

## Exhibit B – Application of NERC Section 215 Criteria [Updated to include CRISP]

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### DISCUSSION OF HOW THE NERC MAJOR ACTIVITIES IN THE 2015 BUSINESS PLAN AND BUDGET MEET THE NERC WRITTEN CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING WHETHER A RELIABILITY ACTIVITY IS ELIGIBLE TO BE FUNDED UNDER FEDERAL POWER ACT SECTION 215

#### I. Introduction

This Exhibit discusses how the major activities in NERC’s 2015 Business Plan and Budget meet the NERC written criteria for determining whether a reliability activity is eligible to be funded under §215 of the Federal Power Act (“FPA §215”). This Exhibit is intended to satisfy Recommendation No. 38 resulting from the financial performance of NERC conducted by the Commission’s Division of Audits (“DA”) in 2012-2013 and adopted by the Commission in its November 2, 2012 order on NERC’s 2013 Business Plan and Budget.<sup>1</sup> NERC submitted the written criteria to the Commission in a compliance filing dated February 21, 2013 in Docket No. FA11-21-000.<sup>2</sup> The Commission approved the NERC written criteria, with modifications, in an order issued in that docket on April 18, 2013.<sup>3</sup> The NERC written criteria as used in this Exhibit incorporate the modifications specified in the Compliance Order.<sup>4</sup>

#### II. Reliability Standards Program 2015 Major Activities

The major activities of the Reliability Standards Program are described at pages 27-31 of the 2015 Business Plan and Budget. The Reliability Standards Program carries out the ERO’s responsibility to develop, adopt, obtain approval of, and modify as and when appropriate, mandatory reliability standards for the reliable planning, operation, and critical infrastructure protection of the North American BES. The major activity areas for this program include (1) providing project management and leadership to the reliability standard development process to deliver high-quality, continent-wide reliability standards, including standard development outreach activities, facilitation of Standard Drafting Team activities, drafting support, assisting Standard Drafting Teams in adhering to the processes in the *Standard Processes Manual*, and ensuring that the quality of documents produced are appropriate for approval by industry and

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<sup>1</sup> *North American Electric Reliability Corporation, Order Accepting 2013 Business Plan and Budget of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation and Ordering Compliance Filing*, 141 FERC ¶ 61,086 (2012) (“2013 Budget Order”). Recommendation 38, as adopted in the 2013 Budget Order, is: “In its annual business plan and budget filings, [NERC should] provide an explanation as to why the proposed activities to be undertaken by each program area for the budget year are statutory, including, at a minimum: a description and the purpose of the major activities to be taken by each program area and an explanation for why the activity is a statutory activity.” *Id.* at P 16.

<sup>2</sup> *Compliance Filing of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation in response to paragraph 30 of November 2, 2012 Commission Order – NERC Written Criteria for Determining Whether a Reliability Activity is Eligible to be Funded Under Federal Power Act Section 215*, filed February 1, 2013 in Docket No. FA 11-21-000 (“February 1, 2013 Compliance Filing”).

<sup>3</sup> *North American Electric Reliability Corporation, Order on Compliance*, 143 FERC ¶ 61,052 (2013) (“Compliance Order”).

<sup>4</sup> For ease of reference, the complete NERC written criteria, as modified in accordance with the Compliance Order, are provided at the end of this Exhibit.

the NERC Board; (2) facilitating continent-wide industry engagement in the standard development processes; and (3) conducting industry balloting on standards, disseminating information on standards and the standard development processes, and supporting regulatory filings and proceedings relating to standards. Additionally, the Reliability Standards Program provides technical advice and quality review for Regional Entity Standards development processes, presents proposed Regional standards to the NERC Board, and develops and supports regulatory filings for approval of regional standards. The Reliability Standards Program supports the Cost Effective Analysis Process to ensure that the standards development process produces standards that cost-effectively address reliability gaps.

The Reliability Standards Program is involved in and supports cross-departmental and collaborative projects, including the Risk Based Registration project; the concurrent development of RSAWs with the associated reliability standards; conducting, in conjunction with other departments, technical analysis needed as a foundation for standards projects; and submitting newly identified reliability risks to the Reliability Issues Steering Committee (RISC) for verification prior to initiation of a standards project.

For 2015, the major activities of the Reliability Standards Program will seek to ensure that the Reliability Standards Development Plan is effectively executed and that the Reliability Standards developed will appropriately mitigate risks to reliability. The major activities will include: (1) supporting the Reliability Risk Management Process, including focusing on the selection of standards projects undertaken; (2) addressing FERC directives and responding to FERC orders through standards development projects as necessary; (3) transforming NERC's standards to steady state, including addressing possible outstanding Paragraph 81 Phase 2 requirements candidates for retirement and Independent Expert Review Panel candidates for retirement; (4) improving the quality and content of standards to determine the specific criteria for determining whether a Reliability Standard is of sufficient content and quality to be deemed steady state; and (5) facilitating smooth transitions to new standards such as CIP Version 5 and the Physical Security standard, including by working with other departments to develop guidelines, webinars and other activities to support auditor and industry training on the new standards.

The major activities of the Reliability Standards Program satisfy the following criteria:

I.A: Is the activity necessary or appropriate for Reliability Standards development projects pursuant to the NERC Rules of Procedure (ROP)?

I.B: Is the activity necessary or appropriate for providing guidance and assistance to Regional Entities in carrying out Regional Reliability Standards development activities?

I.C: Is the activity necessary or appropriate for information gathering, collection and analysis activities to obtain information for Reliability Standards development, including for purposes of identifying areas in which new Reliability Standards could be developed,

existing Reliability Standards could be revised, or existing Reliability Standards could be eliminated?

I.D: Is the activity necessary or appropriate for the provision of training and education concerning Reliability Standards development processes, procedures, and topics for/to (i) NERC personnel, (ii) Regional Entity personnel, (iii) industry personnel?

II.A: is the activity necessary or appropriate for the identification and registration of users, owners, and operators of the Bulk Power System that are required to comply with the Requirements of Reliability Standard applicable to the reliability functions for which they are registered?

II.F.1: Is the activity necessary or appropriate for the provision of training, education and dissemination of information for/to (i) NERC personnel, (ii) Regional Entity personnel, and (ii) industry personnel with respect to compliance monitoring and enforcement topics and topics concerning reliability risks identified through compliance monitoring and enforcement activities, such as (1) Requirements of Reliability Standards, including how to comply and how to demonstrate compliance? This includes development of guidance and interpretation documents.

V: Is the activity one that is required or specified by, or carries out, the provisions of NERC's Rules of Procedure that have been approved by the Commission as "Electric Reliability Organization Rules" (defined in 18 C.F.R. §39.1) pursuant to FPA §215(f)? (The applicable Rules of Procedure provisions for these major activities are §300 and Appendix 3A.)

VI: Is the activity necessary or appropriate for the supervision and oversight of Regional Entities in the performance of their delegated responsibilities in accordance with FPA §215, 18 C.F.R. Part 39, the Commission-approved delegation agreement between NERC and the Regional Entity, the NERC ROP, and applicable provisions of Commission orders?

IX. Is the activity necessary or appropriate for NERC and Regional Entity committees, subcommittees and working groups engaged in activities encompassed by one or more of the other criteria?

X. Is the activity necessary or appropriate for the analysis and evaluation of activities encompassed by one or more of the other criteria for the purpose of identifying means of performing the activities more effectively and efficiently?

### **III. Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement and Organization Registration and Certification Program Area 2015 Major Activities**

The major activities of the Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement and Organization Registration and Certification Program Area are described at pages 35-42 and 45-49 of the 2015

Business Plan and Budget. This Program Area is comprised of three operational groups: (1) Regional Entity Assurance and Oversight, (2) Compliance Analysis, Certification and Registration, and (3) Compliance Enforcement.

The Regional Entity Assurance and Oversight group works collaboratively with the Regional Entities to ensure consistent and effective implementation of the Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program (CMEP) across the entire ERO Enterprise. This group's activities include the following major activities and functions: (1) ensuring consistent and fair implementation of the CMEP and of the risk-based compliance monitoring program for reliability improvements, including developing and maintaining the necessary compliance-related processes, procedures, IT platforms, tools and templates; (2) oversight of the Regional Entities' delegated compliance functions, including consistent and uniform CMEP planning, implementation, and reporting, compliance operations and coordination, and auditor training; (3) CIP Version 5 activities related to transition, training, and compliance design ERO education programs that support industry compliance and the integration of risk assessment and internal controls; (4) development of minimum baseline monitoring requirements; (5) development and maintenance of RSAWs; (6) support for Regional Entity and industry committees, working groups, and task forces, such as the Compliance and Certification Committee; and (7) supporting standards development and education. Regional Entity Assurance and Oversight provides information, statistics and perspectives to Standard Drafting Teams and collaborates in the development of drafts RSAWs during the standard development process. This program also supports and promotes the development by registered entities of effective compliance programs and internal controls.

The Regional Entity Assurance and Oversight group participates in and supports the implementation of the Reliability Assurance Initiative (RAI), including through development of a single ERO methodology for registered entity risk assessments and evaluation and testing of registered entity internal controls; implementation of an auditor manual with an approved auditor handbook and checklist; and process improvements associated with coordination of compliance and enforcement activities for multi-region registered entities.

The ongoing and new major activities of the Regional Entity Assurance and Oversight group for 2015 include: developing a training program to support implementation of the common audit procedures and the ERO Auditor Capabilities and Competencies Guide; replacing/enhancing NERC's existing Compliance, Reporting, Analysis Tracking System (CRATS) and other compliance tools to support RAI activities; making effective internal controls models and information available to industry; initiating compliance phase-in learning periods for new standards; transitioning to a single ERO approach to compliance monitoring and common audit planning, and implementing RAI techniques and principles consistently; consolidating to a common set of RSAWs, or successors, for all standards; enhancing the design of regional compliance audits to evaluate regional staffing, deployment of tools, and testing of compliance activities; increasing the frequency of audits to validate the implementation of RAI program designs; and creating technically sound training to support compliance methodologies and testing approaches for Reliability Standards.

The Compliance Analysis, Registration and Certification Group is responsible for a range of requirements and activities embodied in Section 500 and Appendices 5A and 5B of the NERC ROP, including ensuring all entities impacting the BES are registered; ensuring Reliability Coordinators (RC), Balancing Authorities (BA) and Transmission Operators (TOP) are certified; supporting standards development and compliance monitoring; ensuring that industry maintains effective internal controls programs for reliability assurance risk; and ensuring that program gaps are assessed in all reportable events and addressed if appropriate. Major activities of this group include (1) registration of BES users, owners, and operators; (2) certification of RC, BA and TOP; (3) compliance investigations to identify possible violations of Reliability Standards; (4) processing complaints alleging violations of Reliability Standards; (5) technical assurance, including developing quarterly gap and risk assessment reports and recommended responses, and conducting inquiries and spot checks based on quarterly gap analysis; and (6) oversight of Regional Entity registration, certification, investigation and complaint programs.

The Compliance Analysis, Registration and Certification Group is principally involved in the design and implementation of the Risk Based Registration initiative, including the related registration criteria to identify users, owners, and operators of the BES that have a material impact on reliability and to ensure that the right entities are subject to the right set of applicable Reliability Standards, based on a consistent and common approach to risk assessment and registration across the ERO Enterprise.

The ongoing and new major activities of the Compliance Analysis, Registration and Certification Group for 2015 include: deploying a sustainable Risk Based Registration design that incorporates evaluation of the reliability risks and benefits provided by an entity to ensure reliability; identifying a corresponding properly scoped set of Reliability Standard requirements; developing an implementation plan with business practices and IT requirements that addresses unintended industry burden, while preserving an adequate level of reliability; aligning changes to the registration criteria with other NERC activities; assessing the current certification program for opportunities to mature the program; incorporating effects to registration from the enhanced BES Definition; providing support to the continued development of RSAWs; aiding in the BES definition exception submittal process; aiding in the review of registration appeals and enforcement mitigation; assisting with training modules for investigations, certifications and registrations; and providing analysis in support of projects addressing top reliability risks.

The Compliance Enforcement department is responsible for overseeing enforcement processes, the application of penalties or sanctions, and activities to mitigate and prevent recurrence of noncompliances with Reliability Standards. The Department works collaboratively with the Regional Entities to ensure consistent and effective implementation of the CMEP. The Compliance Enforcement department monitors Regional Entities' enforcement processes and provides oversight over the outcomes of such processes, to ensure due process, identify best practices and process efficiency opportunities, and promote consistency among

Regional Entities' business practices; collects and analyzes compliance enforcement data and trends to assist with identification of emerging risks and help to inform development of enforcement policy and processes; files notices of penalty (NOP) and other submittals associated with noncompliances discovered through Regional Entity compliance, monitoring and enforcement activities; processes and files NOPs and other submittals discovered through NERC-led investigations and audits; and collaborates with other NERC departments, including Reliability Standards and Regional Entity Oversight and Assurance.

The Compliance Enforcement department is actively involved in working with the Regional Entities to reduce the number of violations in inventory, particularly those older than 24 months; ongoing identification and implementation of enforcement process improvements, including FFT and self-reporting; promoting self-identification, prompt mitigation of noncompliances, and timely completion of mitigating activities (including through development of the ERO Enterprise Self-Report User Guide and the ERO Enterprise Mitigation Plan Guide); and other RAI activities.

New and ongoing major activities of this department in 2015 will include continuing to identify processing efficiencies and enhancements to enforcement activities; consolidating new enforcement processes, including enhancements to the FFT program, self-reporting, and RAI activities and related process improvements; ensuring timely processing of violations, particularly those that pose greater risk and can provide lessons learned to industry; and ensuring early dissemination of violation information to registered entities to enable them to learn from prior events and violations and take preventative actions to eliminate similar risks.

The major activities of the Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement and Organization Registration and Certification Program Area satisfy the following criteria:

I.A: Is the activity necessary or appropriate for Reliability Standards development projects pursuant to the NERC Rules of Procedure?

I.C: Is the activity necessary or appropriate for information gathering, collection and analysis activities to obtain information for Reliability Standards development, including for purposes of identifying areas in which new Reliability Standards could be developed, existing Reliability Standards could be revised, or existing Reliability Standards could be eliminated?

II.A: Is the activity necessary or appropriate for the identification and registration of users, owners, and operators of the Bulk Power System that are required to comply with Requirements of Reliability Standards applicable to the reliability functions for which they are registered?

II.B: Is the activity necessary or appropriate for the Certification of Reliability Coordinators, Transmission Operators and Balancing Authorities as having the requisite personnel, qualifications and facilities and equipment needed to perform these

reliability functions in accordance with the applicable Requirements of Reliability Standards?

II.D: Is the activity necessary or appropriate for conducting, participating in or overseeing compliance monitoring and enforcement activities pursuant to the NERC ROP and (through the Regional Entities) the Commission-approved delegation agreements?

II.E: Is the activity necessary or appropriate for information gathering, collection and analysis activities to obtain information to monitor and enforce compliance with Reliability Standards, including evaluating the effectiveness of current compliance monitoring and enforcement processes, the need for new or revised compliance monitoring and enforcement processes, and the need for new or different means of training and education on compliance with Reliability Standards.

II.F: Is the activity necessary or appropriate for the provision of training, education and dissemination of information for/to (i) NERC personnel, (ii) Regional Entity personnel, and (iii) industry personnel with respect to compliance monitoring and enforcement topics and topics concerning reliability risks identified through compliance monitoring and enforcement activities, such as: (1) Requirements of Reliability Standards, including how to comply and how to demonstrate compliance? This includes development of guidance and interpretation documents. (2) Compliance monitoring and enforcement processes, including how to conduct them, how to participate in them, and the expectations for the process? This includes development of guidance documents. (3) Disseminating, through workshops, webinars, Advisories/Recommendations/Essential Actions, and other publications, “lessons learned” information on compliance concerns and reliability risks obtained through compliance monitoring and enforcement activities, monitoring and investigation of Bulk Power System major events, off-normal occurrences and near miss events, and other Bulk Power System monitoring activities? (4) Registered Entity internal processes for compliance with Reliability Standards, such as development, implementation and maintenance of internal reliability compliance programs?

V: Is the activity one that is required or specified by, or carries out, the provisions of NERC’s Rules of Procedure that have been approved by the Commission as “Electric Reliability Organization Rules” (defined in 18 C.F.R. §39.1) pursuant to FPA §215(f)? (The applicable Rules of Procedure provisions for these major activities are §400 and 500 and Appendices 4B, 4C, 5A, 5B and 5C.)

VI: Is the activity necessary or appropriate for the supervision and oversight of Regional Entities in the performance of their delegated responsibilities in accordance with FPA §215, 18 C.F.R. Part 39, the Commission-approved delegation agreement between NERC and the Regional Entity, the NERC ROP, and applicable provisions of Commission orders?

IX: Is the activity necessary or appropriate for NERC and Regional Entity committees, subcommittees and working groups engaged in the activities encompassed by one or more of the other criteria?

X: Is the activity necessary or appropriate for the analysis and evaluation of activities encompassed by one or more of the other criteria for the purpose of identifying means of performing the activities more effectively and efficiently?

#### **IV. Reliability Assessment and Performance Analysis Program 2015 Major Activities**

The major activities of the Reliability Assessment and Performance Analysis (“RAPA”) Program are described at pages 52-63 of the 2015 Business Plan and Budget. The RAPA Program carries out the ERO’s responsibility to conduct assessments of the reliability and adequacy of the BES to provide insight and guidance about reliability risks and performance improvements. The Program also identifies reliability performance issues and areas of concern (including equipment performance and reliability issues) for consideration in the development and modification of Reliability Standards or other initiatives to enhance reliability. The principal activity areas of the RAPA program include: independent assessments and reports on the overall reliability, adequacy, and associated reliability risks that could impact the upcoming summer and winter seasons and the long-term (e.g. 10-year) planning horizon; performance analysis and recommendations of historical reliability and associated trends, relying on data integrity and consistent methodology, leading to credible recommendations/guidance; reliability assessment and bulk system evaluation model development for analyzing steady-state and dynamic conditions; assurance that electrical elements necessary for the reliable operation of the BPS are appropriately identified as BES Elements; reliability risk program management for improving key risk areas using analyses of reliability gaps, risks, controls, and management efforts; determination of reliability risk program priorities to align with the strategic plan and business plan and budget for appropriate level of resources, timing, completion and execution; and providing leadership and consistent technically sound guidance and recommendations that position industry and policy-makers to enhance reliability through effective outreach and communications.

The RAPA Program is engaged in reliability risk analysis and identification of top reliability risks; and in supporting and implementing the Reliability Risk Management Process to identify, measure, prioritize, develop strategies for managing, and disseminating information on, areas of reliability risk. Current programs focused on managing the top priority reliability risks address changing resource mix, resource planning, protection system reliability, uncoordinated protection systems, extreme physical events, availability of real-time tools and monitoring, protection system misoperations, and right-of-way clearances. The RAPA Program works on a number of these programs in collaboration with other NERC departments. The RAPA Program also conducts analyses to understand the technical performance of the BES in order to guide recommendations and insights that enhance system performance and reliability. Additionally, the RAPA Program continues to be heavily involved in the development and implementation of the revised BES definition and the BES Exception procedure (Appendix 5C of

the NERC ROP), both of which became effective in mid-2014 and involve reviews, evaluations and confirmations of proposed changes to BES elements by registered entities.

The ongoing and new major activities of the RAPA Program for 2015 include: issuing reliability reports, guidelines, recommendations and alerts as needed; preparing the long-term and seasonal reliability assessments; conducting special assessments addressing key reliability issues, including a report on Geomagnetic Disturbance BES effects and vulnerability assessment; preparing an annual State of Reliability Report; providing oversight of the Generating Availability System, Transmission Data Availability System and Demand Response Availability System, along with the Spare Equipment Database; strengthening data collection and validation processes by designing, creating, testing and implementing data systems and management for reliability assessment and risk analysis; providing periodic updates on trends and measures of BES reliability; developing a risk registry and a systematic prioritization process with the RISC; executing integrated risk control strategies and plans across the organization to address the highest priority existing or emerging risks to BES reliability, and explicitly measure the results; supporting NERC Reliability Standard development and responses to FERC directives by providing technical and system analysis expertise; supporting the technical foundation development for Reliability Standards to address deficiencies or needs revealed by reliability assessments and performance analysis; providing support and leadership to the NERC Planning Committee, and to subcommittees, working groups and task forces of NERC standing committees; developing a structured approach to evaluate and improve system models, model validation, system analysis, and assessments; assisting in the development of approaches to registration and maintenance of the actively monitored standards list based on reliability trends, risks, and historical information to ensure that the compliance focus remains on the most critical entities and associated reliability standards; conducting major event investigations, analysis, and reporting of major findings and recommendations that will improve reliability; building and sustaining an enterprise reliability assessment and performance analysis team that encompasses risk-informed approaches and structured methodology to identify and address reliability risks; and implementing effective oversight and tracking of various technical aspects of reliability, including frequency response performance, application of the TPL footnote b adoption, and root cause applications to assessment and analyses.

The RAPA Programs top reliability risk projects for 2015 are expected to include the following: Essential Reliability Services Special Assessment Phase II (scenario analyses of different levels of Essential Reliability Services; development of standardized power flow models and dynamic modeling components; support for IEEE 1574 relating to rules that establish frequency and voltage disturbance ride-through obligations for distributed energy resources; load composition modeling analysis; development of guidelines for operations and emergency coordination with gas suppliers and transporters; special assessment of potential impacts to BPS reliability of emerging and proposed environmental regulations; analysis of single point of failure data reported in response to FERC Order No. 754; development of a best practices document for coordination of protection systems and other devices including under-frequency and under-voltage load-shedding devices, and associated modeling for assessing coordination; development and promotion of coordinated industry support programs such as the Spare Equipment Database Program, Spare Transformer Equipment Program, and Recovery

Transformer Program; and development of good industry practices and guidelines to aid in proper application of protection systems.

The major activities of the RAPA Program satisfy the following criteria:

I.A: Is the activity necessary or appropriate for Reliability Standards development projects pursuant to the NERC Rules of Procedure?

I.C.1: Is the activity necessary or appropriate for information gathering, collection and analysis activities to obtain information for Reliability Standards development, including for purposes of identifying areas in which new Reliability Standards could be developed, existing Reliability Standards could be revised, or existing Reliability Standards could be eliminated, such as: (1) Measuring reliability performance – past, present and future; publishing or disseminating the results of such measurements; analyzing the results of such measurements; identifying and analyzing risks to reliability of the Bulk Power System based on such measurements; and/or identifying approaches to mitigating or eliminating such risks?

III.A: Is the activity necessary or appropriate for the preparation or dissemination of long-term, seasonal, and special assessments of the reliability and adequacy of the Bulk Power System?

III.B: Is the activity necessary or appropriate for measuring reliability performance – past, present and future; publishing or disseminating the results of such measurements; analyzing the results of such measurements; identifying and analyzing risks to reliability of the Bulk Power System based on such measurements; and/or identifying approaches to mitigating or eliminating such risks?

III.F: Is the activity necessary or appropriate for the development and dissemination of Advisories/Recommendations/Essential Actions regarding lessons learned and potential reliability risks to users, owners, and operators of the Bulk Power System?

IV: Is the activity one that was required or directed by a Commission order issued pursuant to §215? (FERC orders directed NERC to develop and implement a revised definition of “Bulk Electric System” and a procedure for requesting and receiving exceptions from the BES definition, and subsequently approved NERC’s proposed revised BES definition and its proposed BES exception procedure.)

V. Is the activity one that is required or specified by, or carries out, the provisions of NERC’s Rules of Procedure that have been approved by the Commission as “Electric Reliability Organization Rules” (defined in 18 C.F.R. §39.1) pursuant to FPA §215(f)? (The applicable Rules of Procedure provisions for this major activity are §801-806 and 809-811.)

VI: Is the activity necessary or appropriate for the supervision and oversight of Regional Entities in the performance of their delegated responsibilities in accordance with FPA §215, 18 C.F.R. Part 39, the Commission-approved delegation agreement between NERC and the Regional Entity, the NERC ROP, and applicable provisions of Commission orders?

IX: Is the activity necessary or appropriate for NERC and Regional Entity committees, subcommittees and working groups engaged in activities encompassed by one or more of the other criteria?

X: Is the activity necessary or appropriate for the analysis and evaluation of activities encompassed by one or more of the other criteria for the purpose of identifying means of performing the activities more effectively and efficiently?

#### **V. Reliability Risk Management (Situation Awareness and Event Analysis) 2015 Major Activities**

The major activities of the Reliability Risk Management (RRM) group, which is comprised of the Situation Awareness Department and the Event Analysis Department, are described at pages 66-69 and 73-74 of the 2015 Business Plan and Budget. The RRM group carries out the ERO's responsibility to perform assessments (including real-time and near-real-time assessments) of the reliability and adequacy of the BES. The four primary functions of the RRM group are BES awareness, event analysis and determination of root and contributing causes, assessment of human performance challenges that affect BES reliability and identification of improvement opportunities, and support of the NERC Operating Committee. These activities are carried out to identify potential issues of concern relating to system, equipment, entity, and human performance that may indicate a possible need to develop new or modified Reliability Standards.

The Situation Awareness department works with registered entities to monitor present conditions on the BES using various software tools and applications; communicates and coordinates with Regional Entities and registered entities to notify them of disturbances that could negatively impact the BES; and, in the event of significant BES disturbances, facilitates the coordination of communications between registered entities and applicable governmental authorities. The Situation Awareness department is involved in the operation and maintenance of the Situation Awareness for NERC, FERC, and Regions software application and the secure alert tool. The Situation Awareness department uses the following reliability-related tools to support its activities: Resource Adequacy (ACE Frequency) Tool, Inadvertent Interchange, Frequency Modeling and Analysis Tool, Intelligent Alarms Tool, Automated Reliability Reports, and Area Interchange Modeling Tool.

The ongoing and new major activities of the Situational Awareness department for 2015 include: ensuring that the ERO is aware of all BES events above a threshold of impact; ensuring the sharing of information and data to facilitate wide area situational awareness; during crisis

situations, facilitating the exchange of information among industry, Regions, and U.S. and Canadian government; keeping the industry informed of emerging reliability threats and risks to the BES, including any expected actions; enhancing tracking of notification of expected actions in response to emerging actions to promote greater industry accountability; and issuing timely updates regarding progress toward resolving issues identified in Recommendations and Essential Actions.

The Event Analysis department performs assessments of the reliability and adequacy of the BES including analyses to determine the causes of events, promptly assures tracking of corrective actions to prevent recurrence, and provides lessons learned to the industry. Event Analysis assures that the industry is well-informed of system events, emerging trends, risk analysis, lessons learned, and expected actions. Event Analysis also supports the development of Reliability Standards and monitoring and enforcing compliance with Reliability Standards. Additionally, Event Analysis identifies human error risks and precursor factors that allow human error to affect BES reliability and educates industry regarding such risks, precursors, and related mitigation methods. Event analysis also supports compliance and standards training initiatives and trending and analysis to identify emerging reliability risks to the BES.

The ongoing and new major activities for 2015 for the Event Analysis department include: (1) working with Regional Entities to obtain and review information from registered entities regarding qualifying events and disturbances in order to advance awareness of events above a threshold level; facilitating analysis of root and contributing causes, risks to reliability, wide area assessments and remediation efforts; and disseminating information regarding events in a timely manner; (2) ensuring that all reportable events are analyzed for sequence of events, root cause, risk to reliability, and mitigation; (3) refining risk-based methodologies to support more effective and efficient identification of reliability risks, including use of more sophisticated cause codes for analysis; (4) ensuring consistency in reporting and analysis to support wide area assessments of significant reliability trends and risks; (5) conducting the annual NERC Human Performance Conference and the NERC Monitoring and Situation Awareness Conference; (6) conducting training (webinars, workshops and conference support) to inform industry and ERO of Lesson Learned, Root Cause Analysis, Cause Coding, Human Performance, and Cold Weather preparedness and recommendations; (7) developing reliability recommendations and alerts as needed; (8) tracking industry accountability for critical reliability recommendations; (9) ensuring that industry is well informed of system events, emerging trends, risk analysis, lessons learned, and expected actions; (10) conducting major event analysis and reporting of major findings and recommendations that will improve reliability; and (11) advancing the quality and usefulness of reliability assessments and event analysis data. The Event Analysis department will also support several top priority reliability risk projects being led by the RAPA program.

The major activities of the RRM group satisfy the following criteria:

I.C.2: Is the activity necessary or appropriate for information gathering, collection and analysis activities to obtain information for Reliability Standards development,

including for purposes of identifying areas in which new Reliability Standards could be developed, existing Reliability Standards could be revised, or existing Reliability Standards could be eliminated, such as: (2) Monitoring, event analysis and investigations of Bulk Power System major events, off-normal occurrences and near-miss events?

II.E.2: Is the activity necessary or appropriate for information gathering, collection and analysis activities to obtain information to monitor and enforce compliance with Reliability Standards, including evaluating the effectiveness of current compliance monitoring and enforcement processes, the need for new or revised compliance monitoring and enforcement processes, and the need for new or different means of training and education on compliance with Reliability Standards, such as: (2) Monitoring, event analysis and investigation of Bulk Power System major events, off-normal occurrences, and near miss events?

II.F.3: Is the activity necessary or appropriate for the provision of training, education and dissemination of information for/to (i) NERC personnel, (ii) Regional Entity personnel, and (iii) industry personnel with respect to compliance monitoring and enforcement topics and topics concerning reliability risks identified through compliance monitoring and enforcement activities, such as: (3) Disseminating, through workshops, webinars, Advisories/Recommendations/Essential Actions, and other publications, “lessons learned” information on compliance concerns and reliability risks obtained through compliance monitoring and enforcement activities, monitoring and investigation of Bulk Power System major events, off-normal occurrences and near miss events, and other Bulk Power System monitoring activities?

II.G: Is the activity necessary or appropriate for the development and provision of tools and services that are useful for the provision of adequate reliability, because they relate specifically to compliance with existing Reliability Standards and they proactively help avert Reliability Standard violations and Bulk Power System disturbances?

III.C: Is the activity necessary or appropriate for investigating, analyzing, evaluating, and disseminating information concerning, the causes of major events and off-normal occurrences, and/or providing coordination assistance, technical expertise and other assistance to users, owners, and operators of the Bulk Power System in connection with Bulk Power System major events and off-normal occurrences, but not real-time operational control of the Bulk Power System?

III.D: Is the activity necessary or appropriate for awareness of circumstances on the Bulk Power System and to contribute to understanding risks to reliability?

III.F: Is the activity necessary or appropriate for the development and dissemination of Advisories/Recommendations/Essential Actions regarding lessons learned and potential reliability risks to users, owners, and operators of the Bulk Power System?

V: Is the activity one that is required or specified by, or carries out, the provisions of NERC's Rules of Procedure that have been approved by the Commission as "Electric Reliability Organization Rules" (defined in 18 C.F.R. §39.1) pursuant to FPA §215(f)? (The applicable Rules of Procedure provisions for these major activities are §807, 808, 810 and 1001 and Appendix 8.)

IX. Is the activity necessary or appropriate for NERC and Regional Entity committees, subcommittees and working groups engaged in activities encompassed by one or more of the other criteria?

#### **VI. Critical Infrastructure Department 2015 Major Activities**

The major activities of the Critical Infrastructure Department (CID) are described at pages 77-79 of the 2015 Business Plan and Budget. The major activities of the CID include supporting the development and administration of the Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP) standards, conducting security outreach visits, providing training and exercise opportunities on CIP topics, and coordinating between industry and governmental entities on CIP matters. The CID conducts the Security Reliability Program (formerly known as the Sufficiency Review Program), which provides timely and actionable advice to registered entities in support of CIP standards and is currently focused on the transition from the CIP Version 3 standards to the CIP Version 5 standards. The CID also conducts the periodic Grid Security Exercises and Grid Security Conferences. Further, the CID supports the activities of the NERC Critical Infrastructure Protection Committee (CIPC) and its task forces and working groups.

Ongoing and new major activities of the CID for 2015 include: holding the annual Grid Security Conference, which focuses on physical and cybersecurity issues facing the Electricity Sub-sector, and builds on NERC's mission to ensure the reliability of the North American BES through education and training; conducting the biennial Grid Security Exercise (GridEx III), which focuses on analyzing industry's response to a physical security and cybersecurity scenario and gathering lessons learned; coordinating with government departments and agencies on critical infrastructure policy issues; supporting NERC External Affairs and CEO in preparation for public presentations and follow-on actions; supporting CIP standards development and implementation through outreach presentations, webinars and other training opportunities; and supporting the activities of the CIPC and its subgroups, including working through the CIPC to address emerging risk issues and support risk projects in 2015 as needed.

The major activities of the CID satisfy the following criteria:

I.C.1: Is the activity necessary or appropriate for information gathering, collection and analysis activities to obtain information for Reliability Standards development, including for purposes of identifying areas in which new Reliability Standards could be developed, existing Reliability Standards could be revised, or existing Reliability Standards could be eliminated, such as: (1) Measuring reliability performance – past, present and future; publishing or disseminating the results of such measurements; analyzing the results of

such measurements; identifying and analyzing risks to reliability of the Bulk Power System based on such measurements; and/or identifying approaches to mitigating or eliminating such risks?

III.B: Is the activity necessary or appropriate for measuring reliability performance – past, present and future; publishing or disseminating the results of such measurements; analyzing the results of such measurements; identifying and analyzing risks to reliability of the Bulk Power System based on such measurements; and/or identifying approaches to mitigating or eliminating such risks?

III.E: Is the activity necessary or appropriate for gathering, analyzing and sharing with and among industry and government participants, information regarding the physical or cyber security of the Bulk Power System?

III.F: Is the activity necessary or appropriate for the development and dissemination of Advisories/Recommendations/Essential Actions regarding lessons learned and potential reliability risks to users, owners, and operators of the Bulk Power System?

V: Is the activity one that is required or specified by, or carries out, the provisions of NERC’s Rules of Procedure that have been approved by the Commission as “Electric Reliability Organization Rules” (defined in 18 C.F.R. §39.1) pursuant to FPA §215(f)? (The applicable Rules of Procedure provisions for these major activities are §810 and 1003.)

IX. Is the activity necessary or appropriate for NERC and Regional Entity committees, subcommittees and working groups engaged in activities encompassed by one or more of the other criteria?

## **VII. Electricity Sector Information Sharing and Analysis Center 2015 Major Activities**

The major activities of the Electricity Sector Information Sharing and Analysis Center (ES-ISAC) are described at pages 82-88 of the 2015 Business Plan and Budget. The primary function of ES-ISAC is the rapid and secure sharing of information with the electric industry and governmental entities regarding real and potential security threats to the electricity sector and methods and tools to avoid or mitigate the potential impact from these threats. ES-ISAC facilitates sector coordination, mitigation development and mitigation delivery for physical security, cyber security and all hazards events. ES-ISAC develops alerts and notifications for distribution to registered entities and uses its secure portal to receive reports from industry members. ES-ISAC manages and executes NERC’s responsibilities in the Cybersecurity Risk Information Sharing Program (CRISP) and acts as the program manager for CRISP. ES-ISAC maintains a seat on the operations floor of the National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center within the Department of Homeland Security. ES-ISAC also conducts Cyber Risk Preparedness Assessments (CRPA) for registered entities.

The ongoing and new major activities of the ES-ISAC for 2015 include: improving the usability and functionality of the information-sharing portal; preparing a CRPA toolkit to allow industry to conduct self-assessments of cyber risk preparedness, and conducting training and education sessions on the toolkit; and increasing analytical capabilities (including cyber awareness monitoring), portal monitoring, and information sharing. ES-ISAC will act as program manager for CRISP, enter into and manage a master services agreement with participating electric utilities, oversee the installation of the passive information sharing devices (ISDs) at utility sites and the associated monitoring activities, enter into and manage sub-contracts as necessary, serve as the central point for coordination and collaborative analysis of CRISP data, and share CRISP reporting and data with the registered users of the ES-ISAC portal. In carrying out its activities, the ES-ISAC use various software integration and consulting support services, hardware and software, and certain intelligence reporting services. Additionally, the ES-ISAC will conduct periodic webinars relating to reporting in response to the NERC Aurora Alerts. Finally, through an annual member conference, the ES-ISAC will continue to offer workshops and other industry training and collaboration capabilities such as the CRPA.

The major activities of the ES-ISAC satisfy the following criteria:

III.D: Is the activity necessary or appropriate for awareness of circumstances on the Bulk Power System and to contribute to understanding risks to reliability.

III.E: Is the activity necessary or appropriate for gathering, analyzing and sharing with and among industry and government participants, information regarding the physical or cyber security of the Bulk Power System.

III.F: Is the activity necessary or appropriate for the development and dissemination of Advisories/Recommendations/Essential Actions regarding lessons learned and potential reliability risks to users, owners, and operators of the Bulk Power System?

V: Is the activity one that is required or specified by, or carries out, the provisions of NERC's Rules of Procedure that have been approved by the Commission as "Electric Reliability Organization Rules" (defined in 18 C.F.R. §39.1) pursuant to FPA §215(f)? (The applicable Rules of Procedure provisions for these major activities are §810 and 1003.)

#### **VIII. Training, Education, and Operator Certification Program 2015 Major Activities**

The major activities of the Training, Education, and Operator Certification Program are described at pages 92-94 of the 2015 Business Plan and Budget. The major activities of this program include oversight and coordination of the delivery of training programs to NERC and Regional Entity staff, including compliance auditors, relating to their job responsibilities; as well as training for industry participants on the reliability standards development process, the requirements of reliability standards, and the compliance monitoring and enforcement process. Training is also provided on registration and certification and on event analysis, cause analysis

and lessons learned. The Training and Education Program supports the ERO's responsibilities to develop, adopt, and obtain approval of Reliability Standards and to monitor, enforce and achieve compliance with the mandatory standards. The Training and Education Program also supports NERC's System Operator Certification and Continuing Education ("SOCCED") Programs, which ensure that personnel operating the BES have the skills, training and qualifications needed to operate the BES reliably. This Program maintains the credentials required to work in system control centers across North America for over 6,000 system operators.

The major activities of the Training, Education, and Operator Certification Program for 2015 include providing training and education for ERO personnel and industry in the following areas: auditor training; standards and compliance training; registration and certification (for registered entities); continuing education for system operators and other industry personnel as appropriate and related to reliability functions; and event analysis, cause analysis and lessons learned. Training offered in 2015 will focus on standards compliance and emerging cyber-related issues potentially affecting BES reliability; consistent audit and investigation techniques and standards compliance reviews, including the RAI, FFT, and other improvements in compliance and enforcement practices; other auditor skills; development and implementation of clear and technically sound Reliability Standards; lessons learned and trends from events, trending and common cause analyses; effective compliance cultures to address reliability risks; effective root, apparent and common cause analytical methods; improvements to registered entity self-reporting and self-certification; entity registration processes, issues and alternatives; human performance fundamentals; and systematic approaches to training.

The major activities of the Training, Education, and Operator Certification Program satisfy the following criteria:

I.D: Is the activity necessary or appropriate for the provision of training and education concerning Reliability Standards development processes, procedures and topics for/to (i) NERC personnel, (ii) Regional Entity personnel, and (iii) industry personnel?

II.C: Is the activity necessary or appropriate for the Certification of system operating personnel as qualified to carry out the duties and responsibilities of their positions in accordance with the Requirements of applicable Reliability Standards?

II.F: Is the activity necessary or appropriate for the provision of training, education and dissemination of information for/to (i) NERC personnel, (ii) Regional Entity personnel, and (iii) industry personnel with respect to compliance monitoring and enforcement topics and topics concerning reliability risks identified through compliance monitoring and enforcement activities, such as: (1) Requirements of Reliability Standards, including how to comply and how to demonstrate compliance? This includes development of guidance and interpretation documents. (2) Compliance monitoring and enforcement processes, including how to conduct them, how to participate in them, and the expectations for the processes? This includes development of guidance

documents. (3) Disseminating, through workshops, webinars, Advisories/Recommendations/Essential Actions, and other publications, “lessons learned” information on compliance concerns and reliability risks obtained through compliance monitoring and enforcement activities, monitoring and investigation of Bulk Power System major events, off-normal occurrences and near miss events, and other Bulk Power System monitoring activities. (4) Registered Entity internal processes for compliance with Reliability Standards, such as development, implementation and maintenance of internal reliability compliance programs?

V: Is the activity one that is required or specified by, or carries out, the provisions of NERC’s Rules of Procedure that have been approved by the Commission as “Electric Reliability Organization Rules” (defined in 18 C.F.R. §39.1) pursuant to FPA §215(f)? (The applicable Rules of Procedure provision for these major activities are §600 and 900.)

VI: Is the activity necessary or appropriate for the supervision and oversight of Regional Entities in the performance of their delegated responsibilities in accordance with FPA §215, 18 C.F.R. Part 39, the Commission-approved delegation agreement between NERC and the Regional Entity, the NERC ROP, and applicable provisions of Commission orders?

## **IX. Administrative Services 2015 Major Activities**

NERC’s Administrative Services Departments are Technical Committees and Member Forums (for which no activities are budgeted for 2015), General and Administrative, Legal and Regulatory, Information Technology (“IT”), Human Resources, and Finance and Accounting. The major activities of these departments are described at pages 98, 102, 105-109, 112-113, and 116 of the 2015 Business Plan and Budget. General and Administrative includes the administration and general management of the organization, the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Operating Officer, Board of Trustees fees and expenses, communications and public relations, and office rent. Legal and Regulatory provides legal support to the organization, including to the Board, executive management, and the Reliability Standards, Compliance Analysis, Registration, and Certification, Reliability Risk Management, and RAPA Programs, as well as general corporate legal support. IT supports NERC’s computing, Internet, database and electronic data storage and maintenance, and telecommunications needs, programs, applications and infrastructure, including management of the development and implementation of new software applications and infrastructure. The capital expenditure projects managed by IT represent capital expenditures in hardware, software and associated tools to securely gather, store, analyze and maintain data across the ERO Enterprise to support the ERO’s operations, as well as necessary acquisition and replacement of computers, servers and related devices. Human Resources manages all of NERC’s human resources functions, including new hires, benefits, employee functions, and the employee performance appraisal and incentive structure processes. Finance and Accounting manages all finance and accounting functions of NERC, including payroll, 401(k) and 457(b) plans, travel and expense reporting, monthly financial reporting, sales and use tax, meetings and events planning and services,

insurance, internal audit, facilities management, development of the annual business plan and budget, and the ERO risk management framework.

The major activities of NERC's Administrative Services Departments satisfy the following criteria:

I.A: Is the activity necessary or appropriate for Reliability Standards development projects pursuant to the NERC Rules of Procedure (ROP)?

II.A: Is the activity necessary or appropriate for the identification and registration of users, owners, and operators of the Bulk Power System that are required to comply with Requirements of Reliability Standards applicable to the reliability functions for which they are registered?

II.D: Is the activity necessary or appropriate for conducting, participating in or overseeing compliance monitoring and enforcement activities pursuant to the NERC ROP and (through the Regional Entities) the Commission-approved delegation agreements?

III.C: Is the activity necessary or appropriate for investigating, analyzing, evaluating, and disseminating information concerning, the causes of major events and off-normal occurrences, and/or providing coordination assistance, technical expertise and other assistance to users, owners, and operators of the Bulk Power System in connection with Bulk Power System major events and off-normal occurrences, but not real-time operational control of the Bulk Power System?

V: Is the activity one that is required or specified by, or carries out, the provisions of NERC's Rules of Procedure that have been approved by the Commission as "Electric Reliability Organization Rules" (defined in 18 C.F.R. §39.1) pursuant to FPA §215(f)? (The applicable Rules of Procedure provision for this major activity (Finance and Accounting) is §1100.)

VI: Is the activity necessary or appropriate for the supervision and oversight of Regional Entities in the performance of their delegated responsibilities in accordance with FPA §215, 18 C.F.R. Part 39, the Commission-approved delegation agreement between NERC and the Regional Entity, the NERC ROP, and the applicable provisions of Commission orders.

IX. Is the activity necessary or appropriate for NERC and Regional Entity committees, subcommittees and working groups engaged in activities encompassed by one or more of the other criteria?

X. Is the activity necessary or appropriate for the analysis and evaluation of activities encompassed by one or more of the other criteria for the purpose of identifying means of performing the activities more effectively and efficiently?

XI: Is the activity a governance or administrative/overhead function, activity or service necessary or appropriate for the activities encompassed by the other criteria and, in general, necessary and appropriate to operate a functioning organization?

**NERC WRITTEN CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING  
WHETHER AN ACTIVITY IS ELIGIBLE TO BE FUNDED  
UNDER SECTION 215 OF THE FEDERAL POWER ACT**

For purposes of internal management approval of a proposed new activity or group of related activities (“major activity”), the proposed activity or major activity must be shown to fall within at least one of the criteria listed below. When sub-criteria are listed below a roman numeral numbered major criterion, the proposed activity should be a positive answer to at least one of the sub-criteria. Conversely, an activity that falls under a sub-criterion should pertain to the subject matter of the major criterion.

NERC’s annual business plan and budget will describe how each major activity falls within one or more of the criteria listed below. If the major activity is substantially the same as a major activity that was shown to fall within the criteria in a previous year’s business plan and budget, the current year’s business plan and budget can refer to the prior year business plan and budget.

A determination that an activity falls within FPA §215 does not necessarily mean that NERC will propose or undertake such activity. The determination of whether an activity falling under FPA §215 should or will be undertaken in a given budget year will be addressed in the context of the applicable business plan and budget and will include opportunities for stakeholder input.

The criteria listed below are not necessarily each distinct from the others. An activity or major activity may fall within more than one of the criteria listed below.

- I. Is the activity necessary or appropriate for the development of Reliability Standards?
  - A. Is the activity necessary or appropriate for Reliability Standards development projects pursuant to the NERC Rules of Procedure (ROP)?
  - B. Is the activity necessary or appropriate for providing guidance and assistance to Regional Entities in carrying out Regional Reliability Standards development activities?
  - C. Is the activity necessary or appropriate for information gathering, collection and analysis activities to obtain information for Reliability Standards development, including for purposes of identifying areas in which new Reliability Standards could be developed, existing Reliability Standards could be revised, or existing Reliability Standards could be eliminated, such as:
    1. Measuring reliability performance – past, present and future; publishing or disseminating the results of such measurements; analyzing the results of such measurements; identifying and analyzing risks to reliability of the Bulk Power System<sup>5</sup> based on such

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<sup>5</sup> This document uses the term “Bulk Power System” because that is the term defined and used in FPA §215. NERC recognizes that a different term, “Bulk Electric System,” is used to define the current reach of Reliability Standards.

- measurements; and/or identifying approaches to mitigating or eliminating such risks?
2. Monitoring, event analysis and investigation of Bulk Power System major events, off-normal occurrences and near miss events?
- D. Is the activity necessary or appropriate for the provision of training and education concerning Reliability Standards development processes, procedures and topics for/to (i) NERC personnel, (ii) Regional Entity personnel, and (iii) industry personnel?
- II. Is the activity necessary or appropriate for the monitoring and enforcement of compliance with Reliability Standards?
- A. Is the activity necessary or appropriate for the identification and registration of users, owners, and operators of the Bulk Power System that are required to comply with Requirements of Reliability Standards applicable to the reliability functions for which they are registered?
  - B. Is the activity necessary or appropriate for the Certification of Reliability Coordinators, Transmission Operators and Balancing Authorities as having the requisite personnel, qualifications and facilities and equipment needed to perform these reliability functions in accordance with the applicable Requirements of Reliability Standards?
  - C. Is the activity necessary or appropriate for the Certification of system operating personnel as qualified to carry out the duties and responsibilities of their positions in accordance with the Requirements of applicable Reliability Standards?<sup>6</sup>
  - D. Is the activity necessary or appropriate for conducting, participating in or overseeing compliance monitoring and enforcement activities pursuant to the NERC ROP and (through the Regional Entities) the Commission-approved delegation agreements?
  - E. Is the activity necessary or appropriate for information gathering, collection and analysis activities to obtain information to monitor and enforce compliance with Reliability Standards, including evaluating the effectiveness of current compliance monitoring and enforcement processes, the need for new or revised compliance monitoring and enforcement processes, and the need for new or different means of training and education on compliance with Reliability Standards, such as:
    1. Measuring reliability performance – past, present and future; publishing or disseminating the results of such measurements; analyzing the results of such measurements; identifying and analyzing

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<sup>6</sup> Although certification of system operating personnel is an activity falling within the scope of, and eligible to be funded pursuant to, FPA §215, NERC strives to fully fund the costs of this activity through fees charged to participants.

- risks to reliability of the Bulk Power System based on such measurements; and/or identifying approaches to mitigating or eliminating such risks?
2. Monitoring, event analysis and investigation of Bulk Power System major events, off-normal occurrences, and near miss events?
- F. Is the activity necessary or appropriate for the provision of training, education and dissemination of information for/to (i) NERC personnel, (ii) Regional Entity personnel, and (iii) industry personnel with respect to compliance monitoring and enforcement topics and topics concerning reliability risks identified through compliance monitoring and enforcement activities, such as:
1. Requirements of Reliability Standards, including how to comply and how to demonstrate compliance? This includes development of guidance and interpretation documents.
  2. Compliance monitoring and enforcement processes, including how to conduct them, how to participate in them, and the expectations for the processes? This includes development of guidance documents.
  3. Disseminating, through workshops, webinars, Advisories/Recommendations/Essential Actions, and other publications, “lessons learned” information on compliance concerns and reliability risks obtained through compliance monitoring and enforcement activities, monitoring and investigation of Bulk Power System major events, off-normal occurrences and near miss events, and other Bulk Power System monitoring activities?
  4. Registered Entity internal processes for compliance with Reliability Standards, such as development, implementation and maintenance of internal reliability compliance programs?
- G. Is the activity necessary or appropriate for the development and provision of tools and services that are useful for the provision of adequate reliability, because they relate specifically to compliance with existing Reliability Standards and they proactively help avert Reliability Standard violations and Bulk Power System disturbances?
- III. Is the activity necessary or appropriate for conducting and disseminating periodic assessments of the reliability of the Bulk Power System or monitoring the reliability of the Bulk Power System?
- A. Is the activity necessary or appropriate for the preparation or dissemination of long-term, seasonal, and special assessments of the reliability and adequacy of the Bulk Power System?

- B. Is the activity necessary or appropriate for measuring reliability performance – past, present and future; publishing or disseminating the results of such measurements; analyzing the results of such measurements; identifying and analyzing risks to reliability of the Bulk Power System based on such measurements; and/or identifying approaches to mitigating or eliminating such risks?
  - C. Is the activity necessary or appropriate for investigating, analyzing, evaluating, and disseminating information concerning, the causes of major events and off-normal occurrences, and/or providing coordination assistance, technical expertise and other assistance to users, owners, and operators of the Bulk Power System in connection with Bulk Power System major events and off-normal occurrences, but not real-time operational control of the Bulk Power System?
  - D. Is the activity necessary or appropriate for awareness of circumstances on the Bulk Power System and to contribute to understanding risks to reliability?
  - E. Is the activity necessary or appropriate for gathering, analyzing and sharing with and among industry and government participants, information regarding the physical or cyber security of the Bulk Power System?
  - F. Is the activity necessary or appropriate for the development and dissemination of Advisories/Recommendations/Essential Actions regarding lessons learned and potential reliability risks to users, owners, and operators of the Bulk Power System?
  - G. Is the activity necessary or appropriate for data collection and analysis of information regarding Bulk Power System reliability matters mandated by the Commission?
- IV. Is the activity one that was required or directed by a Commission order issued pursuant to FPA §215? Justification of an activity as a FPA §215 activity based on this category must reference the particular Commission order and directive.
- V. Is the activity one that is required or specified by, or carries out, the provisions of NERC's Rules of Procedure that have been approved by the Commission as "Electric Reliability Organization Rules" (defined in 18 C.F.R. §39.1) pursuant to FPA §215(f)?
- VI. Is the activity necessary or appropriate for the supervision and oversight of Regional Entities in the performance of their delegated responsibilities in accordance with FPA §215, 18 C.F.R. Part 39, the Commission-approved delegation agreement between NERC and the Regional Entity, the NERC ROP, and applicable provisions of Commission orders?
- VII. Is the activity necessary or appropriate to maintain NERC's certification as the Electric Reliability Organization? This Criterion includes conducting periodic assessments of NERC's and the Regional Entities' performance as the Electric Reliability Organization as required by 18 C.F.R. §39.3(c).

- VIII. Does the activity respond to or is it necessary or appropriate for audits of NERC and the Regional Entities conducted by the Commission?
- IX. Is the activity necessary or appropriate for NERC and Regional Entity committees, subcommittees and working groups engaged in activities encompassed by one or more of the other criteria?
- X. Is the activity necessary or appropriate for the analysis and evaluation of activities encompassed by one or more of the other criteria for the purpose of identifying means of performing the activities more effectively and efficiently?
- XI. Is the activity a governance or administrative/overhead function, activity or service necessary or appropriate for the activities encompassed by the other criteria and, in general, necessary and appropriate to operate a functioning organization? (Should NERC perform any non-FPA §215 activities, the costs of governance and administrative/overhead functions must be appropriately allocated.)

NERC's current governance and administrative/overhead functions are carried out in the following program areas:

- A. Technical Committees and Members' Forum Programs
- B. General and administrative (includes, but is not limited to, executive, board of trustees, communications, government affairs, and facilities and related services).
- C. Legal and Regulatory.
- D. Information Technology
- E. Human Resources
- F. Accounting and Finance.

The following matters are excluded from the scope of FPA §215 activities. While a list of non-FPA §215 activities would be infinite, the following excluded matters are listed here because they are expressly referred to in FPA §215, the Commission's ERO regulations and/or a Commission order issued pursuant to FPA §215:

- A. Developing or enforcing requirements to enlarge Bulk Power System facilities, or to construct new transmission capacity or generation capacity, or requirements for adequacy or safety of electric facilities or services.
- B. Activities entailing Real-time operational control of the Bulk Power System.
- C. Activities pertaining to facilities used in the local distribution of electricity.