

April 24, 2020

**VIA ELECTRONIC FILING**

Rachelle Verret Morphy  
Saskatchewan Electric Reliability Authority  
2025 Victoria Avenue  
Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada S4P 0S1

Re: *North American Electric Reliability Corporation COVID-19 Compliance Response*

Dear Ms. Morphy:

In recent weeks, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), the Regional Entities, and the Saskatchewan Electric Reliability Authority (SERA) have taken a series of measures to help ensure grid reliability amid the impacts posed by the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, a public health emergency that is unprecedented in modern times. These measures have been taken in recognition of the critical importance of the reliability of the North American energy sector and the steps that registered entities are taking to maintain the health and safety of their workforce and communities.

On March 18, 2020, NERC, along with the United States Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), issued a statement stating that they would use regulatory discretion to consider the impact of the coronavirus outbreak in complying with Reliability Standards involving personnel certification and periodic actions and postponing on-site compliance and certification activities.<sup>1</sup> On March 23, 2020, SERA published a Notice advising of its approval and support of the FERC and NERC industry guidance for all Saskatchewan Registered Entities.<sup>2</sup> Additionally, NERC has determined that it will consider the coronavirus outbreak an extenuating circumstance under its *Sanction Guidelines* for all instances of noncompliance where the impacts of the outbreak, such as impacts on workforce availability or the supply chain, were a cause or contributing factor to the noncompliance.

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<sup>1</sup> See Joint U.S. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and NERC Press Release, *FERC, NERC Provide Industry Guidance to Ensure Grid Reliability Amid Potential Coronavirus Impacts* (Mar. 18, 2020), <https://www.ferc.gov/media/news-releases/2020/2020-1/03-18-20.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> Saskatchewan Electric Reliability Authority, *Notice of Industry Guidance Amid Potential Coronavirus Impacts* (dated Mar. 20, 2020), available at <https://sera-sk.ca/index.html>.

In addition to these measures, NERC filed a motion with the FERC on April 6, 2020 to defer the implementation of the following Reliability Standards scheduled to become effective in the United States during the second half of 2020:<sup>3</sup>

- The Supply Chain Standards, Reliability Standards CIP-005-6, CIP-010-3, and CIP-013-1, which are scheduled to become effective in the United States on July 1, 2020, by three months (to October 1, 2020);
- Reliability Standards PER-006-1 – Specific Training for Personnel and PRC-027-1 – Coordination of Protection Systems for Performance During Faults, along with the revised definitions of Real-time Assessment and Operational Planning Analysis, which are scheduled to become effective in the United States on October 1, 2020, by six months (to April 1, 2021);
- Reliability Standard PRC-002-2 – Disturbance Monitoring and Reporting Requirements, which became effective in the United States on July 1, 2016, but for which entities are scheduled to establish 50% compliance with Requirements R2-R4 and R6-R11 by July 1, 2020 in accordance with the phased-in implementation plan, by six months (to January 1, 2021); and
- Reliability Standard PRC-025-2 – Generator Relay Loadability, which became effective in the United States on July 1, 2018, but for which entities are scheduled to establish compliance with certain Options in Attachment 1, Table 1 Relay Loadability Evaluation Criteria by July 1, 2020 in accordance with the phased-in implementation plan, by six months (to January 1, 2021).

FERC granted that motion on April 17, 2020.

In its April 6 Motion to the FERC, NERC stated that in order to establish compliance with these Reliability Standards by their scheduled effective or phased-in implementation dates, registered entities would need to expend significant effort and resources in the coming months toward establishing and implementing the necessary processes and procedures, conducting the necessary coordination, and establishing documentation of compliance. In some cases, supply chain, travel, or workforce disruptions may have temporarily impacted an entity's ability to perform the work or conduct any needed training. By providing for additional time and flexibility to establish compliance with new obligations, entities could continue to focus their immediate efforts and resources on maintaining the safety of their workforces and communities and ensuring the reliability of the grid during this public health emergency.

NERC provides notice of this April 6 Motion on an informational basis to SERA. NERC is willing to assist in the event SERA would like to consider a similar delay for the above-listed Reliability Standards in Saskatchewan, to the extent they are scheduled to go in effect in the second half of 2020. To the extent that there are other Reliability Standards scheduled to go into effect in whole or in part in the second half

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<sup>3</sup> See *NERC, Motion to Defer Implementation of Reliability Standards and Request for Shortened Response Period and Expedited Action*, filed in U.S. FERC Docket Nos. RM15-4-000, RM16-22-000, RM17-13-000, and RD18-4-000 (Apr. 6, 2020), available at <https://www.nerc.com/FilingsOrders/us/NERC%20Filings%20to%20FERC%20DL/Motion%20to%20Defer%20Implementation%20of%20Reliability%20Standards.pdf>.

of 2020 in Saskatchewan (including CIP-003-8), NERC requests that SERA also consider a three-to-six month delay, or other delay it deems appropriate, for such standards.<sup>4</sup>

NERC requests, to the extent necessary, a waiver of any applicable filing requirements with respect to this filing. Please contact Lauren Perotti, NERC Senior Counsel (lauren.perotti@nerc.net) or Marisa Hecht, NERC Counsel, (marisa.hecht@nerc.net) if you have any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Lauren Perotti

Lauren Perotti  
*Senior Counsel for the North American  
Electric Reliability Corporation*

cc: Ms. Miggie Cramblit, Vice President, General Counsel, and Corporate Secretary  
Mrs. Tasha Ward, Senior Counsel and Director of External Affairs  
Mr. Lam Chung, Vice President and Engineer for Strategy, Innovation, and Finance  
Midwest Reliability Organization

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<sup>4</sup> On this date, NERC has also submitted to each of the other relevant Canadian provincial authorities a letter identifying Reliability Standards coming into effect in their respective province in the second half of 2020 and offering assistance in considering a three-to-six month delay, or other delay it deems appropriate.