SPP RE News: March 2012

Trustees to Take Action on UFLS Standard 4/23

The regional Under Frequency Load Shedding standard, PRC-006-SPP-1, will be presented to the Regional Entity Trustees for action April 23. The Trustees can recommend NERC approve the standard, remand it to the standard drafting team, or determine it is not needed and terminate activity. If you would like to be part of this discussion, please make plans to attend the April 23 meeting in-person or via teleconference.

The SPP Regional Standards Development Process Manual voting process steps were implemented for the first time with PRC-006-SPP-1, and we received questions and comments regarding the process. On March 5, we submitted a Request to MOPC to form a task force to identify and recommend revisions to the Regional Standards Process to address these questions and comments. MOPC is scheduled to discuss and act on this request at its April 10-11 meeting.

FERC Endorses Find, Fix and Track Initiative

FERC issued an Order on March 15 endorsing NERC’s Find, Fix, and Track (FFT) initiative. According to Joe Gertsch, SPP RE Enforcement and Legal Manager, “We are pleased about the FERC Order, which closed all previously filed FFTs and does not make any significant changes to the way we are already processing FFTs. We encourage Registered Entities to submit Self-Reports with as much supporting evidence as possible so we can make an FFT assessment quickly and take advantage of this process. Registered Entities are reminded that violations must be mitigated before we can submit the violation as an FFT.”

The Order notes:
• The vast majority of FFTs filed are satisfactory.
• Reduction of the burden to address minimal risk issues is important.
• Violations are final 60 days after submittal unless there is cause to open for review.
• Violations must be of minimal risk to the bulk power system - FERC may revisit this after the year status report filing.
• Registered Entities must certify violations are remediated.
• Registered Entities must be identified in filings, except for cases of critical infrastructure protection violations.
• FERC will conduct random surveys each year to gauge program performance.

FFT reflects a risk-informed approach that recognizes not all possible violations are equal and
should not be treated in the same manner. The new initiative was designed to handle compliance issues more efficiently, focus on issues posing a more serious risk to reliability, streamline administrative paperwork, and continue to encourage self-reporting and mitigation. Within NERC’s six FFT filings, more than 425 violations have been remediated.

---

**Webinars and Workshop**

**How to Hash Evidence for CIP Audits**, March 29, 1:30 CST

**CIP Workshop**, May 21-22, Dallas. **Download agenda**.

**Review of Standards Effective 2012/2013**, May 31, 2:00 CST

---

**New SPP and NERC Lessons Learned Posted**

Our **Event Analysis group** posted four new regional Lessons Learned (LL) that were developed by SPP Registered Entities:

- **Potential Interruption of Gas Supply/Identification of Critical Loads** - Because gas suppliers affected by rolling blackouts initiated in one region can impact fuel deliveries to generators in neighboring regions, this LL recommends that all gas suppliers be identified as critical loads in emergency operating plans.

- **Loss of SCADA Communications** - This LL stresses the importance of running software in a test environment before running it on the operating SCADA system.

- **Load Shedding Plans for Localized Events** - Since emergency operating plans allow for load shedding, this LL emphasizes the importance of load shedding, particularly for localized events that cause voltage decay.

- **Capacity Awareness during an Emergency Event** - This LL highlights the need for operators to be aware of resource availability in their area, particularly after an emergency alert has been declared and assistance may be coming in from other areas.

We hope you will review these valuable lessons learned from SPP members. Please contact **Deborah Currie** or **Alan Wahlstrom** with questions.

NERC has also posted three new LL:

- **DC Supply and AC Transients**
- **Rotational Load Shed**
- **Saturated Bus Auxiliary Current Transformer causes Bus Differential Operation during Line Fault**

---

**Reminder: 1Q Reporting Begins 4/2**

First quarter reporting begins April 2. Please see the [2012 Reporting Requirements schedule](#)
NERC News

New Online:

- DOE Posts 2nd Draft of Cybersecurity Guidelines for Comments by 4/5

- 2013 Business Plan and Budget Schedule

- 2012 Special Reliability Assessment: Effects of Geomagnetic Disturbances on the Bulk Power System. This report takes a comprehensive look at multiple, complex issues to evaluate geomagnetic disturbance effects, outlines the most likely outcomes, and offers short- and long-term recommendations for industry.

- NERC, Regions File Comments in Response to FERC White Paper on its role regarding EPA’s Mercury and Air Toxic Standards

- NERC Enhances Cybersecurity Efforts through ES-ISAC

- NERC Risk Management and Internal Controls Subcommittee Draft Mandate

NERC Events

“A Risk-Based Approach to Reliability and Accountability” Workshop, April 16-18, San Diego

Project 2008-06 Cyber Security Order 706 Webinar, April 10, 1-4 EST

Standards/Interpretations Under Development

NERC’s newly reformatted weekly standards bulletin lists standards/interpretations posted for comment, open ballot pools, pending ballots, standard drafting team vacancies, and upcoming meetings. You can always get the latest version online or contact Mallory Huggins to get it delivered to your inbox.

Quick Reference

SPP RE

2012 Compliance Plan/Schedules - Calendar/Events - Compliance and Enforcement - File Clerk - Homepage - Regional Standards Under Development - Registration Application/Change Form - Subscribe to SPP email lists - Training and Education - webCDMS
NERC


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

You can share concerns or feedback directly with the SPP RE Trustees by calling 888-394-2292. The phone line is staffed by a third-party provider who will ask if you want to remain anonymous. While SPP RE staff is always available to answer questions and discuss issues, this phone line gives stakeholders another tool for addressing compliance concerns.

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, CIP, System Events & Reliability Assessments

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

Compliance Monitoring

Jeff Rooker, Lead Compliance Engineer, (501) 614-3278
Greg Sorenson, 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
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

Jenny Anderson, Senior Compliance Analyst, Enforcement, (501) 614-3299
Daniel Haney, Law Clerk, (501) 688-2502
Stephanie Kimp, Law Clerk, (501) 688-2501
Machelle Porter, Paralegal, (501) 688-1681
Ryan Rainwater, Law Clerk, (501) 866-2512
Bob Reynolds, Lead Compliance Engineer-Enforcement, (501) 688-8227
Derek Williams, Law Clerk, (501) 688-2502

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 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.