



NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY COUNCIL

Princeton Forrestal Village, 116-390 Village Boulevard, Princeton, New Jersey 08540-5731

February 3, 2006

TO: REGISTERED BALLOT BODY

Ladies and Gentlemen:

NERC Clarifies Schedule for Implementing Cyber Security Standards

The Cyber Security Standard Drafting Team has posted a revised [implementation plan](#) for the [cyber security standards](#). The changes set specific compliance dates for interchange authorities, transmission owners, generator owners, generator operators, and load-serving entities (see Table 3 in the implementation plan). These entities must begin work no later than December 31, 2006, and must be fully compliant with the standards no later than December 31, 2010. A new Table 4 has been added to the implementation plan to address any entities that are registered by NERC in the future.

Effect of Draft ERO Application on Implementation Plan

NERC's draft ERO application proposes to register all bulk power system owners, operators, and users in the first half of 2006. This accelerated registration schedule would have forced interchange authorities, transmission owners, generator owners, generator operators, and load-serving entities to become compliant with the cyber security standards sooner than is practical and sooner than any date anticipated by the drafting team. The revision to the implementation plan restores a reasonable timeline for achieving compliance with the standards.

Ballot Date

The ballot of the cyber security standards will open on February 17, 2006, as previously announced. Interested parties are encouraged to join the ballot pool prior to that date.

Standards Process

The process NERC follows to develop its standards is accredited by the American National Standards Institute and strives to address all comments submitted during the development of a standard. The NERC posting and balloting procedures are described in the [Reliability Standards Process Manual](#), which contains all the procedures governing the standards development process.

The value and usefulness of reliability standards depend on the input of industry experts and all reliability stakeholders. Thank you for participating in the development of NERC reliability standards.

Please send questions to Mark Ladrow at mark.ladrow@nerc.net, or call 609-452-8060.

Sincerely,

Mark Ladrow

Mark Ladrow
Manager - Standards

cc: Registered Ballot Body Registered Users
Standards Group
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