



NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC  
RELIABILITY CORPORATION

## Standards Announcement

### Recirculation Ballot Window Open

April 30–May 10, 2010

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

#### **Proposed Modifications to NERC’s Standards Development Processes (Proposed Standard Processes Manual)**

A recirculation ballot window for a new NERC Standard Processes Manual is now open **until 8 p.m. EDT on May 10, 2010**.

Errata corrections were made to the manual following the initial ballot window. These corrections include corrected text from the interpretation process. As noted by some balloters, when the manual was posted for stakeholder comments earlier this year, several stakeholders asked for changes that would apply the same quality review; 30-day and 45-day formal comment periods, and parallel balloting that is used for standards to the processing of interpretations. The drafting team indicated in its responses that it had adopted these changes. The changes, however, were only reflected in the changes made to the interpretation diagram, and the drafting team erred by not including the changes in the supporting text. The drafting team has now corrected this error by adding the agreed upon text to the description of the interpretation process.

#### **Instructions**

Members of the ballot pool associated with this project may log in and submit their votes from the following page: <https://standards.nerc.net/CurrentBallots.aspx>

#### **Recirculation Ballot Process**

The Standards Committee encourages all members of the ballot pool to review the consideration of comments submitted with the initial ballots. In the recirculation ballot, votes are counted by exception only — if a ballot pool member does not submit a revision to that member’s original vote, the vote remains the same as in the first ballot. Members of the ballot pool may:

- Reconsider and change their vote from the first ballot.
- Vote in the second ballot even if they did not vote on the first ballot.
- Take no action if they do not want to change their original vote.

#### **Next Steps**

Voting results will be posted and announced after the ballot window closes.

## Project Background

During its January 2010 meeting, the NERC Standards Committee approved posting for industry comment a new NERC Standard Processes Manual (Manual). The draft Manual is the product of three parallel efforts to improve NERC's standards development processes:

- Industry stakeholders submitted numerous comments during the development of the Three-year Performance Assessment, indicating the need for improvements to the standards processes, that would improve standards quality, reduce standards development time, reduce resource burdens on the industry to review and comment on draft standards, and improve the overall quality of NERC standards.
- The Standards Committee and its Process Subcommittee have been working on ideas to improve the effectiveness and speed of standards development while respecting NERC and American National Standards Institute (ANSI) standards development principles.
- NERC's Ad Hoc Group for Results-based Reliability Standards submitted a preliminary report to the NERC Board of Trustees in November 2009 that highlighted the need to provide guidance to standards drafting teams and better "quality" control over the development of reliability standards.

In response to the Three-year Performance Assessment, a review by NERC staff and a member of the Standards Committee's Process Subcommittee was conducted to compare NERC's standards development process against ANSI's requirements for standards accreditation, and to compare NERC's standards development process against three other ANSI-accredited standards developers.

The work of all these efforts was merged by NERC staff and combined into a new "Standard Processes Manual" that is intended to replace the "Reliability Standards Development Procedure Version 7" manual in its entirety. The proposed manual is intended to result in improvements to the standards processes by making more efficient use of limited resources while improving the quality of standards and maintaining ANSI accreditation of the standards process. (The Standard Committee also intends to propose additional improvements to other NERC standards development guidance documents to support the Results-Based Standards Initiative. These changes will be addressed in subsequent announcements.)

Project page: [http://www.nerc.com/filez/standards/Standards\\_Processes\\_Manual.html](http://www.nerc.com/filez/standards/Standards_Processes_Manual.html)

## 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.

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