

Electric-Gas Working Group (EGWG)

Scope Document
May 2019

Background

In November 2017, NERC published the Special Reliability Assessment: Potential Bulk Power System Impacts Due to Severe Disruptions on the Natural Gas System (“Report”)¹. In the Report, NERC made numerous recommendations for assessing disruptions to natural gas infrastructure and related impacts to the reliable operation of the Bulk Electric System (BES) in Planning studies, several of which were assigned to the NERC Planning Committee (“PC”). Through subsequent meetings and workshops, it became clear that in order to effectively assess the wide range of BES and natural gas interoperability concerns, a coalition of subject matter experts spanning the various industries would be needed. Thus, the EGWG was created to facilitate this gathering of experts and drive the development of tools and other resources to better educate and inform the electric industry in light of these concerns.

Activities

The NERC EGWG will serve as a stakeholder forum open to all types of organizations, particularly those that represent a cross-section of fuel supply/delivery chains and the interrelated electric sectors. The primary attention of the EGWG will initially be the development of educational guidance and/or guidelines regarding considerations of fuel-related risks in Bulk Power System (BPS) and BES Planning studies and system analysis. On a secondary level, EGWG will be a stakeholder forum addressing any number of concerns where expertise of the diverse group is deemed valuable. The EGWG will work with the PC and other PC subcommittees, working groups, and task forces as necessary to provide and complete any analysis that is requested and deemed appropriate. Key activities of the EGWG include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Author guidelines, white papers, compliance guidance, etc. in support of natural gas disruption considerations and risks that are applicable to all regions and could extend to be inclusive of all fuel sources.
2. Develop educational materials that can be used for a range of audiences that describe any potential emerging risks and possible solutions to address these risks.
3. Provide technical assistance in support for assessing fuel-related concerns in other NERC program areas.
4. Provide assistance to NERC Event Analysis evaluations of BPS disturbances when fuel disruptions are involved in the disturbance, as necessary.

¹ https://www.nerc.com/pa/RAPA/ra/Reliability%20Assessments%20DL/NERC_SPOD_11142017_Final.pdf

5. Support the development of any data collection requirements by the NERC Reliability Assessment Subcommittee (“RAS”), as necessary, for inclusion in the NERC Long Term Reliability Assessment (“LTRA”) and other assessments.
6. Provide support in the development of measurements or metrics related to fuel-related risk in the Bulk Power System and reported in independent NERC reports and assessments such as the State of Reliability.

Deliverables

The EGWG will develop technical reference documents, guidelines, and other educational materials to support industry efforts in planning with the following objectives:

1. Reliability Guideline(s) on effectively assessing fuel disruption risks in planning studies that provide a specific but broad set of recommendations.
 - a. Guidance should help entities determine the types of analysis needed to assess fuel disruption risks, as well as suggested contacts for gathering appropriate data
 - b. Guidance should help entities understand regional factors that affect fuel assurance (e.g., geography, fuel supply chain, firm/non-firm fuel delivery, fuel access, market constructs, fuel infrastructure, etc.)
 - c. Guidance should be malleable over time as technologies and operational landscapes evolve
2. Recommendations for the development of tools/guides to enhance operational awareness of fuel-related information.
3. Information that can be used for a range of audiences that describe potential emerging risks and possible solutions to address these risks. This information may include educational materials, workshops, webinars, or other beneficial platforms.
4. Other tasks as deemed appropriate.

Membership

The EGWG will include members who have technical or policy level expertise in the following areas:

- Fuel supply and delivery chains
- Fuel procurement for electric generation
- Transmission Planning studies and system analysis
- Electric and fuel infrastructure operations

The EGWG will consist of a chair and vice chair appointed by the PC leadership. NERC staff will be assigned as Coordinator(s). Decisions will be consensus-based of the membership, led by the chairs and staff Coordinator(s). Any minority views may be included in an addendum.

Reporting & Duration

The EGWG will report to the NERC PC. EGWG work products will be approved by the NERC PC. The group will submit a work plan to the PC following its inception, and will develop the deliverables outlined.

Meetings

The group is expected to have two to three in-person meetings, supplemented with conference calls to continue workload throughout the year.

Approved by the NERC Planning Committee on June 5, 2019.