmental Authorities for approval in the same manner as a Reliability Standard.

Section 6.0: Processes for Conducting Field Tests and Collecting and Analyzing Data

While most drafting teams can develop their Reliability Standards without the need to conduct any field tests and without the need to collect and analyze data, some Reliability Standard development efforts may require field tests to analyze data and validate concepts in the development of Reliability Standards.

There are two types of field tests – tests of concepts and tests of requirements.

6.1: Field Tests and Data Analysis for Validation of Concepts

Field tests or collection and analysis of data to validate concepts that support the development of Requirements should be conducted before the SAR for a project is finalized. If an entity wants to test a technical concept in support of a proposal for a new or revised Reliability Standard, the entity should either work with one of NERC's technical committees in collecting and analyzing the data or in conducting the field test, or the entity should submit a SAR with a request to collect and analyze data or conduct a field test to validate the concept prior to developing a new or revised Reliability Standard. The request to collect and analyze data or conduct a field test should include, at a minimum, either the data collection and analysis or field test plan, the implementation schedule, and an expectation for periodic updates of the analysis of the results. If the SAR sponsor has not collected and analyzed the data or conducted the field test, the Standards Committee may solicit support from NERC's technical committees or others in the industry. The results of the data collection and analysis or field test shall then be used to determine whether to add the SAR to the list of projects in the Reliability Standard Development Plan.

If a drafting team finds that it needs to collect and analyze data or conduct a field test of a concept that was not identified when the SAR was accepted, then the Standards Committee may direct the team to withdraw the SAR until the data has been collected and analyzed or until the field test has been conducted and the industry has had an opportunity to review the results for the impact on the scope of the proposed project.

6.2: Field Tests and Data Analysis for Validation of Requirements

If a drafting team wants to conduct a field test or collect and analyze data to validate its proposed Requirements in a Reliability Standard, the team shall first obtain approval from the Standards Committee.[25] Drafting teams are not required to collect and analyze data or to conduct a field test to validate a Reliability Standard.

The request should include at a minimum the data collection and analysis or field test plan, the implementation schedule, and an expectation for periodic updates of the results. When authorizing a drafting team to collect and analyze data or to conduct a field test of one or more Requirements, the Standards Committee may request inputs on technical matters related from NERC's technical committees or industry experts, and may request the assistance of the Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program. All data collection and analysis and all field tests shall be concluded and the results incorporated into the Reliability Standard Requirements as necessary before proceeding to the formal comment period and subsequent balloting.

[25] The Process for Approving Data Collection and Analysis and Field Tests Associated with a Reliability Standard is posted on the Reliability Standards Resources web page.

6.3: Communication and Coordination for All Types of Field Tests and Data Analyses

If the conduct of a field test (concepts or Requirements) or data collection and analysis could render Registered Entities incapable of complying with the current Requirements of an approved Reliability Standard that is undergoing revision, the drafting team shall request a temporary waiver from compliance to those Requirements for entities participating in the field test. Upon request, the Standards Committee shall seek approval for the waiver from the Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program prior to the approval of the field test or data collection and analysis.

Once a plan for a field test or a plan for data collection and analysis is approved, the NERC Reliability Standards Staff shall, under the direction of the Standards Committee, coordinate the implementation of the field test or data collection and analysis and shall provide official notice to the participants in the field test or data collection of any applicable temporary waiver to compliance with specific noted Requirements. The drafting team conducting the field test shall provide periodic updates on the progress of the field tests or data collection and analysis to the Standards Committee. The Standards Committee has the right to curtail a field test or data collection and analysis that is not implemented in accordance with the approved plan.

The field test plan or data collection and analysis plan, its approval, its participants, and all reports and results shall be publicly posted for stakeholder review on the Reliability Standards web page.

If a drafting team conducts or participates in a field test or in data collection and analysis (of concepts or Requirements), it shall provide a final report that identifies the results and how those results will be used.

Section 7.0: Process for Developing an Interpretation

A valid Interpretation request is one that requests additional clarity about one or more Requirements in approved NERC Reliability Standards, but does not request approval as to how to comply with one or more Requirements. A valid Interpretation response provides additional clarity about one or more Requirements, but does not expand on any Requirement and does not explain how to comply with any Requirement. Any entity that is directly and materially affected by the reliability of the North American Bulk Power Systems may request an Interpretation of any Requirement in any continent-wide Reliability Standard that has been adopted by the NERC Board of Trustees. Interpretations will only be provided for Board of Trustees-approved Reliability Standards *i.e.* (i) the current effective version of a Reliability Standard; or (ii) a version of a Reliability Standard with a future effective date.

An Interpretation may only clarify or interpret the Requirements of an approved Reliability Standard, including, if applicable, any attachment referenced in the Requirement being clarified. No other elements of an approved Reliability Standard are subject to Interpretation.

The entity requesting the Interpretation shall submit a *Request for Interpretation* form[26] to the NERC Reliability Standards Staff explaining the clarification required, the specific circumstances surrounding the request, and the impact of not having the Interpretation provided. The NERC Reliability Standards and Legal Staffs shall review the request for interpretation to determine whether it meets the requirements for a valid interpretation. Based on this review, the NERC Standards and Legal Staffs shall make a recommendation to the Standards Committee whether to accept the request for Interpretation and move forward in responding to the Interpretation request.

For example, an Interpretation request may be rejected where it:

(1) Requests approval of a particular compliance approach;
(2) Identifies a gap or perceived weakness in the approved Reliability Standard;
(3) Where an issue can be addressed by an active standard drafting team;
(4) Where it requests clarification of any element of a Reliability Standard other than a Requirement;
(5) Where a question has already been addressed in the record;
(6) Where the Interpretation identifies an issue and proposes the development of a new or modified Reliability Standard, (such issues should be addressed via submission of a SAR);
(7) Where an Interpretation seeks to expand the scope of a Reliability Standard; or
(8) Where the meaning of a Reliability Standard is plain on its face.

If the Standards Committee rejects the Interpretation request, it shall provide a written explanation for rejecting the Interpretation to the entity requesting the Interpretation within 10 business days of the decision to reject. If the Standards Committee accepts the Interpretation request, the NERC Standards Staff shall (i) form a ballot pool and (ii) assemble an Interpretation drafting team with the relevant expertise to address the interpretation for approval by the Standards Committee. As soon as practical, the team shall develop a "final draft" Interpretation providing the requested clarity.

Interpretations will be balloted in the same manner as Reliability Standards.

[26] The *Request for Interpretation* form is posted on the NERC Standards web page.

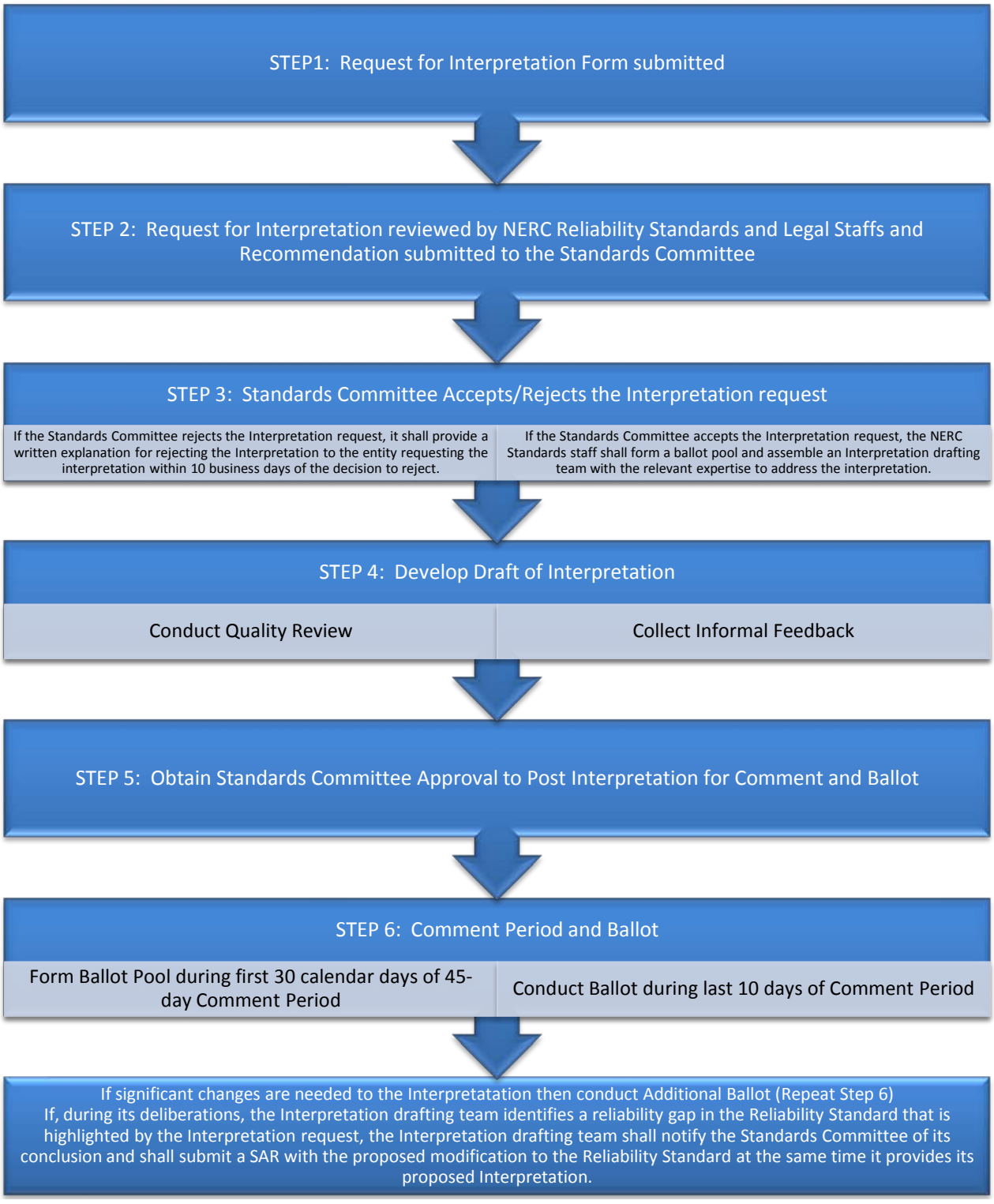
If stakeholder comments indicate that there is not a consensus for the Interpretation, and the Interpretation drafting team cannot revise the Interpretation without violating the basic expectations outlined above, the Interpretation drafting team shall notify the Standards Committee of its conclusion and may submit a SAR with the proposed modification to the Reliability Standard. The entity that requested the Interpretation shall be notified and the disposition of the Interpretation shall be posted.

If, during its deliberations, the Interpretation drafting team identifies a reliability gap in the Reliability Standard that is highlighted by the Interpretation request, the Interpretation drafting team shall notify the Standards Committee of its conclusion and may submit a SAR with the proposed modification to the Reliability Standard at the same time it provides its proposed Interpretation.

The NERC Reliability Standards and Legal Staffs shall review the final Interpretation to determine whether it has met the requirements for a valid Interpretation. Based on this review, the NERC Standards and Legal Staffs shall make a recommendation to the NERC Board of Trustees regarding adoption.

If approved by its ballot pool, the Interpretation shall be forwarded to the NERC Board of Trustees for adoption.[27] If an Interpretation drafting team proposes a modification to a Reliability Standard as part of its work in developing an Interpretation, the Board of Trustees shall be notified of this proposal at the time the Interpretation is submitted for adoption. Following adoption by the Board of Trustees, NERC Staff shall file the Interpretation for approval by Applicable Governmental Authorities and the Interpretation shall become effective when approved by those Applicable Governmental Authorities. The Interpretation shall stand until such time as the Interpretation can be incorporated into a future revision of the Reliability Standard or the Interpretation is retired due to a future modification of the applicable Requirement.

[27] NERC will maintain a record of all interpretations associated with each standard on the Reliability Standards page of the NERC website.


STEP1: Request for Interpretation Form submitted
STEP 2: Request for Interpretation reviewed by NERC Reliability Standards and Legal Staffs and Recommendation submitted to the Standards Committee
STEP 3: Standards Committee Accepts/Rejects the Interpretation request
If the Standards Committee rejects the Interpretation request, it shall provide a written explanation for rejecting the Interpretation to the entity requesting the interpretation within 10 business days of the decision to reject.
If the Standards Committee accepts the Interpretation request, the NERC Standards staff shall form a ballot pool and assemble an Interpretation drafting team with the relevant expertise to address the interpretation.
STEP 4: Develop Draft of Interpretation
Conduct Quality Review
Collect Informal Feedback
STEP 5: Obtain Standards Committee Approval to Post Interpretation for Comment and Ballot
STEP 6: Comment Period and Ballot
Form Ballot Pool during first 30 calendar days of 45-day Comment Period
Conduct Ballot during last 10 days of Comment Period
If significant changes are needed to the Interpretatation then conduct Additional Ballot (Repeat Step 6)
If, during its deliberations, the Interpretation drafting team identifies a reliability gap in the Reliability Standard that is highlighted by the Interpretation request, the Interpretation drafting team shall notify the Standards Committee of its conclusion and shall submit a SAR with the proposed modification to the Reliability Standard at the same time it provides its proposed Interpretation.

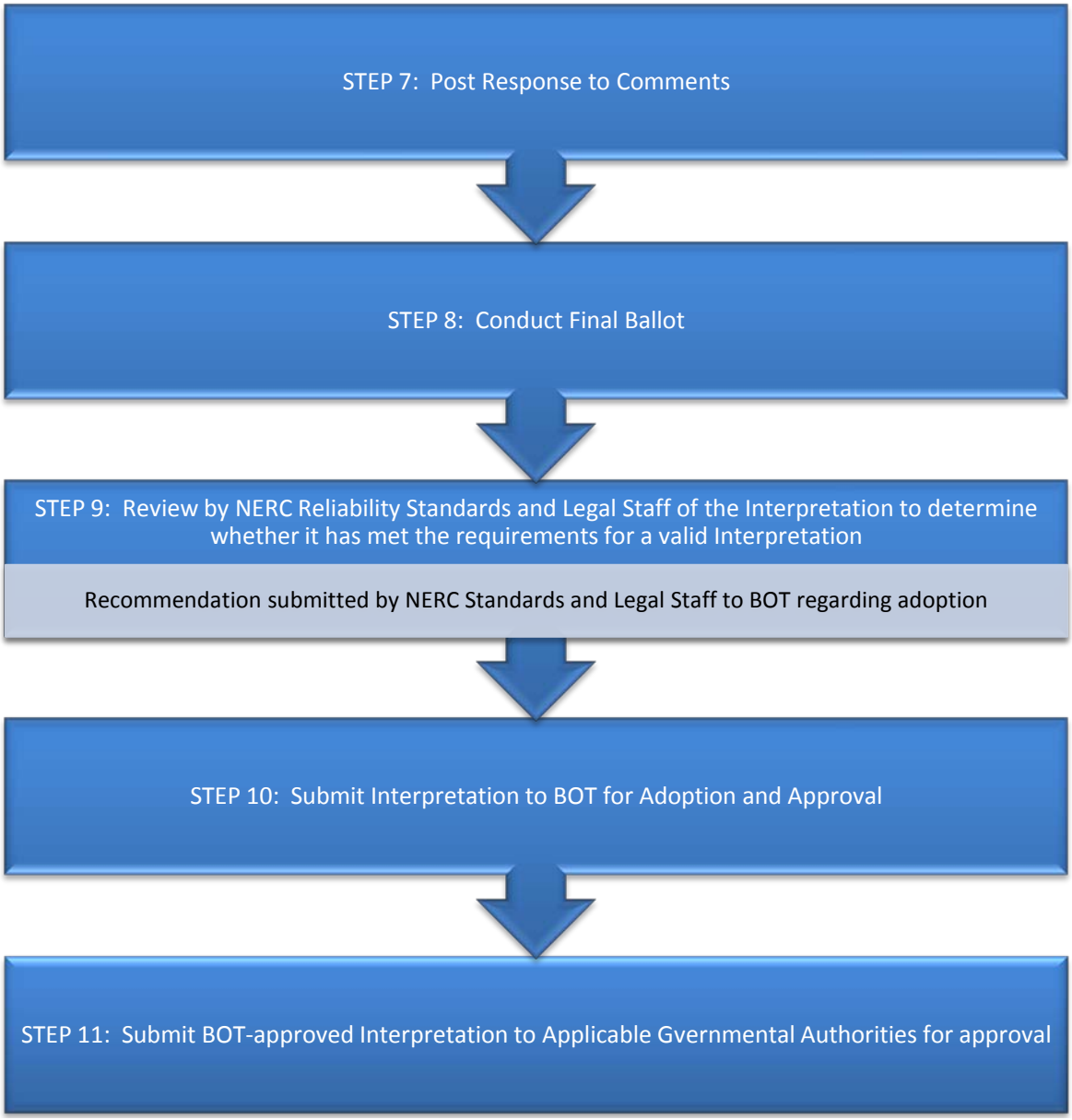


FIGURE 2: Process for Developing an Interpretation

Section 8.0: Process for Appealing an Action or Inaction

Any entity that has directly and materially affected interests and that has been or will be adversely affected by any procedural action or inaction related to the development, approval, revision, reaffirmation, retirement or withdrawal of a Reliability Standard, definition, Variance, associated implementation plan, or Interpretation shall have the right to appeal. This appeals process applies only to the NERC Reliability Standards processes as defined in this manual, not to the technical content of the Reliability Standards action.

The burden of proof to show adverse effect shall be on the appellant. Appeals shall be made in writing within 30 days of the date of the action purported to cause the adverse effect, except appeals for inaction, which may be made at any time. The final decisions of any appeal shall be documented in writing and made public.

The appeals process provides two levels, with the goal of expeditiously resolving the issue to the satisfaction of the participants.

8.1: Level 1 Appeal

Level 1 is the required first step in the appeals process. The appellant shall submit (to the Director of Standards) a complaint in writing that describes the procedural action or inaction associated with the Reliability Standards process. The appellant shall describe in the complaint the actual or potential adverse impact to the appellant. Assisted by NERC Staff and industry resources as needed, the Director of Standards shall prepare a written response addressed to the appellant as soon as practical but not more than 45 days after receipt of the complaint. If the appellant accepts the response as a satisfactory resolution of the issue, both the complaint and response shall be made a part of the public record associated with the Reliability Standard.

8.2: Level 2 Appeal

If after the Level 1 Appeal the appellant remains unsatisfied with the resolution, as indicated by the appellant in writing to the Director of Standards, the Director of Standards shall convene a Level 2 Appeals Panel. This panel shall consist of five members appointed by the Board of Trustees. In all cases, Level 2 Appeals Panel members shall have no direct affiliation with the participants in the appeal.

The NERC Reliability Standards Staff shall post the complaint and other relevant materials and provide at least 30 days notice of the meeting of the Level 2 Appeals Panel. In addition to the appellant, any entity that is directly and materially affected by the procedural action or inaction referenced in the complaint shall be heard by the panel. The panel shall not consider any expansion of the scope of the appeal that was not presented in the Level 1 Appeal. The panel may, in its decision, find for the appellant and remand the issue to the Standards Committee with a statement of the issues and facts in regard to which fair and equitable action was not taken. The panel may find against the appellant with a specific statement of the facts that demonstrate fair and equitable treatment of the appellant and the appellant's objections. The panel may not, however, revise, approve, disapprove, or adopt a Reliability Standard, definition, Variance or Interpretation or implementation plan as these responsibilities remain with the ballot pool and Board of Trustees respectively. The actions of the Level 2 Appeals Panel shall be publicly posted.

In addition to the foregoing, a procedural objection that has not been resolved may be submitted to the Board of Trustees for consideration at the time the Board decides whether to adopt a particular Reliability Standard, definition, Variance or Interpretation. The objection shall be in writing, signed by an officer of

the objecting entity, and contain a concise statement of the relief requested and a clear demonstration of the facts that justify that relief. The objection shall be filed no later than 30 days after the announcement of the vote by the ballot pool on the Reliability Standard in question.

Section 9.0: Process for Developing a Variance

A Variance is an approved, alternative method of achieving the reliability intent of one or more Requirements in a Reliability Standard. No Regional Entity or Bulk Power System owner, operator, or user shall claim a Variance from a NERC Reliability Standard without approval of such a Variance through the relevant Reliability Standard approval procedure for the Variance. Each Variance from a NERC Reliability Standard that is approved by NERC and Applicable Governmental Authorities shall be made an enforceable part of the associated NERC Reliability Standard.

NERC's drafting teams shall aim to develop Reliability Standards with Requirements that apply on a continent-wide basis, minimizing the need for Variances while still achieving the Reliability Standard's reliability objectives. If one or more Requirements cannot be met or complied with as written because of a physical difference in the Bulk Power System or because of an operational difference (such as a conflict with a federally or provincially approved tariff), but the Requirement's reliability objective can be achieved in a different fashion, an entity or a group of entities may pursue a Variance from one or more Requirements in a continent-wide Reliability Standard. It is the responsibility of the entity that needs a Variance to identify that need and initiate the processing of that Variance through the submittal of a SAR[28] that includes a clear definition of the basis for the Variance.

There are two types of Variances – those that apply on an Interconnection-wide basis, and those that apply to one or more entities on less than an Interconnection-wide basis.

9.1: Interconnection-wide Variances

Any Variance from a NERC Reliability Standard Requirement that is proposed to apply to Registered Entities within a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis shall be considered an Interconnection-wide Variance and shall be developed through that Regional Entity's NERC-approved Regional Reliability Standards development procedure.

While an Interconnection-wide Variance may be developed through the associated Regional Reliability Standards development process, Regional Entities are encouraged to work collaboratively with existing continent-wide drafting teams to reduce potential conflicts between the two efforts.

An Interconnection-wide Variance from a NERC Reliability Standard that is determined by NERC to be just, reasonable, and not unduly discriminatory or preferential, and in the public interest, and consistent with other applicable standards of governmental authorities shall be made part of the associated NERC Reliability Standard. NERC shall rebuttably presume that an Interconnection-wide Variance from a NERC Reliability Standard that is developed, in accordance with a Regional Reliability Standards development procedure approved by NERC, by a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis, is just, reasonable, and not unduly discriminatory or preferential, and in the public interest.

9.2: Variances that Apply on Less than an Interconnection-wide Basis

Any Variance from a NERC Reliability Standard Requirement that is proposed to apply to one or more entities but less than an entire Interconnection (*e.g.*, a Variance that would apply to a regional transmission organization or particular market or to a subset of Bulk Power System owners, operators, or users), shall be considered a Variance. A Variance may be requested while a Reliability Standard is under development or a Variance may be requested at any time after a Reliability Standard is approved. Each request for a Variance shall be initiated through a SAR, and processed and approved in the same

[28] A sample of a SAR that identifies the need for a Variance and a sample Variance are posted as resources on the Reliability Standards Resources web page.

manner as a continent-wide Reliability Standard, using the Reliability Standards development process defined in this manual.

Section 10.0: Processes for Developing a Reliability Standard Related to a Confidential Issue

While it is NERC's intent to use its ANSI-accredited Reliability Standards development process for developing its Reliability Standards, NERC has an obligation as the ERO to ensure that there are Reliability Standards in place to preserve the reliability of the interconnected Bulk Power Systems throughout North America. When faced with a national security emergency situation, NERC may use one of the following special processes to develop a Reliability Standard that addresses an issue that is confidential. Reliability Standards developed using one of the following processes shall be called, "special Reliability Standards" and shall not be filed with ANSI for approval as American National Standards.

The NERC Board of Trustees may direct the development of a new or revised Reliability Standard to address a national security situation that involves confidential issues. These situations may involve imminent or long-term threats. In general, these Board directives will be driven by information from the President of the United States of America or the Prime Minister of Canada or a national security agency or national intelligence agency of either or both governments indicating (to the ERO) that there is a national security threat to the reliability of the Bulk Power System.[29]

There are two special processes for developing Reliability Standards responsive to confidential issues – one process where the confidential issue is "imminent," and one process where the confidential issue is "not imminent."

10.1: Process for Developing Reliability Standards Responsive to Imminent, Confidential Issues
If the NERC Board of Trustees directs the immediate development of a new or revised Reliability Standard to address a confidential national security emergency situation, the NERC Reliability Standards Staff shall develop a SAR, form a ballot pool (to vote on the Reliability Standard and its implementation plan) and assemble a slate of pre-defined subject matter experts as a proposed drafting team for approval by the Standards Committee's officers. All members of the Registered Ballot Body shall have the opportunity to join the ballot pool.

10.2: Drafting Team Selection
The Reliability Standard drafting team selection process shall be limited to just those candidates who have already been identified as having the appropriate security clearance, the requisite technical expertise, and either have signed or are willing to sign a strict confidentiality agreement.

10.3: Work of Drafting Team
The Reliability Standard drafting team shall perform all its work under strict security and confidential rules. The Reliability Standard drafting team shall develop the new or revised Reliability Standard and its implementation plan.

The Reliability Standard drafting team shall review its work, to the extent practical, as it is being developed with officials from the appropriate governmental agencies in the U.S. and Canada, under strict security and confidentiality rules.

[29] The NERC Board may direct the immediate development and issuance of a Level 3 (Essential Action) alert and then may also direct the immediate development of a new or revised Reliability Standard.

10.4: Formal Stakeholder Comment & Ballot Window
The draft Reliability Standard and its implementation plan shall be distributed for a formal comment period, under strict confidentiality rules, only to those entities that are listed in the NERC Compliance Registry to perform one of the functions identified in the applicability section of the Reliability Standard and have identified individuals from their organizations that have signed confidentiality agreements with NERC.[30] At the same time, the Reliability Standard shall be distributed to the members of the ballot pool for review and ballot. The NERC Reliability Standards Staff shall not post or provide the ballot pool with any confidential background information.

The drafting team, working with the NERC Reliability Standards Staff, shall consider and respond to all comments, make any necessary conforming changes to the Reliability Standard and its implementation plan, and shall distribute the comments, responses and any revision to the same population as received the initial set of documents for formal comment and ballot.

10.5: Board of Trustee Actions
Each Reliability Standard and implementation plan developed through this process shall be submitted to the NERC Board of Trustees for adoption.

10.6: Governmental Approvals
All approved documents shall be filed for approval with Applicable Governmental Authorities.

[30] In this phase of the process, only the proposed Reliability Standard shall be distributed to those entities expected to comply, not the rationale and justification for the Reliability Standard. Only the special drafting team members, who have the appropriate security credentials, shall have access to this rationale and justification.

10.7: Developing a Reliability Standard Responsive to an Imminent, Confidential Issue

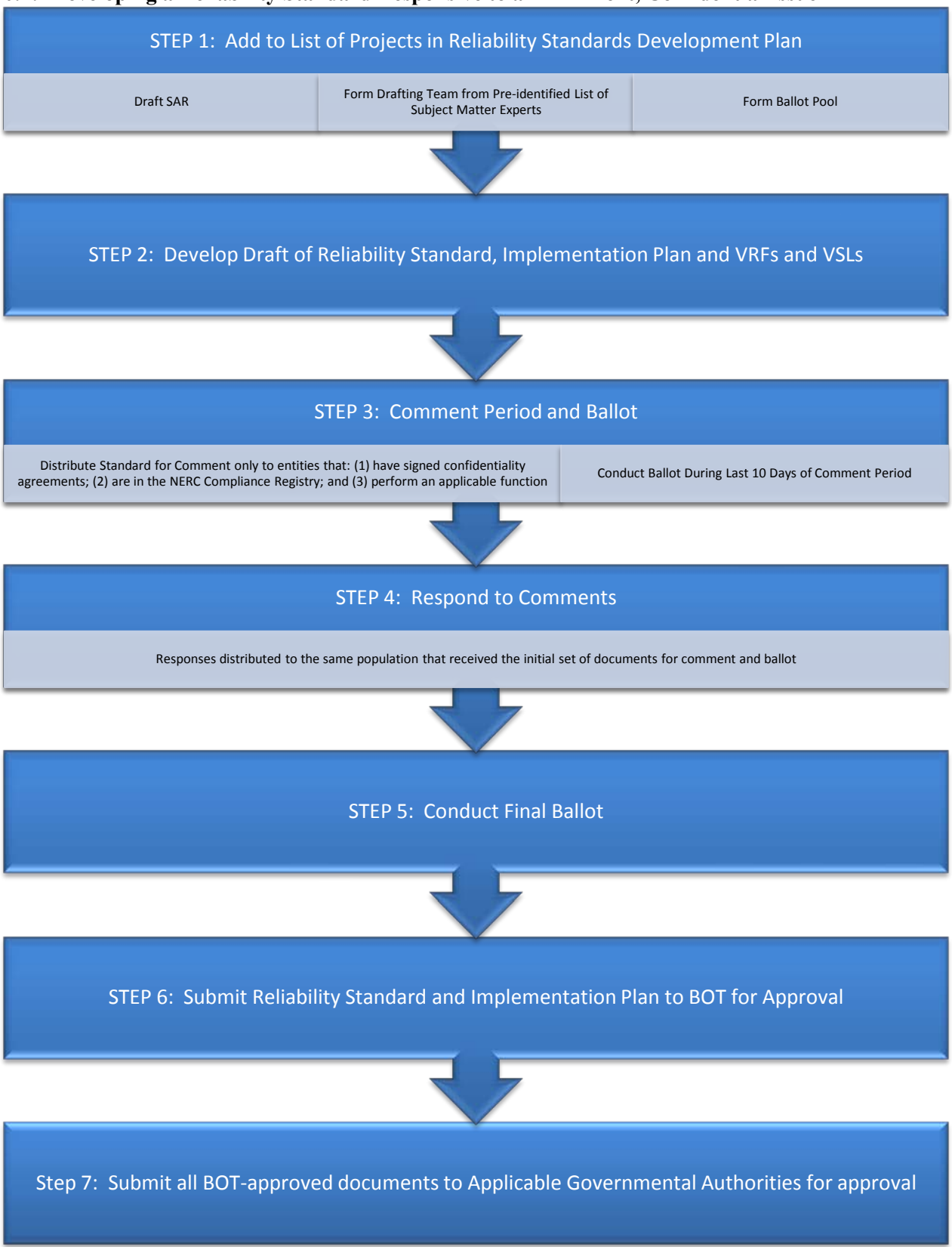


FIGURE 3: Process for Developing a Standard Responsive to an Imminent, Confidential Issue

10.8: Process for Developing Reliability Standards Responsive to Non-imminent, Confidential Issues

If the NERC Board of Trustees directs the immediate development of a new or revised Reliability Standard to address a confidential national security emergency situation, the NERC Reliability Standards Staff shall develop a SAR, form a ballot pool (to vote on the Reliability Standard and its implementation plan) and assemble a slate of pre-defined subject matter experts as a proposed drafting team for approval by the Standards Committee's officers. All members of the Registered Ballot Body shall have the opportunity to join the ballot pool.

10.9: Drafting Team Selection

The drafting team selection process shall be limited to just those candidates who have already been identified as having the appropriate security clearance, the requisite technical expertise, and either have signed or are willing to sign a strict confidentiality agreement.

10.10: Work of Drafting Team

The drafting team shall perform all its work under strict security and confidential rules. The Reliability Standard drafting team shall develop the new or revised Reliability Standard and its implementation plan.

The drafting team shall review its work, to the extent practical, as it is being developed with officials from the Applicable Governmental Authorities, under strict security and confidentiality rules.

10.11: Formal Stakeholder Comment & Ballot Window

The draft Reliability Standard and its implementation plan shall be distributed for a formal comment period, under strict confidentiality rules, only to those entities that are listed in the NERC Compliance Registry to perform one of the functions identified in the applicability section of the Reliability Standard and have identified individuals from their organizations that have signed confidentiality agreements with NERC.[31] At the same time, the Reliability Standard shall be distributed to the members of the ballot pool for review and ballot. The NERC Reliability Standards Staff shall not post or provide the ballot pool with any confidential background information.

10.12: Revisions to Reliability Standard, Implementation Plan and VRFs and VSLs

The drafting team, working with the NERC Reliability Standards Staff, shall work to refine the Reliability Standard, implementation plan and VRFs and VSLs in the same manner as for a new Reliability Standard following the "normal" Reliability Standards development process described earlier in this manual with the exception that distribution of the comments, responses, and new drafts shall be limited to those entities that are in the ballot pool and those entities that are listed in the NERC Compliance Registry to perform one of the functions identified in the applicability section of the Reliability Standard and have identified individuals from their organizations that have signed confidentiality agreements with NERC.

10.13: Board of Trustee Action

Each Reliability Standard, implementation plan, and the associated VRFs and VSLs developed through this process shall be submitted to the NERC Board of Trustees for adoption.

10.14: Governmental Approvals

All BOT-approved documents shall be filed for approval with Applicable Governmental Authorities.

[31] In this phase of the process, only the proposed Reliability Standard shall be distributed to those entities expected to comply, not the rationale and justification for the Reliability Standard. Only the special drafting team members, who have the appropriate security credentials, shall have access to this rationale and justification.

Developing a Reliability Standard Responsive to a Non-imminent, Confidential Issue

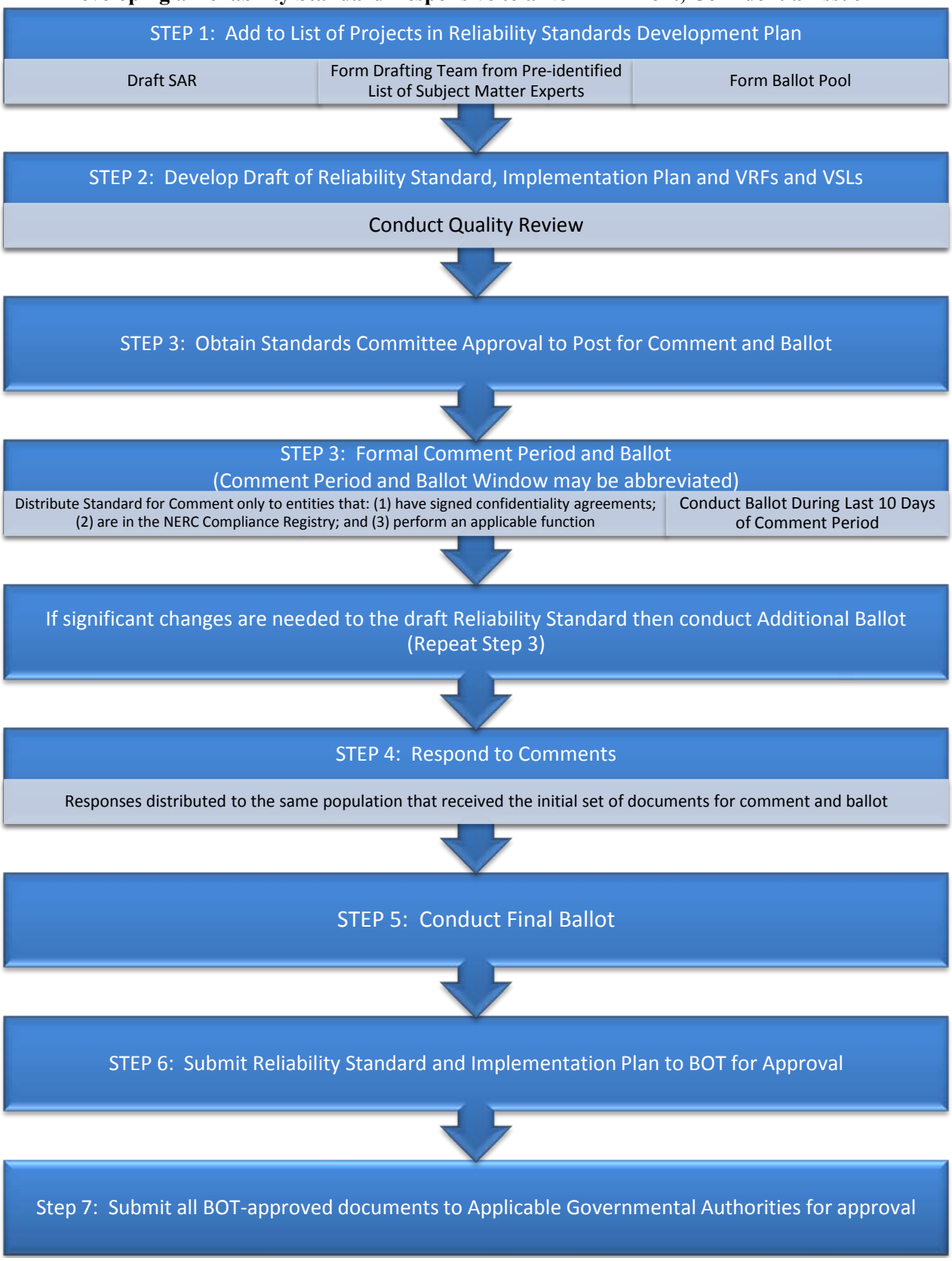


FIGURE 4: Developing a Standard Responsive to a Non-Imminent, Confidential Issue

Section 11.0: Process for Approving Supporting Documents

The following types of documents are samples of the types of supporting documents that may be developed to enhance stakeholder understanding and implementation of a Reliability Standard. These documents may explain or facilitate implementation of Reliability Standards but do not themselves contain mandatory Requirements subject to compliance review. Any Requirements that are mandatory shall be incorporated into the Reliability Standard in the Reliability Standard development process.

While most supporting documents are developed by the standard drafting team working to develop the associated Reliability Standard, any entity may develop a supporting document associated with a Reliability Standard.

The Standards Committee shall authorize the posting of all supporting references[32] that are linked to an approved Reliability Standard. Prior to granting approval to post a supporting reference with a link to the associated Reliability Standard, the Standards Committee shall verify that the document has had stakeholder review to verify the accuracy of the technical content. While the Standards Committee has the authority to approve the posting of each such reference, stakeholders, not the Standards Committee, verify the accuracy of the document's contents.

Type of Document	Description
Reference	Descriptive, technical information or analysis or explanatory information to support the understanding and interpretation of a Reliability Standard. A standard reference may support the implementation of a Reliability Standard or satisfy another purpose consistent with the reliability and market interface principles.
Guideline	Recommended process that identifies a method of meeting a Requirement under specific conditions.
Supplement	Data forms, pro forma documents, and associated instructions that support the implementation of a Reliability Standard.
Training Material	Documents that support the implementation of a Reliability Standard.
Procedure	Step-wise instructions defining a particular process or operation. Procedures may support the implementation of a Reliability Standard or satisfy another purpose consistent with the reliability and market interface principles.
White Paper	An informal paper stating a position or concept. A white paper may be used to propose preliminary concepts for a Reliability Standard or one of the documents above.

[32] The Standards Committee's Procedure for Approving the Posting of Reference Documents is posted on the Reliability Standards Resources web page.

Section 12.0: Process for Correcting Errata

From time to time, an error may be discovered in a Reliability Standard. Such errors may be corrected (i) following a Final Ballot prior to Board of Trustees adoption, (ii) following Board of Trustees adoption prior to filing with Applicable Governmental Authorities; and (iii) following filing with Applicable Governmental Authorities. If the Standards Committee agrees that the correction of the error does not change the scope or intent of the associated Reliability Standard, and agrees that the correction has no material impact on the end users of the Reliability Standard, then the correction shall be filed for approval with Applicable Governmental Authorities as appropriate. The NERC Board of Trustees has resolved to concurrently approve any errata approved by the Standards Committee.

Section 13.0: Process for Conducting Periodic Reviews of Reliability Standards

All Reliability Standards shall be reviewed at least once every ten years from the effective date of the Reliability Standard or the date of the latest Board of Trustees adoption to a revision of the Reliability Standard, whichever is later. If a Reliability Standard is approved by ANSI as an American National Standard, it shall be reviewed at least once every five years from the effective date of the Reliability Standard or the date of the latest Board of Trustees adoption to a revision of the Reliability Standard, whichever is later.

The *Reliability Standards Development Plan* shall include projects that address this five or ten-year review of Reliability Standards.

- If a Reliability Standard is nearing its five or ten-year review and has issues that need resolution, then the *Reliability Standards Development Plan* shall include a project for the complete review and associated revision of that Reliability Standard that includes addressing all outstanding governmental directives, all approved Interpretations, and all unresolved issues identified by stakeholders.
- If a Reliability Standard is nearing its five or ten-year review and there are no outstanding governmental directives, Interpretations, or unresolved stakeholder issues associated with that Reliability Standard, then the Reliability *Standards Development Plan* shall include a project solely for the "five-year review" of that Reliability Standard.

For a project that is focused solely on the five-year review, the Standards Committee shall appoint a review team of subject matter experts to review the Reliability Standard and recommend whether the American National Standard Institute-approved Reliability Standard should be reaffirmed, revised, or withdrawn. Each review team shall post its recommendations for a 45 calendar day formal stakeholder comment period and shall provide those stakeholder comments to the Standards Committee for consideration.

- If a review team recommends reaffirming a Reliability Standard, the Standards Committee shall submit the reaffirmation to the Board of Trustees for adoption and then to Applicable Governmental Authorities for approval. Reaffirmation does not require approval by stakeholder ballot.
- If a review team recommends modifying, or retiring a Reliability Standard, the team shall develop a SAR with such a proposal and the SAR shall be submitted to the Standards Committee for prioritization as a new project. Each existing Reliability Standard recommended for modification, or retirement shall remain in effect in accordance with the associated implementation plan until the action to modify or withdraw the Reliability Standard is approved by its ballot pool, adopted by the Board of Trustees, and approved by Applicable Governmental Authorities.

In the case of reaffirmation of a Reliability Standard, the Reliability Standard shall remain in effect until the next five or ten-year review or until the Reliability Standard is otherwise modified or withdrawn by a separate action.

Section 14.0: Public Access to Reliability Standards Information

14.1: Online Reliability Standards Information System

The NERC Reliability Standards Staff shall maintain an electronic copy of information regarding currently proposed and currently in effect Reliability Standards. This information shall include current Reliability Standards in effect, proposed revisions to Reliability Standards, and proposed new Reliability Standards. This information shall provide a record, for at a minimum the previous five years, of the review and approval process for each Reliability Standard, including public comments received during the development and approval process.

14.2: Archived Reliability Standards Information

The NERC Staff shall maintain a historical record of Reliability Standards information that is no longer maintained online. Archived information shall be retained indefinitely as practical, but in no case less than five years or one complete standard cycle from the date on which the Reliability Standard was no longer in effect. Archived records of Reliability Standards information shall be available electronically within 30 days following the receipt by the NERC Reliability Standards Staff of a written request.

Section 15.0: Process for Updating Standard Processes

15.1: Requests to Revise the Standard Processes Manual

Any person or entity may submit a request to modify one or more of the processes contained within this manual. The Standards Committee shall oversee the handling of each request. The Standards Committee shall prioritize all requests, merge related requests, and respond to each sponsor within 30 calendar days.

The Standards Committee shall post the proposed revisions for a 45 (calendar) day formal comment period. Based on the degree of consensus for the revisions, the Standards Committee shall:

a. Submit the revised process or processes for ballot pool approval;
b. Repeat the posting for additional inputs after making changes based on comments received;
c. Remand the proposal to the sponsor for further work; or
d. Reject the proposal.

The Registered Ballot Body shall be represented by a ballot pool. The ballot procedure shall be the same as that defined for approval of a Reliability Standard, including the use of an Additional Ballot if needed. If the proposed revision is approved by the ballot pool, the Standards Committee shall submit the revised procedure to the Board for adoption. The Standards Committee shall submit to the Board a description of the basis for the changes, a summary of the comments received, and any minority views expressed in the comment and ballot process. The proposed revisions shall not be effective until approved by the NERC Board of Trustees and Applicable Governmental Authorities.

Section 16.0: Waiver

While it is NERC's intent to use its ANSI-accredited Reliability Standards development process for developing its Reliability Standards, NERC may need to develop a new or modified Reliability Standard, definition, Variance, or implementation plan under specific time constraints (such as to meet a time constrained regulatory directive) or to meet an urgent reliability issue such that there isn't sufficient time to follow all the steps in the normal Reliability Standards development process.

The Standards Committee may waive any of the provisions contained in this manual for good cause shown, but limited to the following circumstances:

- In response to a national emergency declared by the United States or Canadian government that involves the reliability of the Bulk Electric System or cyber attack on the Bulk Electric System;
- Where necessary to meet regulatory deadlines;
- Where necessary to meet deadlines imposed by the NERC Board of Trustees; or
- Where the Standards Committee determines that a modification to a proposed Reliability Standard or its Requirement(s), a modification to a defined term, a modification to an interpretation, or a modification to a variance has already been vetted by the industry through the standards development process or is so insubstantial that developing the modification through the processes contained in this manual will add significant time delay.

In no circumstances shall this provision be used to modify the requirements for achieving quorum or the voting requirements for approval of a standard.

A waiver request may be submitted to the Standards Committee by any entity or individual, including NERC committees or subgroups and NERC Staff. Prior to consideration of any waiver request, the Standards Committee must provide five business days notice to stakeholders.

Action on the waiver request will be included in the minutes of the Standards Committee. Following the approval of the Standards Committee to waive any provision of the Standard Process Manual, the Standards Committee will report this decision to the Standards Oversight and Technology Committee.[33] Actions taken pursuant to an approved waiver request will be posted on the Standard Project page and included in the next project announcement.

In addition, the Standards Committee shall report the exercise of this waiver provision to the Board of Trustees prior to adoption of the related Reliability Standard, Interpretation, definition or Variance.

Reliability Standards developed as a result of a waiver of any provision of the Standard Processes Manual shall not be filed with ANSI for approval as American National Standards.

[33] Any entity may appeal a waiver decision or any other procedural decision by the Standards Committee pursuant to Section 8.0 of the NERC Standard Processes Manual.

4.6: Conduct Quality Review

The NERC Reliability Standards Staff shall coordinate a quality review of the Reliability Standard, implementation plan, and VRFs and VSLs in parallel with the development of the Reliability Standard and implementation plan, to assess whether the documents are within the scope of the associated SAR, whether the Reliability Standard is clear and enforceable as written, and whether the Reliability Standard meets the criteria specified in NERC's Benchmarks for Excellent Standards and criteria for governmental approval of Reliability Standards. The drafting team shall consider the results of the quality review, decide upon appropriate changes, and recommend to the Standards Committee whether the documents are ready for formal posting and balloting.

The Standards Committee shall authorize posting the proposed Reliability Standard, and implementation plan for a formal comment period and ballot and the VRFs and VSLs for a non-binding poll as soon as the work flow will accommodate.

If the Standards Committee finds that any of the documents do not meet the specified criteria, the Standards Committee shall remand the documents to the drafting team for additional work.

If the Reliability Standard is outside the scope of the associated SAR, the drafting team shall be directed to either revise the Reliability Standard so that it is within the approved scope, or submit a request to expand the scope of the approved SAR. If the Reliability Standard is not clear and enforceable as written, or if the Reliability Standard does not meet the specified criteria, the Reliability Standard shall be returned to the drafting team by the Standards Committee with specific identification of any Requirement that is deemed to be unclear or unenforceable as written.

NPCC, Inc.
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2015 NPCC Compliance Committee Meetings (as of 1/14/15)

January 14…conference call

February 18…conference call

March 17-18 (Tue, Weds) at NextEra, Juno Beach, FL

April 15…conference call

May 13…conference call

May 19-21 Compliance Workshop (Tue-Thurs) Newport, RI Marriott.
(Week before the Memorial Day holiday)

June 16-17 (Tues, Weds) at IESO, Toronto.

July 15…CC conference call

August 19…CC conference call

September 22, 23 (Tues, Weds)…at NPCC, NYC
(Rescheduled from 9/15-9/16 on the Jan 2015 CC Call)

October 14…CC conference call

November…no conference call

November 10-12 Compliance Workshop (Tue – Thurs) Westchester, NY
(Date moved from 11/17-11/19 in December 2014 due to GRIDEX III conflict)

December 3, 4 (Thus, Fri)…at Albany, NY Marriott– after NPCC annual meetings.

As of 1/14/15