NEWS BULLETIN

(January 31, 2011)

This news bulletin was e-mailed to the following SPP Distribution/Exploder Lists:
- SPP RE Trustees
- SPP RE Trustee Exploder List
- SPP RE Primary Compliance Contacts (PCCs)
- SPP RE Authorizing Officers (AOs)
- SPP BOD Members Committee Exploder List
- Market Operations Policy Committee (MOPC) Exploder List
- Operating Reliability Working Group (ORWG) Exploder List

The SPP RE is issuing this news bulletin to keep our registered entities informed about current and emerging NERC and SPP RE initiatives, as well as compliance training opportunities. We encourage you to take note of the items listed below and forward this bulletin to other individuals assigned to your compliance programs.

- **Continuation of Event Analysis Program.** On October 25, 2010, NERC initiated a trial period for the program that will review events which meet the reporting thresholds of Appendix B, “Event Categories and Levels of Analysis” (view Event Categories and Levels of Analysis). While the initial phase ended on January 25, 2011, the use of the event analysis process document and field testing has continued into a second phase, which includes, among other things, a comprehensive evaluation of field trial data collected during the initial phase and identification and implementation of changes designed to improve the process. It is expected that the second phase will continue into summer 2011, during which the current version of the event analysis process document, dated October 25, 2010, will remain in effect. (view Event Analysis Process documents)

- **NERC Releases the 2010 NERC Sufficiency Review: CIP-002 Risk-Based Assessment Methodology.** NERC CIP-002 Cyber Security – Critical Cyber Asset Identification Standard requires that entities identify and document the Critical Cyber Assets (CCAs) associated with the critical assets that support the reliable operation of the bulk electric system. Specifically, CIP-002 R1 requires entities to develop a risk-based assessment methodology that provides the evaluation criteria to identify their critical assets. CIP-002 R2 requires entities to apply these criteria to identify their list of critical assets.

In early 2010, NERC initiated a series of Sufficiency Reviews in an effort to better understand how entities developed their methodologies, and determine if entities were fully considering the purpose of the CIP standards. To encourage full and
open discussion, all parties agreed these Sufficiency Reviews would be conducted outside of the NERC compliance monitoring and audit program and that the results of the reviews would not disclose entity-specific information outside of the team performing the reviews.

NERC and Regional Entity staff collaborated to determine which entities would be best suited for the Sufficiency Review. Each of the entities selected were registered in multiple functions, had substantial geographic coverage, and contributed significantly to bulk power system reliability. Sufficiency Reviews were conducted at three entities in three different NERC Regions.

Access the report, which provides the results of the reviews without attribution to individual entities, [here](#). Questions regarding the Sufficiency Reviews may be directed to **Kevin Perry**.

- **NERC Revises Reliability Standard Audit Worksheets.** The Reliability Standard Audit Worksheets (RSAWs), which are tools used by NERC and the Regional Entities to assess registered entities’ compliance with applicable standards, were recently revised to improve their usefulness. Access the revised RSAWs [here](#). Questions regarding the revised RSAWs may be directed to **Jim Williams**.

- **SPP RE Regional UFLS Registration Ballot Closes February 2.** The window for entities and individuals to register for the SPP UFLS Regional Standard Ballot Body closes February 2, 2011, at 5:00 p.m. (CST). Interested entities or individuals may register for the SPP UFLS Regional Standard Ballot Body by completing and submitting an online SPP UFLS Regional Standard Ballot Body Registration Form. Only one registration per entity or individual is allowed, and an entity or individual may register for only one of the five segments (Transmission, Generation, Marketer/Broker, Distribution/Load Serving Entity, End User and Public Interest).

  Click to register for the SPP UFLS Regional Standard Ballot Body

  Only entities and individuals who submit a completed online SPP UFLS Regional Standard Ballot Body Registration Form by February 2, 2011 are eligible to vote on the proposed SPP UFLS Regional Standard.

- **SPP RE Sets Dates for 2011 Compliance Workshops.** The dates for the SPP RE spring, fall, and CIP compliance workshops are as follows:

  Spring Compliance Workshop- March 28-29
  CIP Workshop- May 11-12
  Fall Compliance Workshop- October 4-5