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**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
BEFORE THE  
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION**

**WESTERN ELECTRICITY COORDINATING ) Docket No. RM09-19-000  
COUNCIL QUALIFIED TRANSFER PATH )  
UNSCHEDULED FLOW RELIEF )  
REGIONAL RELIABILITY STANDARD )**

**COMMENTS OF THE  
NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY CORPORATION  
IN RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING**

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January 11, 2011

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## I. INTRODUCTION

The North American Electric Reliability Corporation (“NERC”)<sup>1</sup> hereby provides these comments in response to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission’s (“FERC” or “Commission”) Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (“NOPR”)<sup>2</sup> regarding Regional Reliability Standard IRO-006-WECC-1 - Qualified Transfer Path Unscheduled Flow (USF) Relief. In the NOPR, the Commission proposed to approve the Regional Reliability Standard developed by the Western Electricity Coordinating Council (“WECC”) and approved by NERC. However, the Commission has requested additional information as a result of concerns with the proposed IRO-006-WECC-1 standard. Depending upon the responses received, the Commission may, in the Final Rule, direct WECC and NERC to develop modifications to the regional Reliability Standards to address the issues identified.

This Regional Reliability Standard is designed to mitigate transmission overloads due to unscheduled flow on Qualified Transfer Paths. Under the Reliability Standard, Reliability Coordinators are responsible for *initiating* schedule curtailments and Balancing Authorities are responsible for *implementing* the curtailments.

By this filing, NERC submits its response to the NOPR.

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<sup>1</sup> The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (“FERC” or “Commission”) certified NERC as the electric reliability organization (“ERO”) in its order issued on July 20, 2006 in Docket No. RR06-1-000. *North American Reliability Corporation*, “Order Certifying North American Electric Reliability Corporation as the Electric Reliability Organization and Ordering Compliance Filing,” 116 FERC ¶ 61,062 (July 20, 2006).

<sup>2</sup> *Western Electric Coordinating Council Qualified Transfer Path Unscheduled Flow Relief Regional Reliability Standard*, 133 FERC ¶ 61,074 (October 21, 2010) (“NOPR”).

## II. NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS

Notices and communications with respect to this filing may be addressed to:

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Commission's service list are indicated  
with an asterisk.

## III. DISCUSSION

### A. The Proposed Regional Reliability Standard Complies with Prior Commission Directives.

In a June 17, 2009 filing,<sup>3</sup> NERC requested Commission approval of proposed regional Reliability Standard IRO-006-WECC-1 to replace the currently effective regional Standard. The new version of this standard was developed in response to Commission directives in the June 8, 2007 Order concerning Regional Reliability Standards.<sup>4</sup> The proposed IRO-006-WECC-1 standard conforms to the Commission's June 2007 Order directing WECC to make certain modifications in response to NERC comments and Commission determinations. Specifically in the June 2007 Order, the Commission: (1) determined that (a) regional definitions should conform to definitions set forth in the NERC Glossary of Terms Used in Reliability Standards

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<sup>3</sup> See NERC, Petition for Approval of Proposed Western Electricity Coordinating Council Regional Reliability Standard IRO-006-WECC-1, Docket No. RM09-19-000 (June 17, 2009)

<sup>4</sup> *Order Approving Regional Reliability Standards for the Western Interconnection and Directing Modifications*, 119 FERC ¶ 61,260 (June 8, 2007)

(“NERC Glossary”), unless a specific deviation has been justified, and (b) documents that are referenced in the Reliability Standard should be attached to the Reliability Standard; (2) found that it is important that Regional Reliability Standards and NERC Reliability Standards achieve a reasonable level of consistency in their structure so that there is a common understanding of the elements; and (3) directed WECC to address stakeholder concerns regarding ambiguities in the terms “load responsibility” and “firm transaction.”<sup>5</sup> Other changes the Commission directed WECC to make included the following modifications:

- Address the inconsistency between the NERC and WECC definition of the terms “Automatic Generation Control,” “Disturbance,” “Frequency Bias,” and “Non-Spinning Reserve”;
- Ensure that documents that are referenced are attached to the standard;
- Remove the Sanctions Table (that is inconsistent with NERC’s Sanction Guidelines);
- Develop Violation Risk Factors and Violations Severity Levels that conform to the NERC standards;
- Eliminate the “excuse of performance” provision of the Regional Reliability Standard which is inconsistent with NERC’s format;
- Clarify the ambiguities related to the use of terms “load responsibility” and “firm transaction”; and
- Address NERC’s formatting concerns.<sup>6</sup>

#### **B. NERC Supports the Approval of WECC’s Proposed Regional Reliability Standard**

NERC agrees with and supports the Commission’s proposal to approve the subject Regional Reliability Standard. NERC believes that the standard is just, reasonable, not unduly preferential, and in the public interest.

#### **C. Responses to the Commission’s Requests for Additional Information and Comment**

In the NOPR, the Commission stated that while it proposed to approve Regional Reliability Standard IRO-006-WECC-1, the standard raises some concerns about which the Commission requests additional information.

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<sup>5</sup> NOPR at P 9.

<sup>6</sup> June 8, 2007 Order at PP 54-55.

In the NOPR, the Commission requested comments regarding the interaction between the requirements contained in the Regional Reliability Standards IRO-006-WECC-1 and TOP-007-WECC-1 and those contained in continent-wide Reliability Standard IRO-006-4.<sup>7</sup> Because the existing IRO-006-4 NERC standard contains a reference to the WECC Unscheduled Flow Mitigation procedure in Requirement R1.2 (which is related to IRO-006-WECC-1), the Commission questions whether it was intended that there be interaction between the various standards, or whether the national and regional Standards are duplicative. Recognizing the potential for confusion in this area, NERC has recently concluded development of and will be filing this week with the Commission a petition for approval of the proposed IRO-006-5 - Reliability Coordination — Transmission Loading Relief (TLR) Reliability Standard. Among other things, this updated version of the continent-wide standard has been modified so that the reference to the WECC Unscheduled Flow Mitigation procedure no longer is offered as a specific procedure that is to be selected by the Reliability Coordinator for use in the Western Interconnection. Instead, the standard includes the reference as an example of an Interconnection-wide procedure for which multi-Interconnection coordination must occur. In so doing, the standard eliminates the potential for conflict or duplication between the standards.

In paragraph 27, the Commission asks a related question regarding whether or not the Regional Standard is more stringent than the continent wide standard, as previously asserted by NERC. While the current IRO-006-4 obligates the Reliability Coordinator to select a procedure to use, IRO-006-WECC-1 requires Balancing Authorities and Reliability Coordinators to take action under those plans, which NERC believes is more stringent than the continent-wide standard. Additionally, removing the potential for conflict as described above, IRO-006-5 also

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<sup>7</sup> NOPR at P 26.

eliminates any potential for interpretation that would imply that Regional standard is not more stringent than the continent-wide standard.

The Commission requested further explanation from NERC and WECC regarding whether the TOP-007-STD-1 standard or the TOP-007-WECC-1 standard (whichever is in effect) is an adequate replacement for the currently required pre-curtailement actions set forth and currently required in steps one through three of the Mitigation Plan.<sup>8</sup> As discussed in previous comments, NERC believes that mandating how an entity is to meet reliability performance in all cases is unnecessary and unwise. WECC has proposed that entities should be given broader discretion in how they meet the performance objective of the standards, and NERC is generally in support of this approach. Additionally, because these steps are contained in the WECC Mitigation Plan, NERC emphasizes that it is not appropriate to include steps one through three in any continent-wide standard.

In paragraph 31 of the NOPR, the Commission requested comments regarding whether it should direct WECC to either (1) revise the Plan referenced by IRO-006-4 (continent-wide) to incorporate all the WECC rules and procedures, thus eliminating the need for the regional Reliability Standard; or (2) incorporate all the WECC rules and procedures into IRO-006-WECC-1 and TOP-007-WECC-1 while eliminating the regional difference contained in the NERC IRO-006-4 standard. As stated previously, NERC has already undertaken the action of eliminating the regional difference from the continent-wide standard as a part of the updates contained in IRO-006-5.

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<sup>8</sup> NOPR at P 28.

#### IV. CONCLUSION

For the reasons stated above, NERC respectfully requests that the Commission take action consistent with these comments when it issues its Final Rule regarding Regional Reliability Standard IRO-006-WECC-1.

Respectfully submitted,

*/s/ Holly. A Hawkins*

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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that I have served a copy of the foregoing document upon all parties listed on the official service list compiled by the Secretary in this proceeding.

Dated at Washington, D.C. this 11th day of January, 2011.

*/s/ Holly A. Hawkins*  
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