NERC
NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY CORPORATION

Standards, Compliance, and Enforcement Bulletin
September 9–15, 2019

INSIDE THIS EDITION

ACTIVE STANDARDS POSTINGS

Current and Upcoming Ballots (ballot periods close at 8:00 p.m. Eastern)			
Project	**Action**	**Start Date**	**End Date**
Project 2019-01 – Modifications to TPL-007-3 | TPL-007-4	Initial Ballot and Non-binding Poll	08/30/19	09/09/19
Project	**Action**	**Start Date**	**End Date**
--	--	--	--
Posted for Comment			
Project	**Action**	**Start Date**	**End Date**
Project 2019-01 – Modifications to TPL-007-3 | TPL-007-4	Comment Period	07/26/19	09/09/19

RELIABILITY | RESILIENCE | SECURITY

A draft RSAW is posted on the project page for industry comment through **8 p.m. Eastern September 9, 2019.** Submit feedback regarding the draft RSAW to RSAWfeedback@nerc.net.			
Project 2016-02 – Modifications to CIP Standards	Virtualization Updates for CIP-005 and Associated Definitions	Comment Period	08/09/19	09/26/19

OTHER ACTIVE COMMENT PERIODS

Posted for Comment			
Posting	**Action**	**Start Date**	**End Date**
Comment Period Open for Electromagnetic Pulses Task Force Strategic Recommendations Report: Protecting the bulk power system and assuring the effective reduction of risks to reliability are integral pieces of the Electric Reliability Organization mission. NERC has launched efforts to identify reliability concerns associated with electromagnetic pulses (EMPs) and potential methods for promoting resilience. A task force was created in April 2019 to first identify key issues and scope areas of improvement for the industry. EMP events may pose a risk to the reliability of the bulk power system. In order to better understand and address these potential risks, the EMP Task Force has formulated a catalogue of strategic recommendations and policy matters and is seeking industry comment on the draft strategic report. Contact Wendy Muller regarding issues with the electronic form. An unofficial Word version of the comment form and additional information can be found on the EMP Task Force page.	Use the electronic form to submit comments.	08/30/19	09/30/19

STANDARDS NEWS

There is no additional Standards news to report for this week.

GENERAL COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT NEWS

NEW Align Project: Release 1 Update FAQs
The purpose of the below is to address frequently asked questions regarding the Align Release 1 schedule and deployment. For general information regarding the Align project, we encourage you to visit the Align web page and refer to our previous Align FAQ document. The Align project team will continue to update these FAQs as the project progresses.

Q: Why was Align Release 1 delayed?
A: NERC's management team decided to delay Release 1, planned for the last quarter of 2019, and NERC's Board accepted the schedule change at its August Board meeting. The primary drivers for the delay are related to ensuring data security, refining compliance audit and investigation business processes, and addressing stakeholder concerns.

The project team continues with its other scheduled activities, including completing user acceptance testing, identifying critical enhancements, completing data integration and reporting efforts, and developing training materials—with the intention of launching Release 1 in 2020.

Q: How will the Release 1 delay impact Align training?
A: The Align project team will work with regional staff to update the Release 1 training schedule. While exact dates are still being determined, training will likely be completed in Q1/Q2 2020. The Align project team will use the remainder of Q4 to refine training materials and work with the regional project team members to ensure that all impacted Align users are prepared for the Release 1 launch. When the final schedule is published, there will be ample time to register for training.

Q: Will the delay impact the Release 1 features in the Align Tool?
A: Release 1 will still include self-reporting, self-logs, mitigation, and enforcement activities.

Q: What benefits can be expected from Align Release 1?
A: The Align project will deliver on the same business objectives originally communicated, which are to:
- Provide a single, common portal for registered entities, enabling consistency of experience;
- Offer real-time access to information, eliminating delays and manual communications;
- Improve capability to support the risk-based compliance oversight framework;
- Enhance quality assurance and oversight, enabling consistent application of the CMEP;
- Improve analytics, including visibility into compliance and reliability risks;
- Increase capability to implement audit best practices and processes (planning, fieldwork, reporting, and quality assurance);
- Standardize the implementation of common business processes and workflows, enabling increased productivity; and
- Reduce application costs across the ERO Enterprise.

Q: How can I stay informed on Align updates and progress?
A: The Align project team will provide regular updates on our progress toward Release 1. We encourage you to review the Align newsletters, attend regional workshops featuring Align, and reach out to your Align change agent or the Align project team with any additional questions.

NEW NERC Receives New Alignment Issue via Consistency Reporting Tool
NERC received a new alignment issue pertaining to data requests via the Consistency Reporting Tool. The ERO Enterprise Program Alignment Process is intended to enhance efforts to identify, prioritize, and resolve alignment issues across the ERO Enterprise. Using this process, NERC captures identified issues from the various resources in a centralized repository. The Consistency Reporting Tool uses a third-party application, EthicsPoint, which allows stakeholders to submit consistency issues—anonymously, if desired.

OTHER NEWS

NEW NERC News Posted

NERC News, NERC's monthly newsletter, is now available for August. Highlights in this edition include:

- ERO Executive Spotlight Features Mechelle Thomas, Vice President and Chief Compliance Officer
- Board Approves 2020 Budgets; Reviews Effectiveness, Efficiency Initiatives; Recognizes 3 Champions of the ERO
- NERC Launches One-Stop Shop for the Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program
- ERO Enterprise and FERC Real-time Assessment Activity
- Supply Chain Risk Assessment Data Request
- Upcoming Events

NEW Webinar Resources Posted

NERC has posted the streaming webinar and slide presentation for the September 5, 2019 Winter Preparation for Severe Cold Weather webinar.

NEW Lesson Learned Posted

One new Lesson Learned, addressing Risks Posed by Firewall Firmware Vulnerabilities, has been posted on the NERC website on the Lessons Learned page.

STANDARDS SUBJECT TO FUTURE ENFORCEMENT

Please refer to the U.S. Effective Dates page for more detail on the standards listed below.

U.S. Effective Dates for Reliability Standards	
U.S. Effective Date	**Standard(s)**
October 1, 2019	IRO-006-WECC-3 – Qualified Path Unscheduled Flow (USF) Relief
January 1, 2020	CIP-003-7 – Cyber Security — Security Management Controls
	IRO-002-6 – Reliability Coordination – Monitoring and Analysis
	PRC-026-1 – Relay Performance During Stable Power Swings (Requirements R2–R4)

July 1, 2020	TPL-007-3 – Transmission System Planned Performance for Geomagnetic Disturbance Events (Requirements R5, 5.1, 5.2, R9, 9.1, and 9.2)
	CIP-005-6 – Cyber Security – Electronic Security Perimeter(s)
	CIP-010-3 – Cyber Security — Configuration Change Management and Vulnerability Assessments
	CIP-013-1 – Cyber Security — Supply Chain Risk Management
	PRC-002-2 – Disturbance Monitoring and Reporting Requirements (50% compliance for Requirements R2–R4, R6–R11)
October 1, 2020	PER-006-1 – Specific Training for Personnel
	PRC-027-1 – Coordination of Protection Systems for Performance During Faults
January 1, 2021	CIP-008-6 – Cyber Security — Incident Reporting and Response Planning
	PRC-012-2 – Remedial Action Schemes
April 1, 2020	CIP-003-8 – Cyber Security – Security Management Controls
July 1, 2021	TPL-007-3 – Transmission System Planned Performance for Geomagnetic Disturbance Events (Requirements R11 and R12)
January 1, 2022	TPL-007-3 – Transmission System Planned Performance for Geomagnetic Disturbance Events (Requirements R6, 6.1–6.4, R10, 10.1–10.4)
July 1, 2022	PRC-002-2 – Disturbance Monitoring and Reporting Requirements (100% compliance for Requirements R2–R4, R6–R11)
January 1, 2023	TPL-007-3 – Transmission System Planned Performance for Geomagnetic Disturbance Events (Requirements R3, R4, 4.1. 4.1.1–4.1.2, 4.2, 4.3, 4.3.1, R8, 8.1, 8.1.1–8.1.2, 8.3, 8.4, and 8.4.1)
January 1, 2024	TPL-007-3 – Transmission System Planned Performance for Geomagnetic Disturbance Events (Requirements R7, 7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 7.3.1–7.3.2, 7.4, 7.4.1–7.4.3, 7.5, and 7.5.1.)

BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND FERC ACTION

NEW NERC Filings

On September 6, 2019, NERC and WECC submitted to FERC a joint petition for the approval of proposed Regional Reliability Standard BAL-002-WECC-3 – Contingency Reserve. Proposed Reliability Standard BAL-002-WECC-3 reflects the retirement of Requirement 2 because it is now redundant to a continent-wide requirement in BAL-003-1.1 – Frequency Response and Frequency Bias Setting.

NERC's 2019 filings to FERC are available here.

For information about other NERC events, such as meetings and conference calls for standard drafting teams, other standing committees, subcommittees, task forces, and working groups, please refer to the NERC calendar.

Workshops and Conferences
- Monitoring and Situational Awareness Technical Conference – September 24–25, 2019, Little Rock, AR | Register | Hotel and Travel Information | Presentations from Previous Conferences
- GridSecCon 2019 – October 22–25, 2019, Atlanta | Register
- SAVE THE DATE Probabilistic Analysis Forum – December 11–13, 2019, Atlanta | **Registration Coming Soon**

Webinars
- Project 2016-02 – Modifications to CIP Standards | CIP-005 and Associated Definitions Webinar – 12:00–2:00 p.m. Eastern, September 12, 2019 | Register
- NEW Electromagnetic Pulse Task Force Draft Strategic Recommendations Webinar – 1:00–2:00 p.m. Eastern, September 13, 2019 | Register
- Improvements to Compliance and Enforcement Pages on NERC.com – 2:00–2:30 p.m. Eastern, October 8, 2019 | Register
- Improvements to Compliance and Enforcement Pages on NERC.com – 3:00–3:30 p.m. Eastern, November 14, 2019 | Register
- Improvements to Compliance and Enforcement Pages on NERC.com – 2:00–2:30 p.m. Eastern, December 9, 2019 | Register

Standing Committee Meetings and Conference Calls
- Critical Infrastructure Protection Committee Meeting – September 17–18, 2019, Minneapolis, MN | Register | NEW Agenda
- Standards Committee Process Subcommittee, Project Management and Oversight Subcommittee, and Standards Committee Meetings – September 17–18, 2019, Kansas City, MO | Register
- Compliance and Certification Committee and Subcommittees Meetings – September 17–18, 2019, Kansas City, MO | Register
- NEW Standards Committee Meeting – 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. Eastern, September 18, 2019 | Register

Standard Drafting Team Meetings and Conference Calls

The Standards calendar provides dial-in information for the in-person meetings below. The calendar also provides information about conference calls that drafting teams may hold in addition to in-person meetings.

- **NEW** Project 2019-03 – Cyber Security Supply Chain Risks Drafting Team Conference Call – 2:00–4:00 p.m. Eastern, September 10, 2019 | Register
- **NEW** Project 2019-03 – Cyber Security Supply Chain Risks Drafting Team Conference Call – 2:00–4:00 p.m. Eastern, September 12, 2019 | Register
- Project 2016-02 – Modifications to CIP Standards Drafting Team Meeting – September 24–26, 2019, New York, NY | Register
- Project 2019-01 – Modifications to TPL-007-3 Drafting Team Meeting – September 24–26, 2019, Washington, D.C. | Register

ABOUT THE STANDARDS, COMPLIANCE, AND ENFORCEMENT BULLETIN

This weekly bulletin compiles a list of standards, compliance, and enforcement projects with actionable deadlines, as well as upcoming events, recently posted resources, other NERC documents posted for comment, and other relevant news and information. Please email Amy Klagholz with feedback on this bulletin. The current bulletin and old bulletins are available under "Program News" on both the Standards home page and the Compliance & Enforcement home page.

If you would like to receive this bulletin or be added to the distribution list for a particular project, please submit a ticket through the Help Desk. Select the "NERC Email Distribution List" option under the "Applications" menu. In the Description Box, please specify which lists you would like your email address to be added to or note which announcements you would like to receive. This bulletin is distributed to several lists, including the Standards distro list (Standards-specific announcements) and the NERC-info distro list (most NERC announcements).