SPP RE News: December 2011

From all of us at SPP RE, we extend our very best wishes for a happy holiday season.

News from SPP RE

Jan. 12 Webinar: 2012 Audit Scope Plan

NERC’s continent-wide risk based assessment template will not be ready until 2013. In the interim, SPP RE developed a 2012 Audit Scope Plan. Register for our Jan. 12 webinar at 2:00 CST for more information from Ron Ciesiel.

Join Us for Spring Workshop in Baton Rouge

Registration is open (in-person and webinar) for the Feb. 28-29 Spring Workshop at the Baton Rouge Capitol Center. Ask for the SPP rate of $129; hotel cut-off date is Feb. 6.

The agenda is posted: eight guest speakers from FERC, NERC, and registered entities will join our staff to discuss:

- Standards Development: Effective Participation and What to Expect in 2012
- Misoperations Analysis
- Bulk Electric System Definition Update
- Creating a Successful Internal Compliance Program-Panel Discussion
- EPA Regulations Update
- CIP Version 4-5 Update
- Top 10 Ways to Successfully Prepare for an Audit
- When and How to Self Report
- webCDMS Enhancements
- Evidence Submission
- Risk-Based Monitoring Update/Template
- Compliance Enforcement Initiative Update
January 10 Webinar: Learning Center Tour and 2012 Training Opportunities

Did you know SPP offers over 500 Continuing Education Hours on regional emergency operations? SPP's classes provide an affordable opportunity to maintain compliance with NERC's recertification requirements. In 2012 the Learning Center will also offer Integrated Marketplace classes.

If you have new operators/staff who need to obtain training but have never used the Learning Center, you may want to send them this registration link for the Learning Center Tour webinar.

From Stacy Dochoda’s Desk: Importance of Winter Preparedness

Last February's extreme weather event highlights the importance of winter preparedness in maintaining reliability. We support the recommendations FERC and NERC made in their Report on Outages and Curtailments During the Southwest Cold Weather Event of February 2011 and encourage everyone to read it.

We recently surveyed ~100 entities to gauge our region's winter preparedness. The 80% who responded have already incorporated many preventative measures and intend to incorporate others.

- 90% of Generator Owners/Operators review previous winter weather issues; ~ 70% review generator facility/plant equipment temperature design limitations; ~90% verify heat trace functionality and visual inspection of piping/water lines.
- 97% of Transmission Owners/Operators verify equipment containing SF6 gas is at the correct pressure/temperature to operate during extreme cold. 77% review communication protocols/notifications and over 70% review transmission capabilities during cold weather events.
- Numerous respondents plan to add additional training for operating personnel about emergencies caused by extreme cold, including load shed.
- A number of Distribution Providers plan to identify natural gas gathering facilities, processing facilities, or compressor stations as critical and essential loads.

Thank you to those who participated in the survey. We encourage people who have not yet responded to do so by December 20. We are encouraged that additional steps are being incorporated into our region’s winter preparedness plans so we will be even better prepared the next time extreme winter weather occurs.

Ideas for 2012 Webinars?

Please send Emily Pennel (501.614.3337) your topic ideas for 2012 webinars. What issues would you like to discuss? Are there topics about which you need more information?

2012 Reporting Requirements and Schedule Posted

The 2012 Reporting Requirements and Schedule includes dates and requirements for
periodic data submittals, TFE Quarterly and Annual Reports, Exception Reports, Self-certification, Spot Checks, and NERC Alerts.

Questions re: webCDMS Self-Certifications

If you are not seeing self-certifications in your webCDMS queue, go to the filtering options icon and select “all” on the “submitted on date” drop down. (The default is “monthly”). Please contact Jeff Rooker with questions.

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Thank you, CIP Experts!

President Obama declared December 2011 as Critical Infrastructure Protection Month, stating; “This month, we affirm the fundamental importance of our critical infrastructure and recommit to preparing for, responding to, and recovering from hazardous events and emergencies efficiently and effectively.”

NERC News

New Online

Long Term Reliability Assessment: Reserve Margins Down in Some Areas; Impact of Environmental Regulations on Planning Decisions, Retrofits

Winter Reliability Assessment: Outlook Good

FAC Alert Recommendation Participant Q&A

Webinar slides posted
- Project 2008-06 (CIP Version 5) Technical - Part 1 & 2
- Establishing an Electronic Security Perimeter Where None Previously Existed
- Project 2007-12 Frequency Response and Frequency Bias Setting
- Physical Security
- Protection System Misoperation Identification and Correction

Standards Under Development and CANS

To get a detailed weekly update from NERC, email subscribe-standards@listserv.nerc.com.

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

Recent Ballot Results/Recirculation Ballots
- Project 2010-17 — Definition of Bulk Electric System - Rules of Procedure Modifications to Support BES Exceptions - The definition and Detailed Information to Support a Request for BES Exception both passed with 81% approval. Next the definition, implementation plan, and
application form will be presented to NERC Board of Trustees for approval.

- Project 2008-10 Interpretation of CIP-006-1 R1.1 for Progress Energy received 96% approval. A recirculation ballot is open through 12/19.
- Project 2009-22 Interpretation of COM-002-2 R2 for IRC received 95% approval. Next the Standard Drafting Team will consider comments and determine whether to make additional changes.
- Project 2010-07 — Generator Requirements at the Transmission Interface — FAC-001-1, FAC-003-3, FAC-003-X, and PRC-004-2.1 received 85% or greater approval. Next the Standard Drafting Team will consider comments and determine whether to make additional changes.
- Project 2011-INT-01 Revision to MOD-028-1 to Respond to FPL Request for Interpretation received 95% approval. A recirculation ballot is open through 12/22.

Other Deadlines for Commenting/Voting

- Changes to Rules of Procedure Sections 100-1600 and Appendices 4B, 4C, 5A, and 8 and deletion of Appendices 3C and 6 (comments only; no vote) – 12/22
- Project 2008-06 — Cyber Security — Order 706 — CIP-002 through CIP-009 (Version 5 CIP Standards) – 1/6

CANS

- 9 CANS were posted as final on 12/9

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Our Staff

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

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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 Pennel 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.