SPP RE News: November 2011

What's New At SPP RE

Upcoming Webinars

• Nov. 14, 10:30 CST – SPP RE 2012 Implementation Plan Lead Compliance Specialist Jim Williams will review our 2012 Implementation Plan, which is now posted to SPP.org. He will also discuss reporting periods, audit schedules, and statistics on misoperations, vegetation contact, and the top 20 all-time violations. Executive Director of Compliance Ron Ciesiel and CIP Compliance Analyst Leesa Oakes will also be available to answer questions.

• Dec. 13, 2:00 CST - CIP-003-3 R4 Information Protection Senior CIP Compliance Specialist Shon Austin will explain how a documented information program, including an understanding of sound business judgment in developing the program, will reduce a registered entity's business and compliance risk of deliberately or inadvertently disclosing Critical Cyber Asset information.

• Jan. 10, 2:00 CST - 2012 Training Opportunities and Learning Center Walkthrough As we begin the new year, RTO training staff will show new users how to navigate the Learning Center to register for and take training classes.

Save the Date for Feb. 28-29 Compliance Workshop

Mark your calendar for the SPP RE 2012 Spring Compliance Workshop at the Hilton Baton Rouge Capitol Center. The pre-workshop "Basics" sessions will be held the morning of Feb. 28, and the workshop will run from 1:00 on the 28th through 5:00 on Feb. 29. The SPP RTO’s Compliance Forum will be held at the same location all day March 1. We are drafting the agenda now and will post it soon. We hope you can join us in Louisiana for this event!

New Anonymous Compliance Phone Line - 888-394-2292

We have a new phone number, 888-394-2292, that you can call to share concerns or feedback directly with the SPP RE Trustees. The phone line is staffed by a third-party provider who will ask if you wish to remain anonymous. While we are always available to answer your questions and discuss issues, this phone line gives you another tool for addressing compliance concerns.
Ballot Body Approves UFLS Standard; Goes to MOPC/Board Next

On Nov. 1, voters who registered for the Draft 7 SPP Automatic Underfrequency Load Shedding (UFLS) regional standard ballot body approved the standard with a 76% affirmative vote; 66.7% was required to pass.

The UFLS standard will be presented to the Market and Operations Policy Committee and Board of Directors/Members Committee in December for advisory reviews to provide an additional stakeholder forum for discussion and valuable input to the RE Trustees. Then it will be submitted to the RE Trustees, who can recommend that NERC approve the proposed standard, remand it back to the UFLS Standard Drafting Team, or determine there is no need for it and terminate further activity. The SPP RE Standards Development Process Manual contains additional information about our regional standard process.

2012 Reporting Requirements Schedule Posted

The 2012 Reporting Requirements Schedule lists deadlines for periodic data submittals, exception reporting, self-certifications, TFES, and the NERC Facility Rating Alert. Please contact Greg Sorenson at 501-688-1713 or Jeff Rooker at 501-614-3278 with questions.

SPP 2012 Training Class Registration Opens November 18

The SPP Customer Training department announced its 2012 Customer (Regional) Training calendar and course descriptions are now available for viewing on the SPP.org Training page and from the SPP Learning Center homepage. Registration opens Friday, Nov. 18, at 8:00 a.m. CST in the Learning Center. If you have any questions, please contact LMS@spp.org.

NERC News

• Reliability Standard Audit Worksheets (RSAWs) have been updated; the NERC website now includes the individual RSAWs and a compressed ZIP file of all RSAWs required for the 2012 Actively Monitored List.

• NERC announced development of a spare equipment database that allows the industry to track spare long-lead time transformers. Provision of information for the database, which will begin development in January, will be voluntary. It will be populated and managed by participating organizations, facilitating timely communication between entities needing long-lead time to replace damaged equipment.

• Register for webinars:

• FERC is accepting comments on its Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Critical Infrastructure Protection Reliability Standards Version 4 through Nov. 21 at 5:00 EST.
• The Member Representatives Committee Sector Election nomination period ends Nov. 11. View the current list of nominees or submit nomination forms to Sara.Minges@nerc.net.

• Registered Ballot Body members and other interested stakeholders are encouraged to submit nominations for industry segment representatives on the Standards Committee.

New Online

• Slides from NERC’s Reliability Measures and Risk Assessment Webinar and recent three-day compliance workshop that covered numerous topics including Standards 101, the BES and Protection Systems projects, CANS, CIP initiatives, and more.

• Lessons Learned on Plant Instrument and Sensing Equipment Freezing Due to Heat Trace and Insulation Failures and Plant Fuel Switching and Cold Weather

• 2010 Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program Annual Report

Standards Under Development and CANS

NERC is piloting an e-newsletter that will be issued on Mondays to update readers on standards under development and CAN activity. Read the first issue and email Mallory Huggins to subscribe.

• The NERC Board of Trustees approved Project 2007-07 Vegetation Management (FAC-003-2), which is a results-based, foundational standard that provides an in-depth approach to vegetation inspections and minimum clearance distances. Three regional standards – Reactive Power Capability (MOD-025-RFC-1), Mitigation in the ERCOT Interconnection (IRO-006-TRE-1), and Automatic Underfrequency Load Shedding (PRC-006-SERC-1) – also received approval. Now these standards will be filed at FERC.

• Project 2008-06 Cyber Security Order 706 Version 5 CIP ballot pool is now open through Dec. 15. The comment period is open through Jan. 6. Twelve initial ballot windows for 10 standards, along with the implementation plan and definitions, will be open Dec.16-Jan. 6.

• Project 2007-12 Frequency Response ballot pool is now open through Nov. 23. The comment period is open through Dec. 8 and the initial ballot and non-binding poll window is Nov. 29-Dec. 8.

• Project 2009-01 Disturbance and Sabotage Reporting ballot pool is now open through Nov. 28. The comment period is open through Dec. 12 and the initial ballot window is Dec. 2-12.

• NERC continues to revise its CANS: draft CAN-0040: BAL-003 Frequency Bias Calculation and draft CAN-0043: PRC-005 Protection System Maintenance and Testing Evidence are posted for comment through Nov. 23.

To receive a detailed weekly Standards Under Development update from the SPP Regional Transmission Organization, select SPP Compliance Contacts on our email list page.
Our Staff

We are happy to help you with any questions or concerns.

RE Trustees

John Meyer, Chairman and Trustee
Gerry Burrows, Trustee
Dave Christiano, Trustee

RE General Manager

Stacy Dochoda, General Manager, (501) 688-1730
Sheila Scott, Administrative Assistant II, (501) 688-1798

Finance and Process Improvement

Alice Wright, Manager of Finance and Process Improvement, (501) 688-1773
Andrea Doucette, Administrative Assistant II, (501) 688-8207
Emily Pennel, Training and Education Specialist, (501) 614-3337

Compliance Monitoring, Critical Infrastructure Protection, System Events & Reliability Assessments

Ron Ciesiel, Executive Director, (501) 614-3265

Compliance Monitoring

Jeff Rooker, Lead Compliance Engineer, (501) 614-3278
Greg Sorensen, Senior Compliance Engineer, (501) 688-1713
Thomas Teafatiller, Senior Compliance Engineer, (501) 688-2514
Jim Williams, Lead Compliance Specialist, (501) 614-3261
Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP)
Kevin Perry, Director of Critical Infrastructure Protection, (501) 614-3251
Shon Austin, Senior Compliance Specialist-CIP, (501) 614-3273
Steven Keller, Senior Compliance Specialist-CIP, (501) 688-1633
Leesa Oakes, Compliance Specialist II-CIP, (501) 614-3274
Jeremy Withers, Compliance Specialist II-CIP, (501) 688-1676

System Events & Reliability Assessments
Deborah Currie, Lead Engineer, (501) 688-8228
Alan Wahlstrom, Lead Engineer, (501) 688-1624

Enforcement
Joe Gertsch, Manager, Enforcement and Legal, (501) 688-1672

Attorneys
Jimmy Cline, Compliance Enforcement Attorney, (501) 688-1759
Clay Layson, Compliance Enforcement Attorney, (501) 688-1762
Tasha Ward, Compliance Enforcement Attorney, (501) 688-1738
Tyler Morgan, Compliance Enforcement Attorney, (501) 614-3521

Other Enforcement Staff
Daniel Haney, Law Clerk, (501) 688-2502
Stephanie Kimp, Law Clerk, (501) 688-2501
Bob Reynolds, Lead Compliance Engineer-Enforcement, (501) 688-8227
Machelle Smith, Paralegal, (501) 688-1681

This newsletter was sent to:
Board/Members Committee exploder
Critical Infrastructure Protection Working Group exploder
Markets and Operations Policy Committee exploder
Operating Reliability Working Group exploder
RE Authorizing Officers
RE News
RE Primary Compliance Contacts
RE Standards Development exploder
RE Trustees exploder
SPP Compliance Contacts exploder

To subscribe, visit our email list page and select Regional Entity News. Back issues are also posted. If you have questions about this publication, please contact Emily Penne at (501) 614-3337.

SPP RE is an independent and functionally separate division of SPP, Inc. that promotes and works to improve bulk electric system (BES) reliability. SPP RE oversees the development of regional reliability standards; monitors and enforces registered entities’ compliance with reliability standards; assesses and evaluates BES reliability; and provides technical expertise and assistance to BES owners, operators,
and users - in particular to registered entities located within SPP RE's eight-state footprint that includes all or parts of Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas.