

ANNOUNCEMENT: NERC Posts Survey on Time Error Correction

Available at: [Time Error Correction Survey](#)
September 12–October 13, 2008

NERC is conducting an industry-wide survey to collect input and evaluate the need for Time Error Corrections. If you are uncertain what Time Error Correction is, **please read further.**

***Time Error
Correction:***

Historically, electric utilities provided services to their consumers to ensure their clocks, which utilized alternating current motors, were accurate. Because the balancing of load to generation takes time to achieve, these motorized clocks can run fast or slow until the load to generation balance reaches equilibrium. Over time, this can result in a significant accumulation of error for motorized clocks, necessitating a time error correction. Corrections are performed by temporarily increasing or decreasing system frequency by a small amount over several hours until the appropriate amount of accumulated time error is reduced or eliminated. In simple terms, the accumulated error is reduced by intentionally creating an “error” in the opposite direction; if the system has been running “fast,” then it is intentionally run “slow” for a period of time, and vice versa.

Today, with clocks either based on resonant crystals or synchronized to network-based time standards (e.g., NIST time servers, GPS signals, etc.), it is possible that such corrections are no longer needed.

NERC has developed a short summary paper and a questionnaire on this topic. Anyone may respond, but we are especially interested in feedback from the following groups:

- Large and small industrial customers
- Users of large machines or assembly lines
- Appliance manufacturers
- Users of mechanical automation
- Metering equipment manufacturers
- Industry suppliers and vendors

Please feel free to forward this e-mail to others you believe may be interested in providing feedback. All responses must be submitted no later than **October 13, 2008.**

The summary paper and questionnaire can be found at the following link:

[Standards “News”
NERC Posts Survey on Time Error Correction](#)

NERC appreciates your involvement in this project.

Thank you,

The Balancing Authority Controls Standards Drafting Team

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