

Review of TOP-001-1a—Reliability Responsibilities and Authorities (Filing 2)

<http://www.nerc.com/files/TOP-001-1a.pdf>

VSLs for Requirement R1:

Standard, Requirement	Requirement Language	Lower	Moderate	High	Severe	Comments
TOP-001-1a, R1	Each Transmission Operator shall have the responsibility and clear decision-making authority to take whatever actions are needed to ensure the reliability of its area and shall exercise specific authority to alleviate operating emergencies.	N/A	N/A	The Transmission Operator does not have the responsibility and clear decision-making authority to take whatever actions are needed to ensure reliability of its area.	The Transmission Operator failed to exercise specific authority to alleviate operating emergencies.	<p>Citing a Guideline 3 violation, FERC pointed out that responsibility is not specifically referenced in the VSL language and should be incorporated.</p> <p>NERC staff agreed that the VSL language should better match the requirement language and modified the VSLs accordingly.</p>

Original R1 Guideline Explanation in the [December 1, 2010 VSL Filing](#):

In accordance with Guidelines 2 and 3, the VSLs were modified for clarity and consistency with other standards and VSLs and to more closely match the language in the requirement.

- *Guideline 1:* See P. 1011-1013 of the [Guideline 1 Analysis Filing](#).

- *Guideline 2:* The VSLs comply with Guideline 2. The requirement has gradated VSLs; therefore, Guideline 2a is not applicable. The prior assignment of a binary VSL was revised to provide a level of gradation. The gradated VSLs ensure uniformity and consistency among all approved Reliability Standards in the determination of penalties. Additionally, the VSL DT has reviewed the VSL text and has determined that, as revised, the VSL text is clear, specific and objective and does not contain general, relative or subjective language, satisfying Guideline 2b. Therefore, the text is not subject to the possibility of multiple interpretations of the VSLs and provides the clarity needed to permit the consistent and objective application of the VSLs in the determination of penalties by the Compliance Enforcement Authority.
- *Guideline 3:* In accordance with Guideline 3, the VSL DT has revised the VSL assignments as noted in the redline text to be more consistent with the language of the requirement. As revised, the VSL assignments are consistent with the requirement and the degree of compliance can be determined objectively and with certainty.
- *Guideline 4:* The VSL Assignments comply with Guideline 4, because they are based on a single violation of a Reliability Standard and are not based on a cumulative number of violations of the same requirement over a period of time.