

Consideration of Comments

Project Name:	2016-01 Modifications to TOP and IRO Standards IRO-002-5 and TOP-001-4
Comment Period Start Date:	8/31/2016
Comment Period End Date:	10/17/2016
Associated Ballots:	2016-01 Modifications to TOP and IRO Standards IRO-002-5 AB 2 ST 2016-01 Modifications to TOP and IRO Standards TOP-001-4 AB 2 ST

There were 37 sets of responses, including comments from approximately 118 different people from approximately 91 companies representing all 10 of the Industry Segments as shown in the table on the following pages.

The Project 2016-01 Standards Drafting Team (SDT) appreciates the careful review and constructive feedback from stakeholders. The SDT made clarifying and non-substantive changes suggested by stakeholders to the proposed Standards as follows:

- Clarified wording in the Violation Severity Level (VSL) for proposed IRO-002-5 Requirement R3 and proposed TOP-001-4 Requirements R21 and R24 (Data Exchange Capability Testing).
- Revised Rationale boxes for clarity. The Rationale boxes will be retained in the Guidelines section of the Standards upon approval of the Standards.

The revisions in proposed IRO-002-5 and TOP-001-4 address specific directives contained in FERC Order No. 817. Requirements that are not the subject of the FERC Order No. 817 directives are not in scope for the project as outlined in the Standards Authorization Request (SAR). The SDT believes the proposed Standards address the directives and provide entities with flexibility to determine how to meet the reliability objectives.

Responses to all comments are provided in the following sections.

All comments submitted can be reviewed in their original format on the [project page](#).

If you feel that your comment has been overlooked, please let us know immediately. Our goal is to give every comment serious consideration in this process. If you feel there has been an error or omission, you can contact the Director of Standards Development, [Steve Noess](#) (via email) or at (404) 446-9691.

Questions

1. Do you agree with the changes made by the SDT to draft standard IRO-002-5? If you do not agree, or if you agree but have comments or suggestions for the proposed standard provide your recommendation and explanation.
2. Do you agree with the changes made by the SDT to draft standard TOP-001-4? If you do not agree, or if you agree but have comments or suggestions for the proposed standard provide your recommendation and explanation.
3. Do you agree with the Implementation Plan for the proposed standards? If you do not agree, or if you agree but have comments or suggestions for the Implementation Plan provide your recommendation and explanation.
4. Do you agree with the Violation Risk Factors (VRFs) and Violation Severity Levels (VSLs) for the requirements in the proposed standards? If you do not agree, or if you agree but have comments or suggestions for the VRFs and VSLs provide your recommendation and explanation.
5. Provide any additional comments for the SDT to consider, if desired.

The Industry Segments are:

- 1 — Transmission Owners
- 2 — RTOs, ISOs
- 3 — Load-serving Entities
- 4 — Transmission-dependent Utilities
- 5 — Electric Generators
- 6 — Electricity Brokers, Aggregators, and Marketers
- 7 — Large Electricity End Users
- 8 — Small Electricity End Users
- 9 — Federal, State, Provincial Regulatory or other Government Entities
- 10 — Regional Reliability Organizations, Regional Entities

Organization Name	Name	Segment(s)	Region	Group Name	Group Member Name	Group Member Organization	Group Member Segment(s)	Group Member Region
ACES Power Marketing	Brian Van Gheem	6	NA - Not Applicable	ACES Standards Collaborators	Bob Solomon	Hoosier Energy Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.	1	RF
					Karl Kohlrus	Prairie Power, Inc.	1,3	SERC
					Michael Brytowski	Great River Energy	1,3,5,6	MRO
					Shari Heino	Brazos Electric Power Cooperative, Inc.	1,5	Texas RE
					Mark Ringhausen	Old Dominion Electric Cooperative	3,4	SERC
					Tara Lightner	Sunflower Electric Power Corporation	1	SPP RE

Organization Name	Name	Segment(s)	Region	Group Name	Group Member Name	Group Member Organization	Group Member Segment(s)	Group Member Region
Chris Gowder	Chris Gowder		FRCC	FMPA	Tim Beyrle	City of New Smyrna Beach	4	FRCC
					Jim Howard	Lakeland Electric	5	FRCC
					Lynne Mila	City of Clewiston	4	FRCC
					Javier Cisneros	Fort Pierce Utility Authority	3	FRCC
					Randy Hahn	Ocala Utility Services	3	FRCC
					Don Cuevas	Beaches Energy Services	1	FRCC
					Stan Rzad	Keys Energy Services	4	FRCC
					Tom Reedy	Florida Municipal Power Pool	6	FRCC

Organization Name	Name	Segment(s)	Region	Group Name	Group Member Name	Group Member Organization	Group Member Segment(s)	Group Member Region
					Steve Lancaster	Beaches Energy Services	3	FRCC
					Mike Blough	Kissimmee Utility Authority	5	FRCC
					Mark Brown	City of Winter Park	4	FRCC
					Chris Adkins	City of Leesburg	3	FRCC
					Ginny Beigel	City of Vero Beach	9	FRCC
Duke Energy	Colby Bellville	1,3,5,6	FRCC,RF,SERC	Duke Energy	Doug Hils	Duke Energy	1	RF
					Lee Schuster	Duke Energy	3	FRCC
					Dale Goodwine	Duke Energy	5	SERC
					Greg Cecil	Duke Energy	6	RF

Organization Name	Name	Segment(s)	Region	Group Name	Group Member Name	Group Member Organization	Group Member Segment(s)	Group Member Region
MRO	Emily Rousseau	1,2,3,4,5,6	MRO	MRO-NERC Standards Review Forum (NSRF)	Joe Depoorter	Madison Gas & Electric	3,4,5,6	MRO
					Chuck Wicklund	Otter Tail Power Company	1,3,5	MRO
					Dave Rudolph	Basin Electric Power Cooperative	1,3,5,6	MRO
					Kayleigh Wilkerson	Lincoln Electric System	1,3,5,6	MRO
					Jodi Jenson	Western Area Power Administration	1,6	MRO
					Larry Heckert	Alliant Energy	4	MRO
					Mahmood Safi	Omaha Public Utility District	1,3,5,6	MRO
					Shannon Weaver	Midwest ISO Inc.	2	MRO

Organization Name	Name	Segment(s)	Region	Group Name	Group Member Name	Group Member Organization	Group Member Segment(s)	Group Member Region
					Mike Brytowski	Great River Energy	1,3,5,6	MRO
					Brad Perrett	Minnesota Power	1,5	MRO
					Scott Nickels	Rochester Public Utilities	4	MRO
					Terry Harbour	MidAmerican Energy Company	1,3,5,6	MRO
					Tom Breene	Wisconsin Public Service Corporation	3,4,5,6	MRO
					Tony Eddleman	Nebraska Public Power District	1,3,5	MRO
					Amy Casucelli	Xcel Energy	1,3,5,6	MRO
Southern Company - Southern	Pamela Hunter	1,3,5,6	SERC	Southern Company	Katherine Prewitt	Southern Company Services, Inc.	1	SERC

Organization Name	Name	Segment(s)	Region	Group Name	Group Member Name	Group Member Organization	Group Member Segment(s)	Group Member Region
Company Services, Inc.					R. Scott Moore	Alabama Power Company	3	SERC
					William D. Shultz	Southern Company Generation	5	SERC
					Jennifer G. Sykes	Southern Company Generation and Energy Marketing	6	SERC
Northeast Power Coordinating Council	Ruida Shu	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10	NPCC	RSC no National Grid	Paul Malozewski	Hydro One.	1	NPCC
					Guy Zito	Northeast Power Coordinating Council	NA - Not Applicable	NPCC
					Randy MacDonald	New Brunswick Power	2	NPCC

Organization Name	Name	Segment(s)	Region	Group Name	Group Member Name	Group Member Organization	Group Member Segment(s)	Group Member Region
					Wayne Sipperly	New York Power Authority	4	NPCC
					David Ramkalawan	Ontario Power Generation	4	NPCC
					Glen Smith	Entergy Services	4	NPCC
					Brian Robinson	Utility Services	5	NPCC
					Bruce Metruck	New York Power Authority	6	NPCC
					Alan Adamson	New York State Reliability Council	7	NPCC
					Edward Bedder	Orange & Rockland Utilities	1	NPCC
					David Burke	UI	3	NPCC

Organization Name	Name	Segment(s)	Region	Group Name	Group Member Name	Group Member Organization	Group Member Segment(s)	Group Member Region
					Michele Tondalo	UI	1	NPCC
					Sylvain Clermont	Hydro Quebec	1	NPCC
					Si Truc Phan	Hydro Quebec	2	NPCC
					Helen Lainis	IESO	2	NPCC
					Laura Mcleod	NB Power	1	NPCC
					Michael Forte	Con Edison	1	NPCC
					Quintin Lee	Eversource Energy	1	NPCC
					Kelly Silver	Con Edison	3	NPCC
					Peter Yost	Con Edison	4	NPCC
					Brian O'Boyle	Con Edison	5	NPCC
					Greg Campoli	NY-ISO	2	NPCC
					Kathleen Goodman	ISO-NE	2	NPCC

Organization Name	Name	Segment(s)	Region	Group Name	Group Member Name	Group Member Organization	Group Member Segment(s)	Group Member Region
					Silvia Parada Mitchell	NextEra Energy, LLC	4	NPCC
					Sean Bodkin	Dominion	4	NPCC
Southwest Power Pool, Inc. (RTO)	Shannon Mickens	2	SPP RE	SPP Standards Review Group	Shannon Mickens	Southwest Power Pool Inc.	2	SPP RE
					Darryl Boggess	Western Farmers	1,5	SPP RE
					Mike Kidwell	Empire District Electric Company	1,3,5	SPP RE
					J. Scott Williams	City Utilities of Springfield	1,4	SPP RE
					Jim Nail	Independence Power and Light	3	SPP RE
					Jerry McVey	Sunflower	1	SPP RE

Organization Name	Name	Segment(s)	Region	Group Name	Group Member Name	Group Member Organization	Group Member Segment(s)	Group Member Region
					John Allen	City Utilities of Springfield	1,4	SPP RE
					Kevin Giles	Westar Energy	1,3,5,6	SPP RE
					Louis Guidry	Cleco Corporation	1,3,5,6	SPP RE
					Michelle Corley	Cleco Corporation	1,3,5,6	SPP RE
					Robert Hirschak	Cleco Corporation	1,3,5,6	SPP RE
					David Pham	Empire District Electric Company	1,3,5	SPP RE
Colorado Springs Utilities	Shawna Speer	1		Colorado Springs Utilities	Shawna Speer	Colorado Springs Utilities	1	WECC
					Shannon Fair	Colorado Springs Utilities	6	WECC

Organization Name	Name	Segment(s)	Region	Group Name	Group Member Name	Group Member Organization	Group Member Segment(s)	Group Member Region
					Charles Morgan	Colorado Springs Utilities	3	WECC
					Kaleb Brimhall	Colorado Springs Utilities	5	WECC

1. Do you agree with the changes made by the SDT to draft standard IRO-002-5? If you do not agree, or if you agree but have comments or suggestions for the proposed standard provide your recommendation and explanation.

David Jendras - Ameren - Ameren Services - 3

Answer No

Document Name

Comment

We believe that Requirement R5 should identify how these non-BES facilities are determined, such as through Seasonal Assessments and other Monthly Analysis. In our opinion, in no case should this be left open ended, without bounds.

Likes 0

Dislikes 0

Response. Thank you for your comment. Requirement R5 in IRO-002 is not in scope for this project. The SDT has not made changes to the requirement in approved IRO-002-4.

Amy Casuscelli - Xcel Energy, Inc. - 1,3,5,6 - MRO,WECC,SPP RE

Answer No

Document Name

Comment

Xcel Energy believes that there is still some clarification needed to the definition of data exchange. Is it meant to cover data exchange between control centers (ICCP) or does this include RTUs and Communication paths?

Likes 0

Dislikes 0

Response. Thank you for your comment. Proposed Requirement R2 specifies that the RC's data exchange capabilities must include redundant and diversely routed data exchange infrastructure within the RC's primary control center. RTU's, Communication paths, and ICCP infrastructure that is outside of the RC's primary control center is not covered under Proposed Requirement R2.

Scott Miller - Scott Miller On Behalf of: David Weekley, MEAG Power, 3, 5, 1; Roger Brand, MEAG Power, 3, 5, 1; Steven Grego, MEAG Power, 3, 5, 1; - Scott Miller

Answer No

Document Name

Comment

Comments: See comments below.

MEAG Power voted Affirmative in error and requests that its Affirmative vote be changed to Negative for all associated ballots, Standard changes and Non-Binding opinions. MEAG Power adopts and supports the comments of Southern Company.

Regards,

Scott Miller, Proxy, MEAG Power, 678-644-3524

Likes 0

Dislikes 0

Response. Thank you for your comment. See response to Southern Company.

Pamela Hunter - Southern Company - Southern Company Services, Inc. - 1,3,5,6 - SERC, Group Name Southern Company

Answer No

Document Name

Comment

Southern believes that limiting the scope of Requirement R2 to “the data exchange infrastructure inside the Primary Control Center” may allow for entities to circumvent the requirements by moving their data exchange infrastructure to a physical location outside of their control center (i.e., a remote data center). It is important for the SDT to ensure the reliability intent of Requirement R2 is maintained by focusing on the “data exchange capability” for the primary control center regardless of where the actual data exchange infrastructure physically resides. To remove any ambiguity, it is recommended that the SDT define the following terms:

- Data Exchange Infrastructure
- Data Exchange Capability
- Primary Control Center

In regard to R3, it is Southern Company's understanding that in most cases (including ours) that the data exchange infrastructure is an integrated component of the EMS infrastructure. Southern Company does not understand the purpose of having a requirement for redundant infrastructure for data exchange but not for the EMS.

Southern Company also requests clarification regarding the language used in IRO-002-5 R6, which states “each RC shall have monitoring systems that provide information utilized by the RC’s operating personnel, giving particular emphasis to alarm management and awareness systems, automated data transfers, and synchronized information systems, over a redundant infrastructure.” Some questions regarding the proposed requirement are as follows:

- What is meant by “particular emphasis”?
- Which “awareness systems” require redundant infrastructure?
- Which “automated data transfers” are in scope?
- Which “synchronized information” is in scope?
- What level of redundancy is required? Server level, component level, network level, etc.

Likes	0
Dislikes	0

Response. Thank you for your comment. The SDT agrees that the requirement should focus on maintaining the data exchange capability for the primary control center. The SDT is using the NERC defined term *Control Center* in proposed Requirement R2 to clearly indicate what infrastructure is covered by the standard. The proposed requirement cannot be circumvented by moving data exchange infrastructure to a data center because the definition of *Control Center* includes "associated data centers".

The SDT is responding to specific directives in Order No. 817 pertaining to data exchange capabilities. The SDT believes proposed Requirements R2 and R3 meet the directive and are beneficial to reliability without expansion to cover redundancy in EMS.

The SDT has not made changes to Requirement R6 (Requirement R4 in approved IRO-002-4) in addressing the directives. The requested clarifications to Requirement R6 are not in scope for Project 2016-01.

Scott McGough - Georgia System Operations Corporation - 3

Answer

Document Name

IRO-002-5 SOCO Comments.docx

Comment

GSOC supports Southern Company's comments.

Questions

Do you agree with the changes made by the SDT to draft standard IRO-002-5? If you do not agree, or if you agree but have comments or suggestions for the proposed standard provide your recommendation and explanation.

No

Provide any additional comments for the SDT to consider, if desired.

Comments: Southern believes that the language in IRO-002-5 R2 explicitly limits the scope of the requirement to "the data exchange infrastructure inside the Primary Control Center". The first problem here is that the term "data exchange infrastructure" has no clear or broadly accepted industry definition.

The second problem is that here is no clear definition of what constitutes the control center. Is it a facility or a room inside a facility? What prevents someone from moving the “capability” outside the control center (i.e a data center not part of the control center)?

The language in IRO-002-5 R3 currently has a requirement to test the “primary control center data exchange capabilities” specified in R2” every 90 days. First of all, the terminology shifts from the word “infrastructure” in R2 to “capabilities” in R3, which leaves a lot of ambiguity. Why establish a requirement to test the redundancy of the data exchange and not the EMS platform in which the capability resides. This is perplexing given the fact that the data exchange function is, in most cases, a sub-component of the much larger distributed EMS architecture.

The language in IRO-002-5 R6 is also confusing, as it states that “each RC shall have monitoring systems that provide information utilized by the RC’s operating personnel, giving particular emphasis to alarm management and awareness systems, automated data transfers, and synchronized information systems, over a redundant infrastructure. Again, this is very confusing, because the following questions have not been answered:

- What is meant by “particular emphasis”?
- Which “awareness systems” require redundant infrastructure
- Which “automated data transfers” are in scope?
- Which “synchronized information” is in scope?
- What level of redundancy is required? Server level, component level, network level, etc.

Likes 0

Dislikes 0

Response. Thank you for your comment. The SDT agrees that the requirement should focus on maintaining the data exchange capability for the primary control center. The SDT is using the NERC defined term *Control Center* in proposed Requirement R2 to clearly indicate what infrastructure is covered by the standard. The proposed requirement cannot be circumvented by moving data exchange infrastructure to a data center because the definition of *Control Center* includes "associated data centers".

The SDT is responding to specific directives in Order No. 817 pertaining to data exchange capabilities. The SDT believes proposed Requirements R2 and R3 meet the directive and are beneficial to reliability without expansion to cover redundancy in EMS. Redundant functionality as used in Requirement R3 means that data exchange capabilities will continue to operate despite the malfunction or failure of an individual component (e.g. switches, routers, servers, power supplies, and network cabling and communication paths between

these components in the primary Control Center for the exchange of system operating data). Redundant infrastructure is a means to achieve this objective.

The SDT has not made changes to Requirement R6 (Requirement R4 in approved IRO-002-4) in addressing the directives. The requested clarifications to Requirement R6 are not in scope for Project 2016-01.

Ruida Shu - Northeast Power Coordinating Council - 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10 - NPCC, Group Name RSC no National Grid

Answer No

Document Name

Comment

The requirements should apply to “secondary” Control Centers as well. There are times when a primary Control Center might be out of service for a prolonged length of time, and the “secondary” Control Center must have the capabilities addressed by this standard. If there is another standard that addresses “secondary” Control Centers, the Purpose of IRO-002-5 should reflect that it only applies to a primary Control Center. If IRO-002-5 is left with “primary”, then primary Control Center will need to be defined in the NERC Glossary.

Likes 0

Dislikes 0

Response. Thank you for your comment. The SDT believes the proposed Requirements for redundant and diverse routing of data exchange capabilities in the primary Control Centers meet the directives of Order No. 817 and benefit reliability without expansion into back-up control centers. Approved EOP-008-1 Requirements R3 and R4 specify requirements for back-up control centers. The SDT does not believe the purpose of IRO-002-5 should be changed as suggested by the commenter because other requirements in the standard are not specific to Control Centers.

Rachel Coyne - Texas Reliability Entity, Inc. - 10

Answer No

Document Name

Comment

Texas RE appreciates the Standard Drafting Team's efforts to develop a workable approach to requiring redundant and diversely routed data exchange infrastructure. However, Texas RE is concerned that the SDT's proposed approach limiting such diverse routing requirements solely to primary control centers is overly narrow. Texas RE requests that the SDT apply the diverse routing requirements at issue here to control centers generally, rather than to just the primary control center. However, if the SDT declines to do so, Texas RE requests that the SDT clarify the relationship between TOP-001-4 and IRO-002-5 with the backup functionality requirements set forth in EOP-008. In Order No. 693, FERC made clear that entities should possess backup capabilities that, among other things, provide for a minimum set of tools and facilities to replicate the critical reliability functions of the primary control center. (p. 160, ¶ 335). In Order No. 817, FERC further identified a clear reliability need for the reliability coordinator, transmission operator, and balancing authority to have data exchange capabilities that are redundant and diversely routed. (p. 33, ¶47). Given the clear directive that entities possess backup control centers that can replicate the reliability functions of the primary control center, it seems contrary to the general ERO-wide approach to backup functionality to only require diverse routing within primary control centers. This also appears counter to FERC's specific discussion of the relationship between the general backup functionality requirements in EOP-008 and the more specific requirements for voice communications in the COM Standards and the data exchange capability standards at issue here. Specifically, in Order No. 817, FERC made clear that the EOP-008 redundancy requirements should not supplant the diverse routing obligations to be set forth in the revised TOP and IRO compliance obligations. That is to say, although it is possible to read the EOP-008 backup functionality requirements as mandating sufficient redundancy in and of itself, FERC nevertheless called for the diverse routing reliability need to be explicitly addressed in the TOP/IRO Standards in the same manner as voice communications were addressed under the COM Standards. However, FERC's directive does not appear to contemplate simply eliminating the diverse routing requirements from the TOP/IRO Standards (and arguably to EOP-008 Standard as well) altogether.

Likes	0
Dislikes	0

Response. Thank you for your comment. The SDT added 'primary' to the second draft of Proposed IRO-002-5 Requirements R2 and R3 to clarify the scope of the infrastructure that must be *redundant and diversely routed*. Without this clarification, it is possible for entities to interpret the requirement to allow for infrastructure within one Control Center to provide the redundancy for the applicable entity's primary Control Center. The SDT recognizes that such an interpretation would conflict with Order No. 817 (P 48), and understands the directive to be satisfied by having redundant and diversely routed infrastructure within the primary Control Center. EOP-008 addresses requirements for back-up control centers and are not being considered by the SDT in addressing the directives in Order No. 817. The SDT has discussed their approach with FERC staff observers and believe the approach satisfies the directive.

Stephanie Burns - Stephanie Burns On Behalf of: Michael Moltane, International Transmission Company Holdings Corporation, 1; - Stephanie Burns

Answer No

Document Name

Comment

See comments to question #2

Likes 0

Dislikes 0

Response. Thank you for your comment.

Shannon Mickens - Southwest Power Pool, Inc. (RTO) - 2 - SPP RE, Group Name SPP Standards Review Group

Answer No

Document Name

Comment

What does the SDT consider “data exchange infrastructure”? Without an understanding of the intent of this language, it is unclear where the expectation for “redundant and diversely routed” ends. If the intent is to require the same level of demonstration of evidence as was provided under the old COM-001-1, then redundancy typically only had to be demonstrated by showing the two separate telecomm lines going to two separate routers and then from there it went into the single firewall and then into the ESP. If the ‘primary Control Center’ is considered within the single firewall/ESP boundary, then that should be clarified further in the requirement.

Suggested changes to R2:

R20. Each Transmission Operator shall have data exchange capabilities, with redundant and diversely routed data exchange infrastructure after the point the data enters the Transmission Operator's primary Control Center, for the exchange of Real-time data with its Reliability Coordinator, Balancing Authority, and the entities it has identified it needs data from in order for it to perform its Real-time monitoring and Real-time Assessments.

We also would like to see the 90 day requirement to test changed to 'Quarterly'.

We have potential concerns (related to 'where' the boundary is considered for the Control Center) about which components need to be tested and what is considered an adequate test. Without knowing what components are included we may not test the right things.

Likes 0

Dislikes 0

Response. Thank you for your comment. Examples of *data exchange infrastructure* in scope for the Requirement R2 are listed in the Rationale. The SDT recognizes that architectures may vary significantly between entities and consequently a more prescriptive requirement may not cover all of the reliable configurations in use. The SDT does not believe the suggested change to Requirement R2 provides additional clarity.

The SDT does not support suggestions to change the testing requirement from 90-days to quarterly. The SDT believes the requirement as written provides clarity and flexibility to determine appropriate times to conduct testing, and that the interval provides reliability benefit by regularly ensuring redundant functionality is maintained.

The SDT has provided clarification to the rationale section for the testing requirement to address concerns about what infrastructure needs to be tested.

Brian Van Gheem - ACES Power Marketing - 6 - NA - Not Applicable, Group Name ACES Standards Collaborators

Answer

No

Document Name

Comment

- (1) We thank the SDT for responding to our request to clarify that testing of data exchange capabilities should only apply to the primary Control Center and at a required frequency greater than monthly.
- (2) We believe the proposed requirements should follow a more performance-based approach and utilize the associated VSLs to identify the severity of non-compliance. In its current form, a registered entity could instantly become non-compliant if these data exchange

capabilities or associated analytical tools become unavailable. We recommend that R1 be reworded to state “Each RC shall maintain data exchange capabilities with its BAs, its TOPs, and other entities it deems necessary, to perform its Operational Planning Analyses.”

(3) Likewise, we recommend that R2 be reworded to state “Each RC shall maintain data exchange capabilities, with redundant and diversely routed data exchange infrastructure within the RC’s primary Control Center, for the exchange of Real-time data with its BAs, its TOPs, and with other entities it deems necessary, to perform its Real-time monitoring and Real-time Assessments.”

(4) We believe compliance should be embedded within existing business processes to better adopt such practices within a registered entity’s operations. Many registered entities already execute or follow the execution of quarterly processes, and we believe the testing of data exchange capabilities could be included in such processes like quarterly model updates. The tracking of every 90 days could be cumbersome for registered entities to coordinate test schedules and staffing levels for adequate test participation in advance. Moreover, it may be possible that two tests are conducted within the same quarter, something the SDT is likely trying to avoid, and could fall during operating periods that are of high risk to the BES. We recommend the periodicity of these tests, as identified in R3, be changed to calendar quarters.

Likes 0

Dislikes 0

Response. 1. Thank you for your comments.

2 and 3. The SDT supports using 'have' instead of 'maintain' in Requirements R1 and R2, which is consistent with wording in approved IRO-002-4 and capability-type results-based standards. The associated measures for these requirements specify that the evidence of compliance includes documentation listing data exchange capabilities, system diagrams, and system specifications. The measures do not include documentation of availability.

4. The SDT does not support suggestions to change the testing requirement from 90-days to quarterly. The SDT believes the requirement as written provides clarity and flexibility to determine appropriate times to conduct testing, and that the interval provides reliability benefit by regularly ensuring redundant functionality is maintained.

Elizabeth Axson - Electric Reliability Council of Texas, Inc. - 2

Answer

No

Document Name	
Comment	
Please see comments in response to Question #5.	
Likes 0	
Dislikes 0	
Response. Thank you for your comment.	
Jack Stamper - Clark Public Utilities - 3	
Answer	Yes
Document Name	
Comment	
While Clark is not an RC, it believes its arguments expressed in question 2 below are also applicable to the RC and that any similar requirements and measures applicable to the RC in IRO-002-5 should be similarly modified.	
Likes 0	
Dislikes 0	
Response. Thank you for your comment.	
Steven Rueckert - Western Electricity Coordinating Council - 10	
Answer	Yes
Document Name	
Comment	

We agree with the proposed changes but have a suggestion for a minor revision to the language of R1.

It's very hard to enforce a standard that requires the Entity to "have" data exchange capability. While we don't need to require a formal procedure document, it should be clear that to comply with the standard, the Entity will be required to provide documented evidence as set out in M1. This comment also applies to R2.

Suggested change: delete the word have and replace with document and implement

R1. Each Reliability Coordinator shall *have document and implement* data exchange capabilities with its Balancing Authorities and Transmission Operators, and with other entities it deems necessary, for it to perform its Operational Planning Analyses. [*Violation Risk Factor: Medium*] [*Time Horizon: Operations Planning*].

Likes 0

Dislikes 0

Response. Thank you for your comment. The SDT supports the use of 'have' in Requirements R1 and R2 to be consistent with approved IRO-002-4 and views the requirements to be appropriately-worded results-based requirements. As noted, compliance with the standard is assessed based on evidence described in the associated measures. Consequently, the SDT does not support the suggested changes.

Colby Bellville - Duke Energy - 1,3,5,6 - FRCC,SERC,RF, Group Name Duke Energy

Answer Yes

Document Name

Comment

R4: Is the intent of the requirement to give System Operators the authority to *deny* planned outages and maintenance of telecommunication, monitoring and analysis capabilities, in the *Real-Time Operations and Same-Day Horizons*? It is hard to see the benefit of having shift System Operators in on the approval process of planned work of this type versus dedicated support staff that can evaluate this type of work and approve or deny the work during *the Operations Planning Time Horizon*; must System Operators be involved in the approval of this type of work in the *Operations Planning Time Horizon*? The requirement is difficult to understand since 'approve' is used instead of 'deny,' and three Time Horizons are listed as applicable.

R6: The phrase ‘giving particular emphasis to alarm management and awareness systems...’ is vague, ambiguous, and un-measurable, and makes interpretation of the standard difficult. This type of language has historically been eliminated from several standards under the Paragraph 81 criteria.

Are redundant *functionality* mentioned in R3 and redundant *infrastructure* mentioned in R6 two different things? Neither are defined terms and make interpretation of this standard more difficult.

Likes 0

Dislikes 0

Response. Thank you for your comment. Requirements R4 and R6 in IRO-002 were not modified from the FERC-approved requirements and are not in scope for this project.

Redundant functionality as used in Requirement R3 means that data exchange capabilities will continue to operate despite the malfunction or failure of an individual component (e.g. switches, routers, servers, power supplies, and network cabling and communication paths between these components in the primary Control Center for the exchange of system operating data). Redundant infrastructure is a means to achieve this objective. Requirement R6 refers to monitoring systems and the associated infrastructure. Requirement R3 is specific to data exchange capabilities.

Michael Puscas - ISO New England, Inc. - 2

Answer Yes

Document Name

Comment

Likes 0

Dislikes 0

Response

Joe Tarantino - Joe Tarantino On Behalf of: Arthur Starkovich, Sacramento Municipal Utility District, 3, 4, 1, 5, 6; Beth Tincher, Sacramento Municipal Utility District, 3, 4, 1, 5, 6; Jamie Cutlip, Sacramento Municipal Utility District, 3, 4, 1, 5, 6; Kevin Smith, Balancing Authority of Northern California, 1; Kimberly Neely, Sacramento Municipal Utility District, 3, 4, 1, 5, 6; Susan Oto, Sacramento Municipal Utility District, 3, 4, 1, 5, 6; - Joe Tarantino

Answer	Yes
Document Name	
Comment	
Likes 0	
Dislikes 0	
Response	

Diana McMahon - Salt River Project - 1,3,5,6 - WECC

Answer	Yes
Document Name	
Comment	
Likes 1	DTE Energy - Detroit Edison Company, 3, Barczak Karie
Dislikes 0	
Response	

Richard Vine - California ISO - 2

Answer	Yes
Document Name	
Comment	

Likes 0	
Dislikes 0	
Response	
Karie Barczak - DTE Energy - Detroit Edison Company - 3,4,5	
Answer	Yes
Document Name	
Comment	
Likes 0	
Dislikes 0	
Response	
Shawna Speer - Colorado Springs Utilities - 1, Group Name Colorado Springs Utilities	
Answer	Yes
Document Name	
Comment	
Likes 0	
Dislikes 0	
Response	
Joel Wise - Tennessee Valley Authority - 1,3,5,6 - SERC	

Answer	Yes
Document Name	
Comment	
Likes 0	
Dislikes 0	
Response	
Karl Blaszkowski - CMS Energy - Consumers Energy Company - 3	
Answer	Yes
Document Name	
Comment	
Likes 0	
Dislikes 0	
Response	
Karl Blaszkowski - CMS Energy - Consumers Energy Company - 3	
Answer	Yes
Document Name	
Comment	
Likes 0	
Dislikes 0	

Response	
Karl Blaszkowski - CMS Energy - Consumers Energy Company - 3	
Answer	Yes
Document Name	
Comment	
Likes 0	
Dislikes 0	
Response	
Karl Blaszkowski - CMS Energy - Consumers Energy Company - 3	
Answer	Yes
Document Name	
Comment	
Likes 0	
Dislikes 0	
Response	
Scott Downey - Peak Reliability - 1	
Answer	Yes
Document Name	
Comment	

Likes 0	
Dislikes 0	
Response	
Jerome Gobby - Sempra - San Diego Gas and Electric - 5	
Answer	Yes
Document Name	
Comment	
Likes 0	
Dislikes 0	
Response	
sean erickson - Western Area Power Administration - 1	
Answer	Yes
Document Name	
Comment	
Likes 0	
Dislikes 0	
Response	
Cain Braveheart - Bonneville Power Administration - 1,3,5,6 - WECC	

Answer	Yes
Document Name	
Comment	
Likes 0	
Dislikes 0	
Response	
Douglas Webb - Douglas Webb On Behalf of: Chris Bridges, Great Plains Energy - Kansas City Power and Light Co., 3, 6, 5, 1; Harold Wyble, Great Plains Energy - Kansas City Power and Light Co., 3, 6, 5, 1; James McBee, Great Plains Energy - Kansas City Power and Light Co., 3, 6, 5, 1; Jessica Tucker, Great Plains Energy - Kansas City Power and Light Co., 3, 6, 5, 1; - Douglas Webb	
Answer	Yes
Document Name	
Comment	
Likes 0	
Dislikes 0	
Response	
Daniel Herring - DTE Energy - Detroit Edison Company - 4	
Answer	Yes
Document Name	
Comment	
Likes 0	

Dislikes 0	
Response	
Thomas Lyons - Owensboro Municipal Utilities - 3	
Answer	Yes
Document Name	
Comment	
Likes 0	
Dislikes 0	
Response	
Emily Rousseau - MRO - 1,2,3,4,5,6 - MRO, Group Name MRO-NERC Standards Review Forum (NSRF)	
Answer	
Document Name	
Comment	
The comments provided by the NSRF that are applicable to TOP-001-4 are also applicable to IRO-002-5 for similar requirements.	
Likes 0	
Dislikes 0	
Response	

Mike Beuthling - Mike Beuthling On Behalf of: Paul Malozewski, Hydro One Networks, Inc., 1, 3; Payam Farahbakhsh, Hydro One Networks, Inc., 1, 3; - Mike Beuthling

Answer

Document Name

Comment

1. **Abstain** (standard is not applicable to HONI)

Likes 0

Dislikes 0

Response

2. Do you agree with the changes made by the SDT to draft standard TOP-001-4? If you do not agree, or if you agree but have comments or suggestions for the proposed standard provide your recommendation and explanation.

Thomas Lyons - Owensboro Municipal Utilities - 3

Answer No

Document Name

Comment

Documented assessments every 30 minutes is an unnecessary administrative burden.

Likes 0

Dislikes 0

Response. Thank you for your comment. Requirement R13 is not changed from approved TOP-001-3 and is not in scope for this project.

Douglas Webb - Douglas Webb On Behalf of: Chris Bridges, Great Plains Energy - Kansas City Power and Light Co., 3, 6, 5, 1; Harold Wyble, Great Plains Energy - Kansas City Power and Light Co., 3, 6, 5, 1; James McBee, Great Plains Energy - Kansas City Power and Light Co., 3, 6, 5, 1; Jessica Tucker, Great Plains Energy - Kansas City Power and Light Co., 3, 6, 5, 1; - Douglas Webb

Answer No

Document Name

Comment

No.

The SDT revisions to the R10 Rational do not address the double criteria application created by the proposed revisions to Requirement 10.

The SDT, in response to TOP-001-4 R10 Draft 1 comments, writes, "The SDT does not agree that the proposed changes to R10 affect the applicability of facilities within the CIP-002-5.1 standards."

Without understanding how the SDT came to their position, we have to respectfully disagree with the SDT's assessment.

The issue is not R10 affecting the applicability of facilities within CIP-002-5.1; the issue is R10 may create compliance obligations under CIP-002-5.1.

When a non-BES Facility can adversely impact reliability is identified under R10; it essentially becomes a BES Facility ("Converted non-BES Facility", our term for purposes of these comments). The STD's comments confirm this view, writing, "The SDT agrees that analyses performed in support of BES inclusions can identify some non-BES facilities that should be monitored for reliability..."

The Converted non-BES Facility now is treated as a BES Facility, falling within the CIP-002-5.1 Applicability Sec. 4.2.2., "All BES Facilities."

As a BES Facility, Entities are required to evaluate the Facility under CIP-002 to determine whether it is a High, Medium, or Low Impact BES Cyber System.

Our Concern

Bringing the BES Facility into CIP-002-5.1 Applicability creates a double impact criteria situation.

In other words, not identifying the non-BES Facility as potentially impacting the BES under R10—a compliance failure—automatically creates another compliance failure under CIP-002-5.1 because all BES Facilities are to be categorized and, as required, protected.

Put another way, in the event a non-BES Facility impacting the BES is not identified under R10 and should have been—it was missed—the Entity would be hard-pressed to justify that CIP-002-5.1 only applies to the non-BES Facilities identified under R10 and not to the "missed" Facilities. It would have to be a common sense justification but from a real-world view, the proposition is difficult to defend.

The current Proposed Standard creates the situation that a compliance failure with R10 creates a compliance failure under CIP-002-5.1.

Suggestion to Address the Issue

We do not believe this is an instance when the issue can be addressed by a single SDT; it requires the CIP Modifications SDT and potentially others, current and the future, to consider how revisions align with other Standards and the potential for a double impact criteria situation.

Likes	0
Dislikes	0

Response. Thank you for your comment. Monitoring a non-BES facility as required by Requirement R10 does not automatically result in the facility becoming part of the BES. The BES definition and Exceptions process determine what facilities are part of the BES. Requirement R10 does not determine what facilities are part of the BES.

The Project 2016-01 Standards Authorization Request (SAR) establishes the SDT's responsibility for addressing the Order No. 817 directives.

Elizabeth Axson - Electric Reliability Council of Texas, Inc. - 2

Answer	No
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Document Name	
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Comment

Please see comments in response to Question #5.

Likes	0
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Dislikes	0
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Response

Sean Erickson - Western Area Power Administration - 1

Answer	No
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Document Name	
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Comment

For R9, the focus on this comment is based on how this relates to EMS, SCADA and associated control systems. WAPA would contend that switching to a redundant host (server, system, computer, etc) that provides functionally equivalent service, that this would not fall under the banner of a "planned outage". If an entity were to not have functionally equivalent redundant hosts and perform a switch-

over, this would fall under the planned or unplanned outage banner. WAPA would like to get clarification on this as to plan appropriately for its process to meet the new standard verbiage.

For R20, The verbiage that was changed in the rationale raises concerns as it relates to how this will be audited. Data Exchange Infrastructure is used in both the Rationale, the Requirement, and the Measure. Yet the Rationale provides significantly more detail and yet at the same time a wider scope. The concern is focused on the items listed in the Rationale:

(switches, routers, file servers, power supplies, and network cabling and communication paths between these components in the primary Control Center for the exchange of system operating data)

The first example of concern with this verbiage is that the Requirement and the Standard focuses on “*redundant and diversely routed data exchange infrastrcuture*” but the Rationale seems to expand the scope of this to focus on components of devices instead of the devices themselves. To draw a logical leap, would an entity be expected to have devices with redundant power supplies or is redundant power into the control center sufficient. WAPA would like to see the Rationale match the Standard and Measure verbiage. The other seemingly untouched area is the discussion around technology that make redundant paths much less effective or possibly not needed at all. If, for example, a group of entities were to have a cloud technology (lets use MPLS for example) infrastructure that provides redundancy; would this meet the letter of the law even though redundancy at a device level may not exist? This may not necessarily meet compliances as described but provides the level redundancy that the standard is striving for. WAPA feels the focus on redundant and diverse links may cause the industry to miss the wider use of many technogologies available to us because we would be focused on meeting compliance rather than engineering a reliable and effective solution.

Likes	0
Dislikes	0

Response. Thank your for your comment.

Requirement R9 is not in scope for Project 2016-01.

The SDT's intent is to preclude single points of failure in primary Control Center data exchange infrastructure from halting the flow of Real-time data. The SDT is not prescribing any particular design approach. The SDT did not did not intend for the rationale for Requirements R19 and R20 (and R22 and R23) to imply a need for redundancy at an internal component (i.e. internal power supply) level. For example, if a power supply to Server A fails then an acceptable approach is to fail over to Server B which has its own power supply.

The SDT believes the requirements for redundancy and diversely routed data exchange infrastructure provide entities with flexibility to implement effective solutions that meet their system needs within existing and foreseeable technologies and achieve the reliability objectives in Order No 817. The SDT notes that the defined term *Control Center* includes associated data centers, which could support non-traditional architectures that provide redundancy.

Brian Van Gheem - ACES Power Marketing - 6 - NA - Not Applicable, Group Name ACES Standards Collaborators

Answer No

Document Name

Comment

- (1) We thank the SDT for responding to our request to clarify that testing of data exchange capabilities should only apply to the primary Control Center and at a required frequency greater than monthly.
- (2) We caution the SDT in its phrasing of language used to address a FERC directive requiring TOPs to monitor non-BES facilities, as deemed necessary by the TOPs, to fill their functional obligations. Rather than dive into a philosophical discussion regarding States rights versus the jurisdiction of FERC, we focus our concerns on the practical application of this language. Many of the non-BES facilities are owned and maintained by entities not listed within the NERC compliance registry. Some of these non-registered entities were de-registered following the approval of the Risk-based Registration initiative. Moreover, owners of non-BES facilities outside a TOP Area may not have direct business ties or incentives to coordinate with the TOPs. We recommend removing non-BES facility references from these standards, or as an alternative, rephrasing the appropriate parts of R10 to monitor and obtain statuses, voltages, and flow data for non-BES facilities, when such information is available.
- (3) Moreover, we continue to have concerns that the proposed additional requirements require a registered entity to possess data exchange capabilities and not maintain such capabilities. By focusing on possession, a registered entity could instantly become non-compliant if these data exchange capabilities or associated analytical tools become unavailable. We believe the requirements should follow a more performance-based approach and utilize the associated VSLs to identify the severity of non-compliance. For instance, we propose rewording Requirement R19 to “Each TOP shall maintain data exchange capabilities with entities it deems necessary to perform its Operational Planning Analyses.” This proposal could be reused to modify the similar BA requirement, R22.

(4) Likewise, we propose rewording Requirement R20 to “Each Transmission Operator shall maintain data exchange capabilities, with redundant and diversely routed data exchange infrastructure within the Transmission Operator's primary Control Center, needed to perform Real-time monitoring and Real-time Assessments.” This proposal could be reused to modify the similar BA requirement, R23.

(5) We feel compliance should be embedded within existing business processes to better adopt such practices within a registered entity's operations. Many registered entities already execute or follow the execution of quarterly processes, and we believe the testing of data exchange capabilities could be included in such processes like quarterly model updates. The tracking of every 90 days could be cumbersome for registered entities to coordinate test schedules and staffing levels for adequate test participation in advance. Moreover, it may be possible that two tests are conducted within the same quarter, something the SDT is likely trying to avoid, and could fall during operating periods that are of high risk to the BES. We recommend the periodicity of these tests, as identified in R21 and R24, be changed to calendar quarters

(6) We believe the use of the NERC-defined Glossary Term, Operating Plan, is incorrectly applied in Requirement R22. To paraphrase, an Operating Plan is a group of activities, Operating Procedures, or Operating Processes that are used to achieve a goal. In the case of this requirement, what is the goal a BA assessing its next-day operations trying to achieve? We recommend avoid using the NERC glossary term in this context or use a NERC defined term like “Adequacy.”

(7) In light of the removal of operating logs as evidence identified within Measures M20 and M23, we ask the SDT to reflect this removal in the Evidence Retention Section of this standard (i.e. Section C.1.2).

Likes	0
Dislikes	0

Response. 1. Thank you for your comment.

2. Requirement R10 responds to FERC directives requiring TOPs to monitor non-BES facilities necessary for determining SOL exceedances. The SDT recognizes that some TOPs may need to use mechanisms for obtaining data on non-BES facilities in addition to the obligations under TOP-003-3. For example, a TOP and a non-registered entity could enter into a data exchange agreement to obtain necessary operating information, or the TOP may identify a requirement in the interconnection agreement that supports obtaining the necessary operating information. When the non-registered entity is outside the TOP area, another TOP that also needs data from this facility could be a source for obtaining the data.

3 and 4. The SDT supports using 'have' instead of 'maintain' in Requirements R19, 20, R22, and R23, which is consistent with wording in approved TOP-001-3 and capability-type results-based standards. The associated measures for these requirements specify that the evidence of compliance includes documentation listing data exchange capabilities, system diagrams, and system specifications. The measures do not include documentation of availability.

5. The SDT does not support suggestions to change the testing requirement from 90-days to quarterly. The SDT believes the requirement as written provides clarity and flexibility to determine appropriate times to conduct testing, and that the interval provides reliability benefit by regularly ensuring redundant functionality is maintained.

6. Approved TOP-002-4 Requirement R4 specifies that each BA must have an Operating Plan for next day operations. Proposed TOP-001-4 Requirement R22 addresses data exchange capabilities necessary for developing this Operating Plan. Although the wording has changed, BAs had this obligation under approved TOP-001-3 Requirement R20 which covered the BA's data exchange capabilities in the Operations Planning, Same-day Operations, and Real-time operating horizons. In proposed TOP-001-4, Requirement R22 addresses the BA's data exchange capabilities for the Operations Planning time horizon, and Requirement R23 addresses the BA's data exchange capabilities for the Same-day Operations and Real-time operating horizons.

7. The SDT has made the requested change.

Chris Gowder - Chris Gowder On Behalf of: Carol Chinn, Florida Municipal Power Agency, 5, 6, 4, 3; Chris Adkins, City of Leesburg, 3; David Schumann, Florida Municipal Power Agency, 5, 6, 4, 3; Don Cuevas, Beaches Energy Services, 1, 3; Ginny Beigel, City of Vero Beach, 9; Joe McKinney, Florida Municipal Power Agency, 5, 6, 4, 3; Richard Montgomery, Florida Municipal Power Agency, 5, 6, 4, 3; Thomas Parker, Fort Pierce Utilities Authority, 4, 3; Tom Reedy, Florida Municipal Power Pool, 6; - Chris Gowder, Group Name FMMPA

Answer	No
Document Name	
Comment	
FMMPA believes the meaning of redundant and diversely routed remains unclear, and that entities (and auditors) would benefit from having some examples of configurations that meet the expectations. Does a failover configuration where there is a potential for multiple combinations of active (or live) components meet the redundancy and diversely routed requirement, or does it require a completely	

separate set of isolated components from top to bottom? For example, a primary server could be setup to be capable of using either a primary and secondary switch. The secondary server would be setup the same way, so at any given time a combination of primary and secondary devices could be active. The boundary of what is considered within the Control Center is also unclear.

Entities are currently having to decipher what is required or proposed to be required by the CIP standards, which involve the very same equipment being discussed here. It is vital that the various Subject Matter Experts involved in the two efforts speak the same language and have a common understanding of what is meant by words such as “failure or malfunction” and “redundant and diversely routed”. We believe there is too much room for interpretation as the Requirements are currently worded.

Likes 0

Dislikes 0

Response. Thank you for your comment. The configuration described by the commenter whereby at any time both the primary and secondary servers are active could be an example of redundancy provided the arrangement "will provide continued functionality despite failure or malfunction" of one of the servers, as explained in the Rationale for Requirement R20. The SDT believes that the description in the rationale provides suitable guidance for entities to use in understanding the requirement and covers the full range of potential solutions, unlike specific examples which will only clearly indicate some architectures out of the myriad of suitable approaches for complying with the requirement.

The SDT does not see conflicts between the proposed requirements and CIP standards.

Shannon Mickens - Southwest Power Pool, Inc. (RTO) - 2 - SPP RE, Group Name SPP Standards Review Group

Answer

No

Document Name

Comment

We would like to see some changes in the Rationale for R10 to clarify that the intent is to monitor the non-BES facilities ‘so that a TOP can determine SOL exceedances’ not just monitor non-BES facilities. We think clarifying also that the reliability impact to be guarded against is impact on the BES, not on the non-BES facilities. Please make the following change: The intent of the requirement is to ensure that all facilities (i.e., BES and non-BES) that can adversely impact BES reliability are monitored.

A similar change would also be helpful in the following sentence:

The non-BES facilities that the TOP is required to monitor are only those that are necessary for the TOP to determine SOL exceedances on BES Facilities within its Transmission Operator Area.

What does the SDT consider “data exchange infrastructure”? Without an understanding of the intent of this language, it is unclear where the expectation for “redundant and diversely routed” ends. If the intent is to require the same level of demonstration of evidence as was provided under the old COM-001-1, then redundancy typically only had to be demonstrated by showing the two separate telecomm lines going to two separate routers and then from there it went into the single firewall and then into the ESP. If the ‘primary Control Center’ is considered within the single firewall/ESP boundary, then that should be clarified further in the requirement.

Suggested changes to R2:

R20. Each Transmission Operator shall have data exchange capabilities, with redundant and diversely routed data exchange infrastructure after the point the data enters the Transmission Operator's primary Control Center, for the exchange of Real-time data with its Reliability Coordinator, Balancing Authority, and the entities it has identified it needs data from in order for it to perform its Real-time monitoring and Real-time Assessments.

We also would like to see the 90 day requirement to test changed to ‘Quarterly’.

We have potential concerns (related to ‘where’ the boundary is considered for the Control Center) about which components need to be tested and what is considered an adequate test. Without knowing what components are included we may not test the right things.

Likes	0
Dislikes	0

Response. Thank you for your comment. The SDT has made a requested clarification to the Rationale second paragraph for Requirement R10. The SDT did not think the proposed change to "SOL exceedances *on BES Facilities*" improved clarity over the existing wording which uses the defined term SOL.

Examples of *data exchange infrastructure* in scope for the Requirements R20 and R23 are listed in the associated Rationale. The SDT recognizes that architectures may vary significantly between entities and consequently a more prescriptive requirement may not cover all of the reliable configurations in use. The SDT does not believe the suggested change to Requirement R20 provides additional clarity.

The SDT does not support suggestions to change the testing requirement from 90-days to quarterly. The SDT believes the requirement as written provides clarity and flexibility to determine appropriate times to conduct testing, and that the interval provides reliability benefit by regularly ensuring redundant functionality is maintained.

The SDT has provided clarification to the Rationale sections for the testing requirements to address concerns about what infrastructure needs to be tested.

Stephanie Burns - Stephanie Burns On Behalf of: Michael Moltane, International Transmission Company Holdings Corporation, 1; - Stephanie Burns

Answer	No
Document Name	
Comment	
<p>We agree with the overall objective of the proposed revisions to the standard to ensure accurate system modeling for Real-time Assessment and real-time monitoring along with driving towards reducing the impacts to those processes of single points of failure for data systems. However, the proposed verbiage changes from the previously balloted standard concerning testing frequency in R21 and R24 does not go far enough to differentiate between situations where redundant internal data exchange capability is provided in an active-active configuration versus an active-standby configuration. In an active-active configuration the redundant internal data exchange capability is being tested through the ongoing use and monitoring of the equipment providing the redundant capability. In an active-standby configuration the equipment providing the redundant internal data exchange capability is not being continually tested and warrants an explicit testing requirement. The quarterly testing requirement for an active-standby configuration is appropriate. In an active –active configuration no dedicated testing is necessary at any scheduled intervals since equipment is continually being tested through use and monitoring. This approach encourages an active-active configuration which clearly provides enhanced reliability since there are no potential gaps where redundant capability is lost and not recognized until the next test.</p>	
Likes	0
Dislikes	0

Response. Thank you for your comment. Proposed requirements for testing data exchange capabilities respond to the Order No. 817 directive and provide reliability benefit by periodically testing and verifying the redundant functionality of an entity's data exchange capabilities. The SDT is not prescribing how an entity is to test its data exchange capabilities for redundant functionality. A test for redundant functionality must demonstrate that data exchange capabilities will continue to operate despite the malfunction or failure of an individual component (e.g. switches, routers, servers, power supplies, and network cabling and communication paths between these components in the primary Control Center for the exchange of system operating data).

Rachel Coyne - Texas Reliability Entity, Inc. - 10

Answer No

Document Name

Comment

Please see Texas RE's response to the #1 regarding the specificity of primary control centers. The same concerns apply to IRO-002-5. Texas RE noticed TOP-001-4 Requirements R19 and R22 do not specify data exchange capabilities, with redundant and diversely routed data exchange infrastructure. Requirements R20 and R23 do specify data exchange capabilities, with redundant and diversely routed data exchange infrastructure. Is it the SDT's intent that the data TOPs and BAs use to develop an Operations Planning Analysis not be redundant and diversely routed?

Likes 0

Dislikes 0

Response. Thank you for your comment. See response provided in previous section.

The SDT does not intend to require redundant and diversely routed data exchange capabilities for purposes of performing Operational Planning Analysis.

Ruida Shu - Northeast Power Coordinating Council - 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10 - NPCC, Group Name RSC no National Grid

Answer No

Document Name

Comment

TOP-001-4 Requirement R10 is redundant with IRO-002-5 requirement R5. Both refer to the monitoring of facilities. The revisions to the Rationale for Requirement R10 reinforce this.

Likes 0

Dislikes 0

Response. Thank you for your comment. TOP-001-4 Requirement R10 applies to TOPs, while IRO-002-5 Requirement R5 applies to RCs. The requirements are not redundant.

Emily Rousseau - MRO - 1,2,3,4,5,6 - MRO, Group Name MRO-NERC Standards Review Forum (NSRF)

Answer

No

Document Name

Comment

Requirement R20:

NSRF revisions add further clarity to redundant and diversely routed within the Requirement. It's important to maintain a balance between being specific and overly prescriptive in a mandatory zero-defect environment. We suggest the following revision allows entities to clearly define two primary control center data paths and the flexibility to identify what needs to be redundant while meeting FERC's objectives. Allowing entities to define two data infrastructure paths also recognizes that auditing to all possible single points of failure isn't realistic or feasible.

R20. Each Transmission Operator shall have data exchange capabilities, with redundant (meaning at least two data exchange paths exist for normal operating conditions) and diversely routed data exchange infrastructure (meaning switches, routers, file servers, power supplies, and network cabling in communication paths between these components in the two identified data exchange paths) within the Transmission Operator's primary Control Center, for the exchange of Real-time data with its Reliability Coordinator, Balancing Authority, and the entities it has identified it needs data from in order for it to perform its Real-time monitoring and Real-time Assessments. The planned or unplanned loss of one of the two data exchange infrastructure paths does not require further actions to meet compliance.

Requirement R23:

The following suggested revisions makes R23 consistent with the revisions suggested for R20.

R23. Each Balancing Authority shall have data exchange capabilities, with redundant and diversely routed data exchange infrastructure (meaning switches, routers, file servers, power supplies, and network cabling in communication paths between these components in the two identified data exchange paths) within the Balancing Authority's primary Control Center, for the exchange of Real-time data with its Reliability Coordinator, Transmission Operator, and the entities it has identified it needs data from in order for it to perform its Real-time monitoring and analysis functions.

Suggestion for R21 and R24:

The NSRF thanks the drafting team for changing the periodicity for testing data exchange capabilities from the previous monthly periodicity. NSRF recommends changing the revised 90-day testing periodicity to **quarterly**. While the industry appreciates standardization, there is a benefit to changing 90 days to **quarterly**. This avoids continually accelerated tracking and rotating compliance periods. Operationally, moving to the largest testing period to maintain adequate reliability allows personnel flexibility in scheduling, tracking, and completing work. Quarterly is superior to 90-days, Bi-annual is superior to 6-months, and annual is best unless a specific reliability need is identified.

Likes	0
Dislikes	0

Response. Thank you for your comment.

The SDT agrees that an entity could define two data paths as a potential approach to achieving the reliability objective of the Order No. 817 directive. As written, Requirements R20 and R23 in proposed TOP-001-4 do not preclude this approach. However, the revisions proposed by the commenter could limit some flexibility by specifying *how* an entity must achieve the objective, and create an unnecessary obligation to designate data paths. The SDT believes the Requirements and supporting Rationale as written satisfy the FERC directives and provide clear obligation for applicable entities.

The SDT does not support suggestions to change the testing requirement from 90-days to quarterly. The SDT believes the requirement as written provides clarity and flexibility to determine appropriate times to conduct testing, and that the interval provides reliability benefit by regularly ensuring redundant functionality is maintained.

Pamela Hunter - Southern Company - Southern Company Services, Inc. - 1,3,5,6 - SERC, Group Name Southern Company	
Answer	No
Document Name	
Comment	
TOP-001-4 R20 - Please see comments regarding data exchange capabilities noted in Question #1.	
Likes 0	
Dislikes 0	
Response. See response in previous section.	
Andrew Pusztai - American Transmission Company, LLC - 1	
Answer	No
Document Name	FERC Order.jpg
Comment	
<p>ATC is concerned regarding requirement 10.3 as there is a perceived disconnect between the TOP requirement to monitor without a corresponding requirement for non-registered entities to provide requested data needed for monitoring. The standard as written requires the TOP to monitor non-BES facilities within its Transmission Operator Area. In one specific case in our system the entity who owns the facilities and thus manages the model and real time data is not a registered TOP, BA, GO, GOP, LSE, TO, or DP so they have no compliance obligation to provide the data. As good utility practice we believe they should provide the data but that's no guarantee that they will. If ATC as the TOP does not have the correct operating parameters, whether impedances, charging values or ratings, or we do not have the correct telemetry, we cannot monitor their facilities (e.g., confirm flows are within limits). If we cannot monitor, we cannot be compliant.</p> <p>Consider amending R10.3 to read as follows:</p>	

Monitor non-BES facilities within its Transmission Operator Area identified as necessary by the Transmission Operator. In those cases where sufficient modeling and real time data is not available from the facility owner and they are not required to provide it monitoring is not feasible and thus not required.

Requirement 20 was modified to indicate the need for redundant and diversely routed data exchange capabilities within the TOPs primary control center. The way the standard is written ignores the enhanced redundancy ATC has implemented between control centers such that we can survive the loss of a single control center. I believe it is contrary to the intent of the commission order (see below) which requires that “the data exchange capabilities of the transmission operators and balancing authorities require redundancy and diverse routing”. I would recommend that the SDT modify the wording to allow for TOPs or BAs that have implemented redundancy across multiple primary control centers.

Requirement 21 was modified such that data exchange capabilities used in the primary Control Center have to be tested once every 90 days. The SDT did extend that from every 30 days which was a positive result of the first round of comments. Since ATC’s redundancy is built into the overall system architecture, where the loss of an entire control center can be withstood, verifying capabilities within one or both of our centers is above and beyond the intent of the FERC order (attached).

ATC agrees with the following comments put forth by NERC Standards Review Forum (NSRF).

Suggestions for Requirements R20 and R23:

The term ‘redundant and diversely’ routed is undefined and ambiguous. NSRF suggests the following wording change for these two requirements: “Each Balancing Authority (TOP) shall have data exchange capabilities, with redundant and diversely routed that reduce or mitigate single points of failure of data exchange infrastructure within the Balancing Authority’s(TOP) primary Control Center in the exchange of identified Real-time data” . The NSRF believes that this suggested language can also be applied to other Entities that require a reduction of single points of failure.

Suggestions for R21 and R24:

The NSRF thanks the drafting team for changing the periodicity for testing data exchange capabilities from the previous monthly periodicity. Within the comments to the first round of comments the drafting team indicated that they had moved the periodicity to quarterly, but actually put in 90 days. This may sound like a small thing, but from a compliance standpoint tracking 90 day periodicity versus a quarter periodicity can be a big thing. If an entity tracks by a quarter and completes their testing on a 91st day of a 91 day quarter, they are out of compliance. In addition, our technicians that test would find it less of a compliance burden to track quarter

testing than tracking 90 day intervals. We would suggest that the wording in these two requirements actually use the term “quarter” or “quarterly”.

Likes 0

Dislikes 0

Response. Thank you for your comment.

Requirement R10 responds to FERC directives requiring TOPs to monitor non-BES facilities necessary for determining SOL exceedances. The SDT recognizes that some TOPs may need to use mechanisms for obtaining data on non-BES facilities in addition to the obligations under TOP-003-3. For example, a TOP and a non-registered entity could enter into a data exchange agreement to obtain necessary operating information, or the TOP may identify a requirement in the interconnection agreement that supports obtaining the necessary operating information. The SDT does not support the suggested change because it could adversely impact reliability by allowing facilities that are necessary for determining SOL exceedances to go unmonitored.

The SDT recognizes that data exchange architectures that rely on other control centers to provide redundancy to the primary Control Center do not meet the requirement of proposed TOP-001-4 Requirement R20 and R23. In Order No. 817, FERC indicated that requirements for back up control centers in EOP-008 did not "supplant the redundancy requirements" for voice or data communications. The SDT believes the proposed TOP-001-4 Requirements R20 and R23 directly address Order No. 817 directive (P 47) and benefit reliability by assuring TOPs have redundant and diversely routed data exchange capabilities within the primary Control Center. The SDT has discussed their approach with FERC staff observers and believe the approach satisfies the directive. The SDT notes that the definition of Control Center includes associated data centers.

Proposed TOP-001-4 Requirements R21 and R24 address the Order No. 817 directive for testing redundant functionality of data exchange capabilities used in primary Control Centers. (P 51)

See response to MRO NSRF for additional comment response.

Colby Bellville - Duke Energy - 1,3,5,6 - FRCC,SERC,RF, Group Name Duke Energy

Answer

No

Document Name**Comment**

R16, R17: See our comment regarding R4 of IRO-002-5 above.

R20-R24: Redundant infrastructure and redundant functionality terms are again used in different requirements. An entity can have redundant functionality without redundant infrastructure. For example, you can have a single router/switch/piece of network equipment with redundant paths/functionality, but if power to the switch is lost then the functionality is lost because you don't have redundant infrastructure.

R21: It is not clear what is required to test redundant functionality. This could include each piece of network infrastructure inside the primary control center (ICCP boxes, routers, switches, EMS computers, System Operator computer consoles, etc.) If this is left vague then it is not a good fit for a standard, but should be considered a guideline.

R21-24: We request further clarification/explanation from the drafting team on the extent of the testing addressed in R21. Is it the drafting team's intent to require an entity to test an entire pathway for redundant functionality every 90 calendar days, or is testing required on single elements only? The language in the requirement does not specifically address the extent of the testing expected. We recommend that language clearly outlining the extent of testing necessary to achieve compliance necessary be inserted in the requirement(s) or perhaps further explanation in the rationale.

Also, Duke Energy is unsure that the proposed requirements R20-R24, do not fit with the overall purpose of the TOP standard family. The purpose outlined in TOP-001-4 states:

"To prevent instability, uncontrolled separation, or Cascading outages that adversely impact the reliability of the Interconnection by ensuring prompt action to prevent or mitigate such occurrences."

We do not believe that the required actions in R20-R21 and R23-R24 are placed appropriately in this standard. We are in agreement that some of the actions may be deemed necessary, however, we are not convinced that said actions would prevent instability, uncontrolled separation, or Cascading outages that may adversely impact reliability of an Interconnection. Duke Energy suggests the drafting team consider another standard, perhaps TOP-003-3, for the directed requirements. TOP-003-3 aligns better with these new requirements instead of being placed in TOP-001-4 and suggest moving R19 and R22 from TOP-001-4 to TOP-003-3 also (these requirements are currently R19 and R20 in TOP-001-3).

Likes	0
Dislikes	0
<p>Response. Thank you for your comment. For R16, R17 comment, see response in previous section.</p> <p>R20-R24. The SDT confirms that the terms <i>redundant infrastructure</i> and <i>redundant functionality</i> are used as intended in the requirements and rationale. Redundant functionality as used in Requirement R21 and R24 means that data exchange capabilities will continue to operate despite the malfunction or failure of an individual component (e.g. switches, routers, servers, power supplies, and network cabling and communication paths between these components in the primary Control Center for the exchange of system operating data). Redundant infrastructure is a means to achieve this objective.</p> <p>R21. The SDT has provided clarification to the rationale section for the testing requirement to address concerns about what infrastructure needs to be tested. The proposed requirement addresses Order No. 817 directives (P 51).</p> <p>R21-24. The proposed requirements and rationale provide an entity with flexibility to design a testing program to meet operational needs, provide assurance of redundant functionality, and meet the requirements and FERC directives. Testing the entire pathway every 90 days is not specified in the requirement.</p> <p>The SDT determined that modifying the data exchange requirements in approved TOP-001-3 (R19 and R20) provided an efficient approach to addressing the directives in Order No. 817, rather than transferring data exchange requirements and introducing new requirements into TOP-003.</p>	
<p>Jeffrey Watkins - Jeffrey Watkins On Behalf of: Eric Schwarzrock, Berkshire Hathaway - NV Energy, 5; - Jeffrey Watkins</p>	
Answer	No
Document Name	
Comment	

NVE still has concerns with the identification of non-BES facilities. The proposed TOP-001-4 RSAW requires the Transmission Operator to provide evidence that it monitored all the data for non-elements identified, but no guidance on evidence to show that we do or do not have non-BES facilities. Would we need to provide studies to show that we have no non-BES facilities? We also have concerns about how non-BES facilities outside the Transmission Operators Area should be identified by the TOP. Some sort of methodology or guidance should be added to the Requirement to demonstrate the identification of non-BES facilities.

Likes 0

Dislikes 0

Response. Thank you for your comment. The rationale for Requirement R10 and the draft RSAW include examples of studies or analyses performed by TOPs that could lead to identifying non-BES facilities that should be monitored for determining SOL exceedances. The requirement provides flexibility for entities to determine their own methods or techniques to satisfy the objective. Entities may establish a methodology or guidance for identifying the non-BES facilities that they need to monitor, however the SDT does not believe that the standard needs to prescribe this approach.

Shawna Speer - Colorado Springs Utilities - 1, Group Name Colorado Springs Utilities

Answer

No

Document Name

Comment

R10.4, R10.5, & R10.6 duplicate the requirements in the already approved TOP-003-3, R1.

R19 & R20 overlap with the requirements in the already approved TOP-003-3, R5.

Likes 0

Dislikes 0

Response. Thank you for your comment.

TOP-003-3 Requirement R1 specifies that TOPs must have a data specification for the data needed to perform its Real-time monitoring, Real-time Assessments, and Operational Planning Analysis. Proposed TOP-001-4 Requirement R1 specifies that the TOP must perform monitoring as described in parts 10.1 to 10.6. These requirements are not duplicative.

Proposed TOP-001-4 Requirements R19 and R20 address Order No. 817 directives for TOPs to have data exchange capabilities and correspond to approved TOP-001-3 Requirement R19. TOP-003-3 Requirement R5 requires entities that receive a data specification to satisfy their obligations. These requirements are not duplicative.

Scott Miller - Scott Miller On Behalf of: David Weekley, MEAG Power, 3, 5, 1; Roger Brand, MEAG Power, 3, 5, 1; Steven Grego, MEAG Power, 3, 5, 1; - Scott Miller

Answer No

Document Name

Comment

Comments: See comments below.

Likes 0

Dislikes 0

Response

Michelle Amarantos - APS - Arizona Public Service Co. - 1

Answer No

Document Name

Comment

R10. In the previous version of TOP-001-4, R10 required TOPs to monitor non-BES facilities necessary for determining SOL exceedances both within and outside its footprint “identified as necessary by the TOP.” This has been broadened to include the RC with the

introduction of new text in the “Rationale for Requirement R10” box; which states that any of the following could lead to an identification of non-BES facilities that should be monitored:

1. APS OPA
2. APS RTA
3. APS analysis to determine BES Inclusion Exceptions
4. Peak RC analysis performed in support of outage coordination (requiring temporary monitoring)

This is problematic for several reasons:

1. The RC model may not be as robust as the TOP’s model for non-BES facilities. Therefore, the RC’s ability to determine which non-BES facilities affect the BES is limited without TOP input. A "vetting" process should be added whereby the RC must validate the non-BES facilities to be added with the TOP.
2. Temporary monitoring of non-BES facilities, if the IT infrastructure is not already in place, may not be feasible depending on the lead time available in the RC’s outage coordination process; particularly if the facilities are not already modeled and/or the data is not readily available. For example, in the Western Interconnection, Peak Reliability initiates their OPA studies only two days before the scheduled outage.

At a minimum, if support of the RC outage coordination process is to remain as part of requirement R10, then the text of the requirement should be expanded to specifically include the RC: **“identified as necessary by the TOP or by the RC in support of their outage coordination process.”**

R20 and R23. The introduction of the word “primary” as a clarifier to Control Center is problematic in that it limits where the an entity may locate its “redundant and diversely routed data exchange infrastructure” to that within the “primary Control Center.” As APS has redundant and diversely routed data exchange infrastructure *across* (and not *within*) Control Centers; i.e. infrastructure that spans our primary and back-up Control Center locations, the requirement as written limits flexibility in terms of where redundant infrastructure may be located. As worded, this would require entities to install additional redundancy within its primary Control Center location.

If the SDT’s intent is to ensure the reliability of data exchange structure used to maintain its data exchange operations within the primary control Center, we propose modifying the language as follows to recognize redundant data exchange capability infrastructure across an entity’s *collective* Control Center facilities:

APS Proposed R20. Each Transmission Operator shall have data exchange capabilities, with redundant and diversely routed data exchange infrastructure **used to maintain its operations** within the Transmission Operator's primary Control Center, for the exchange of

Real-time data with its Reliability Coordinator, Balancing Authority, and the entities it has identified it needs data from in order for it to perform its Real-time monitoring and Real-time Assessments.

APS Proposed R23. Each Balancing Authority shall have data exchange capabilities, with redundant and diversely routed data exchange infrastructure **used to maintain its operations** within the Balancing Authority's primary Control Center, for the exchange of Real-time data with its Reliability Coordinator, Transmission Operator, and the entities it has identified it needs data from in order for it to perform its Real-time monitoring and analysis functions.

Likes	0
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Dislikes	0
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Response. Thank you for your comment.

R10. The SDT included examples of analyses and studies that could lead to the identification of non-BES facilities that should be monitored for determining SOL exceedances. The SDT believes the RC's outage coordination process is a potential source of information, studies, or analysis that the TOP could use to support the TOP's determination. The SDT changed the rationale to clarify that the TOP makes this determination for the purposes of the TOP's monitoring specified by Requirement R10. The SDT believes the proposed requirement addresses the Order No. 817 directive (P 35-36) and provides flexibility for TOPs to determine how to temporarily monitor non-BES facilities needed for determining SOL exceedances.

R20 and R23. The SDT recognizes that data exchange architectures that rely on other control centers to provide redundancy to the primary Control Center do not meet the requirement of proposed TOP-001-4 Requirement R20 and R23. In Order No. 817, FERC indicated that requirements for back up control centers in EOP-008 did not "supplant the redundancy requirements" for voice or data communications. The SDT believes the proposed TOP-001-4 Requirements R20 and R23 directly address Order No. 817 directive (P 47) and benefit reliability by assuring TOPs have redundant and diversely routed data exchange capabilities within the primary Control Center. The SDT has discussed their approach with FERC staff observers and believe the approach satisfies the directive. The SDT notes that the definition of Control Center includes associated data centers. The SDT does not agree with the suggested changes to R20 and R23 for these reasons.

Joshua Smith - Joshua Smith On Behalf of: Lee Maurer, Oncor Electric Delivery, 1; - Joshua Smith

Answer	No
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Document Name

Comment

Oncor's comments have no change from the last draft as there is no change to the Standard Requirement in this draft. Revisions made in rationale boxes do not change the requirement and often are removed when the Standard becomes effective.

*Proposed TOP-001-4 R10 requires TOP's to **monitor** its facilities, Remedial Action Schemes and Non-BES facilities that it identifies as necessary to determine SOL exceedances in R10.1, R10.2 and R10.3. For Sub-Requirements R10.4, R10.5 and R10.6 the wording has changed to "obtain and utilize" instead of the former "monitor" used in previous drafts of TOP-001-3. These Sub-Requirements also use the wording "identified as necessary by the Transmission Operator". The proposed TOP-001-4 RSAW requires the Transmission Operator to provide evidence that it monitored all the data stated in the Sub-Requirements without requiring the TOP to providing reasoning or qualifications for how the TOP determined what or how the data "obtained and utilized" was "identified as necessary". This creates unenforceable requirements that have no reason to be added to a Standard.*

Proposed TOP-001-4 R10.5 requires TOPs to obtain and utilize statuses of Remedial Action Schemes in neighboring TOP areas. Currently TOP SPS statuses is communicated through notifications required to the RC and affected TOPs. This notification process requirement works and keeps the wide area system monitoring and control responsibility on ERCOT the Reliability Coordinator and not on individual TOPs.

In closing, the ERCOT region is structured to support a deregulated market in which ERCOT monitors facilities for all TOPS and has a centralized view of the entire region to maintain reliability. TOPs operating within ERCOT currently do not have the technical capability to obtain and utilize data specified in R10.4, R10.5 and R10.6. This requirement imposes a "one size fits all" regional structure which would place an unreasonable financial burden on all TOPs to both install and maintain additional hardware in each station or install and maintain multiple ICCPs between control centers. This requirement would place this financial burden on TOPs for nothing more than to replicate an RC function with no benefit to the BES. At no point in proposed Standard TOP-001- 4 does it require TOs to supply neighboring TOs with this data. Oncor requests R10.4, R10.5, R10.6 be removed from the standard due to lack of regional flexibility.

Likes 0

Dislikes 0

Response. Thank you for your comment. The SDT's Rationale are retained in the Supplemental Material section of the standard, once approved, and is included in the draft Reliability Standards Audit Worksheets during standards development.

The SDT is using 'monitor', 'obtain and utilize', and 'identified as necessary by the Transmission Operator' in the same manner as they are used in approved TOP-001-3. The format of Requirement R10 has been changed in proposed TOP-001-4 for clarity. The SDT did not add new requirements to Requirement R10 for Remedial Action Schemes; these monitoring requirements are carried over from approved TOP-001-3.

Requirements for TOPs to develop data specifications and for entities to provide data to the TOP are covered under approved TOP-003-3.

David Jendras - Ameren - Ameren Services - 3

Answer No

Document Name

Comment

For Requirement R10.6 we are concerned how non-BES facilities outside the Transmission Operator Area should be identified by the TOP? We believe that this should be specified. This is partly mentioned in the Rationale for Requirement 10; but is not part of this requirement. The requirement should be set up to complement the other standards' requirements.

Likes 0

Dislikes 0

Response. Thank you for your comment. In the rationale for proposed Requirement R10, The SDT included examples of analyses and studies that could lead to the identification of non-BES facilities that should be monitored for determining SOL exceedances. The SDT does not support adding a prescriptive requirement to specify how non-BES facilities should be identified.

Scott McGough - Georgia System Operations Corporation - 3

Answer No

Document Name

Comment

R20 Each Transmission Operator shall have data exchange capabilities, with redundant and diversely routed data exchange infrastructure within the Transmission Operator's primary Control Center, for the exchange of Real-time data with its Reliability Coordinator, Balancing Authority, and the entities it has identified it needs data from in order for it to perform its Real-time monitoring and Real-time Assessments.

- {C}1. {C}This requires redundancy and diverse routing only within the Transmission Operator's primary control center. The communication links referenced could easily cover hundreds of miles, and they can only be well protected during the last few hundred feet within an entities facilities. This requirement says you must have redundancy and diversity for the short and well controlled portion, but not for the much longer, less controlled, and thus more vulnerable portion. I cannot see a technical basis for this approach.
- {C}2. {C}The term "diversely routed" as applied to the area within a Control Center is not well defined. For example, can the two cables be within the same cable tray for a short distance? If so, for how long?
- {C}3. {C}The extent of redundancy required is not clear. Would this require redundancy in the servers that are the source of the data, would it require redundant Ethernet ports on such a server, would it require redundancy in the power supplies supporting the equipment? All these questions (and more) must be answered for an entity to design a compliant solution.
- {C}4. {C}Has any work been done to determine how frequently a failure within a control center is the cause of a data communications failure? It would seem necessary to do something like that before implementing this requirement.
- {C}5. {C}The rationale implies that failure to have redundant facilities in place when one set of facilities is being upgraded is not a violation of the requirement, but there is nothing in the actual requirement to support that. That is not an appropriate use of the rationale section. Consider adding the following at the beginning of the requirement: "Except during planned outages of less than two weeks duration and during unplanned outages, . . ."
- {C}6. {C}This requirement is focused on infrastructure. It is not clear how the availability of a completely different approach to the data exchange might meet this requirement. If the data set was small enough that it could be verbally exchanged via telephone, faxed, emailed, or FTP'd to the other party, would that meet the requirement? Consider rewording the requirement to state the objective more broadly and therefore allow these approaches to be used to meet compliance.
- {C}7. {C}The requirement does not take into account variability in the criticality of the data. Where failure of a data link to one entity might be a minor annoyance, failure of a link to another might be catastrophic. This requirement allows no flexibility in matching the degree of redundancy and diversity to the associated risk of the loss of the data. Consider giving the TOP latitude to determine the

appropriate level of redundancy for a particular link, particularly in consideration of the criticality of the data and the reliability of various parts of the data exchange infrastructure.

Rationale for Requirement R21: The proposed requirement addresses directives for testing of data exchange capabilities used in primary Control Centers (FERC Order No. 817 Para 51).

A test for redundant functionality demonstrates that data exchange capabilities will continue to operate despite the malfunction or failure of an individual component. An entity's testing practices should, over time, examine the various failure modes of its data exchange capabilities. When an actual event successfully exercises the redundant functionality, it can be considered a test for the purposes of the proposed requirement.

1. The second sentence in the second paragraph should not be part of the rationale of the standard. The rationale should include the reasoning behind the standard. This statement attempts to add an element to the requirement and thus should be part of the requirement. As it stands now it will introduce confusion over whether incorporating various failure modes is mandatory or advisory.
2. Similarly the third sentence in the second paragraph should not be part of the rationale of the standard. If an actual event can be substituted for a test, that should be made part of the requirement as it is done in other standards. See CIP-009, R2 for an example of how this can be accomplished correctly.

Likes 0

Dislikes 0

Response. Thank you for your comment.

Requirement R20.

1. Proposed TOP-001-4 Requirement R20 addresses Order No. 817 directive (P 47). The SDT believes the requirement provides a reliability benefit by reducing risks that a single point of failure with a primary Control Center could halt the flow of real-time data to operators. The requirement is consistent with the functional model and applicable entity's jurisdiction.

2,3. The SDT believes the proposed requirement and supporting rationale establishes the reliability objective for *redundant and diversely routed data exchange capabilities* while providing TOPs flexibility for determining how to meet the objective within the constraints of the entities facilities and systems. The SDT's intent is to preclude single points of failure in primary Control Center data exchange infrastructure from halting the flow of Real-time data. The SDT is not prescribing any particular design approach. The SDT did not intend

for the rationale for Requirements R19 and R20 (and R22 and R23) to imply a need for redundancy at an internal component (i.e. internal power supply) level. For example, if a power supply to Server A fails then an acceptable approach is to fail over to Server B which has its own power supply.

4. The SDT has not performed such a review. Proposed TOP-001-4 Requirement R20 addresses an Order No. 817 directive (P 47).

5. The SDT believes the rationale addresses this concern. The rationale remains in the supplemental material section of the standard, once approved. Further, Measure M20 is drafted to support the SDT's intent for Requirement R20. The associated measure specifies that the evidence of compliance includes documentation listing data exchange capabilities, system diagrams, and system specifications.

6, 7. The proposed requirement addresses the TOP's data exchange capabilities in the primary Control Center for performing Real-time monitoring and Real-time Assessments. It is a capability-type results-based requirement. Issues with small data set discrepancies or criticality of data that could be resolved by operating procedures are not covered under the proposed requirement. However approved TOP-010-1 - Real-time Monitoring and Analysis Capabilities Requirement R1 could apply to the described scenarios.

Rationale for Requirement R21

1,2. The SDT is including this in the rationale section to provide entities context and insight of the SDT's intent. The rationale becomes part of the Supplemental Material section of the standard, once approved. The proposed requirement, with supporting rationale, provide an entity with flexibility to design a testing program to meet operational needs, provide assurance of redundant functionality, and meet the requirement.

Diana McMahon - Salt River Project - 1,3,5,6 - WECC

Answer	No
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Document Name	
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Comment	
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Requirement 20 defines the needs for "data exchange infrastructure". SRP feels that this is prescribing a technology solution for the need for redundant and diversly routed data exchange capabilites that is implied. Entities must be responsbile for determining the method for obtaining compliance. The standards need to refrain from defining a solution that may be difficult to obtain for all entities.

Likes 0

Dislikes 0

Response. Thank you for your comment. The SDT has worded the proposed requirement to describe the reliability objective without being prescriptive as to how entities are to achieve the objective. Order No. 817 directs NERC to revise the standards to require redundant and diversely routed data exchange capabilities, and this will require data exchange infrastructure.

Thomas Foltz - AEP - 5

Answer

No

Document Name

Comment

AEP recognizes FERC’s concerns regarding identification of non-BES facilities, however, there would be far more flux involved in their identification and real-time monitoring (as suggested by the SAR) than may be widely understood or appreciated. This subset of non-BES facilities would change quite frequently, and creating obligations to govern such frequently changing identification and real-time monitoring would likely require much effort, with little to no improvement in reliability. The Time Horizon for R10 is “Real-Time Operations”, and while the monitoring of non-BES facilities may be accomplished in Real-Time, their identification *cannot* be. Some sort of methodology or guidance should be provided for the monitoring of non-BES facilities and the associated data, specifically data from outside the Transmission Operator’s area. As previously stated, rather than developing additional requirements which would not likely be beneficial, we continue to believe a more prudent approach is to focus on the desired end state itself. We still believe the argument can still be made that our existing obligations, when considered as a whole, could collectively appease FERC’s concerns.

While we appreciate the SDT’s recent revisions which no longer requires monthly testing, we once again recommend using the text “once a calendar quarter” rather than “every 90 calendar days” as is most recently proposed.

Likes 0

Dislikes 0

Response. Thank you for your comment. Requirement R10 responds to FERC directives requiring TOPs to monitor non-BES facilities necessary for determining SOL exceedances. In the rationale for proposed Requirement R10, The SDT included examples of analyses and studies that could lead to the identification of non-BES facilities that should be monitored for determining SOL exceedances. The SDT does not support adding a prescriptive requirement to specify how non-BES facilities should be identified. The time horizon for Requirement R10 is appropriate for monitoring activities.

The SDT does not support suggestions to change the testing requirement from 90-days to quarterly. The SDT believes the requirement as written provides clarity and flexibility to determine appropriate times to conduct testing, and that the interval provides reliability benefit by regularly ensuring redundant functionality is maintained.

Joe Tarantino - Joe Tarantino On Behalf of: Arthur Starkovich, Sacramento Municipal Utility District, 3, 4, 1, 5, 6; Beth Tincher, Sacramento Municipal Utility District, 3, 4, 1, 5, 6; Jamie Cutlip, Sacramento Municipal Utility District, 3, 4, 1, 5, 6; Kevin Smith, Balancing Authority of Northern California, 1; Kimberly Neely, Sacramento Municipal Utility District, 3, 4, 1, 5, 6; Susan Oto, Sacramento Municipal Utility District, 3, 4, 1, 5, 6; - Joe Tarantino

Answer

No

Document Name

Comment

We appreciate the work that the Drafting Team has provided specific to the TOP-001-4 Reliability Standard. However, our concern remains over the test language found in Requirements R21 for the TOP and R24 for the BA. While we understand that monitoring functions do not constitute sufficiency in testing we are concerned that the “test” terminology is subject to interpretation by the responsible entity, auditor, and others that lend itself to inconsistent implementation/auditing of these requirements. To resolve this reliability concern, please clarify the drafting team’s intent for the “test” requirement whether this is explicit to each data link or the data link infrastructure or some other intention. We, Sacramento Municipal Utility District and Balancing Authority Northern California, look forward to a resolution from the drafting team on this issue... Thanks.

Likes 0

Dislikes	0
<p>Response. Thank you for your comment. The SDT has provided clarification in the rationale section for the testing requirements to address concerns about what infrastructure needs to be tested. The proposed requirement, with supporting rationale, provide an entity with flexibility to design a testing program to meet operational needs, provide assurance of redundant functionality, and meet the requirement.</p>	
<p>Jack Stamper - Clark Public Utilities - 3</p>	
Answer	No
Document Name	
<p>Comment</p>	
<p>Clark believes that R20 is still not addressing the issue FERC has expressed its concern over. Please read the paragraph in question. In Paragraph 47, Order 817, FERC states:</p> <p>“We agree with NERC and other commenters that there is a reliability need for the reliability coordinator, transmission operator and balancing authority to have data exchange capabilities that are redundant and diversely routed. However, we are concerned that the TOP and IRO Standards do not clearly address redundancy and diverse routing so that registered entities will unambiguously recognize that they have an obligation to address redundancy and diverse routing as part of their TOP and IRO compliance obligations. NERC’s comprehensive approach to establishing communications capabilities necessary to maintain reliability in the COM standards is applicable to data exchange capabilities at issue here. Therefore, pursuant to section 215(d)(5) of the FPA, we direct NERC to modify Reliability Standards TOP-001- 3, Requirements R19 and R20 to include the requirement that the data exchange capabilities of the transmission operators and balancing authorities require redundancy and diverse routing. In addition, we direct NERC to clarify that “redundant infrastructure” for system monitoring in Reliability Standards IRO-002-4, Requirement R4 is equivalent to redundant and diversely routed data exchange capabilities.”</p> <p>The SDT continues to INCORRECTLY apply this paragraph first to control centers and now to primary control centers. Paragraph 47 is applicable to the registered the entities RCs, TOPs, and BAs and requires these registered entities to have the referenced redundancy and diverse routing of data exchange. The terms “control center” or “primary control center” are not used in Paragraph 47. The SDT continues to fail to recognize that many RCs, TOPs, and BAs already have redundancy and diverse routing of data exchange that addresses</p>	

the FERC's concerns because they have voluntarily adopted this approach in meeting their COM standards compliance and their EOP-008 compliance.

In Paragraph 48, Order 817, FERC states:

“Further, **we disagree with commenter arguments that Reliability Standard EOP-008-1 provides alternatives to data exchange redundancy and diverse routing.** The NERC standard drafting team that developed the COM standards addressed this issue in the standards development process, responding to a commenter seeking clarification on the relationship between communication capabilities, alternative communication capabilities, primary control center functionality and backup control center functionality. The standard drafting team responded that “Interpersonal Communication and Alternative Interpersonal Communication are not related to EOP-008,” even though Reliability Standard EOP-008-1 Requirement R1 applies equally to data communications and voice communications. To the extent the standard drafting team asserted that Reliability Standard EOP-008 did not supplant the redundancy requirements of the COM Reliability Standards, we believe the same is true for data communications. Redundancy for data communications is no less important than the redundancy explicitly required in the COM standards for voice communications.”

In Paragraph 48 the FERC **DID NOT state that the use of a backup dispatch center in the provision of alternatives to data exchange redundancy and diverse routing fails to address its concerns expressed in Paragraph 47** . It only stated that the requirement to have such data exchange redundancy and diverse routing is not specifically provided for in EOP-008-1. There is no reason for the SDT to believe that the requirements of Paragraph 47 should be applied to the primary control center. There is every reason to believe that the requirements of Paragraph 47 should be applied to the RCs, TOPs, and BAs provision of reliability data using data exchange capabilities that are redundant and diversely routed.

As such the SDT needs to modify R20 and M20 to the following:

“R20. Each Transmission Operator shall have data exchange capabilities, with redundant and diversely routed data exchange infrastructure for the exchange of Real-time data with its Reliability Coordinator, Balancing Authority, and the entities it has identified it needs data from in order for it to perform its Real-time monitoring and Real-time Assessments. [Violation Risk Factor: High] [Time Horizon: Same-Day Operations, Real-time Operations]”

“M20. Each Transmission Operator shall have, and provide upon request, evidence that could include, but is not limited to, system specifications, system diagrams, or other documentation that lists its data exchange capabilities, including redundant and diversely routed data exchange infrastructure for the exchange of Real-time data with its Reliability Coordinator, Balancing Authority, and the

entities it has identified it needs data from in order to perform its Real-time monitoring and Real-time Assessments as specified in the requirement.”

The above revisions to R20 and M20 will cause Transmission Operators to **“unambiguously recognize that they have an obligation to address redundancy and diverse routing as part of their TOP and IRO compliance obligations”** which is the concern FERC has expressed. These changes will allow TOPs to submit evidence that the redundant and diversely routed data exchange capabilities being voluntarily used in compliance with the COM standards and EOP-008-1 are also capable of meeting the new MANDATORY requirements of TOP-001-4. The SDT should have no concern that the FERC would reject this since Paragraph 47 clearly **DOES NOT REQUIRE THIS REDUNDANCY AND DIVERSE ROUTING OF DATA EXCHANGE FOR PRIMARY CONTROL CENTERS BUT ONLY FOR RCs, TOPs, and BAs as registered entities.**

While Clark is not an RC or a BA, it believes the above arguments are also applicable to these registered entities and that any similar requirements and measures applicable to these entities in IRO-002-5 or TOP-001-4 should be similarly modified.

Likes	0
Dislikes	0

Response. Thank you for your comment. In Order No. 817, FERC indicated that requirements for back up control centers in EOP-008 did not "supplant the redundancy requirements" for voice or data communications. The SDT believes the proposed TOP-001-4 Requirements R20 and R23 directly address Order No. 817 directive (P 47) and benefit reliability by assuring TOPs have redundant and diversely routed data exchange capabilities within the primary Control Center. The SDT has discussed their approach with FERC staff observers and believe the approach satisfies the directive.

Joel Wise - Tennessee Valley Authority - 1,3,5,6 - SERC

Answer	Yes
Document Name	

Comment

R10.3 states that the TOp must monitor non-BES facilities within its Transmission Operator Area identified as necessary by the Transmission Operator. In the latest revision of the standard, the Standard Drafting Team added language to the Rationale section of the draft standard to clarify that the non-BES facilities that the TOp is required to monitor are “only those that are necessary for the TOp to

determine SOL exceedances within its Transmission Operator Area.” While TVA appreciates the additional details in the Rationale section, we feel that the additional details around identification of non-BES facilities belongs in the requirement itself. Compliance obligations are now spreading down below 100 kV facilities into the non-BES system. Whereas there use to be a hard line between where the compliance purview began and stopped, it will now be at times, more ambiguous. For example, now non-BES facilities can be labeled BES facilities or, if this standard passes as written, non-BES facilities will still be non-BES but be required to be monitored if the TOP decides as such. We would prefer to see more clarity in the requirement as to when the TOP would require a non-BES element be monitored. TVA suggests the following language change for the requirement:

“R10.3 Monitor non-BES facilities within its Transmission Operator Area identified as necessary by the Transmission Operator **in order to determine SOL exceedances on BES elements within its Transmission Operator Area.**”

Likes 0

Dislikes 0

Response. Thank you for your comment. The suggested addition "in order to determine SOL exceedances within its TOP Area" is covered in the main R10 requirement. The SDT does not agree that the proposed revision provides additional clarity.

Richard Vine - California ISO - 2

Answer

Yes

Document Name

Comment

New requirement R20 requires TOPs to have “redundant and diversely routed data exchange infrastructure **within** the Transmission Operator’s primary Control Center.” R23 contains a similar requirement for BAs to have similar infrastructure “**within** the Balancing Authority’s primary Control Center. It has been the ISO’s understanding that the concern was with redundancy **into and out** of the Control Center, to and from the outside world. However, the terminology “**within the control center**” could be construed differently that there is some expectation of diversity and redundancy before the data leaves the control center. The ISO requests that the Drafting Team clarify whether or not the intent of this terminology is to apply to routing after the data leaves the Control Center. If indeed the new requirement is meant to apply within the Control Center, the ISO requests that more specificity be provided as to what the

expectation is for redundancy and diversity (i.e. - Between one operator and another? Between an operator computer and or phone, and the data exchange infrastructure itself?)

Likes 0

Dislikes 0

Response. Thank you for your comment. Proposed requirements for redundant and diversely routed data exchange capabilities apply to infrastructure within the primary Control Center such as switches, routers, servers, power supplies, and network cabling and communication paths between these components in the primary Control Center for the exchange of system operating data. The proposed requirement does not apply to data exchange infrastructure at the point when the data leaves the Control Center.

Daniel Herring - DTE Energy - Detroit Edison Company - 4

Answer

Yes

Document Name

Comment

Likes 0

Dislikes 0

Response

Cain Braveheart - Bonneville Power Administration - 1,3,5,6 - WECC

Answer

Yes

Document Name

Comment

Likes 0

Dislikes 0

Response	
Jerome Gobby - Sempra - San Diego Gas and Electric - 5	
Answer	Yes
Document Name	
Comment	
Likes 0	
Dislikes 0	
Response	
Scott Downey - Peak Reliability - 1	
Answer	Yes
Document Name	
Comment	
Likes 0	
Dislikes 0	
Response	
Mike Beuthling - Mike Beuthling On Behalf of: Paul Malozewski, Hydro One Networks, Inc., 1, 3; Payam Farahbakhsh, Hydro One Networks, Inc., 1, 3; - Mike Beuthling	
Answer	Yes
Document Name	

Comment	
Likes 0	
Dislikes 0	
Response	
Karl Blaszkowski - CMS Energy - Consumers Energy Company - 3	
Answer	Yes
Document Name	
Comment	
Likes 0	
Dislikes 0	
Response	
Karl Blaszkowski - CMS Energy - Consumers Energy Company - 3	
Answer	Yes
Document Name	
Comment	
Likes 0	
Dislikes 0	
Response	

Karl Blaszkowski - CMS Energy - Consumers Energy Company - 3	
Answer	Yes
Document Name	
Comment	
Likes 0	
Dislikes 0	
Response	
Karl Blaszkowski - CMS Energy - Consumers Energy Company - 3	
Answer	Yes
Document Name	
Comment	
Likes 0	
Dislikes 0	
Response	
Amy Casuscelli - Xcel Energy, Inc. - 1,3,5,6 - MRO,WECC,SPP RE	
Answer	Yes
Document Name	
Comment	
Likes 0	

Dislikes 0	
Response	
Karie Barczak - DTE Energy - Detroit Edison Company - 3,4,5	
Answer	Yes
Document Name	
Comment	
Likes 0	
Dislikes 0	
Response	
Michael Puscas - ISO New England, Inc. - 2	
Answer	Yes
Document Name	
Comment	
Likes 0	
Dislikes 0	
Response	

3. Do you agree with the Implementation Plan for the proposed standards? If you do not agree, or if you agree but have comments or suggestions for the Implementation Plan provide your recommendation and explanation.

Michelle Amarantos - APS - Arizona Public Service Co. - 1

Answer No

Document Name

Comment

If requirement R10 allows the RC to stipulate non-BES facilities be monitored, 24 months should be allocated to install, test and implement the proper equipment.

In addition, if requirements R20 and R23 remain as they are currently worded, such that the TOP and/or BA are required to install redundant and diversely routed data exchange infrastructure within the primary Control Center (only), and do not allow for flexibility for the redundant and diversely routed data exchange infrastructure to span across Control Centers, then APS proposes a minimum of 3 calendar years for implementation.

Likes 0

Dislikes 0

Response. Thank you for your comment. The TOP is responsible for identifying the non-BES facilities that must be monitored by the TOP for determining SOL exceedances in the TOP's Operating Area. As noted above, the SDT has clarified the rationale for Requirement R10 accordingly. The 12-month implementation period is intended to provide entities with the necessary time to identify their data needs and use the data specification processes in TOP-003-3 to satisfy their data needs.

Requirements R20 and R23 will require entities to have redundant and diversely routed data exchange infrastructure in the primary Control Center. The requirements provide entities with flexibility in designing an architecture that precludes single points of failure in the primary Control Center from halting the flow of real-time data to the operator. The SDT believes design principles necessary to achieve this objective are incorporated in primary Control Centers to a large degree, and that entities will not be establishing entirely new alternate data exchange capabilities. A 12-month implementation period is appropriate and responsive to FERC's directive.

Scott Miller - Scott Miller On Behalf of: David Weekley, MEAG Power, 3, 5, 1; Roger Brand, MEAG Power, 3, 5, 1; Steven Grego, MEAG Power, 3, 5, 1; - Scott Miller	
Answer	No
Document Name	
Comment	
Comments: See comments below.	
Likes	0
Dislikes	0
Response	
Jeffrey Watkins - Jeffrey Watkins On Behalf of: Eric Schwarzrock, Berkshire Hathaway - NV Energy, 5; - Jeffrey Watkins	
Answer	No
Document Name	
Comment	
Depending on which non-BES facilities are identified in Requirement 10, additional infrastructure may be required to bring back the necessary data identified in TOP-003-3 to monitor non-BES facilities. In that scenario, more time may be needed than what is proposed for Requirement 10.	
Likes	0
Dislikes	0
Response. Thank you for your comment. The 12-month implementation period is intended to provide entities with the necessary time to identify their data needs and use the data specification processes in TOP-003-3 to satisfy their data needs. The SDT believes the requirement provides flexibility for the TOP to determine how to monitor the non-BES facilities that it identifies, and that entities will be able to meet the requirement within the 12-month implementation period.	

Colby Bellville - Duke Energy - 1,3,5,6 - FRCC,SERC,RF, Group Name Duke Energy	
Answer	No
Document Name	
Comment	
<p>Duke Energy has concerns regarding the effort to achieve compliance with IRO-002-4, and the possible quick turnaround for becoming compliant with IRO-002-5. Entities have already made interpretations, and taken specific actions to achieve compliance with IRO-002-4 prior to it being enforceable in April of 2017. With the potential for such a quick turnaround in standard versions, we believe that delaying the enforcement date for IRO-002-4 until IRO-002-5 is approved and enforceable would be prudent. The delaying of enforcement dates to consolidate versions has happened in the past (see PRC-005). We believe that rolling all changes and enforcement dates to the potential enforcement date for IRO-002-5 is a practical solution for industry stakeholders in achieving compliance with the different versions.</p>	
Likes 0	
Dislikes 0	
<p>Response. Thank you for your comment. Revisions in proposed IRO-002-5 address specific directives in Order No. 817 to modify IRO-002-4 to require redundant and diversely routed data exchange capabilities in the RC's primary Control Center, and to test these capabilities for redundant functionality. These objectives are addressed in new requirements in the proposed standard, with minimal change to the approved IRO-002-4 requirements. The SDT does not believe it is necessary to delay implementation of IRO-002-4 from its April 2017 effective date in order to successfully implement the new requirements in IRO-002-5.</p>	
Pamela Hunter - Southern Company - Southern Company Services, Inc. - 1,3,5,6 - SERC, Group Name Southern Company	
Answer	No
Document Name	
Comment	
<p>Please see comments for Question #1.</p>	

Likes	0
Dislikes	0
Response. Thank you for your comment. Response provided above.	
Shannon Mickens - Southwest Power Pool, Inc. (RTO) - 2 - SPP RE, Group Name SPP Standards Review Group	
Answer	No
Document Name	
Comment	
<p>We need further guidance on which aspects of our data exchange capability should be redundant in order to answer this question. The old COM-001 was more focused on capabilities outside the Control Center (avoiding the ‘backhoe’ outages) while this requirement seems to be focused on redundancy within the data center, but ignoring redundancy outside the data center. Additional rigor may need to be added to internal redundancy. Based on that, the 12 month implementation plan may be insufficient. Redundancy and diverse routing in the legacy requirements seemed to mean something different than is being presented in the directive by FERC today.</p>	
Likes	0
Dislikes	0
Response. Thank you for your comment. Requirements R20 and R23 will require entities to have redundant and diversely routed data exchange infrastructure in the primary Control Center. The requirements provide entities with flexibility in designing an architecture that precludes single points of failure in the primary Control Center from halting the flow of real-time data to the operator. The SDT believes design principles necessary to achieve this objective are incorporated in primary Control Centers to a large degree, and that entities will not be establishing entirely new alternate data exchange capabilities. A 12-month implementation period is appropriate and responsive to FERC's directive.	
Brian Van Gheem - ACES Power Marketing - 6 - NA - Not Applicable, Group Name ACES Standards Collaborators	
Answer	No
Document Name	

Comment

We thank the SDT for providing clarity that the scope of the requirements are aimed at the applicable entity's primary Control Center. However, we disagree with the SDT that entities will have sufficient time with a 12-month implementation plan. That assumption is based on TOPs and BAs already have adequate infrastructure and data exchange capabilities in place to perform their SOL exceedance determinations, monitoring, and assessment calculations. We believe there is a possibility that they won't, particularly with owners of non-BES facilities that are identified as necessary for TOPs and BAs to complete their functional obligations. In this instance, TOPs and BAs could be faced with a compliance-based decision to either sacrifice reliability concerns by identifying these facilities as not necessary for monitoring and assessments or identify, procure, install, and continue to maintain adequate infrastructure and data exchange capabilities with these facilities in order to remain compliant. In the latter instance, incurring such costs could be done outside budgeting approvals for smaller entities, particularly in a compressed 12-month implementation period. We propose a 24-month implementation period instead, as that could accommodate 2-3 possible budget cycles.

Likes 0

Dislikes 0

Response. Thank you for your comment. The 12-month implementation period is intended to provide entities with the necessary time to identify their data needs and use the data specification processes in TOP-003-3 to satisfy their data needs. The SDT believes the requirement provides flexibility for the TOP to determine how to monitor the non-BES facilities that it identifies, and that entities will be able to meet the requirement within the 12-month implementation period.

Douglas Webb - Douglas Webb On Behalf of: Chris Bridges, Great Plains Energy - Kansas City Power and Light Co., 3, 6, 5, 1; Harold Wyble, Great Plains Energy - Kansas City Power and Light Co., 3, 6, 5, 1; James McBee, Great Plains Energy - Kansas City Power and Light Co., 3, 6, 5, 1; Jessica Tucker, Great Plains Energy - Kansas City Power and Light Co., 3, 6, 5, 1; - Douglas Webb

Answer

No

Document Name

Comment

No.

The proposed Implementation Plan does not consider the time required to meld the technology required to address compliance under TOP-001-4 R10 and compliance under CIP-002-5.1. The period should be extended by a year.

Likes 0

Dislikes 0

Response. Thank you for your comment. The additional requirement for TOPs to monitor non-BES facilities identified by the TOP as necessary for determining SOL exceedances is not impacted by categorization required by CIP-002-5.1.

Scott McGough - Georgia System Operations Corporation - 3

Answer Yes

Document Name

Comment

No - TOP-001-4

No - IRO-002-5

Likes 0

Dislikes 0

Response

Andrew Pusztai - American Transmission Company, LLC - 1

Answer Yes

Document Name

Comment

: No concerns with the timelines proposed with implementation assumed 4/1/2018 based on current schedule.

Likes	0
Dislikes	0
Response	
Rachel Coyne - Texas Reliability Entity, Inc. - 10	
Answer	Yes
Document Name	
Comment	
<p>Texas RE appreciates the SDT's inclusion of an "Initial Performance of Periodic Requirements" section. Texas RE believes that this is a best practice and recommends that future SDTs provide a similar section for all periodic requirements to avoid ambiguity. Texas RE does not necessarily object to the SDT's proposed 12-month implementation period. However, Texas RE respectfully requests that the SDT provide a basis for its decision to adopt such a 12-month compliance window, including any data it considered in determining that this was an appropriate window for affected entities to meet their compliance obligations under the revised Standards.</p>	
Likes	0
Dislikes	0
Response. Thank you for your comment. The SDT developed the implementation periods based on their experience and with consideration of stakeholder comments during the standards development process. The 12-month implementation period for TOP-001-4 provides Transmission Operators (TOP) with time to revise and distribute data specifications required by TOP-003-3 Requirement R1 to include non-BES data identified by the TOP, and receive data from entities responsible for providing the data as required by TOP-003-3 Requirement R5. The implementation period also provides TOPs and Balancing Authorities (BAs) with time to establish and document data exchange capabilities that are redundant and diversely routed, and to implement testing processes and procedures for redundant functionality.	
Jack Stamper - Clark Public Utilities - 3	
Answer	Yes
Document Name	

Comment	
Likes 0	
Dislikes 0	
Response	
Michael Puscas - ISO New England, Inc. - 2	
Answer	Yes
Document Name	
Comment	
Likes 0	
Dislikes 0	
Response	
Joe Tarantino - Joe Tarantino On Behalf of: Arthur Starkovich, Sacramento Municipal Utility District, 3, 4, 1, 5, 6; Beth Tincher, Sacramento Municipal Utility District, 3, 4, 1, 5, 6; Jamie Cutlip, Sacramento Municipal Utility District, 3, 4, 1, 5, 6; Kevin Smith, Balancing Authority of Northern California, 1; Kimberly Neely, Sacramento Municipal Utility District, 3, 4, 1, 5, 6; Susan Oto, Sacramento Municipal Utility District, 3, 4, 1, 5, 6; - Joe Tarantino	
Answer	Yes
Document Name	
Comment	
Likes 0	
Dislikes 0	

Response	
Thomas Foltz - AEP - 5	
Answer	Yes
Document Name	
Comment	
Likes 0	
Dislikes 0	
Response	
Steven Rueckert - Western Electricity Coordinating Council - 10	
Answer	Yes
Document Name	
Comment	
Likes 0	
Dislikes 0	
Response	
Richard Vine - California ISO - 2	
Answer	Yes
Document Name	
Comment	

Likes 0	
Dislikes 0	
Response	
Joshua Smith - Joshua Smith On Behalf of: Lee Maurer, Oncor Electric Delivery, 1; - Joshua Smith	
Answer	Yes
Document Name	
Comment	
Likes 0	
Dislikes 0	
Response	
Karie Barczak - DTE Energy - Detroit Edison Company - 3,4,5	
Answer	Yes
Document Name	
Comment	
Likes 0	
Dislikes 0	
Response	
Amy Casuscelli - Xcel Energy, Inc. - 1,3,5,6 - MRO,WECC,SPP RE	

Answer	Yes
Document Name	
Comment	
Likes 0	
Dislikes 0	
Response	
Shawna Speer - Colorado Springs Utilities - 1, Group Name Colorado Springs Utilities	
Answer	Yes
Document Name	
Comment	
Likes 0	
Dislikes 0	
Response	
Joel Wise - Tennessee Valley Authority - 1,3,5,6 - SERC	
Answer	Yes
Document Name	
Comment	
Likes 0	
Dislikes 0	

Response	
Ruida Shu - Northeast Power Coordinating Council - 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10 - NPCC, Group Name RSC no National Grid	
Answer	Yes
Document Name	
Comment	
Likes 0	
Dislikes 0	
Response	
Karl Blaszkowski - CMS Energy - Consumers Energy Company - 3	
Answer	Yes
Document Name	
Comment	
Likes 0	
Dislikes 0	
Response	
Karl Blaszkowski - CMS Energy - Consumers Energy Company - 3	
Answer	Yes
Document Name	
Comment	

Likes 0	
Dislikes 0	
Response	
Karl Blaszkowski - CMS Energy - Consumers Energy Company - 3	
Answer	Yes
Document Name	
Comment	
Likes 0	
Dislikes 0	
Response	
Karl Blaszkowski - CMS Energy - Consumers Energy Company - 3	
Answer	Yes
Document Name	
Comment	
Likes 0	
Dislikes 0	
Response	

Mike Beuthling - Mike Beuthling On Behalf of: Paul Malozewski, Hydro One Networks, Inc., 1, 3; Payam Farahbakhsh, Hydro One Networks, Inc., 1, 3; - Mike Beuthling

Answer Yes

Document Name

Comment

Likes 0

Dislikes 0

Response

Stephanie Burns - Stephanie Burns On Behalf of: Michael Moltane, International Transmission Company Holdings Corporation, 1; - Stephanie Burns

Answer Yes

Document Name

Comment

Likes 0

Dislikes 0

Response

Scott Downey - Peak Reliability - 1

Answer Yes

Document Name

Comment

Likes	0
Dislikes	0
Response	
Jerome Gobby - Sempra - San Diego Gas and Electric - 5	
Answer	Yes
Document Name	
Comment	
Likes	0
Dislikes	0
Response	
sean erickson - Western Area Power Administration - 1	
Answer	Yes
Document Name	
Comment	
Likes	0
Dislikes	0
Response	
Elizabeth Axson - Electric Reliability Council of Texas, Inc. - 2	
Answer	Yes

Document Name	
Comment	
Likes 0	
Dislikes 0	
Response	
Cain Braveheart - Bonneville Power Administration - 1,3,5,6 - WECC	
Answer	Yes
Document Name	
Comment	
Likes 0	
Dislikes 0	
Response	
Daniel Herring - DTE Energy - Detroit Edison Company - 4	
Answer	Yes
Document Name	
Comment	
Likes 0	
Dislikes 0	
Response	

Thomas Lyons - Owensboro Municipal Utilities - 3	
Answer	Yes
Document Name	
Comment	
Likes 0	
Dislikes 0	
Response	

4. Do you agree with the Violation Risk Factors (VRFs) and Violation Severity Levels (VSLs) for the requirements in the proposed standards? If you do not agree, or if you agree but have comments or suggestions for the VRFs and VSLs provide your recommendation and explanation.

Brian Van Gheem - ACES Power Marketing - 6 - NA - Not Applicable, Group Name ACES Standards Collaborators

Answer No

Document Name

Comment

- (1) We thank the SDT for responding to our request to account for the “as necessary” parts of requirement R10 within the VSLs.
- (2) However, we believe the SDT has an opportunity to develop more performance-based requirements for these standards. We believe the VSLs for these requirements should base compliance on a definite period of time that has lapsed when a registered entity is unable to perform its monitoring functions or conduct its assessments. This scalable time duration could then be used to identify VSLs for the complete set, and not just values for Severe VSLs. We propose an exceedance of 30 minutes listed as a Low VSL, with a 30-minute increment for each increasing severity limit.

Likes 0

Dislikes 0

Response. Thank you for your comment. The SDT believes that the VSL construct in approved TOP-001-3 benefits reliability and did not need to be modified to address the directives in Order No. 817.

Stephanie Burns - Stephanie Burns On Behalf of: Michael Moltane, International Transmission Company Holdings Corporation, 1; - Stephanie Burns

Answer No

Document Name

Comment

As proposed, the VRFs and VSLs treat each R10 sub requirement equally when in reality both the risk and resulting potential impact is significantly different between the requirements. The risk and associated potential impact of a TOP not monitoring it's own Facilities and RAS's is significantly greater on the ability for state estimation and contingency analysis to solve and provide accurate results than to not monitor non-BES facilities within it's system or external TOP areas' Facilities/RAS's/non-BES facilities.

Likes 0

Dislikes 0

Response. Thank you for your comment. The SDT believes that it is important to monitor all of the items described in sub-parts since they are necessary for determining SOL exceedances. Entities may be able to determine which facilities have more impact, but a more prescriptive VSL may not be accurate for all entities and systems.

Pamela Hunter - Southern Company - Southern Company Services, Inc. - 1,3,5,6 - SERC, Group Name Southern Company

Answer

No

Document Name

Comment

Please see comments for Question #1.

Likes 0

Dislikes 0

Response. Thank you for your comment. See response above.

Scott Miller - Scott Miller On Behalf of: David Weekley, MEAG Power, 3, 5, 1; Roger Brand, MEAG Power, 3, 5, 1; Steven Grego, MEAG Power, 3, 5, 1; - Scott Miller

Answer

No

Document Name

Comment

Comments: See comments below.

Likes 0

Dislikes 0

Response

Joe Tarantino - Joe Tarantino On Behalf of: Arthur Starkovich, Sacramento Municipal Utility District, 3, 4, 1, 5, 6; Beth Tincher, Sacramento Municipal Utility District, 3, 4, 1, 5, 6; Jamie Cutlip, Sacramento Municipal Utility District, 3, 4, 1, 5, 6; Kevin Smith, Balancing Authority of Northern California, 1; Kimberly Neely, Sacramento Municipal Utility District, 3, 4, 1, 5, 6; Susan Oto, Sacramento Municipal Utility District, 3, 4, 1, 5, 6; - Joe Tarantino

Answer

No

Document Name

Comment

We are concerned over the issue raised for "test" in TOP-001-4 Requirements R21 & R24 pertaining to the lack of clarity for implementation and audit approach and therefor cannot agree with and VRF/VSL associated with these requirements.

Likes 0

Dislikes 0

Response. Thank you for your comment. As stated above, the SDT has provided clarification to the rationale section for the testing requirement to address concerns about what infrastructure needs to be tested.

Michael Puscas - ISO New England, Inc. - 2

Answer

No

Document Name

Comment

The language for the NERC Standard, IRO-002-5, R3, Severe VSL. The last paragraph states: The Reliability Coordinator tested its primary Control Center data exchange capabilities specified in Requirement R2 for redundant functionality at least once each every 90 calendar month days but, following an unsuccessful test, did not initiate action to restore the redundant functionality in more than 8 hours.

This does not convey the intent. Literally, it says that the violation occurred because the action was initiated in 8 hours or less or that there were 8 or fewer hours in which actions were initiated. I'd suggest changing the language to:

The Reliability Coordinator tested its primary Control Center data exchange capabilities specified in Requirement R2 for redundant functionality at least once each every 90 calendar month days but, following an unsuccessful test, did not initiate action to restore the redundant functionality within 8 hours of the test failure.

Likes 0

Dislikes 0

Response. Thank you for your comment. The Severe VSLs for the testing requirements in IRO-002-5 and TOP-001-4 have been revised to address this issue.

Diana McMahon - Salt River Project - 1,3,5,6 - WECC

Answer No

Document Name

Comment

Likes 0

Dislikes 0

Response

Shannon Mickens - Southwest Power Pool, Inc. (RTO) - 2 - SPP RE, Group Name SPP Standards Review Group

Answer Yes

Document Name	
Comment	
They seem consistent based on the requirements as stated. If the periodicity changes to 'quarterly' the VRF's and VSL's would need to change accordingly	
Likes 0	
Dislikes 0	
Response. Thank you for your comment.	
Thomas Lyons - Owensboro Municipal Utilities - 3	
Answer	Yes
Document Name	
Comment	
Likes 0	
Dislikes 0	
Response	
Daniel Herring - DTE Energy - Detroit Edison Company - 4	
Answer	Yes
Document Name	
Comment	
Likes 0	

Dislikes	0
Response	
Douglas Webb - Douglas Webb On Behalf of: Chris Bridges, Great Plains Energy - Kansas City Power and Light Co., 3, 6, 5, 1; Harold Wyble, Great Plains Energy - Kansas City Power and Light Co., 3, 6, 5, 1; James McBee, Great Plains Energy - Kansas City Power and Light Co., 3, 6, 5, 1; Jessica Tucker, Great Plains Energy - Kansas City Power and Light Co., 3, 6, 5, 1; - Douglas Webb	
Answer	Yes
Document Name	
Comment	
Likes	0
Dislikes	0
Response	
Cain Braveheart - Bonneville Power Administration - 1,3,5,6 - WECC	
Answer	Yes
Document Name	
Comment	
Likes	0
Dislikes	0
Response	
sean erickson - Western Area Power Administration - 1	
Answer	Yes

Document Name	
Comment	
Likes 0	
Dislikes 0	
Response	
Jerome Gobby - Sempra - San Diego Gas and Electric - 5	
Answer	Yes
Document Name	
Comment	
Likes 0	
Dislikes 0	
Response	
Scott Downey - Peak Reliability - 1	
Answer	Yes
Document Name	
Comment	
Likes 0	
Dislikes 0	
Response	

Mike Beuthling - Mike Beuthling On Behalf of: Paul Malozewski, Hydro One Networks, Inc., 1, 3; Payam Farahbakhsh, Hydro One Networks, Inc., 1, 3; - Mike Beuthling	
Answer	Yes
Document Name	
Comment	
Likes 0	
Dislikes 0	
Response	
Rachel Coyne - Texas Reliability Entity, Inc. - 10	
Answer	Yes
Document Name	
Comment	
Likes 0	
Dislikes 0	
Response	
Karl Blaszkowski - CMS Energy - Consumers Energy Company - 3	
Answer	Yes
Document Name	
Comment	

Likes 0	
Dislikes 0	
Response	
Karl Blaszkowski - CMS Energy - Consumers Energy Company - 3	
Answer	Yes
Document Name	
Comment	
Likes 0	
Dislikes 0	
Response	
Karl Blaszkowski - CMS Energy - Consumers Energy Company - 3	
Answer	Yes
Document Name	
Comment	
Likes 0	
Dislikes 0	
Response	
Karl Blaszkowski - CMS Energy - Consumers Energy Company - 3	

Answer	Yes
Document Name	
Comment	
Likes 0	
Dislikes 0	
Response	
Ruida Shu - Northeast Power Coordinating Council - 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10 - NPCC, Group Name RSC no National Grid	
Answer	Yes
Document Name	
Comment	
Likes 0	
Dislikes 0	
Response	
Andrew Pusztai - American Transmission Company, LLC - 1	
Answer	Yes
Document Name	
Comment	
Likes 0	
Dislikes 0	

Response	
Jeffrey Watkins - Jeffrey Watkins On Behalf of: Eric Schwarzrock, Berkshire Hathaway - NV Energy, 5; - Jeffrey Watkins	
Answer	Yes
Document Name	
Comment	
Likes 0	
Dislikes 0	
Response	
Joel Wise - Tennessee Valley Authority - 1,3,5,6 - SERC	
Answer	Yes
Document Name	
Comment	
Likes 0	
Dislikes 0	
Response	
Shawna Speer - Colorado Springs Utilities - 1, Group Name Colorado Springs Utilities	
Answer	Yes
Document Name	
Comment	

Likes 0	
Dislikes 0	
Response	
Michelle Amarantos - APS - Arizona Public Service Co. - 1	
Answer	Yes
Document Name	
Comment	
Likes 0	
Dislikes 0	
Response	
Amy Casuscelli - Xcel Energy, Inc. - 1,3,5,6 - MRO,WECC,SPP RE	
Answer	Yes
Document Name	
Comment	
Likes 0	
Dislikes 0	
Response	
Karie Barczak - DTE Energy - Detroit Edison Company - 3,4,5	

Answer	Yes
Document Name	
Comment	
Likes	0
Dislikes	0
Response	
Joshua Smith - Joshua Smith On Behalf of: Lee Maurer, Oncor Electric Delivery, 1; - Joshua Smith	
Answer	Yes
Document Name	
Comment	
Likes	0
Dislikes	0
Response	
Richard Vine - California ISO - 2	
Answer	Yes
Document Name	
Comment	
Likes	0
Dislikes	0

Response	
Jack Stamper - Clark Public Utilities - 3	
Answer	Yes
Document Name	
Comment	
Likes	0
Dislikes	0
Response	
Scott McGough - Georgia System Operations Corporation - 3	
Answer	
Document Name	
Comment	
No - TOP-001-4	
No - IRO-002-5	
Likes	0
Dislikes	0
Response	

5. Provide any additional comments for the SDT to consider, if desired.

Jack Stamper - Clark Public Utilities - 3

Answer

No

Document Name

Comment

Clark believes that R21 is still not addressing the issue FERC has expressed its concern over. Please read the paragraph in question. In Paragraph 51, Order 817, FERC states:

“We agree with NERC and other commenters that there is a reliability need for the reliability coordinator, transmission operator and balancing authority to test alternate data exchange capabilities. However, we are not persuaded by the commenters’ assertions that the need to test is implied in the TOP and IRO Standards. Rather, we determine that testing of alternative data exchange capabilities is important to reliability and should not be left to what may or may not be implied in the standards. Therefore, pursuant to section 215(d)(5) of the FPA, we direct NERC to **develop a modification to the TOP and IRO standards that addresses a data exchange capability testing framework for the data exchange capabilities used in the primary control centers to test the alternate or less frequently used data exchange capabilities of the reliability coordinator, transmission operator and balancing authority.** We believe that the structure of Reliability Standard COM-001-2, Requirement R9 could be a model for use in the TOP and IRO Standards.”

The only reference to the primary control center in Paragraph 51 is that the overall data exchange capabilities needs to be tested to ensure that **“the alternate or less frequently used data exchange capabilities of the reliability coordinator, transmission operator and balancing authority” are tested.** If the exchange capabilities used in the primary control centers are the **primary or most frequently used data exchange capabilities**, it is obvious that some other alternate data exchange is the scope of the FERC’s directive. This may be an alternate data exchange capability in the primary control center but there is nothing in Paragraph 51 that would preclude the use of a backup control center for the provision of the alternate or less frequently used data exchange capabilities. The SDT continues to INCORRECTLY apply this paragraph first to control centers and now to primary control centers. Paragraph 51 is applicable to the registered entities RCs, TOPs, and BAs and requires these registered entities to **test the alternate or less frequently used data exchange capabilities of the reliability coordinator, transmission operator and balancing authority.** The SDT continues to fail to recognize that many RCs, TOPs, and BAs already have redundancy and diverse routing of data exchange that addresses the FERC’s concerns because they have voluntarily adopted this approach in meeting their COM standards compliance and their EOP-008

compliance. For these entities, testing the alternate data exchange capabilities of their backup control centers would address the FERC's concerns expressed in Paragraph 51.

As such the SDT needs to modify R21 and M21 to the following:

“R21. Each Transmission Operator shall test its alternate or less frequently used data exchange capabilities specified in Requirement R20 for redundant functionality at least once each every 90 calendar days. If the test is unsuccessful, the Transmission Operator shall initiate action within two hours to restore redundant functionality. [Violation Risk Factor: Medium] [Time Horizon: Operations Planning]”

“M21. Each Transmission Operator shall have, and provide upon request, evidence that it tested its alternate or less frequently used data exchange capabilities specified in Requirement R20 for the redundant functionality, or experienced an event that demonstrated the redundant functionality; and, if the test was unsuccessful, initiated action within two hours to restore redundant functionality as specified in Requirement R21. Evidence could include, but is not limited to: dated and time-stamped test records, operator logs, voice recordings, or electronic communications.”

The above revisions to R21 and M21 will cause Transmission Operators to test their alternate or less frequently used data exchange capabilities specified in Requirement R20 every 90 calendar days which is the concern FERC has expressed. These changes will allow TOPs to submit evidence that the alternate or less frequently used data exchange capabilities being voluntarily used in compliance with the COM standards and EOP-008-1 have been tested to demonstrate redundant functionality (as well as alternate or less frequently use data exchange capabilities at the primary control center). The SDT should have no concern that the FERC would reject this since Paragraph 51 clearly ONLY REQUIRES THE TESTING OF THE ALTERNATE OR LESS FREQUENTLY USED DATA EXCHANGE CAPABILITIES OF THE RCs, TOPs, and BAs (regardless of the location).

While Clark is not an RC or a BA, it believes the above arguments are also applicable to these registered entities and that any similar requirements and measures applicable to these entities in IRO-002-5 or TOP-001-4 should be similarly modified.

Likes	0
Dislikes	0

Response. Thank you for your comment. In Order No. 817, FERC indicated that requirements for back up control centers in EOP-008 did not "supplant the redundancy requirements" for voice or data communications. The SDT believes the proposed TOP-001-4 Requirements R20, 21 and R23, R24 directly address Order No. 817 directive (P 47, P 51) and benefit reliability by assuring TOPs and BAs have redundant and diversely routed data exchange capabilities within the primary Control Center and that these redundant capabilities are periodically tested. The SDT has discussed their approach with FERC staff observers and believe the approach satisfies the directives.

Brian Van Gheem - ACES Power Marketing - 6 - NA - Not Applicable, Group Name ACES Standards Collaborators	
Answer	No
Document Name	
Comment	
<p>(1) We thank the SDT for its detailed information included in the standards' rationale boxes, as such information is useful in understanding the purpose and intent of each requirement. However, we caution that each requirement must be clear and understandable by both registered entities and auditors to demonstrate and measure compliance, respectively. We recommend incorporating aspects of these rationale boxes, within the language of each requirement, where possible.</p> <p>(2) We thank the SDT for this opportunity to provide comments on these standards.</p>	
Likes	0
Dislikes	0
<p>Response. Thank you for your comments. The SDT focused on developing results-based requirements that avoid prescribing specific approaches to meet the reliability objectives. Rationale boxes provide examples and other details that illustrate the drafting team's intent. The information in the rationale boxes is retained in the Guidelines section of the approved standards and has been included in the draft RSAWs.</p>	
<p>Joe Tarantino - Joe Tarantino On Behalf of: Arthur Starkovich, Sacramento Municipal Utility District, 3, 4, 1, 5, 6; Beth Tincher, Sacramento Municipal Utility District, 3, 4, 1, 5, 6; Jamie Cutlip, Sacramento Municipal Utility District, 3, 4, 1, 5, 6; Kevin Smith, Balancing Authority of Northern California, 1; Kimberly Neely, Sacramento Municipal Utility District, 3, 4, 1, 5, 6; Susan Oto, Sacramento Municipal Utility District, 3, 4, 1, 5, 6; - Joe Tarantino</p>	
Answer	No
Document Name	
Comment	

Likes	0
Dislikes	0
Response	
Joshua Smith - Joshua Smith On Behalf of: Lee Maurer, Oncor Electric Delivery, 1; - Joshua Smith	
Answer	No
Document Name	
Comment	
Likes	0
Dislikes	0
Response	
Karie Barczak - DTE Energy - Detroit Edison Company - 3,4,5	
Answer	No
Document Name	
Comment	
Likes	0
Dislikes	0
Response	
Amy Casuscelli - Xcel Energy, Inc. - 1,3,5,6 - MRO,WECC,SPP RE	
Answer	No

Document Name	
Comment	
Likes 0	
Dislikes 0	
Response	
Shawna Speer - Colorado Springs Utilities - 1, Group Name Colorado Springs Utilities	
Answer	No
Document Name	
Comment	
Likes 0	
Dislikes 0	
Response	
Daniel Herring - DTE Energy - Detroit Edison Company - 4	
Answer	No
Document Name	
Comment	
Likes 0	
Dislikes 0	
Response	

Michael Puscas - ISO New England, Inc. - 2	
Answer	Yes
Document Name	
Comment	
Thanks for all your work.	
Likes 0	
Dislikes 0	
Response	
Andrew Puzstai - American Transmission Company, LLC - 1	
Answer	Yes
Document Name	
Comment	
<p>ATC agrees with the following comments put forth by NSRF.</p> <p>Suggestions for the Rationale box for R20/R23:</p> <p>For the paragraph that reads “The reliability objective of redundancy is to provide....” The current wording is not clear for the last sentence of the paragraph. The NSRF recommends that the last sentence of that paragraph be changed to read “For periods of planned or unplanned outages of individual components in the primary or redundant data exchange path, the requirements do not require additional data exchange infrastructure or components during those planned and unplanned outage periods”.</p> <p>The NSRF would like to point out the FERC Order 693, section 253 states that “...compliance will in all cases be measured by determining whether a party met or failed to meet the Requirement...”. Within TOP-001-4 there are Rational boxes (e.g. R23) that explain in detail</p>	

what Redundant and Diversely routed **MAY** mean. Without these details being within the Requirement, “Redundant and diversely routed” become ambiguous words that will allow an Entity to believe they mean one thing and an auditor may believe in something else.

The NSRF recommends that the details written in the Rational box be prefaced with “Some examples of Redundant and diversely routed may mean ... depending on how the responsible entity wishes to address their Redundant and diversely routed risks within their Primary Control Center”.

Likes	0
Dislikes	0

Response. Thank you for your comment. The SDT has revised the wording or the rationale boxes for R20 and R23 to clarify applicability during planned or unplanned outages. The SDT does not believe further revisions to the rationale boxes to address FERC Order 693 P 253 are needed.

Scott Downey - Peak Reliability - 1

Answer	Yes
Document Name	

Comment

None

Likes	0
Dislikes	0

Response

sean erickson - Western Area Power Administration - 1

Answer	Yes
Document Name	

Comment

For R9, the focus on this comment is based on how this relates to EMS, SCADA and associated control systems. WAPA would contend that switching to a redundant host (server, system, computer, etc) that provides functionally equivalent service, that this would not fall under the banner of a “planned outage”. If an entity were to not have functionally equivalent redundant hosts and perform a switch-over, this would fall under the planned or unplanned outage banner. WAPA would like to get clarification on this as to plan appropriately for its process to meet the new standard verbiage.

Likes 0

Dislikes 0

Response. Thank you for your comment. Requirement R9 is not in scope for Project 2016-01.

Elizabeth Axson - Electric Reliability Council of Texas, Inc. - 2

Answer

Yes

Document Name

Comment

While ERCOT recognizes that the SDT added the word “primary” to further specify which control center is required to include redundant and diversely routed data exchange capabilities, ERCOT requests further clarification on the term “primary Control Center.” While it can reasonably be assumed that “primary Control Center” is intended to refer to the Control Center normally used for daily, non-emergency “monitoring and control of the BES in real-time” rather than a Control Center normally used as a backup, this understanding should be explicitly stated to avoid any question as to the breadth of the standard’s scope.

ERCOT asks for this clarification to ensure that a backup control center is not considered a “primary” control center during those temporary conditions in which a failover to the backup is required. If an entity lacks redundant or diversely routed data exchange capabilities at a backup control center that may temporarily function as a “primary control center” for a brief period of time, auditors might deem the entity to be out of compliance for that duration. ERCOT therefore recommends defining the term “primary Control Center” in the standard or in the NERC Glossary of Terms, as opposed to simply providing clarification in the rationale or measure, so that the clarification is more clearly enforceable.

ERCOT notes that several other standards use the term “primary control center,” including EOP-008-1 – Loss of Control Center Functionality, and CIP-014-2 – Physical Security. In CIP-014-2, the “Guidelines and Technical Basis” section states that the primary control

center is “the control center that the Transmission Owner or Transmission Operator, respectively, uses as its primary, permanently-manned site to physically operate a Transmission station or Transmission substation...” ERCOT suggests that a definition similar to that used in CIP-014-2 could provide the needed clarification.

100% Redundancy and Diversity Compliance at all times

As currently written, Requirement R2 of IRO-002-5 and requirement R23 of TOP-001-4, could still be read to require 100% system integrity at all times, no matter what events or failures may arise in an entity’s data exchange capabilities that could, for a time, cause the system to lack redundancy or diverse routing.

Is an entity out of compliance with these requirements if it has redundancy built into its system and, for the majority of the time, functions properly, but temporarily fails during a broader system failure? Would an entity be considered non-compliant because the redundancy is temporarily unavailable?

While the SDT sought to address this concern by adding language to the rationale box and pointed to measure language regarding evidence, neither the rationale nor the measure is enforceable. ERCOT therefore recommends adding the phrase “during normal system conditions” or “during normal system operations” to the identified requirements to clarify that entities are not required to have “additional redundant data exchange infrastructure components solely to provide for redundancy during planned or unplanned outages of individual components.”

Additionally, the SDT may wish to consider language similar to that used in EOP-008, R3:

“To avoid requiring tertiary functionality, backup functionality is not required during:

- Planned outages of the primary or backup functionality of two weeks or less

- Unplanned outages of the primary or backup functionality”

Likes	0
Dislikes	0

Response. Thank you for your comment. The SDT agrees that the primary Control Center refers to an entity's normal Control Center used for real-time monitoring and control of the BES and is distinguished from the back-up control center required by EOP-008. The SDT's intent is to establish clear requirements for this control center to have redundant and diversely routed data exchange capabilities in response to FERC Order No. 817 directives. The SDT believes that the proposed requirements, with supporting details included in the

rationale provide entities with the necessary clarity and flexibility to meet this reliability objective. A prescriptive definition could impact this flexibility or have undesired consequences for approved standards. Proposed TOP-001-4 and IRO-002-5 are not intended to consider or imply that a back-up control center would become a primary control center at some point in time.

The SDT believes the rationale and Measures addresses the concern with compliance during outages of data exchange infrastructure components. The rationale remains in the supplemental material section of the standard, once approved. Further, IRO-002-5 Measure M2 and TOP-001-4 Measures M20 and M23 is drafted to support the SDT's intent for Requirement R20. The associated measure specifies that the evidence of compliance includes documentation listing data exchange capabilities, system diagrams, and system specifications. The SDT does not believe the suggested wording for the requirements adds clarity. The SDT considered wording used in EOP-008 but did not support the approach because it could limit how an entity achieves redundant functionality.

Douglas Webb - Douglas Webb On Behalf of: Chris Bridges, Great Plains Energy - Kansas City Power and Light Co., 3, 6, 5, 1; Harold Wyble, Great Plains Energy - Kansas City Power and Light Co., 3, 6, 5, 1; James McBee, Great Plains Energy - Kansas City Power and Light Co., 3, 6, 5, 1; Jessica Tucker, Great Plains Energy - Kansas City Power and Light Co., 3, 6, 5, 1; - Douglas Webb

Answer	Yes
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Document Name	
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Comment

Kansas City Power and Light Company greatly appreciates the work of the Standard Drafting Team. Thank you.

Likes	0
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Dislikes	0
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Response

Thomas Lyons - Owensboro Municipal Utilities - 3

Answer	Yes
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Document Name	
Comment	
We continuously monitor our system and the assessment provides no benefit just additional administrative work.	
Likes 0	
Dislikes 0	
Response. Thank you for your comment.	
Scott McGough - Georgia System Operations Corporation - 3	
Answer	
Document Name	
Comment	
For IRO-002-5	
Comments: Southern believes that the language in IRO-002-5 R2 explicitly limits the scope of the requirement to “the data exchange infrastructure inside the Primary Control Center”. The first problem here is that the term “data exchange infrastructure” has no clear or broadly accepted industry definition.	
The second problem is that here is no clear definition of what constitutes the control center. Is it a facility or a room inside a facility? What prevents someone from moving the “capability” outside the control center (i.e a data center not part of the control center)?	
The language in IRO-002-5 R3 currently has a requirement to test the “primary control center data exchange capabilities” specified in R2” every 90 days. First of all, the terminology shifts from the word “infrastructure” in R2 to “capabilities” in R3, which leaves a lot of ambiguity. Why establish a requirement to test the redundancy of the data exchange and not the EMS platform in which the capability resides. This is perplexing given the fact that the data exchange function is, in most cases, a sub-component of the much larger distributed EMS architecture.	
The language in IRO-002-5 R6 is also confusing, as it states that “each RC shall have monitoring systems that provide information utilized by the RC’s operating personnel, giving particular emphasis to alarm management and awareness systems, automated data transfers, and	

synchronized information systems, over a redundant infrastructure. Again, this is very confusing, because the following questions have not been answered:

- What is meant by “particular emphasis”?
- Which “awareness systems” require redundant infrastructure
- Which “automated data transfers” are in scope?
- Which “synchronized information” is in scope?
- What level of redundancy is required? Server level, component level, network level, etc.

Likes 0

Dislikes 0

Response. Thank you for your comment. The SDT has provided details in the rationale box to clarify the SDT's intent for data exchange infrastructure covered by the proposed requirements. The SDT uses the defined term Control Center in the proposed requirements, which includes associated data center(s) in the definition.

The SDT is responding to specific directives in Order No. 817 pertaining to data exchange capabilities. The SDT believes proposed IRO-002-5 Requirements R2 and R3 meet the directive and are beneficial to reliability without expansion to cover redundancy in EMS.

The SDT has not made changes to Requirement R6 (Requirement R4 in approved IRO-002-4) in addressing the directives. Requirement R6 is not in scope for Project 2016-01.

Scott Miller - Scott Miller On Behalf of: David Weekley, MEAG Power, 3, 5, 1; Roger Brand, MEAG Power, 3, 5, 1; Steven Grego, MEAG Power, 3, 5, 1; - Scott Miller

Answer

Document Name

Comment

Comments: Southern believes that the language in IRO-002-5 R2 explicitly limits the scope of the requirement to “the data exchange infrastructure inside the Primary Control Center”. The first problem here is that the term “data exchange infrastructure” has no clear or broadly accepted industry definition. The second problem is that here is no clear definition of what constitutes the control center. Is it a

facility or a room inside a facility? What prevents someone from moving the “capability” outside the control center (i.e a data center not part of the control center)?

The language in IRO-002-5 R3 currently has a requirement to test the “primary control center data exchange capabilities” specified in R2” every 90 days. First of all, the terminology shifts from the word “infrastructure” in R2 to “capabilities” in R3, which leaves a lot of ambiguity. Why establish a requirement to test the redundancy of the data exchange and not the EMS platform in which the capability resides. This is perplexing given the fact that the data exchange function is, in most cases, a sub-component of the much larger distributed EMS architecture.

The language in IRO-002-5 R6 is also confusing, as it states that “each RC shall have monitoring systems that provide information utilized by the RC’s operating personnel, giving particular emphasis to alarm management and awareness systems, automated data transfers, and synchronized information systems, over a redundant infrastructure. Again, this is very confusing, because the following questions have not been answered:

- What level of redundancy is required? Server level, component level, network level, etc.
- Which “synchronized information” is in scope?
- Which “automated data transfers” are in scope?
- Which “awareness systems” require redundant infrastructure
- What is meant by “particular emphasis”?

Likes 0

Dislikes 0

Response. Thank you for your comment. The SDT has provided details in the rationale box to clarify the SDT's intent for data exchange infrastructure covered by the proposed requirements. The SDT uses the defined term Control Center in the proposed requirements, which includes associated data center(s) in the definition.

The SDT is responding to specific directives in Order No. 817 pertaining to data exchange capabilities. The SDT believes proposed IRO-002-5 Requirements R2 and R3 meet the directive and are beneficial to reliability without expansion to cover redundancy in EMS.

The SDT has not made changes to Requirement R6 (Requirement R4 in approved IRO-002-4) in addressing the directives. Requirement R6 is not in scope for Project 2016-01.

Emily Rousseau - MRO - 1,2,3,4,5,6 - MRO, Group Name MRO-NERC Standards Review Forum (NSRF)

Answer

Document Name

Comment

The NSRF would like to point out that there is a great deal of compliance information in the newly updated Rationale Boxes. We agree this gives insight to meeting the task(s) assigned to each Requirement, but does not allow for clear understanding to the applicable Entity and CEA Staff. FERC Order 693, Section 253 states that applicable Entities must meet the word of the Requirement in order to show that they are Compliant with said Requirement. The NSRF recommends that the intent of the Rationale Box be within each Requirement.

Likes 0

Dislikes 0

Response. Thank you for your comment. The SDT focused on developing results-based requirements that avoid prescribing specific approaches to meet the reliability objectives. Rationale boxes provide examples and other details that illustrate the drafting team's intent. The information in the rationale boxes is retained in the Guidelines section of the approved standards and has been included in the draft RSAWs.

Shannon Mickens - Southwest Power Pool, Inc. (RTO) - 2 - SPP RE, Group Name SPP Standards Review Group

Answer

Document Name

Comment

N/A

Likes 0

Dislikes 0

Response

End of Report