

October 18, 2007

TO: REGISTERED BALLOT BODY

Ladies and Gentlemen:

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

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

Initial Ballot Window for Urgent Action Revisions to BAL-004 is Open

The NERC Operating Committee has submitted an [Urgent Action SAR](#) to revise BAL-004-0 — Time Error Correction to remove the following from BAL-004:

- **Requirement 1, second sentence:** A single Reliability Coordinator in each Interconnection shall be designated by the NERC Operating Committee to serve as Interconnection Time Monitor.
 - **Reason for removal:** The entities who have been serving as the Interconnection Time Monitors have done so voluntarily. The NERC Operating Committee is not a user, owner, or operator and has no authority to assign a reliability coordinator to serve as the Interconnection Time Monitor. The entities who have been serving as “volunteers” don’t want to continue to serve in this role if they are subject to sanctions for non-compliance with Requirement 2, which supports a business practice.
- **Requirement 2:** The Interconnection Time Monitor shall monitor Time Error and shall initiate or terminate corrective action orders in accordance with the NAESB Time Error Correction Procedure.
 - **Reason for removal:** This requires the reliability coordinator to execute a time error correction in accordance with a NAESB business practice.

The initial [ballot](#) for the Urgent Action revisions to BAL-004 is open and will remain open until 8 p.m. on Monday, October 29, 2007.

Initial Ballot Window for Interpretation of CIP-006-1 (for SCE&G) is Open

South Carolina Electric & Gas Company submitted a [Request for an Interpretation](#) of CIP-006-1 — Physical Security of Critical Cyber Assets. The request asked if dial-up remote terminal units (RTUs) that use non-routable protocols and have dial-up access are required to have six-wall perimeters or are only required to have electronic security perimeters.

The [Interpretation](#) clarifies that if dial-up assets are classified as critical cyber assets in accordance with CIP-002-1, the assets must reside within an electronic security perimeter; however, physical security control over a critical cyber asset is not required if that asset does not have a routable protocol. Entities are not required to enclose dial-up RTUs that do not use routable protocols within a six-wall border.

The initial [ballot](#) for the interpretation of CIP-006-1 is open and will remain open until 8 p.m. on Monday, October 29, 2007.

Initial Ballot Window for Interpretation of BAL-005 Requirement R17 (for PGE) is Open

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

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

The [Interpretation](#) clarifies that Requirement 17 applies only to the time error and frequency devices that provide, or in the case of back-up equipment may provide, input into the ACE equation or provide real-time time error or frequency information to the system operator. The time error and frequency measurement devices may not necessarily be located in the operations control room or owned by the balancing authority; however, the balancing authority has the responsibility for the accuracy of the frequency and time error measurement devices. No other devices are included in Requirement 17.

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

The initial [ballot](#) for this interpretation of BAL-005 Requirement 17 is open and will remain open until 8 p.m. on Monday, October 29, 2007.

Pre-ballot Window and Ballot Pool for PRC-023-1 — Relay Loadability Opens October 18, 2007

A new standard, PRC-023-1 — [Relay Loadability](#), is posted for a 30-day pre-ballot review through 8 a.m. on November 19, 2007.

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

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

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The [ballot pool](#) to vote on this standard was formed earlier this year and has been re-opened. Anyone who joined the ballot pool earlier this year and is still a valid member of the Registered Ballot Body will not need to re-join the ballot pool. The ballot pool will remain open until 8 a.m. Monday, November 19, 2007. During the pre-ballot window, members of the ballot pool may communicate with one another by using their “ballot pool list server.” The list server for this ballot pool is:

bp-Relay_Loadability_in@nerc.com

Standards Development Process

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

Sincerely,

Maureen E. Long

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