

November 19, 2007

TO: REGISTERED BALLOT BODY

Ladies and Gentlemen:

**Announcement:
Initial Ballot Window, Pre-ballot Review Period and Ballot Pool Open**

The Standards Committee (SC) announces the following standards actions:

Initial Ballot Window for PRC-023 — Relay Loadability is Open

The initial [ballot](#) for the PRC-023-1 — [Relay Loadability](#) is open and will remain open until 8 p.m. Tuesday, December 4, 2007.

This standard was developed to address the cascading transmission outages that occurred in the August 2003 blackout when backup distance and phase relays operated on high loading and low voltage without electrical faults on the protected lines. This is the so-called 'zone 3 relay' issue, which has been expanded to address other protection devices subject to unintended operation during extreme system conditions. The proposed standard establishes minimum loadability criteria for these relays to minimize the chance of unnecessary line trips during a major system disturbance.

The ballot for this standard also includes the Relay Loadability [Implementation Plan](#).

Pre-ballot Window for Revised Interpretation of BAL-005 Requirement R17 (for PGE) is Open

Portland General Electric Company submitted a [Request for an Interpretation](#) of BAL-005-1 Automatic Generation Control Requirement R17. The Interpretation asked if the requirement to annually check and calibrate time error and frequency devices applies to the following measuring devices:

- Only equipment within the operations control room
- Only equipment that provides values used to calculate automatic generation control area control error
- Only equipment that provides values to its SCADA system
- Only equipment owned or operated by the balancing authority
- Only to new or replacement equipment
- To all equipment that a balancing authority owns or operates

The Frequency Task Force (drafting team) provided an interpretation that underwent an initial ballot from October 18 through October 29, 2007. Some comments submitted with ballots indicated that the clarification seemed to expand the scope of the associated requirement and the drafting team added some clarifying language to the interpretation. The drafting team is re-posting the revised interpretation for a **new** 30-day pre-ballot review.

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The [revised interpretation](#) clarifies that Requirement R17 applies only to the time error and frequency devices that provide, or in the case of backup equipment may provide, input into the ACE equation or provide real-time time error or frequency information to the system operator. The requirement does not apply to frequency inputs from other sources that are for reference only. The time error and frequency measurement devices may not necessarily be located in the system operations control room or owned by the balancing authority; however the balancing authority has the responsibility for the accuracy of the frequency and time error measurement devices. No other devices are included in Requirement 17 — the other devices listed in the table at the end of R17 are for reference only and do not have any mandatory calibration or accuracy requirements.

New or replacement equipment that provides the same functions noted above requires the same calibrations. Some devices used for time error and frequency measurement cannot be calibrated as such. In this case, these devices should be cross-checked against other properly calibrated equipment and replaced if the devices do not meet the required level of accuracy.

The [ballot pool](#) to vote on this interpretation has been re-opened and will remain open up until 8 a.m. (EST) Wednesday, December 19, 2007. During the pre-ballot window, members of the ballot pool may communicate with one another by using their “ballot pool list server.” The list server for this ballot pool is: bp-interp_bal-005_pge_in@nerc.com

The initial ballot for this interpretation will begin at 8 a.m. (EDT) on Wednesday, December 19, 2007.

Standards Development Process

The [Reliability Standards Development Procedure](#) contains all the procedures governing the standards development process. The success of the NERC standards development process depends on stakeholder participation. We extend our thanks to all those who participate. If you have any questions, please contact me at 813-468-5998 or maureen.long@nerc.net.

Sincerely,

Maureen E. Long

cc: Registered Ballot Body Registered Users
Standards Mailing List
NERC Roster