



NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC
RELIABILITY CORPORATION

Standards Announcement

Project 2009-06 Facility Ratings Expansion
Ballot Window Open Through May 2, 2011

Now available at: <https://standards.nerc.net/CurrentBallots.aspx>

An initial ballot of revisions to FAC-008-2 and a non-binding poll of the associated Violation Risk Factors (VRFs) and Violation Severity Levels (VSLs) is open now through 8 p.m. Eastern on Monday, May 2, 2011.

FERC issued an Order on March 17, 2011 that requires NERC to file a version of FAC-008 that addresses all directives from Order 693 related to FAC-008 by June 15, 2011. Two of the three directives were already addressed in the version of FAC-008 that was approved by its ballot pool on March 18, 2010. The standard posted for ballot includes Requirements R8 to address the third directive as described more fully in the background information provided at the end of this announcement.

Instructions for Balloting Revisions to FAC-008-2

Members of the ballot pool associated with this project may log in and submit their votes from the following page: <https://standards.nerc.net/CurrentBallots.aspx>. In addition, members of the ballot pool to vote on the standard were automatically entered in a separate pool to participate in the concurrent, non-binding poll for the VRFs and VSLs.

Special Instructions for Submitting Comments with a Ballot

Comments submitted with ballots are extremely valuable to help the drafting team revise its work. In an effort to reduce the burden on stakeholders providing comments, the drafting team requests that all comments (both those associated with a ballot and those submitted by stakeholders not balloting) be submitted through the electronic comment form posted at http://www.nerc.com/filez/standards/Project_2009-06_Facility_Ratings.html. This will ensure that stakeholders only provide a single set of comments, but have an opportunity to notify the drafting team if they have provided comments associated with a ballot.

During the successive ballot window, members of the ballot pool associated with this project may log in and submit their votes from the following page: <https://standards.nerc.net/CurrentBallots.aspx>. **When submitting a ballot, simply record a “Comments submitted” or “No Comments” in the comments field of the ballot to indicate whether comments were submitted.**

Documents for this project, including an off-line unofficial copy of the questions listed in the comment form, are posted at the following site:

http://www.nerc.com/filez/standards/Project_2009-06_Facility_Ratings.html

Next Steps

The drafting team will consider all comments received.

Background

The Facility Ratings Standard Drafting Team (FR SDT) has been tasked with creating a requirement to address the reliability concerns related to Facility Ratings initially discussed in paragraphs 756 and 771 of FERC's Order 693, and further explained in paragraph 76 of FERC's "Order Denying Rehearing, Denying Clarification, Denying Reconsideration, and Denying Request for a Stay," September 16, 2010. These concerns relate to ensuring broad situational awareness regarding the most limiting elements of Facilities.

In Order 693, FERC explained in paragraph 756:

"...The Commission's proposed modification would require identifying and documenting the limiting component for all facilities and the increase in rating if that component were no longer the most limiting component; in other words, the rating based on the second-most limiting component. The Commission further clarifies that this Reliability Standard will require this additional thermal rating information only for those facilities for which thermal ratings cause the following: (1) an IROL; (2) a limitation of TTC; (3) an impediment to generation deliverability or (4) an impediment to service to major cities or load pockets."

And provided further direction in paragraph 771:

"...we direct the ERO to develop modifications to FAC-008-1 through its Reliability Standards development process requiring transmission and generation facility owners to: (1) document underlying assumptions and methods used to determine normal and emergency facility ratings; (2) develop facility ratings consistent with industry standards developed through an open, transparent and validated process and (3) for each facility, identify the limiting component and, for critical facilities, the resulting increase in rating if that component is no longer limiting."

FERC later explained in paragraph 76 of its September 16, 2010 Order Denying Rehearing, Denying Clarification, Denying Reconsideration, and Denying Request for a Stay:

"In order to determine facility ratings, entities must identify the most limiting component that comprises the facility, based on a validated methodology that considers the specific characteristics and ratings of all of the components to determine their limits for a range of ambient conditions, including if and for what duration these limits can be exceeded. This is, in part, because the limiting element upon which a facility rating is based can change under different operating conditions. For example, an underground high voltage cable may be the limiting element for continuous ratings, but a disconnect switch may be the limiting element for a four-hour emergency rating. With heavy power flows from generators through critical facilities to load, contingency conditions could reveal a thermal overload above the normal rating of the first limiting component of one of these facilities. However, that component also likely has a documented short time rating that could sustain the overload. If the second-most limiting component does not afford much increase in rating above the first, and its overload can result in the unintended removal of the facility from service (i.e., a relay or other protection system component that trips a facility out of service due to the overload), the prior identification of this second limiting component could alter the mitigation plans and avoid relay operations that trip facilities out-of-service, and thus potentially prevent a cascading event."

On February 24, 2011, members of the FR SDT met with NERC and FERC staff to discuss the original directive from FERC Order 693 as well as the subsequent guidance issued in the September 16, 2010 Order.

Standards Process

The [Standard Processes Manual](#) 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.

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