UNITED STATES OF AMERICA BEFORE THE FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

North American Electric Reliability Corporation)	Docket No. RD20-2-000
INFORMATIONAL FILING OF THE N CORPORATION REGARDING S	. =	
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September 15, 2021

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA BEFORE THE FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

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INFORMATIONAL FILING OF THE NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY CORPORATION REGARDING STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Pursuant to paragraph 5 of the Order Directing Informational Filings Regarding NERC Standard Drafting Projects, ¹ the North American Electric Reliability Corporation ("NERC")² hereby submits to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("FERC" or the "Commission") an informational filing regarding two active Critical Infrastructure Protection ("CIP") standard development projects: (1) Project 2016-02 – Modifications to CIP Standards ("Project 2016-02"); and (2) Project 2019-02 – BES Cyber System Information Access Management ("Project 2019-02"). Project 2016-02 focuses on modifications to the CIP Reliability Standards to incorporate applicable protections for virtualized environments. Project 2019-02 proposes to enhance the CIP standards by providing a secure path toward the use of third- party data storage and analysis systems and by clarifying the protections expected when using cloud computing services. This informational filing provides an update to the current schedules for both projects.

I. BACKGROUND

In the February 20 Order, the Commission directed NERC to submit, within 30 days of the issuance of the Order, an informational filing that includes project schedules for Projects 2016-02

N. Am. Elec. Reliability Corp., "Order Directing Informational Filings Regarding NERC Standard Drafting Projects," 170 FERC ¶ 61,109 (Feb. 20, 2020) [hereinafter February 20 Order].

The Commission certified NERC as the electric reliability organization ("ERO") in accordance with Section 215 of the FPA on July 20, 2006. *N. Am. Elec. Reliability Corp.*, 116 FERC ¶ 61,062 (2006).

Unless otherwise designated, all capitalized terms shall have the meaning set forth in the *Glossary of Terms Used in NERC Reliability Standards*, https://www.nerc.com/files/Glossary of Terms.pdf.

and 2019-02. The Commission stated that these schedules should include the status of the projects, interim target dates, and the anticipated filing date for new or modified Reliability Standards. In addition, the Commission directed NERC to file quarterly informational status updates, beginning in June 2020, until NERC files new or modified standards with the Commission.⁵

NERC provided the initial informational filing regarding the schedules on March 19, 2020⁶ and four additional quarterly informational filings with updated schedules on June 19, 2020,⁷ September 17, 2020,⁸ December 15, 2020,⁹ March 15, 2021,¹⁰ and June 15, 2021.¹¹ NERC also provided a supplemental informational filing on November 13, 2020.¹²

II. PROJECT SCHEDULES

NERC has concluded Project 2019-02 earlier than projected in the June 2021 Informational Filing. As of the date of this filing, NERC has filed for Commission approval the Reliability Standards revised as part of Project 2019-02, proposed CIP-004-7 and CIP-011-3. As a result, NERC will no longer report on the Project 2019-02 schedule, consistent with the directive in the February 20 Order.

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February 20 Order, *supra* note 1, at P 5.

⁵ Id

NERC, Informational Filing of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation Regarding Standards Development Projects, Docket No. RD20-2-000 (March 19, 2020).

NERC, Informational Filing of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation Regarding Standards Development Projects, Docket No. RD20-2-000 (June 19, 2020).

NERC, Informational Filing of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation Regarding Standards Development Projects, Docket No. RD20-2-000 (September 17, 2020).

NERC, Informational Filing of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation Regarding Standards Development Projects, Docket No. RD20-2-000 (December 15, 2020).

NERC, Informational Filing of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation Regarding Standards Development Projects, Docket No. RD20-2-000 (March 15, 2021).

NERC, Informational Filing of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation Regarding Standards Development Projects, Docket No. RD20-2-000 (June 15, 2021) [hereinafter June 2021 Informational Filing].

NERC, Supplemental Informational Filing of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation Regarding Standards Development Projects, Docket No. RD20-2-000 (November 13, 2020).

The schedule for Project 2016-02, shown below, reflects some adjustments since the June 2021 Informational Filing. On September 1, 2021, NERC concluded a comment period and ballot for the proposed Reliability Standards revised under Project 2016-02. The proposed Reliability Standards did not achieve enough affirmative votes, ¹³ meaning the Standard Drafting Team will need to review comments, incorporate revisions, and perform outreach in order to gain the consensus needed to move forward. Given the number of Reliability Standards revised and the amount of outreach needed, NERC does not project that it will be able to present the proposed Reliability Standards for adoption at the NERC Board of Trustees November 2021 meeting. As such, NERC adjusted the schedule for adoption at the February 2022 NERC Board of Trustees meeting. NERC notes that this schedule is a projection and subject to change. Any updates will be reported in the next informational filing scheduled for December 2021.

Project 2016-02 Modifications to CIP Standards

- Additional 45-day formal comment period and ballot (if needed): To be posted
 August November 2021
- Final ballot: To be posted October 2021 January 2022
- NERC Board of Trustees Adoption: November 2021 February 2022
- FERC Filing: December 2021 March 2022

III. CONCLUSION

Project 2019-02 has concluded and will no longer be part of the informational filings directed by the February 20 Order. At the time of this filing, Project 2016-02 remains on schedule as modified herein. If any changes occur to the project's status, target dates, or anticipated filing

The ballot results are available on the project page at https://www.nerc.com/pa/Stand/Pages/Project%202016-02%20Modifications%20to%20CIP%20Standards.aspx.

dates, NERC will provide these changes in its quarterly informational filings submitted pursuant to the directive in the February 20 Order.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Marisa Hecht

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September 15, 2021

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have served a copy of the foregoing document upon all parties listed on the official service list compiled by the Secretary in the above-referenced proceeding.

Dated at Washington, D.C. this 15th day of September, 2021.

/s/ Marisa Hecht

Marisa Hecht
Counsel for North American
Electric Reliability Corporation