

August 24, 2021

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Ms. Christine E. Long
Registrar & Board Secretary
Ontario Energy Board
27th Floor 2300 Yonge Street
Toronto, ON M4P 1E4

Re: *North American Electric Reliability Corporation*

Dear Ms. Long:

The North American Electric Reliability Corporation (“NERC”) hereby submits Notice of Filing of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation of Revisions to the NERC Rules of Procedure Regarding Reliability Standards. NERC requests, to the extent necessary, a waiver of any applicable filing requirements with respect to this filing.

Please contact the undersigned if you have any questions concerning this filing.

Sincerely,

/s/ Lauren Perotti

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**ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD
OF THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO**

**NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC)
RELIABILITY CORPORATION)**

**NOTICE OF FILING OF THE
NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY CORPORATION OF REVISIONS TO
THE NERC RULES OF PROCEDURE REGARDING RELIABILITY STANDARDS**

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Attachments - Proposed Revisions to the NERC Rules of Procedure

Attachment 1 Section 300, Reliability Standards Development

Attachment 1-A Clean

Attachment 1-B Redline to Last Submitted

Attachment 2 Appendix 3B, Procedure for Election of Members of the Standards Committee

Attachment 2-A Clean

Attachment 2-B Redline to Last Submitted

Attachment 3 Appendix 3D, Development of the Registered Ballot Body

Attachment 3-A Clean

Attachment 3-B Redline to Last Submitted

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NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY CORPORATION OF REVISIONS TO
THE NERC RULES OF PROCEDURE REGARDING RELIABILITY STANDARDS**

The North American Electric Reliability Corporation (“NERC”) hereby submits proposed revisions to the NERC Rules of Procedure (“ROP”) regarding Reliability Standards; specifically, Section 300, Reliability Standards Development; Appendix 3B, Procedure for Election of Members of the Standards Committee, and Appendix 3D, Development of the Registered Ballot Body.

As discussed herein, the proposed revisions consist of updates to staff titles, processes, and other language, clarifications to roles and responsibilities with regard to Reliability Standards, and removing unnecessary or duplicative obligations. The proposed revisions, as shown in Attachments 1-3, are just, reasonable, not unduly discriminatory, and in the public interest.

I. NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS

Notices and communications with respect to this filing may be addressed to the following:

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II. BACKGROUND

A. The NERC Rules of Procedure Regarding Reliability Standards Development

Collectively, NERC’s Rules of Procedure are designed to provide for reasonable notice and opportunity for public comment, due process, openness, and a balance of interests in developing proposed Reliability Standards. Section 300 of the NERC ROP establishes the general framework for Reliability Standards, including the obligation of NERC to develop Reliability Standards and for those Reliability Standards to meet certain essential attributes and be developed according to certain essential principles. This section also includes, among other things, provisions relating to the Registered Ballot Body (“RBB”) that votes on Reliability Standards, regional Reliability Standards development, and NERC’s obligations with regard to the applicable governmental authorities that approve Reliability Standards. NERC last revised this section of the Rules of Procedure in 2015, to be effective April 1, 2016.¹

¹ *Notice of Filing of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation of Proposed Rules of Procedure Revisions*, (Dec. 16, 2015) (including, among other revisions, revisions to Section 317 of the NERC Rules of Procedure).

Additional support and detail for Reliability Standards development is contained in three appendices to the NERC Rules of Procedure:

- Appendix 3A: Standard Processes Manual (effective March 1, 2019),² which contains the processes for developing Reliability Standards, consistent with the essential principles of openness, transparency, consensus-building, balance of interests, due process, and timeliness;
- Appendix 3B: Procedure for Election of Members of the Standards Committee (effective Oct. 4, 2013),³ which contains the procedure for electing members to the NERC Standards Committee, the committee charged under NERC's rules with oversight of NERC's processes for developing Reliability Standards; and
- Appendix 3D, Registered Ballot Body Criteria (effective March 9, 2018)⁴; which sets forth the criteria for each of the ten segments that votes on NERC Reliability Standards and establishes registration procedures and segment qualification guidelines.

In this filing, NERC proposes revisions to Section 300, Appendix 3B, and Appendix 3D, as discussed in further detail below.

B. Development and Approval of the Proposed Revisions

NERC posted the proposed revisions to Section 300, Appendix 3B, and Appendix 3D for a 45-day public comment period from May 14, 2021 to June 28, 2021. NERC received seven sets of responses, including five sets of comments. Several commenters suggested additional, minor changes for clarity and consistency. Two commenters suggested additional changes regarding Segment 10 in Appendix 3D, which were beyond the scope of this revision effort. One commenter, a registered entity, suggested retaining the requirement to notify all applicable governmental authorities when one directs a new standard. In response to the comments, NERC staff made

² *Notice of Filing of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation of Proposed Revisions to the Standard Processes Manual, Appendix 3A to the NERC Rules of Procedure*, (Nov. 29, 2018).

³ *Notice of Filing of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation of Appendixes 3B and 3D to the NERC Rules of Procedure Regarding the Election Procedure for Members of NERC Standards Committee and Registered Ballot Body Criteria*, (June 17, 2011).

⁴ *Notice of Filing of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation of Proposed Revisions to Appendix 3D to the Rules of Procedure*, (Nov. 30, 2017).

several additional clarifying revisions. The NERC Board of Trustees approved the proposed revisions on August 12, 2021.

III. PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE NERC RULES OF PROCEDURE REGARDING RELIABILITY STANDARDS

NERC proposes a series of revisions to the standards-related provisions of its Rules of Procedure, including revisions to Section 300, Reliability Standards Development; Appendix 3B, Procedure for Election of Members of the Standards Committee; and Appendix 3D, Development of the Registered Ballot Body. The revisions consist of updating language, staff titles, and processes; removing unnecessary or duplicative obligations; and clarifying roles and responsibilities. This section includes a section-by-section summary of the proposed revisions.

A. Section 300, Reliability Standards Development

This section summarizes the proposed revisions to Section 300, Reliability Standards Development. The proposed revisions are shown in redline in Attachment 1-B.

In Section 302, NERC proposes to remove the list of specific functional classes to which Reliability Standards may apply. The list presently in this section is out of date. Other sections of the Rules of Procedure specify which entities are registered with NERC for Reliability Standards compliance purposes.

In Section 305, NERC proposes to clarify the obligation of entities to withdraw additional members of the RBB when a change in corporate structure (such as a merger or acquisition) results in the entity or affiliated entities having more than one representative in a particular Segment. NERC also proposes to revise language regarding changing segments (Section 305.3.2) and review of Segment criteria (Section 305.3.3) for consistency with similar provisions in Appendix 3D.

In Sections 307, 317, and 319, NERC proposes to remove or update references to obsolete NERC Standards staff titles as appropriate.

In Section 309, NERC proposes two revisions. First, NERC proposes to remove, as redundant and unnecessary, two reporting requirements: first, the requirement that NERC submit a report to all other applicable governmental authorities when one directs a new standard; and second, that NERC submit a plan and timetable for modifying or developing remanded or new standards within 30 days. NERC has well-established, open, and transparent mechanisms for keeping all interested parties informed of the status of standards development, whether the development project has been directed by applicable governmental authority or initiated by NERC or an industry stakeholder. These mechanisms include the annual Reliability Standards Development Plan prepared and filed with each applicable governmental authority under Section 310, which includes and prioritizes new projects addressing regulatory directives. Other mechanisms include the Standards Committee Project Management Oversight Subcommittee project status tracker,⁵ which is updated and reviewed regularly in open meetings, as well as the drafting team meetings themselves, which are open to the public. These mechanisms allow NERC to prioritize projects as appropriate, meet regulatory deadlines, and incorporate feedback from all stakeholders, including the applicable governmental authorities, in an open and transparent manner. At the conclusion of the development process, NERC submits a filing to each applicable governmental authority which includes the reasons NERC developed the proposed standard that is submitted for approval and any relevant regulatory history. Second, NERC proposes to revise Section 309 to update the reference to the “expedited standards development process” in the Standard Processes Manual, Appendix 3A to the Rules of Procedure; this process is now titled “Waiver.”

⁵ The project status tracker is available on NERC’s website here: <https://www.nerc.com/comm/SC/Project%20Management%20and%20Oversight%20Subcommittee%20DL/Project%20Tracking%20Spreadsheet.xlsx>.

In Section 313, NERC proposes to eliminate the Regional Entity’s ongoing obligation to provide an updated catalog listing of Regional Criteria⁶ to NERC and replace it with an obligation to maintain a current catalog of its Regional Criteria in a publicly-available form. These revisions will help ensure transparency regarding Regional Criteria while eliminating an unnecessary reporting burden on Regional Entities.

B. Appendix 3B, Procedure for Election of Members of the Standards Committee

In Appendix 3B, NERC proposes to remove references to the NERC “standards process manager (SPM),” which is an obsolete NERC staff title, and replace it with “procedure manager,” the individual designated to oversee the Standards Committee election procedure described in Appendix 3B. The proposed revisions are shown in redline in Attachment 2-B.

C. Appendix 3D, Development of the Registered Ballot Body

NERC proposes several revisions in Appendix 3D, Development of the Registered Ballot Body. The revisions are summarized below; they are shown in redline in Attachment 3-B.

In the Registration Procedures section, NERC proposes revisions to clarify that the NERC General Counsel may delegate its responsibility to review applications to join the RBB to a member of the General Counsel’s legal staff. These proposed revisions, which are consistent with NERC’s current practice, would aid in the expedient and efficient processing of requests to join the RBB.

⁶ As specified in Appendix 2, Definitions used in the NERC Rules of Procedure, “Regional Criteria” means reliability requirements developed by a Regional Entity that are necessary to implement, to augment, or to comply with Reliability Standards, but which are not Reliability Standards. Such Regional Criteria may be necessary to account for physical differences in the Bulk-Power System but are not inconsistent with Reliability Standards nor do they result in lesser reliability. Such Regional Criteria are not enforceable pursuant to NERC-delegated authorities, but may be enforced through other available mechanisms. Regional Criteria may include specific acceptable operating or planning parameters, guides, agreements, protocols or other documents.

In the Segment Qualification Guidelines section, NERC proposes revisions to clarify the segment qualification guidelines as follows. First, NERC proposes revisions to clarify that NERC may remove individuals that have not completed the required annual self-selection process, following the provision of written notice. Second, NERC proposes revisions, intended to correspond to the proposed revisions in Section 305 discussed above, to clarify that entities have an obligation to withdraw additional members of the RBB when a change in corporate structure (such as a merger or acquisition) results in the entity or affiliated entities having more than the one permitted representative in a Segment. The proposed language would specify that entities must complete this withdrawal prior to joining any new ballot pools or voting on any standards action as part of an existing ballot pool. These proposed revisions would provide necessary clarity to entities regarding their RBB membership obligations and help protect the integrity of RBB actions as consistent with NERC's rules regarding segment representation.

In the Segments section, NERC proposes to remove language in Segment 10 Regional Entity that is no longer necessary following the dissolution of the Southwest Power Pool and Florida Reliability Coordinating Council Regional Entities.

Respectfully submitted,

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ATTACHMENTS 1 - 3