Dear Stakeholders - Due to regulatory uncertainties raised by FERC Orders 773 and 773-A, NERC has filed a motion to extend the new Bulk Electric System (BES) definition implementation. If approved, the new implementation date will be 7/1/14 rather than 7/1/13; this will apply to BES inclusions and exclusions. We are prepared to support either implementation date and will provide more information if the 7/1/13 implementation date remains. NERC developed a software tool entities can use to request exceptions, and they plan to host multiple webinars about how to use the tool. NERC is hosting a webinar about the new definition on 6/26/13. Visit the NERC website for more information, and please contact Greg Sorenson (501-688-1713) or Thomas Teafatiller (501-350-1374) on our staff with questions.

I encourage everyone to read NERC’s 2013 State of Reliability Report, which provides an analytical evaluation of Bulk Power System (BPS) performance. NERC annually collects data to calculate 18 reliability metrics that provide a historical performance review and help identify and prioritize steps to reduce and manage reliability risks going forward. The report noted that BPS reliability remains adequate, the risk from violations has been reduced, transmission availability remains high, and frequency response is steady. The two highest contributors to disturbance events are protection system misoperations and AC substation equipment failures. Transmission system events with an unknown cause warrant further analysis to determine if a known cause can be ascertained.

You may also want to read the Electric Reliability Organization Enterprise Strategic Plan 2013-2016, developed by NERC and the REs, which summarizes the ERO enterprise mission, vision, values, and goals and provides strategic direction and priorities for 2013 and beyond.

We place great importance on our staff’s efficiency and high-quality performance. At their
January meeting, our Trustees approved goals and metrics to drive 2013 staff performance, such as accepting mitigation plans timely, reducing audit costs, publishing audit reports and reliability assessments timely, and maintaining a one-year caseload. We have started posting a monthly metrics dashboard for those interested in tracking staff's progress toward the goals; we are on track so far for the year.

Thank you to the over 170 people who attended the CIP workshop in person or via webinar. We received very positive feedback on the presentations and logistics. Save the date for our Fall Workshop, October 8-9 at the SPP Corporate Center here in Little Rock.

Sincerely,
Ron Ciesiel, General Manager

June 27 webinar on EOP-003 and PRC-006, Effective 10/1/13
SPP RE and RTO staff will review the new EOP-003 and PRC-006 standards that will be effective on 10/1/13. PRC-006 is the continent-wide UFLS standard, and EOP-003 relates to BA and TOP Load Shed Plans. Register for the webinar, June 27 from 2:00-3:15 p.m. CST.

Trouble Finding Standards info on NERC’s New Website?
Check out the Key Enhancements to NERC’s Standards Web Page and Standards Web Navigation Guide for more information.

2013 Summer Assessment: Sufficient Reserves For SPP Region
NERC posted the 2013 Summer Reliability Assessment, which found the majority of the 21 assessment areas, including SPP, have sufficient resources to meet their summer peak demands. SPP projects reserves well above the reference margin level of 13.6%.

The report includes NERC’s key findings and highlights for the different assessment areas. The SPP section includes a discussion on the Entergy, CLECO, LEPA and LAFA (LUS) move to MISO and related coordination activities. Other topics include demand growth, generation additions and outages, and an ongoing operational study process to address reliability concerns related to environmental regulations.

July 15 Deadline for Facility Ratings Alert, Low Priority Lines
Transmission Owners (TOs) and Generation Owners (GOs), the second 2013 bi-annual Facility Ratings Alert report is due 7/15/13 to Alan Wahlstrom (501-688-1624) and Debbie Currie (501-688-8228). This is the first reporting period for low priority line assessments. If you have previously submitted a bi-annual report, please continue to use the same spreadsheet and add information as needed. Be sure and report on remediation activity for high and medium priority lines. Due dates are 12/31/11 for high priority assessments, 12/31/12 for medium priority, and 12/31/13 for low priority. Please contact Debbie or Alan for the template or with questions.

Thus far, the program has found 23,000 discrepancies nationwide and 1,800 discrepancies in the SPP RE region. Remediation is required within one year of discovery.

**Consider Joining Spare Equipment Database**

NERC’s Spare Equipment Database (SED) is a web-based tool for TOs and GOs that facilitates timely communication between entities that need long-lead-time equipment following a high-impact, low-frequency event and entities that have spare assets to share. NERC-registered TOs and GOs are requested to report information on spare assets that meet the criteria of the spare definition highlighted in the [Special Report: Spare Equipment Database System](#).

**SED Benefits:**
- Faster restoration and entity cooperation
- Entities contact SED instead of everyone
- Balances risk mitigation and freedom via voluntary participation and double-blind requests
- Entities are not required to commit spares

The SED is operated as a secure database, equipped with procedures and safeguards that assure data confidentiality. Participants are required to sign a confidentiality agreement. Visit [NERC’s SED page](#) for more information (left column).

**New Standard Versions Effective July 1, 2013**

As a reminder, the following new Reliability Standard versions will go into effect 7/1/13:

- EOP-001-2.1b
- EOP-005-2
- EOP-006-2
- EOP-008-1
- VAR-002-2b
We conducted a webinar in May 2012 to discuss the EOP changes and provided further information at our Spring 2013 workshop (see presentation 6 and EOP-005-2 and EOP-006-2 FAQ). VAR-002-2b includes a change to R1 that incorporates language from CAN-0022 that discusses GOP notifications to the TOPs of Automatic Voltage Regulator status and a word change in R2 from “output” to “schedule”.

CIP Tip: Free NERCFilt Module
At the SPP RE Spring Workshop, we discussed a NERC password validation filter named NERCFilt. The author has posted the source code and pre-built binaries. This is a free open source code module that will enforce the NERC password complexity rules for Microsoft Windows systems. We caution those interested in this utility to carefully read the “Read Me” documentation and thoroughly test the code before deployment. SPP RE offers this information for entity consideration; we do not mandate the use of this or similar tools and do not endorse any vendors that provide such tools.

FERC & NERC News

FERC Issues NOPRs on Transmission Planning Standards and Interpretation of Disturbance Control Performance
In response to NERC’s Petition for approval of modified TPL Standards, FERC issued a supplemental Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NOPR) to approve Transmission Planning Reliability Standard TPL-001-4, which includes a provision that would allow a transmission planner to plan for load-shedding following a single contingency. In response to NERC’s Petition for approval of an interpretation of BAL-002-1, FERC issued a NOPR to remand NERC’s proposed interpretation because it exceeds the permissible scope for interpretations.

May 9 NERC Board Approvals
At its May 9 meeting, the NERC Board of Trustees approved:

• 2013 State of Reliability Report

• 2013 Special Reliability Assessment – Accommodating an Increased Dependence on Natural Gas for Electric Power

• Generator Verification – PRC-024-1 reliability standard, which ensures protective relays are set so generation units remain connected during defined frequency and voltage excursions

• Revision to the Violation Risk Factor for FAC-003-2 requirement 2, by raising it from medium
to high

- Phase 1 of the Glossary Definitions project, which adds three definitions from Section 215 of the Federal Power Act to the NERC Glossary of Terms: Bulk Power System, Reliability Standard and Reliable Operation

- Revised Adequate Level of Reliability definition, which identifies and defines reliability performance objectives that drive activities of system planners and operators to ensure the BES is reliable

New on NERC.com
- [Reliability Assurance Initiative Q&A Document](#)
- [Compliance Analysis Report for Reliability Coordinator Function](#)
- [8 revised versions of NERC Reliability Standard Audit Worksheets](#)

Webinar slides
- [Project 2010-05.1 Protection Systems: Phase 1 (Misoperations) PRC-004-3 Slides](#)
- [Recording](#)
- [Project 2008-12: Coordinate Interchange Standards Slides](#)
- [Recording](#)
- [Five-Year Review Projects Overview Slides](#)
- [Recording](#)
- [FAQ](#)
- [Project 2007-11 Disturbance Monitoring Slides](#)
- [Recording](#)

NERC Events
- 5/31, 1:00–3:00 p.m. – PER Industry Feedback Webinar [Registration](#)

- 6/18/13, Salt Lake City – MOD Standards Conference Modeling Data [Registration](#) - [Details](#) - [Net Conference](#)

- 11/13-14 – Grid Security Exercise, GridEx II

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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.

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**This newsletter was sent to:**

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Critical Infrastructure Protection Working Group exploder  
Markets and Operations Policy Committee exploder  
Operating Reliability Working Group exploder  
RE Authorizing Officers  
RE News exploder  
RE Primary Compliance Contacts  
RE Standards Development exploder  
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