

July 30, 2012

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Ms. Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20426

**Re: North American Electric Reliability Corporation
Docket No. RR12-__ -000
Petition for Approval of Amendments to Delegation Agreement with
ReliabilityFirst Corporation – Amendments to ReliabilityFirst’s Bylaws
and Reliability Standards Development Procedure**

Dear Ms. Bose:

The North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) hereby submits the “Petition of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation for Approval of Amendments to Delegation Agreement with ReliabilityFirst Corporation – Amendments to ReliabilityFirst’s Bylaws and Reliability Standards Development Procedure.” This Petition seeks approval of proposed amendments to NERC’s Delegation Agreement with ReliabilityFirst Corporation, including approval of amendments to ReliabilityFirst’s Bylaws (included in Exhibit B to the Delegation Agreement) and its Reliability Standards Development Procedure (included in Exhibit C to the Delegation Agreement) as “Regional Entity Rules.”

This filing consists of: (1) this transmittal letter, (2) the narrative text of the Petition, which follows this transmittal letter, and (3) Attachments 1 and 2 to the Petition. All of these documents are transmitted in a single pdf file.

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

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Owen E. MacBride
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Attorney for North American Electric
Reliability Corporation

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Before the
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC)
RELIABILITY CORPORATION) **Docket No. RR12-__-000**

PETITION OF THE
NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY CORPORATION
FOR APPROVAL OF AMENDMENTS TO DELEGATION AGREEMENT
WITH RELIABILITYFIRST CORPORATION –
AMENDMENTS TO RELIABILITYFIRST’S
BYLAWS AND RELIABILITY STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT PROCEDURE

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ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Amended Delegation Agreement Between North American Electric Reliability Corporation and Reliability*First* Corporation – Clean version

Attachment 2: Amended Delegation Agreement Between North American Electric Reliability Corporation and Reliability*First* Corporation – Redlined version

I. INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to §215(e)(4) of the Federal Power Act¹ (“FPA”) and 18 C.F.R. §39.8 and §39.10, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (“NERC”) requests the Commission’s approval of amendments to the Amended and Restated Delegation Agreement (the “ReliabilityFirst RDA”) between NERC and ReliabilityFirst Corporation (“ReliabilityFirst”), one of the NERC Regional Entities. The proposed amendments to the ReliabilityFirst RDA consist of (1) amendments to Exhibit B, the ReliabilityFirst Bylaws (“ReliabilityFirst Bylaws”), and (2) amendments to Exhibit C, the ReliabilityFirst Reliability Standards Development Procedure (“ReliabilityFirst RSDP”). The ReliabilityFirst Bylaws and the ReliabilityFirst RSDP are “Regional Entity Rules” as defined in 18 C.F.R. §39.1; thus, in accordance with 18 C.F.R. §39.10, amendments to either of them require Commission approval. By approving the proposed amendments to Exhibits B and C of the ReliabilityFirst RDA, the Commission would also be approving the amendments to the ReliabilityFirst Bylaws and the ReliabilityFirst RSDP as “Regional Entity Rules.”

As described in greater detail in §III.A of this Petition, the purposes of the amendments to the ReliabilityFirst *Bylaws* are:

- (1) to clarify that ReliabilityFirst Regional Reliability Standards are not mandatory and enforceable until they are approved by both NERC and the Commission;
- (2) to eliminate the ability of ReliabilityFirst’s Members to take actions by written ballot without a meeting, in conflict with Delaware General Corporation Law; as a result, Member actions will take place at an annual or special meeting of members that meets the quorum requirement;
- (3) to reorganize text so as to move a provision of the Bylaws to a different section where it is more appropriately located; and

¹ 16 U.S.C. §824o (2005).

(4) to allow a director resigning from the ReliabilityFirst board to designate an effective date of the resignation, thereby providing greater flexibility and certainty for the ReliabilityFirst Members and Board in filling the vacancy in a timely manner.

The principal purposes of the amendments to the ReliabilityFirst RSDP are (1) to modify text in several places to clarify that only ReliabilityFirst Regional Reliability Standards that are approved by NERC and the Commission shall be effective, mandatory and enforceable, and to specify that Commission approval is a necessary step in the Regional Reliability Standards approval process; and (2) to make various revisions to the process steps for consideration and adoption of a Regional Reliability Standard. The amendments to the process steps bring the RSDP into closer conformity with the NERC *Standard Processes Manual* (Appendix 3A to the NERC Rules of Procedure). The amendments to the RSDP are described in detail in §III.B.

Attachments 1 and **2** to this Petition are clean and redlined versions, respectively, of the proposed amended ReliabilityFirst RDA. **Attachment 2** shows, in legislative style, the proposed amendments to the ReliabilityFirst Bylaws and the ReliabilityFirst RSDP (included in Exhibits B and C, respectively, of the ReliabilityFirst RDA).

II. NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS

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

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III. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO RELIABILITYFIRST DELEGATION AGREEMENT

A. Proposed Amendments to the ReliabilityFirst Bylaws – Exhibit B to the ReliabilityFirst Delegation Agreement

As noted in §I above, the proposed amendments to the ReliabilityFirst Bylaws fall into four categories. The following paragraphs describe the proposed amendments to the ReliabilityFirst Bylaws within each category on a section-by-section basis.

1. Section 1.24, the definition of “Regional Reliability Standard,” is amended to state that “A Regional Reliability Standard is not binding upon any Member or Registered Entity, nor is it effective or enforceable, until the Regional Reliability Standard has been adopted by NERC and approved by the Commission as a Reliability Standard within the applicable Regional Entity or Regional Entities pursuant to delegated authorities.” The amended text clarifies that a Regional Reliability Standard is not binding, effective or enforceable until it has

been approved by NERC and by the Commission.²

Additionally, Section 2.2(b), “Enforcement,” is revised as follows: “The Corporation shall enforce Reliability Standards (including ~~Regional Reliability Standards and Regional Variances~~) within the Region through the Corporation’s compliance enforcement program.” Consistent with the amended text of Section 1.24, a Regional Reliability Standard, when approved by NERC and by the Commission, is a “Reliability Standard;” therefore, the reference “Reliability Standards (including Regional Reliability Standards . . .)” in Section 2.2(b) was redundant.

2. Section 6.8. “Action by Written Ballot,” is amended to delete the procedure by which an action can be taken by the Members by written ballot outside of a regular or special meeting of the Members or of an Industry Sector, in conflict with Delaware General Corporation Law.

3. In Section 7.4, “Composition of the Board, the following sentence is deleted from subsection 7.4(e): “When selecting at-large directors, Industry Sectors shall consider such factors as the geographic and functional representation of the Board.” Correspondingly, the underscored sentence shown below is added to subsection 7.4(g):

At-large and independent directors shall be nominated by the nominating and governance committee of the Board. When nominating at-large directors, the nominating and governance committee shall consider such factors as the geographic and functional representation of the Board.

These two amendments clarify that it is the responsibility of the nominating and governance committee to consider geographic and functional factors when nominating at-large directors for the ReliabilityFirst Board.

² A corresponding amendment has been made to ARTICLE FIFTH, Paragraph A of the ReliabilityFirst Certificate of Incorporation.

4. In Section 7.7, “Resignations; Vacancies,” several provisions are amended relating to the resignation of a director from the Reliability*First* Board and the replacement of the resigning director. Subsection 7.7(a) is amended to state that the resignation of a director shall take effect at the time identified in the director’s notice of resignation as the effective date of resignation. Subsection 7.7(b) is amended by the addition of new text stating that if the notice of resignation provides that the effective date of resignation will occur at a future date within an unexpired term, a successor director may be elected to fill the impending vacancy prior to the effective date of the resignation, with the successor director taking office on the effective date of the predecessor’s resignation. The existing text of subsection 7.7(b) is amended to state that if the resigning director is an Industry Sector director and the successor is not elected prior to the resignation effective date, the successor director shall be elected in accordance with the procedures specified in the Bylaws. Finally, the existing text of subsection 7.7(b) is also amended to state that if the resigning director is an independent director and the successor is not elected prior to the resignation effective date, the vacant independent director position shall be filled by resolution of the Board and the successor independent director shall hold office until the next annual meeting of Members, at which time a permanent successor shall be elected by the Industry Sectors for the remainder of the unexpired director term.

B. Proposed Amendments to the Reliability*First* Reliability Standards Development Procedure – Exhibit C to the Reliability*First* Delegation Agreement

As stated in §I above, the principal purposes of the amendments to the Reliability*First* RSDP are to state that only Reliability*First* Regional Reliability Standards that are approved by NERC and the Commission shall be effective, mandatory and enforceable; and to make various revisions to the process steps for consideration and adoption of a Regional Reliability Standard. The revisions to the process steps include the following:

- Provisions limiting an entity to voting in only one of the five voting categories in the Ballot Pool are eliminated, and a provision is added allowing corporations or other organizations or their affiliates to register and vote in more than one category.
- The Ballot Pool and voting structures are amended in other respects to further align with the NERC *Standard Processes Manual*.
- A Standards Authorization Request (“SAR”) comment step is added to assist the ReliabilityFirst Standards Committee (“SC”) in determining whether the SAR should move to the Standard drafting phase. (The NERC *Standard Processes Manual* includes such a step.)
- A provision is added that the most current version of the NERC Reliability Standards template and its associated elements will be used at the time of development of a ReliabilityFirst Standard if the NERC template is different from the template in the RSDP.
- The quorum requirement for a ballot is changed from a simple majority to at least 75% of the Ballot Pool, and the required affirmative category vote for approval is changed from simple majority to two-thirds. (The amended quorum and affirmative vote requirements are the same as required by the NERC *Standard Processes Manual*).
- A Recirculation Ballot period is added that will be required if any Negative ballot comments are received during the initial 15-day Category Ballot; the addition of this process step will give stakeholders the opportunity to review comments submitted by other entities during the initial ballot, to determine if they wish to reconsider their voting positions). (The NERC *Standard Processes Manual* includes a step and procedures for Recirculation ballots.)
- In the process for developing interpretations, an informal comment period is added.

The following paragraphs describe the amendments to the ReliabilityFirst RSDP on a section-by-section basis.

Introduction. In the first paragraph, existing footnote 1, referring to legacy standards from predecessor organizations, is deleted as no longer necessary.

In the second paragraph, an outdated reference to “North American Electric Reliability Council” is changed to “North American Electric Reliability Corporation.”

In the third paragraph, the first sentence is amended by changing “Proposed Standards” to “Reliability*First* standards,” to make it clear that the provision is discussing Reliability*First* standards. Additionally, the following two sentences are added to the third paragraph:

The effective date will depend on the implementation plan that is provided with each new or revised standard. The Reliability*First* standard is mandatory and enforceable to all applicable Entities within the Reliability*First* footprint upon approval by the FERC.

The second added sentence makes it clear that a Reliability*First* standard is not mandatory and enforceable until approved by the Commission.

Background. In the first paragraph, the statement that a Regional Standard may “implement NERC reliability standards” is changed to “aid implementation of NERC reliability standards.”

Regional Reliability Standards Definition, Characteristics, and Elements. In the first paragraph of the “Definition of a Reliability Standard” subsection, the third sentence is amended to read as follows:

A Regional Reliability Standard is not binding upon any Member or Registered Entity, nor is it effective or enforceable, until the Regional Reliability Standard has been adopted by NERC and approved by the Commission as a Reliability Standard within the applicable Regional Entity or Regional Entities pursuant to delegated authorities.

This amendment corresponds to the amendment to Section 1.24 of the Reliability*First* Bylaws, as described in §III.A above. Additionally, in the second paragraph of this subsection, the word “and” is inserted in the following sentence: “These obligations or requirements as contained in the Reliability*First* Standards are to be measurable and consistent with Good Utility Practice.” This amendment corrects a previous scrivener’s error.

In the first paragraph of the subsection “Characteristics of a Regional Reliability Standard,” the following change is made to eliminate a redundancy: “A Standard is policy or

standard, including adequacy criteria to provide for the reliable regional and sub-regional planning and operation of the BPS, consistent with Good Utility Practice.”

In the subsection “Format Requirements of a Regional Reliability Standard,” a number of amendments are made. In the first sentence of the first paragraph, the word “format” before “requirements” is deleted, since the requirements may pertain to more than just “format.” Additionally, the following sentence is added to this paragraph:

The most current version of the approved NERC Reliability Standard template and its associated elements posted on the NERC website will be used at the time of the development of a ReliabilityFirst Regional Reliability Standard if different from the elements listed below.

Correspondingly, the caption of the table that follows immediately thereafter is changed to “Regional Reliability Standard Format Requirement Template Example.”

In the “Template Example” table, the following revisions are made:

- In “Effective Date and Status,” the text is revised to state that the effective date of the Standard is the date of the Commission approval and the applicable implementation timeline.
- In “Requirement(s),” the third sentence is revised to be more concise.
- In “Measure(s),” two sentences are combined for simplification; a redundant use of the word “practical” is deleted; and in the final sentence, “should be” is changed to “is” to make the sentence more prescriptive: “Achieving the full compliance level of each measurement is a necessary and sufficient indicator that the requirement was met.”
- In “Compliance Monitoring Process,” which contains a list of components that the Regional Reliability Standard should “[d]efine for each measure,” the word “Measurement” is deleted from the phrase “Measurement data retention requirements.”
- In “Implementation Plan,” “is” is changed to “be” in the last sentence as a grammatical correction.
- In “Supporting References,” the unnecessary word “otherwise” is deleted.

Roles in the Regional Reliability Standards Development Process. In the list of “Process Roles,” the “Interim Compliance Committee” is deleted and the “Reliability Committee” is added. The Reliability Committee (“RC”) is described as follows:

The Reliability*First* RC serves as a technical advisory body to address the reliability related activities required by the Reliability Standards via review and discussion of the regional activities as requested by the SC.”

These amendments update the list of “Process Roles” to reflect the current structure within Reliability*First*.

Additionally, in the description of “Standard Drafting Team (SDT),” the word “normally” is deleted from the phrase “Normally a team of technical experts,” (*i.e.*, the qualifier is removed); and “includes” is changed to “including.”

Finally, in the description of “Ballot Pool,” the superfluous phrase “that is up for vote” is deleted.

Regional Reliability Standard Development Process. In Step 1, Development of a Standards Authorization Request, there are several amendments:

- A provision is added that a SAR will be posted by the SC for comment within 15 days after receipt of the adequately completed SAR from the Standards Process Manager (“SPM”).
- A provision is added that comments on the SAR will be accepted for a 30-day period from the notice of posting, with comments accepted online using an internet-based application, and the SPM is to provide copies of the comments to the Originator and the SC.
- Based on the comments, the SC is to make available a consideration of comments report and determine the disposition of the SAR within 60 calendar days following the SAR commenting period.
- Text is added to state that the actions the SC may take in dispositioning the SAR shall be in accordance with the Reliability*First* SC Governance document.

- The following possible action by the SC in dispositioning the SAR is added, providing that the SC may direct the Originator to submit the SAR to the NERC (continent-wide) Reliability Standards development process:

Remand the SAR back to the Originator for redirection to the NERC process. In cases where there is a Reliability need identified in the SAR but it does not meet the criteria for Regional standards (more stringent reliability requirements than the NERC reliability standard or cover matters not covered by an existing NERC reliability standard), the Standards Committee will assist the Originator in submitting the SAR to NERC.

- A footnote is added stating that actions by the SC in dispositioning the SAR may be appealed per the Appeals process in Appendix A to the RSDP.
- In the provision concerning the posting of SARDS that have been accepted by the SC, the redundant phrase “no greater than” is deleted from “within no greater than 30 days;” and a requirement that the status of posted SARs will be publicly noted at regularly scheduled intervals is changed to the more precise requirement, “will be publicly posted.”

In Step 3, Work and Work Product of the Standard Drafting Team, the reference to “date objective established by the SC” is changed to “deadline established by the SC.” Additionally, in the last paragraph of this step, “have posted” is changed to “post” for simplification of the language.

In Step 4, Comment Posting Period, a sentence in the first paragraph is simplified as follows: “As early as the start of the first posting for comment, entities may join ~~one of the five categories of the Ballot Pool established for the eventual voting on the proposed standard being posted.~~”

In Step 5, Posting for Voting by Reliability *First* Registered Ballot Body, the reference to “one of the five categories of” the Ballot Pool is also deleted. Additionally, two references to “entities” in the Ballot Body are changed to “members.” In the fourth paragraph of this step, the phrase “It is expected that” is deleted from the provision “It is expected that votes will be submitted electronically,” for simplification and clarity. In the fifth paragraph of this Step, the

phrase “All entities registered as part of the BB” is simplified to “All BB members;” the redundant word “separately” is deleted from a statement that a Ballot Pool must be joined to participate in voting for each standard; and a provision that “Each entity can join only one category of the Ballot Pool and shall have one vote” is deleted. (An amendment to Appendix D to the RSDP, described below, provides that a corporation or other organization with integrated operations or affiliates may join more than one Ballot Pool category.) Finally, in the sixth paragraph of this Step, a reference to the “15 day” voting period is deleted. (A 15-day voting period is specified in the next step, Step 6A.)

In Step 6A, specifying the affirmative vote required in balloting a proposed Standard, the required affirmative vote is changed from simple majority to two-thirds majority (1) within a Ballot Pool category to determine the vote for that category, and (2) of category votes in the categories with votes cast in order for the Initial ballot of the Standard to pass. In addition, a provision that “a quorum consists of a simple majority of individuals who have joined the Ballot Pool” is deleted. (An amendment in Step 6B, described below, changes the quorum requirement to 75% or greater of the Ballot Pool casting a vote.) Further, the following text specifying the actions to be taken by the SC, depending on whether Negative votes with comments were received during the initial ballot, is added to Step 6A (currently, Step 6A does not contain procedures for Recirculation ballots):

If there is at least one (1) Negative vote with comment during the initial ballot, then the standard will be posted for a 10-day Recirculation ballot. If there are no Negative votes with comments, the SC will forward the Standard to the ReliabilityFirst Board for action (Step 7). In the recirculation ballot, members of the Ballot Pool shall again be presented the proposed standard (that has not been significantly changed from the previous ballot) along with the reasons for negative votes, the responses, and any resolution of the differences. An insignificant revision is a revision that does not change the scope, applicability, or intent of any requirement and includes but is not limited to things such as correcting the numbering of a requirement, correcting the spelling of a word,

adding an obviously missing word, or rephrasing a requirement for improved clarity. Where there is a question as to whether a proposed modification is “substantive” the Standards Committee shall make the final determination. All members of the Ballot Pool shall be permitted to reconsider and change their vote from the prior ballot. Members of the Ballot Pool who did not respond to the prior ballot shall be permitted to vote in the recirculation ballot. In the recirculation ballot, Ballot Pool members may indicate a revision to their original vote otherwise their vote shall remain the same as in their prior ballot.

Finally in Step 6A, the following sentence is added at the end of the text: “Upon successful completion of the initial and recirculation voting periods, the SC will forward the Standard to the Reliability*First* Board for action (Step 7).”

In Step 6B, pertaining to an Initial ballot where the draft Standard does not receive the requisite affirmative majority vote or a quorum is not met, the required affirmative majority vote is changed from simple majority to two-thirds majority, consistent with the amendment to Step 6A. A footnote is added stating that a quorum is achieved when three-fourths (75%) or greater of the ballot pool casts a vote. The actions the SC may take if the Standard does not receive the required two-thirds vote or a quorum is not met are amended to include:

Direct the SDT to respond to ballot comments and post the standard for a 10-day Recirculation ballot (as discussed in Step 6A) to determine if the response to comments alleviates reasons for the Negative initial ballots.

Step 6A is also amended to provide for the options of a second initial voting period and a second recirculation ballot, in those instances where (1) the SC directs the SDT to reconsider or modify certain aspects of the draft Standard and/or implementation plan, or (2) the SC revises the SAR on which the draft Standard was based and remands the development work back to the original SDT or a newly appointed SDT. In either case, if there is a two-thirds affirmative majority vote of categories with votes cast and a quorum is met during the second initial ballot and second recirculation ballot, the SC shall forward the Standard to the Reliability*First* Board for action; if the Standard does not receive a two-thirds majority of affirmative category votes or a quorum is

not met during the second voting period, the SC shall refer the draft Standard and implementation plan to the Reliability*First* Board, and may also submit an assessment, opinion and recommendations to the Board as provided in Step 7.

Step 7, Action by the Reliability*First* Board, is amended to reflect that the required affirmative majority vote of categories in order for a draft Standard to be submitted to the Reliability*First* Board for action is changed from simple majority to two-thirds, consistent with Steps 6A and 6B.

Step 8, Implementation of a Regional Reliability Standard, is amended to state that upon approval of a draft Standard action by the Commission, the SPM “will notify the membership and applicable Entities within the Reliability*First* footprint of the effective date through the normal and customary membership communication procedures and processes then in effect.”

Amendments to Appendix A to the RSDP

Maintenance of Regional Reliability Standards Development Process. The superfluous phrase “then in effect” is deleted.

Interpretations of Standards. The process for responding to requests for interpretations of a Standard is revised in a number of respects:

- The Interpretation Drafting Team (“IDT”) will prepare an initial draft interpretation, addressing the issues raised in the request, within 45 days.
- The IDT will post the draft interpretation for a 30-day informal stakeholder comment period. A footnote is added stating that an informal comment period does not require the IDT to respond to every stakeholder comment and is only used to make potential changes for the final draft of the interpretation.
- The IDT is to review the stakeholder feedback and may make changes before preparing a final draft of the interpretation.
- The IDT will then forward the draft interpretation to the SPM, who will forward the interpretation to the RC. A process step for review of the draft interpretation by the Interim Compliance Committee is eliminated.

- In the possible grounds for the RC’s opinion that would stop the interpretation from being next forwarded to the SC, “sufficiently lessens measurability” is deleted, with the result that the only basis stated on which the RC may issue a negative opinion is that the proposed interpretation “is not technically appropriate for the Standard.”
- The determination that the SC must make is expanded to “determine if the interpretation is consistent with the Standard and does not add additional requirements to the standard.”

Additionally, the text of next-to-last paragraph in this section is simplified consistent with the last two revisions noted above and repetitive text is eliminated.

Appeals. In the fourth paragraph of this section, “provides” is changed to “has” for simplification of language.

Amendments to Appendix C of the RSDP

The “Flowchart for Standards Process” in Appendix C is revised to reflect the above-described amendments.

Amendments to Appendix D of the RSDP

Ballot Pool Categories. This provision is amended to state that a person, as well as an entity, may join the registered Ballot Pool to vote on standards, “whether or not such person or entity is a member of Reliability*First*.” In addition, the following text is added pertaining to membership in more than one Ballot Pool category:

A corporation or other organization with integrated operations or with affiliates that qualifies to belong to more than one category (e.g., Transmission Owners and Load Serving Entities) may join and vote once in each category for which it qualifies, provided that each category constitutes a separate membership in the Ballot Body and the organization is represented in each category by a different representative. Affiliated entities are collectively limited to one membership in each category in the Ballot Pool for which they are qualified.

Ballot Body Registration. In the first paragraph of this section, the reference to “self-selection category(ies)” is changed to “self-selection category”.

Ballot Pool Formation. References to joining “one of the five categories” of the Ballot Pool are eliminated, so that the text simply refers to “join[ing] the Ballot Pool.”

IV. RELIABILITYFIRST AND NERC APPROVALS FOR THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

Proposed amendments to the ReliabilityFirst RSDP were originally developed by ReliabilityFirst during 2010, using the process specified in its current RSDP. The development process included authorization by the Standards Committee of a SAR and a supplemental SAR to modify the RSDP; posting of the proposed revised RSDP for a 30-day stakeholder comment period; preparation of responses to comments and corresponding additional changes to the proposed revised RSDP; posting of the revised RSDP for a 15-day period prior to a Category Ballot; conduct of a 15-day Category Ballot, in which a 97.9% quorum was achieved and a 100% affirmative Category vote was received; public posting of the balloted RSDP for 30 days prior to action by the ReliabilityFirst Board; and unanimous approval of the revised RSDP by the ReliabilityFirst Board on December 15, 2010.

ReliabilityFirst submitted the revised RSDP (Version 3 of the ReliabilityFirst RSDP) to NERC with a request for approval on January 14, 2011. In accordance with NERC Rules of Procedure §311, NERC posted the proposed revised RSDP for a 45-day comment period from March 1 to April 15, 2011. Nine sets of comments were received on the revised RSDP, of which two sets of comments were submitted in support of the proposed revisions. ReliabilityFirst provided a written response to the remaining comments. A principal issue raised in the comments related to provisions specifying that ReliabilityFirst Standards are mandatory and enforceable (but without imposition of monetary penalties) against ReliabilityFirst Members (but not against non-Member Registered Entities) upon approval by the ReliabilityFirst Board and prior to approval by NERC and by the Commission.

The NERC Board of Trustees approved Version 3 of the RSDP on May 11, 2011; however, the Board's action for approval included an understanding that ReliabilityFirst would discuss changes to the ReliabilityFirst Bylaws to address the concerns regarding enforcement of ReliabilityFirst Standards against Members prior to approval of a Standard by the Commission. Pending ReliabilityFirst addressing this issue, NERC did not file RSDP Version 3 with the Commission for approval. This concern was addressed by ReliabilityFirst through additional amendments to the RSDP and amendments to the ReliabilityFirst Bylaws. Specifically, as described in §III.A and §III.B above, the definition of "Regional Reliability Standard" in Section 1.24 of the ReliabilityFirst Bylaws and the "Definition of a Reliability Standard" section of the RSDP were each revised to state that:

A Regional Reliability Standard is not binding upon any Member or Registered Entity, nor is it effective or enforceable, until the Regional Reliability Standard has been adopted by NERC and approved by the Commission as a Reliability Standard within the applicable Regional Entity or Regional Entities pursuant to delegated authorities.

The ReliabilityFirst Board of Directors concurred with the additional change to the RSDP (identified as Version 4 with the additional revision) on December 1, 2011. The ReliabilityFirst Board also approved the amendments to the ReliabilityFirst Bylaws on December 1, 2011.

On May 24, 2012, the NERC Board approved the proposed amendments to the ReliabilityFirst Bylaws and the proposed amendments to the ReliabilityFirst RSDP. In making the determination to approve the proposed amendments to the ReliabilityFirst Bylaws, NERC determined that the amended ReliabilityFirst Bylaws continue to satisfy the five Governance criteria stated in Exhibit B to the ReliabilityFirst RDA. In making the determination to approve the proposed amendments to the ReliabilityFirst RSDP, NERC determined that the amended

ReliabilityFirst RSDP continues to conform to the Common Attributes for a Reliability Standards development process stated in Exhibit C to the ReliabilityFirst RDA.

V. CONCLUSION

The North American Electric Reliability Corporation respectfully requests that the Commission approve the proposed amendments to its Delegation Agreement with ReliabilityFirst Reliability Corporation shown in **Attachment 2** to this Petition, including approving the amendments to the ReliabilityFirst Bylaws (included in Exhibit B to the ReliabilityFirst RDA) and to the ReliabilityFirst RSDP (included in Exhibit C to the ReliabilityFirst RDA) as amendments to Regional Entity Rules.

Respectfully submitted,

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ATTACHMENT 1

AMENDED DELEGATION AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY CORPORATION

AND

RELIABILITYFIRST CORPORATION

CLEAN VERSION

**AMENDED AND RESTATED DELEGATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN
NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY CORPORATION
AND RELIABILITYFIRST CORPORATION**

AMENDED AND RESTATED DELEGATION AGREEMENT (“Agreement”) made as of January 1, 2011, between the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (“NERC”), an organization certified by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (“Commission”) pursuant to Section 215(c) of the Federal Power Act to establish and enforce Reliability Standards for the Bulk-Power System, and ReliabilityFirst Corporation (ReliabilityFirst), an organization established to develop and enforce Reliability Standards within the geographic boundaries identified on **Exhibit A** to this Agreement, and for other purposes. NERC and ReliabilityFirst may be individually referred to herein as “Party” or collectively as “Parties.”

WITNESSETH

WHEREAS, Subtitle A of the Electricity Modernization Act of 2005 added Section 215 to the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. § 824n) (hereafter “the Act”), which, among other things, provides for the establishment of an electric reliability organization (“ERO”) to develop and enforce Reliability Standards applicable to all owners, operators, and users of the Bulk-Power System;

WHEREAS, the Commission has adopted regulations for the implementation of the Act, which are set forth at Chapter I, Title 18, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 39 (the “ERO Regulations”);

WHEREAS, the Commission has certified NERC as the ERO that will, in accordance with the Act, establish and enforce Reliability Standards for the Bulk-Power System, subject to certain delegation provisions described below;

WHEREAS, the Act recognizes the international interdependency of electric reliability within North America and envisions the ERO and such applicable Regional Entities as international organizations;

WHEREAS, the Act and Section 39.8 of the ERO Regulations provide for the delegation by the ERO of authority to propose and enforce Reliability Standards to regional entities (“Regional Entities”) such as Reliability*First* provided that:

(A) The Regional Entity is governed by —

- (i) an independent board;
- (ii) a balanced stakeholder board; or
- (iii) a combination independent and balanced stakeholder board.

(B) The Regional Entity otherwise satisfies the provisions of Section 215(c)(1) and (2) of the Act; and

(C) The agreement promotes effective and efficient administration of Bulk-Power System reliability;

WHEREAS, certain Regional Entities are organized on an Interconnection-wide basis and are therefore entitled to the presumption set forth in the Act that: “[t]he ERO and the Commission shall rebuttably presume that a proposal for delegation to a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis promotes effective and efficient administration of bulk power system reliability and should be approved”;

WHEREAS, the Act further provides that the ERO shall rebuttably presume that a proposal from a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis for a Reliability Standard or modification to a Reliability Standard to be applicable on an Interconnection-wide basis is just, reasonable, and not unduly discriminatory or preferential, and in the public interest;

WHEREAS, Reliability*First* is not organized on an Interconnection-wide basis and therefore is not entitled to the rebuttable presumptions accorded such an entity;

WHEREAS, NERC will work through Reliability*First* to carry out certain of its activities in furtherance of its responsibilities as the ERO under the Act;

WHEREAS, NERC has concluded that Reliability*First* meets all requirements of the Act, the ERO Regulations, and the NERC Rules of Procedure as approved by the Commission (“NERC Rules of Procedure”) necessary to qualify for delegation; and

WHEREAS, NERC and Reliability*First*, having operated under a predecessor agreement to this Agreement, have negotiated this amended and restated Agreement so as to incorporate the benefits of their mutual experience and lessons learned while operating under the predecessor agreement and thereby provide for the more efficient and effective execution of their respective responsibilities in a transparent manner that is pursuant to Section 215 of the Act and the ERO Regulations;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants and agreements herein contained, NERC and Reliability*First* agree as follows:

1. Definitions. The capitalized terms used in this Agreement shall be defined as set forth in the Act, the ERO Regulations, the NERC Rules of Procedure, or the NERC Glossary of Terms Used in Reliability Standards, or, if not so defined, shall be defined as set forth in this Section 1 or elsewhere in the text of this Agreement:

(a) Breach means (i) the failure of a Party to perform or observe any material term, condition or covenant of the Agreement or (ii) a representation in Section 2 of the Agreement shall have become materially untrue.

(b) Cross-Border Regional Entity means a Regional Entity that encompasses a part of the United States and a part of Canada or Mexico.

(c) Delegated Authority means the authority delegated by NERC to Reliability*First* to propose and enforce Reliability Standards pursuant to the Act and to undertake related activities set forth in this Agreement in furtherance of these delegated functions in accordance with the Act, the ERO Regulations and this Agreement.

2. Representations.

(a) For purposes of its Delegated Authority, Reliability*First* hereby represents and warrants to NERC that:

(i) ReliabilityFirst is and shall remain during the term of this Agreement validly existing and in good standing pursuant to all applicable laws relevant to this Agreement and that no applicable law, contract or other legal obligation prevents it from executing this Agreement and fulfilling its obligations hereunder. ReliabilityFirst is governed in accordance with its bylaws by a combination independent and balanced stakeholder board. Pursuant to these bylaws, no two industry sectors can control any ReliabilityFirst decision and no single industry sector can veto any ReliabilityFirst decision. The relevant portions of such bylaws are attached hereto in **Exhibit B**¹, and as so attached are in full force and effect. No other such corporate governance documents are binding upon ReliabilityFirst.

(ii) As set forth in **Exhibit C** hereto², ReliabilityFirst has developed a standards development procedure, which provides the process that ReliabilityFirst may use to develop Regional Reliability Standards that are proposed to NERC for adoption.

(iii) As set forth in **Exhibit D** hereto, ReliabilityFirst has adopted the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program, Appendix 4C to the NERC Rules of Procedure, which provides for the enforcement of Reliability Standards within ReliabilityFirst's geographic boundaries as shown on **Exhibit A**.

(b) NERC hereby represents and warrants to ReliabilityFirst that:

(i) NERC is and shall remain during the term of this Agreement validly existing and in good standing pursuant to all applicable laws relevant to this Agreement and that no applicable law, contract or other legal obligation prevents it from executing this Agreement and fulfilling its obligations hereunder; and

(ii) NERC has been certified as the ERO by the Commission pursuant to the Act.

3. Covenants.

¹ The **Exhibit B** from ReliabilityFirst shall meet the requirements contained in **Exhibit B** to this Agreement.

² The **Exhibit C** from ReliabilityFirst shall meet the requirements contained in **Exhibit C** to this Agreement.

(a) During the term of this Agreement, ReliabilityFirst shall maintain and preserve its qualifications for delegation pursuant to the Act and shall not amend its Regional Entity Rules without NERC's approval, which shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed and which shall, in the case of a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis, be governed by the presumptions provided for in Section 215(d)(2) and (e)(4)(C) of the Act, and be subject to any required Commission approval.

(b) During the term of this Agreement, NERC shall maintain its qualification and status as the ERO pursuant to the Act and, subject to the provisions of Sections 17 and 18 of this Agreement, NERC shall not adopt amendments to the NERC Rules of Procedure that conflict with the rights, obligations or programs of ReliabilityFirst under this Agreement without first obtaining the consent of ReliabilityFirst, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed.

(c) During the term of this Agreement, NERC and ReliabilityFirst shall adhere to and require that all participants in their respective activities under this Agreement follow and comply with the NERC Antitrust Compliance Guidelines.

4. Delegation of Authority.

(a) Based upon the representations, warranties and covenants of ReliabilityFirst in Sections 2 and 3 above, the corporate governance documents set forth in **Exhibit B**, the standards development process set forth in **Exhibit C**, and the compliance monitoring and enforcement program set forth in **Exhibit D**, NERC hereby delegates authority, pursuant to Section 215(e)(4) of the Act, to ReliabilityFirst for the purpose of proposing Reliability Standards to NERC, as set forth in Section 5 of this Agreement, and enforcing Reliability Standards, as set forth in Section 6 of this Agreement, within the geographic boundaries and such other scope set forth on **Exhibit A**, *provided*, that ReliabilityFirst shall not monitor and enforce compliance with Reliability Standards for ReliabilityFirst or an affiliated entity with respect to reliability functions for which ReliabilityFirst or an affiliate is a Registered Entity. Any exclusions from this delegation of authority to ReliabilityFirst within, or additions to this delegation of authority to ReliabilityFirst beyond, the geographic boundaries set forth on **Exhibit A** are stated on **Exhibit A**.

(b) In circumstances where ReliabilityFirst or an affiliated entity is a Registered Entity, ReliabilityFirst shall enter into an agreement with another Regional Entity or NERC for the other Regional Entity or NERC to monitor and enforce ReliabilityFirst's or affiliate's compliance with Reliability Standards. Such agreements are subject to NERC and Commission approval.

(c) Nothing in this Agreement shall prohibit ReliabilityFirst from entering into an arrangement between one or more other Regional Entities to perform compliance monitoring and enforcement activities outside of its region, on behalf of NERC and/or other Regional Entities, for Registered Entities that have registered functions monitored by more than one Regional Entity, subject to approval by NERC.

(d) For Cross-Border Regional Entities, the authority delegated by this Agreement shall extend only to the portion of the region identified on **Exhibit A** that is within the United States. Any delegation of authority by ERO Governmental Authorities in Canada or Mexico shall be governed by a separate agreement and is outside the scope of this Agreement; provided, however, that both ReliabilityFirst and NERC shall endeavor to ensure that this Agreement and such separate agreements are compatible.

(e) As a condition to this delegation of authority and subject to the provisions of Section 17 of this Agreement, ReliabilityFirst shall comply with the applicable provisions of NERC's Certificate of Incorporation, Bylaws, Rules of Procedure, and Reliability Standards, as from time to time adopted, approved, or amended.

5. Development and Proposal of Reliability Standards.

(a) In connection with its Delegated Authority, ReliabilityFirst shall be entitled to:

(i) propose Reliability Standards, Regional Variances, or modifications thereof to NERC, which shall be considered by NERC through an open and inclusive process for proposing and adopting Reliability Standards that affords ReliabilityFirst reasonable notice and opportunity to be heard; and

(ii) develop Regional Reliability Standards through ReliabilityFirst's process as set forth in **Exhibit C**. Proposals approved through ReliabilityFirst's process shall be reviewed by the NERC Board after NERC provides notice and an opportunity for interested persons to comment. In the case of a proposal from a Regional Entity organized on an

Interconnection-wide basis, comments shall be limited to the factors identified in NERC Rule of Procedure 312.3 as it may be amended from time to time. The NERC Board shall promptly thereafter consider such proposed Regional Reliability Standard or Regional Variance, applying the rebuttable presumption described in subsection 5(b) of this Agreement if the proposed Regional Reliability Standard or Regional Variance is from a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis, and either approve the proposed Regional Reliability Standard or Regional Variance and submit it to the Commission for approval, or disapprove it in writing setting forth its reasons. ReliabilityFirst may appeal any disapproval of a proposed Regional Reliability Standard or Regional Variance to the Commission.

(b) Pursuant to Section 215(d)(3) of the Act, NERC shall rebuttably presume that a proposal from a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis for a Regional Reliability Standard or Regional Variance or modification thereof to be applicable on an Interconnection-wide basis is just, reasonable, and not unduly discriminatory or preferential, and in the public interest. Any person challenging such proposal from the Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis shall have the burden of proof. NERC shall not find that this presumption has been rebutted except based upon substantial evidence that has been disclosed to, and been subject to comment by, the Interconnection-wide Regional Entity during NERC's review of the proposal.

6. Enforcement of Compliance with Reliability Standards.

(a) In connection with its delegated authority pursuant to this Agreement, ReliabilityFirst shall enforce Reliability Standards (including Regional Reliability Standards and Regional Variances) within the geographic boundaries set forth, or as otherwise specified, in **Exhibit A** through the compliance monitoring and enforcement program set forth in **Exhibit D**. NERC and ReliabilityFirst agree that this compliance monitoring and enforcement program meets all applicable requirements of the Act, Order No. 672 of the Commission, and the ERO Regulations, including, *inter alia*, the requirement for an audit program pursuant to Section 39.7(a) of the ERO Regulations, the assessment of penalties pursuant to Section 39.7(c) through 39.7(g) of the ERO Regulations and the requirements for due process. ReliabilityFirst may not change its compliance monitoring and enforcement program set forth in **Exhibit D** absent NERC's approval, which shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed, and the approval of the

Commission. Subject to the rights and limitations specified in Sections 17 and 18 of this Agreement, *ReliabilityFirst* agrees to comply with the NERC Rules of Procedure, with any directives issued pursuant to Section 8(c) of this Agreement, and with any guidance and directions issued by the NERC Board or a Board committee pursuant to Section 8(d) of this Agreement, in implementing this program.

(b) *ReliabilityFirst* shall report promptly to NERC any Possible Violation, Alleged Violation, or Confirmed Violation of a Reliability Standard, and its eventual disposition by *ReliabilityFirst*. Such report shall include the owner's, operator's, or user's name, which Reliability Standard or Reliability Standards were the subject of the Possible Violation, Alleged Violation, or Confirmed Violation, when the Possible Violation, Alleged Violation, or Confirmed Violation occurred, other pertinent facts including circumstances surrounding the Possible Violation, Alleged Violation, or Confirmed Violation with any known risk to the Bulk-Power System, when the Possible Violation, Alleged Violation, or Confirmed Violation was or will be mitigated, the name of a person knowledgeable about the Possible Violation, Alleged Violation, or Confirmed Violation to serve as a point of contact with the Commission, and any other information required by NERC compliance program procedures. NERC shall promptly forward such report to the Commission. NERC and *ReliabilityFirst* shall cooperate in filing such periodic summary reports as the Commission shall from time to time direct on Possible Violations, Alleged Violations, and Confirmed Violations of Reliability Standards and summary analyses of such Possible Violations, Alleged Violations, and Confirmed Violations.

(c) Each Possible Violation, Alleged Violation, or Confirmed Violation shall be treated as nonpublic unless the matter is filed with the Commission as a Notice of Penalty, or, if disclosure is required, dismissed. The disposition of each Possible Violation, Alleged Violation, or Confirmed Violation that relates to a Cybersecurity Incident or that would jeopardize the security of the Bulk-Power System if publicly disclosed shall remain nonpublic unless the Commission directs otherwise.

(d) All dispositions by *ReliabilityFirst* of Possible Violations, Alleged Violations, and Confirmed Violations of Reliability Standards shall be reported to NERC for review and, in the case of Confirmed Violations, penalties or sanctions, and settlements, for approval. Following approval of a disposition by NERC, NERC shall file the disposition with the Commission, if required by, and in accordance with, Section 215(e) of the Act and Section 39.7

of the ERO Regulations. NERC shall review ReliabilityFirst's dispositions based on the following criteria:

(i) whether the disposition is supported by a sufficient record compiled by ReliabilityFirst in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure, NERC directives and Commission requirements, taking into account the nature of the Possible Violation, Alleged Violation, or Confirmed Violation,

(ii) whether the disposition is consistent with any applicable directives issued pursuant to Section 8(c) of this Agreement, any applicable directions or guidance issued by the NERC Board or a Board committee pursuant to Section 8(d) of this Agreement, or other applicable NERC guidance, concerning the Reliability Standards to which the Possible Violation, Alleged Violation, or Confirmed Violation relates,

(iii) if the disposition is a Confirmed Violation or settlement, whether it provides for a penalty or sanction, or a determination of no penalty or sanction, determined in accordance with the NERC Sanction Guidelines, Appendix 4B to the NERC Rules of Procedure, and

(iv) whether the disposition is reasonably consistent with other dispositions by ReliabilityFirst and by other Regional Entities of Possible Violations, Alleged Violations, and Confirmed Violations involving the same or similar facts and circumstances.

NERC may reject any disposition, with an explanation of why NERC believes the disposition does not meet the above criteria. ReliabilityFirst may submit a disposition requiring NERC approval that has been rejected by NERC, or a revised disposition following a rejection, directly to the NERC Board Compliance Committee for approval without revising the disposition to address all the grounds on which NERC originally rejected the disposition. The final approval of ReliabilityFirst's disposition of a Possible Violation, Alleged Violation, or Confirmed Violation shall be made by the NERC Board Compliance Committee, provided, that the NERC Board or NERC Board Compliance Committee may, by appropriate resolution, delegate authority for final approval of dispositions of specified categories of Possible Violations, Alleged Violations, or Confirmed Violations to the NERC President.

(e) All appeals of penalties imposed by ReliabilityFirst as a result of a decision by ReliabilityFirst's Hearing Body shall be filed with, heard by and disposed of by, NERC in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure.

(f) ReliabilityFirst shall maintain the capability to conduct investigations of Possible Violations and Alleged Violations of Reliability Standards and to conduct such investigations in a confidential manner.

(g) ReliabilityFirst shall maintain a program of proactive monitoring and enforcement of compliance with Reliability Standards, in accordance with the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program and the annual NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program Implementation Plan.

(h) As part of its compliance monitoring and enforcement program, ReliabilityFirst shall maintain a conflict of interest policy that assures the integrity and independence of such program, including the integrity and independence of the persons or decision-making bodies making final determinations in compliance enforcement actions under Section 5.0 of the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program. A Regional Entity may have stakeholders lead or participate in its board compliance committee so long as integrity and independence are assured through reasonable and appropriate recusal procedures.

(i) As often as NERC deems necessary, but no less than every five years, NERC shall review ReliabilityFirst's compliance monitoring and enforcement program to determine that: (i) the program meets all applicable legal requirements; (ii) actual practices reflect the requirements; and (iii) the program administered pursuant to the Delegated Authority promotes consistent interpretations across North America of Reliability Standards and comparable levels of sanctions and penalties for violations of Reliability Standards constituting comparable levels of threat to reliability of the Bulk-Power System.

7. Delegation-Related Activities.

NERC will engage ReliabilityFirst on its behalf to carry out certain of its activities that are in furtherance of Bulk-Power System reliability and NERC's responsibilities as the ERO under the Act or in support of the Delegated Authority, as specified in the NERC Rules of Procedure and listed on **Exhibit E**. These delegation-related activities shall include, but are not

limited to, those described in subsections (a) through (f), each of which shall be considered a statutory activity:

(a) Certification of Bulk-Power System Entities. The NERC Board shall set criteria for certification in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure. ReliabilityFirst shall issue certifications in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure.

(b) Registration of owners, operators, and users of the Bulk-Power System as responsible for compliance with requirements of Reliability Standards.

(i) The NERC Board shall develop criteria for registration of owners, operators, and users of the Bulk-Power System as Registered Entities and shall apply the registration criteria to register owners, operators and users of the Bulk-Power System as Registered Entities.

(ii) NERC shall maintain a registration database of Registered Entities, based on data and information provided by ReliabilityFirst and other Regional Entities. ReliabilityFirst shall provide timely and accurate information relating to registrations to NERC, on at least a monthly basis, to enable NERC to maintain a registration database that is accurate and up-to-date.

(iii) The NERC Board Compliance Committee shall hear and decide appeals from owners, operators and users of the Bulk-Power System contesting registration, in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure. If the NERC Board Compliance Committee upholds the decision to register an owner, operator, or user, NERC shall defend the decision in any subsequent appeal of the decision by the Registered Entity to the Commission.

(c) Reliability Assessment and Performance Analysis. ReliabilityFirst shall develop assessments of the reliability of the Bulk-Power System, or ensure that data and information are collected, analyzed and provided to NERC in support of the development of reliability assessments, in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure. ReliabilityFirst shall also develop and maintain, and collect data in support of the development and maintenance of, reliability performance metrics and assessments of risks to the Reliable Operation of the Bulk-Power System, in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure and NERC directives. NERC shall develop data-gathering quality control procedures, forms and reporting mechanisms, which shall be used by ReliabilityFirst and other Regional Entities in carrying out their responsibilities under this subsection (c).

(d) Event Analysis and Reliability Improvement. ReliabilityFirst shall conduct event analysis pursuant to the NERC Rules of Procedure and applicable governmental regulations. NERC and ReliabilityFirst shall coordinate event analysis to support the effective and efficient use of their collective resources, consistency in event analysis, and timely delivery of event analysis reports. In collaboration with NERC, ReliabilityFirst shall disseminate to the electric industry lessons learned and other information obtained or resulting from event analysis.

(e) Training and Education. ReliabilityFirst may provide training and education to Registered Entities, as it deems necessary, in support of its performance of delegated functions and related activities under this Agreement. NERC may also provide training and education programs to Registered Entities on topics relating to NERC's responsibilities as the ERO.

(f) Situation Awareness and Infrastructure Security.

(i) ReliabilityFirst shall gather and assess situation awareness information provided by Registered Entities pursuant to the NERC Rules of Procedure and applicable governmental regulations, and shall provide other data, information and assistance to NERC in support of NERC's activities in monitoring present conditions, and responding to events, on the Bulk-Power System

(ii) ReliabilityFirst shall collaborate with NERC in its efforts to coordinate electric industry activities to promote critical infrastructure protection of the Bulk-Power System in North America.

8. Oversight of Performance of Delegated Functions and Related Activities.

This Section 8 sets forth processes and procedures which the Parties intend shall be used in NERC's oversight of ReliabilityFirst's performance of its Delegated Authority and related activities pursuant to this Agreement. It is the intent of NERC and ReliabilityFirst that matters relating to NERC's oversight of ReliabilityFirst's performance of its Delegated Authority and related activities shall be established or resolved by collaboration between NERC and ReliabilityFirst and, where applicable, other Regional Entities, to the maximum extent possible, consistent with the construct that NERC and the Regional Entities are operating together in a collaborative manner to carry out the responsibilities of the ERO under Section 215 of the Act and the ERO Regulations.

(a) (i) NERC shall develop, in collaboration with ReliabilityFirst and other Regional Entities, performance goals, measures and other parameters (including, without limiting the scope of such goals, measures and parameters, financial performance goals, measures and parameters), and performance reports, which shall be used to measure NERC's and ReliabilityFirst's performance of their respective functions and related activities. The performance goals, measures and parameters and the form of performance reports shall be approved by the NERC President and shall be made public. ReliabilityFirst shall provide data, information and reports to NERC, in accordance with established schedules, to enable NERC to calculate ReliabilityFirst's performance to the agreed-upon goals, measures and parameters.

(ii) NERC shall use the performance goals, measures and parameters and performance reports to evaluate ReliabilityFirst's performance of its delegated functions and related activities and to provide advice and direction to ReliabilityFirst on performance improvements. The performance goals, measures and other parameters and the values of such goals, measures and parameters, shall be reviewed by NERC, ReliabilityFirst and the other Regional Entities, revised if appropriate, and made public, on the same timeline as the annual business planning and budgeting process described in Section 9 of this Agreement.

(iii) At the request of the President of NERC, ReliabilityFirst shall be required to develop, submit for NERC approval, and implement action plans to address areas of its performance that are reasonably determined by NERC, based on analysis of ReliabilityFirst's performance against the performance goals, measures and parameters, or performance of specific activities, to be unsatisfactory, *provided*, that prior to requiring ReliabilityFirst to adopt and implement an action plan or other remedial action, NERC shall issue a notice to ReliabilityFirst of the need and basis for an action plan or other remedial action and provide an opportunity for ReliabilityFirst to submit a written response contesting NERC's evaluation of ReliabilityFirst's performance and the need for an action plan. ReliabilityFirst may request that the President of NERC reconsider the request, and thereafter may request that the NERC Board review and reconsider the request. NERC and ReliabilityFirst shall work collaboratively as needed in the development and implementation of ReliabilityFirst's action plan. A final action plan submitted by ReliabilityFirst to NERC shall be made public unless the President of NERC makes a written determination that the action plan or specific portions of the plan should be maintained as non-public.

(b) NERC shall make available to ReliabilityFirst standardized training and education programs, which shall be designed taking into account input from ReliabilityFirst and other Regional Entities, for ReliabilityFirst personnel on topics relating to the delegated functions and related activities.

(c) (i) NERC may issue directives to ReliabilityFirst concerning the manner in which ReliabilityFirst shall perform its delegated functions and related activities under this Agreement. The NERC Rules of Procedure, or any other ERO Rule requiring approval of the Commission, shall not be considered “directives.” NERC shall initiate the development of a directive through a collaborative process with ReliabilityFirst and, if applicable, other Regional Entities to which the directive will apply. Any directive developed through the collaborative process shall be approved by, and issued under the signature of, the NERC President.

(ii) If after a period of time that is reasonable under the circumstances, NERC and ReliabilityFirst and, if applicable, other Regional Entities are unable to reach agreement on the contents of the directive, NERC may issue the directive with the approval of and under the signature of the NERC President; *provided*, that before the NERC President issues a directive pursuant to this paragraph (ii), ReliabilityFirst and, if applicable, other Regional Entities, shall be given a reasonable opportunity to present their positions on, and a suggested alternative version or versions of, the proposed directive to the NERC President.

(iii) Upon issuance of a directive by the NERC President, it shall be binding upon, and shall be complied with by, ReliabilityFirst, subject to reasonable time periods for adoption, implementation, and funding of any necessary resources. Upon request by ReliabilityFirst, the NERC Board (or a committee of the Board to which the Board delegates appropriate authority) shall review and shall confirm, revise or revoke any directive that was issued by the NERC President without ReliabilityFirst’s agreement, *provided*, that ReliabilityFirst shall request such review within thirty (30) days following issuance of the directive by the NERC President unless good cause can be shown for a later request.

(iv) NERC and ReliabilityFirst and, if applicable, other Regional Entities, shall collaborate in deciding whether a directive (whether issued pursuant to paragraph (ii) or paragraph (iii)) shall be made public. If no agreement is reached by the date of issuance as to whether the directive shall be made public, the NERC President shall decide whether the directive will be made public, *provided*, that is the intent of the Parties that the NERC President

shall apply a presumption that directives should be made public, unless the NERC President makes a written determination stating a specific reason for maintaining a particular directive as non-public.

(d) In addition to the issuance of directives pursuant to subsection (c), the NERC Board (or a Board committee to which the Board has delegated authority) may issue guidance or directions as to the manner in which ReliabilityFirst, and, if applicable, other Regional Entities, shall perform delegated functions and related activities. The Board or Board committee shall also establish reasonable time periods for the implementation of any such guidance or directions, taking into account the impact on the reliability of the Bulk-Power System and the need for funding of additional resources. Any such guidance or directions shall be stated in writing and shall be public, unless the Board or Board committee makes a written determination stating a specific reason for maintaining particular guidance or directions as non-public. ReliabilityFirst, either individually or in conjunction with other Regional Entities, may request that the NERC Board or Board committee reconsider or revise the guidance or direction.

(e) NERC shall conduct collaborative reviews with ReliabilityFirst, either individually or in conjunction with one or more other Regional Entities, that provide for the exchange of information on practices, experiences, and lessons learned in the implementation of the delegated functions.

(f) Any audits of ReliabilityFirst performed by NERC shall be limited to an examination of ReliabilityFirst's compliance with this Agreement, NERC's Rules of Procedure, the Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program, Commission requirements, and directives that are in effect pursuant to Section 8(c).

(g) The Commission and the Commission staff shall have full access to action plans and remedial actions, directives, and directions and guidance issued pursuant to subsections (a)(iii), (c)(iv) and (d), respectively, that are maintained as non-public.

9. Funding. ReliabilityFirst and NERC shall ensure, subject to Commission approval in accordance with the ERO Regulations, that the delegated functions and related activities described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 and listed on **Exhibit E** have reasonable and adequate funding and resources by undertaking the following:

(a) ReliabilityFirst shall develop, through a collaborative process with NERC, and propose, an annual business plan and budget, in accordance with ERO Regulations, Commission orders and NERC business planning and budgeting policies and instructions. ReliabilityFirst's proposed business plan and budget shall describe the activities necessary for, and provide a budget with adequate resources for, ReliabilityFirst to carry out its Delegated Authority under this Agreement, including the functions and activities described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 and listed on **Exhibit E**. ReliabilityFirst's business plan and budget shall show the funding sources and amounts to fund the proposed budget, including as applicable assessments to end users, penalty monies, and other sources of funds.

(b) ReliabilityFirst and NERC agree that the portion of ReliabilityFirst's approved budget for the functions and activities described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 and listed on **Exhibit E** that is to be funded by assessments, will be equitably allocated among end users within the geographic boundaries described in **Exhibit A** and recovered through a formula based on Net Energy for Load, or through such other formula as is proposed by ReliabilityFirst and approved by NERC and the Commission. If ReliabilityFirst proposes to use a formula other than Net Energy for Load beginning in the following year, ReliabilityFirst shall submit the proposed formula to NERC in sufficient time that NERC may review and approve the proposed formula and file it with the Commission by May 15 for approval, and the proposed formula shall be effective for the following year if approved by the Commission on or before the date the Commission approves the annual business plan and budget submitted by NERC and ReliabilityFirst to the Commission pursuant to the ERO Regulations for such year.

(c) NERC shall determine that the assessments to fund the costs for its statutory functions in its Commission-approved budget are first allocated fairly among the Interconnections and regions according to the applicability of this work to those Interconnections and regions, and then equitably among the end users of the applicable interconnections and regions as appropriate. Allocation on a Net Energy for Load basis will be presumed to satisfy this equity requirement.

(d) NERC shall provide ReliabilityFirst with the form or forms for business plan and budget submittal, and any accompanying instructions, in accordance with the schedule for preparation of the business plan and budget developed by NERC and the Regional Entities.

(e) ReliabilityFirst shall submit its proposed annual business plan and budget for carrying out its Delegated Authority functions and related activities described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 and listed on Exhibit E, as well as for all other activities of ReliabilityFirst, to NERC for review and approval in accordance with the annual schedule for the preparation of business plans and budgets which shall be developed collaboratively by NERC and the Regional Entities, as more fully described in **Exhibit E**.

(f) NERC shall fund ReliabilityFirst's performance of its Delegated Authority and related activities in accordance with ReliabilityFirst's Commission-approved business plan and budget, in the amount of ReliabilityFirst's assessments to end users approved by the Commission. **Exhibit E** sets forth the procedures and timing for billing and collecting ReliabilityFirst's approved assessments from end users and other entities and payment of the approved assessment amount to ReliabilityFirst, unless otherwise modified and approved by NERC and the Commission. NERC shall not impose any material obligation or requirement regarding the Delegated Authority upon ReliabilityFirst that has not been provided for in an approved business plan and budget or an approved amended or supplemental business plan and budget, without ReliabilityFirst's consent.

(g) NERC shall develop, in consultation with the Regional Entities, a reasonable and consistent system of accounts, with a level of detail and record keeping comparable to the Commission's Uniform System of Accounts and sufficient to allow the Commission to compare each Commission-approved NERC and ReliabilityFirst fiscal year budget with the actual results at the NERC and Regional Entity levels. ReliabilityFirst shall follow NERC's prescribed system of accounts except to the extent that NERC permits a departure from the prescribed system of accounts. NERC shall make an informational filing with the Commission describing any such waiver it permits and providing an explanation supporting the permitted departure.

(h) ReliabilityFirst shall submit unaudited quarterly interim financial statements in form provided by NERC no later than 20 days after the end of the fiscal quarter (March 31, June 30, September 30, and December 31).

(i) ReliabilityFirst shall submit audited financial statements annually, including supporting materials, in a form provided by NERC no later than May 1 of the following year.

(j) **Exhibit E** to this Agreement sets forth the mechanism through which ReliabilityFirst shall offset penalty monies it receives (other than penalty monies received from

an operational function or division or affiliated entity of ReliabilityFirst) against its next year's annual budget for carrying out functions under this Agreement, and the mechanism by which ReliabilityFirst shall transmit to NERC any penalty monies received from an operational function or division or affiliated entity of ReliabilityFirst . *Provided*, that, subject to approval by NERC and the Commission, ReliabilityFirst may propose and implement an alternative use of penalty monies to that set forth in **Exhibit E**.

10. Assignment. This Agreement may be assigned by either Party only with the prior written consent of the other, which consent shall be granted or withheld in such non-assigning Party's sole discretion, subject to approval by the Commission. Any assignment under this Agreement shall not relieve a Party of its obligations, nor shall a Party's obligations be enlarged, in whole or in part, by reason thereof. ReliabilityFirst may not delegate in whole or in part its Delegated Authority to any other entity without NERC's express consent; provided, however, that nothing in this provision shall prohibit ReliabilityFirst from contracting with other entities to assist it in carrying out its Delegated Authority, provided ReliabilityFirst retains control and responsibility for such Delegated Authority.

11. Default and Cure. Upon a Breach, the non-breaching Party shall give written notice of such Breach to the breaching Party (the "Default Notice"). Subject to a suspension of the following deadlines as specified below, the breaching Party shall have thirty (30) calendar days from receipt of the Default Notice within which to cure such Breach; *provided however*, that if such Breach is not capable of cure within thirty (30) calendar days, the breaching Party shall commence such cure within thirty (30) calendar days after notice and continuously and diligently complete such cure within ninety (90) calendar days from receipt of the Default Notice; and, if cured within such time, the Breach specified in such notice shall cease to exist. Subject to the limitation specified in the following sentence, if a Breach is not cured as provided in this Section 11, or if a Breach is not capable of being cured within the period provided for herein, the nonbreaching Party shall have the right to declare a default and terminate this Agreement by written notice at any time until cure occurs, and be relieved of any further obligation hereunder. The deadlines for cure and the right to declare a default and terminate this Agreement shall be suspended during the pendency of any efforts or proceedings in accordance

with Section 18 of this Agreement to resolve a dispute as to whether a Breach has occurred or been cured. The provisions of this Section 11 will survive termination of this Agreement.

12. Term and Termination.

(a) This Agreement shall become effective on January 1, 2011 (the “Effective Date”).

(b) The term of the Agreement shall be five (5) years from the Effective Date, prior to which time NERC shall conduct an audit pursuant to subsection 6(i) to ensure that ReliabilityFirst continues to meet all applicable statutory and regulatory requirements necessary to maintain its eligibility for delegation. If ReliabilityFirst meets such requirements, this Agreement may be renewed for another five (5) year term. This Agreement may be renewed for successive additional five (5) year renewal terms provided that prior to the end of each renewal term, NERC shall conduct an audit pursuant to subsection 6(i) to ensure that ReliabilityFirst continues to meet all applicable statutory and regulatory requirements necessary to maintain its eligibility for delegation. Provided, that either Party may terminate this Agreement as of the end of a term by giving written notice to terminate at least one (1) year prior to the end of the term. If this Agreement is not renewed or becomes subject to termination for any reason, the Parties shall work to provide for a transition of ReliabilityFirst’s Delegated Authority to NERC or to another eligible entity and to provide for the resolution of any wind-up costs associated with termination of this Agreement. The termination of this Agreement shall not take effect until such transition has been effected, unless the transition period exceeds one year, at which time ReliabilityFirst may unilaterally terminate.

(c) If any provision of this Agreement, or the application thereof to any person, entity or circumstance, is held by a court or regulatory authority of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, void, or unenforceable, or if a modification or condition to this Agreement is imposed by a regulatory authority exercising jurisdiction over this Agreement, the Parties shall endeavor in good faith to negotiate such amendment or amendments to this Agreement as will restore the relative benefits and obligations of the signatories under this Agreement immediately prior to such holding, modification or condition. If either Party finds such holding, modification or condition unacceptable and the Parties are unable to renegotiate a mutually acceptable resolution, either Party may unilaterally terminate this Agreement. Such termination shall be

effective one year following written notice by either Party to the other Party and to the Commission, or at such other time as may be mutually agreed by ReliabilityFirst and NERC.

(d) Notwithstanding any termination of this Agreement, provisions contained in Limitation of Liability (Section 13), No Third Party Beneficiaries (Section 14) and Confidentiality (Section 15) shall survive this Agreement in accordance with their terms until sixty (60) days following the expiration of any applicable statute of limitations.

13. Limitation of Liability. ReliabilityFirst and NERC agree not to sue each other or their directors, officers, employees, and persons serving on their committees and subgroups based on any act or omission of any of the foregoing in the performance of duties pursuant to this Agreement or in conducting activities under the authority of Section 215 of the Act, other than seeking a review of such action or inaction by the Commission. NERC and ReliabilityFirst shall not be liable to one another for any damages whatsoever, including without limitation, direct, indirect, incidental, special, multiple, consequential (including attorneys' fees and litigation costs), exemplary, or punitive damages arising out of or resulting from any act or omission associated with the performance of the ReliabilityFirst's or NERC's responsibilities under this Agreement or in conducting activities under the authority of Section 215 of the Act, except to the extent that the ReliabilityFirst or NERC is found liable for gross negligence or intentional misconduct, in which case ReliabilityFirst or NERC shall not be liable for any indirect, incidental, special, multiple, consequential (including without limitation attorneys' fees and litigation costs), exemplary, or punitive damages.

14. No Third Party Beneficiaries. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to create any duty to, any standard of care with reference to, or any liability to, any third party.

15. Confidentiality. During the course of the Parties' performance under this Agreement, a Party may receive Confidential Information, as defined in Section 1500 of NERC's Rules of Procedure. Except as set forth herein, the Parties agree to keep in confidence and not to copy, disclose, or distribute any Confidential Information or any part thereof, without the prior written permission of the issuing Party, unless disclosure is required by subpoena, law, or other

directive of a court, administrative agency, or arbitration panel, in which event the recipient hereby agrees to provide the Party that provided the Confidential Information with prompt notice of such request or requirement in order to enable such issuing Party to (a) seek an appropriate protective order or other remedy, (b) consult with the recipient with respect to taking steps to resist or narrow the scope of such request or legal process, or (c) waive compliance, in whole or in part, with the terms of this Section. In the event a protective order or other remedy is not obtained or the issuing Party waives compliance with the provisions, the recipient agrees to furnish only that portion of the Confidential Information which the recipient's counsel advises is legally required and to exercise best efforts to obtain assurance that confidential treatment will be accorded to such Confidential Information. In addition, each Party shall ensure that its officers, trustees, directors, employees, subcontractors and subcontractors' employees, and agents to whom Confidential Information is exposed are under obligations of confidentiality that are at least as restrictive as those contained herein. This confidentiality provision does not prohibit reporting and disclosure as directed by NERC, as set forth in Section 6 of this Agreement.

16. Amendment. Neither this Agreement nor any of the terms hereof, may be amended unless such amendment is made in writing, signed by the Parties, and filed with and approved by the Commission.

17. Amendments to the NERC Rules of Procedure. NERC shall not adopt amendments to the NERC Rules of Procedure that conflict with the rights, obligations, or programs of ReliabilityFirst under this Agreement without first obtaining the consent of ReliabilityFirst, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed. To the extent ReliabilityFirst does not consent, NERC shall have the right to invoke the dispute resolution provisions of Section 18 and, if such effort fails to resolve the dispute, to petition the Commission to adopt the amendment to the NERC Rules of Procedure. To the extent that the Commission issues an order amending or materially affecting the rights or obligations of ReliabilityFirst under this Agreement, ReliabilityFirst shall have the option, exercisable no later than 60 days after issuance of such order, to terminate this Agreement. Such termination shall be effective one

year following written notice by ReliabilityFirst to NERC and the Commission, or at such other time as may be mutually agreed by ReliabilityFirst and NERC.

18. Dispute Resolution. In the event a dispute arises under this Agreement between NERC and ReliabilityFirst (including disputes relating to NERC's performance of its obligations under this Agreement and/or disputes relating to ReliabilityFirst's performance of its obligations under this Agreement) which cannot be resolved through discussions between representatives of the Parties in the normal course of operations, the Parties shall use the following procedures ("Dispute Resolution") to attempt to resolve the dispute. ReliabilityFirst shall not suspend performance of any delegated function, and the Parties shall continue to make reasonable, good faith efforts to comply with their obligations under this Agreement, during the pendency of Dispute Resolution. All notices required to be sent pursuant to this Dispute Resolution procedure shall be sent in accordance with Section 19 of this Agreement. This Dispute Resolution procedure is separate from and in addition to all other processes provided for in this Agreement.

(a) The Party invoking Dispute Resolution shall send a notice to the other Party describing the dispute, stating the invoking Party's position with respect to the dispute, stating that the Party is invoking Dispute Resolution, and naming the Party's designated representative for negotiating a resolution of the dispute. The designated representative shall have authority to resolve the dispute on behalf of the invoking Party.

(b) Within three (3) business days after receipt of the notice invoking Dispute Resolution, the receiving Party shall send a notice to the invoking Party acknowledging receipt of the notice invoking Dispute Resolution, stating the receiving Party's position with respect to the dispute, and naming the Party's designated representative for negotiating a resolution of the dispute. The designated representative shall have authority to resolve the dispute on behalf of the receiving Party.

(c) During the period commencing three (3) business days and ending twenty (20) business days after the date of the receiving Party's notice, the designated representatives shall engage in good faith negotiations to attempt to resolve the dispute, *provided*, that the designated representatives may agree prior to the end of such twenty (20) business day period that the process should move to the next step of Dispute Resolution.

(d) If the designated representatives are unable to arrive at a resolution of the dispute by the end of the time period described in subsection (c), they shall notify the chief executive officers of their respective Parties. The chief executive officers of the Parties shall thereafter engage in good faith negotiations to attempt to resolve the dispute during the period of twenty (20) business days immediately following the time period described in subsection (c), *provided*, that the chief executive officers may agree prior to the end of such twenty (20) business day period that negotiations are at impasse and the process may move to the next step as described in subsection (f). Upon mutual agreement of the Parties, the twenty (20) business day period may be extended to pursue ongoing good faith negotiations.

(e) If a resolution of the dispute is achieved by the Parties, it shall be memorialized in a writing that is acceptable in form and substance to each party and is signed by the designated representative or chief executive officer on behalf of each Party.

(f) If the Parties are unable to resolve the dispute pursuant to the process described in subsections (a) through (e), then either Party may invoke any other available dispute resolution mechanism, including, without limitation, filing a complaint or petition with the Commission requesting resolution of the dispute by the Commission, or filing a complaint for relief in a court having jurisdiction over Parties and the subject matter of the dispute in accordance with Section 20. *Provided, however*, that: (i) it is the intent of the Parties that unresolved disputes shall be presented to and resolved by the Commission if the Commission has and accepts jurisdiction over the subject matter of the dispute, (ii) the Parties may, by mutual agreement, attempt to resolve the dispute through arbitration, mediation, or other process involving resort to an impartial neutral, and (iii) it is the intent of the Parties that resolution of disputes through Commission proceedings, arbitration, mediation, or other use of an impartial neutral, is preferred over resort to judicial proceedings.

(g) This Section 18 shall not apply to compliance enforcement actions against individual Registered Entities.

19. Notice. Whether expressly so stated or not, all notices, demands, requests, and other communications required or permitted by or provided for in this Agreement shall be given in writing to a Party at the address set forth below, or at such other address as a Party shall

designate for itself in writing in accordance with this Section, and shall be delivered by hand or reputable overnight courier:

If to NERC:

North American Electric
Reliability Corporation
116-390 Village Blvd.
Princeton, NJ 08540-5721
Attn: General Counsel
Facsimile: (609) 452-9550

If to ReliabilityFirst:

ReliabilityFirst Corporation
320 Springside Drive
Suite 300
Akron, OH 44333
Attn: Timothy Gallagher, President
Facsimile: (330) 456-3648

20. Governing Law. When not in conflict with or preempted by federal law, this Agreement will be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of New Jersey without giving effect to the conflict of law principles thereof. The Parties recognize and agree not to contest the exclusive or primary jurisdiction of the Commission to interpret and apply this Agreement; provided however that if the Commission declines to exercise or is precluded from exercising jurisdiction of any action arising out of or concerning this Agreement, such action shall be brought in any state or federal court of competent jurisdiction in New Jersey. All Parties hereby consent to the jurisdiction of any state or federal court of competent jurisdiction in New Jersey for the purpose of hearing and determining any action not heard and determined by the Commission.

21. Headings. The headings and captions in this Agreement are for convenience of reference only and shall not define, limit, or otherwise affect any of the terms or provisions hereof.

22. Savings Clause. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to preempt or limit any authority that ReliabilityFirst may have to adopt reliability requirements or take other actions to maintain reliability of the Bulk-Power System within the geographic boundaries described in **Exhibit A** that are outside the Delegated Authority, as long as such reliability requirements and actions are not inconsistent with Reliability Standards applicable to the region described in **Exhibit A** and do not result in a lessening of reliability outside the region described in **Exhibit A**.

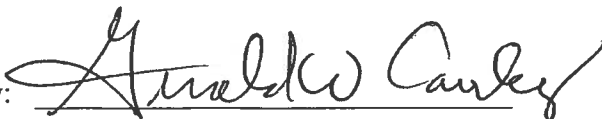
23. **Entire Agreement.** This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement, and supersedes all prior agreements and understandings, both written and oral, among the parties with respect to the subject matter of this Agreement.

24. **Execution of Counterparts.** This Agreement may be executed in counterparts and each shall have the same force and effect as the original.

NOW THEREFORE, the parties have caused this Agreement to be executed by its duly authorized representatives, effective as of the Effective Date.

NORTH AMERICAN
ELECTRIC RELIABILITY CORPORATION

RELIABILITYFIRST
CORPORATION

By: 

By: Timothy R Gallagher

Name: GERALD W CAULEY

Name: Frank Malkin

Title: PRESIDENT + CEO

Title: CEO

Date: 10/7/2011

Date: 10/7/11

Exhibit A - Boundaries of Delegation Agreement

The Boundaries of **ReliabilityFirst** Corporation (**ReliabilityFirst**) are defined by the service territories of Load Serving Entities (LSEs) and include all of New Jersey, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Maryland, District of Columbia, West Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, Lower Michigan and portions of Upper Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee and Virginia as shown on the map below. In addition, transmission systems and generation within the metered boundaries of the LSEs are within **ReliabilityFirst** even if outside the respective service territories shown. The area is electrically contiguous.

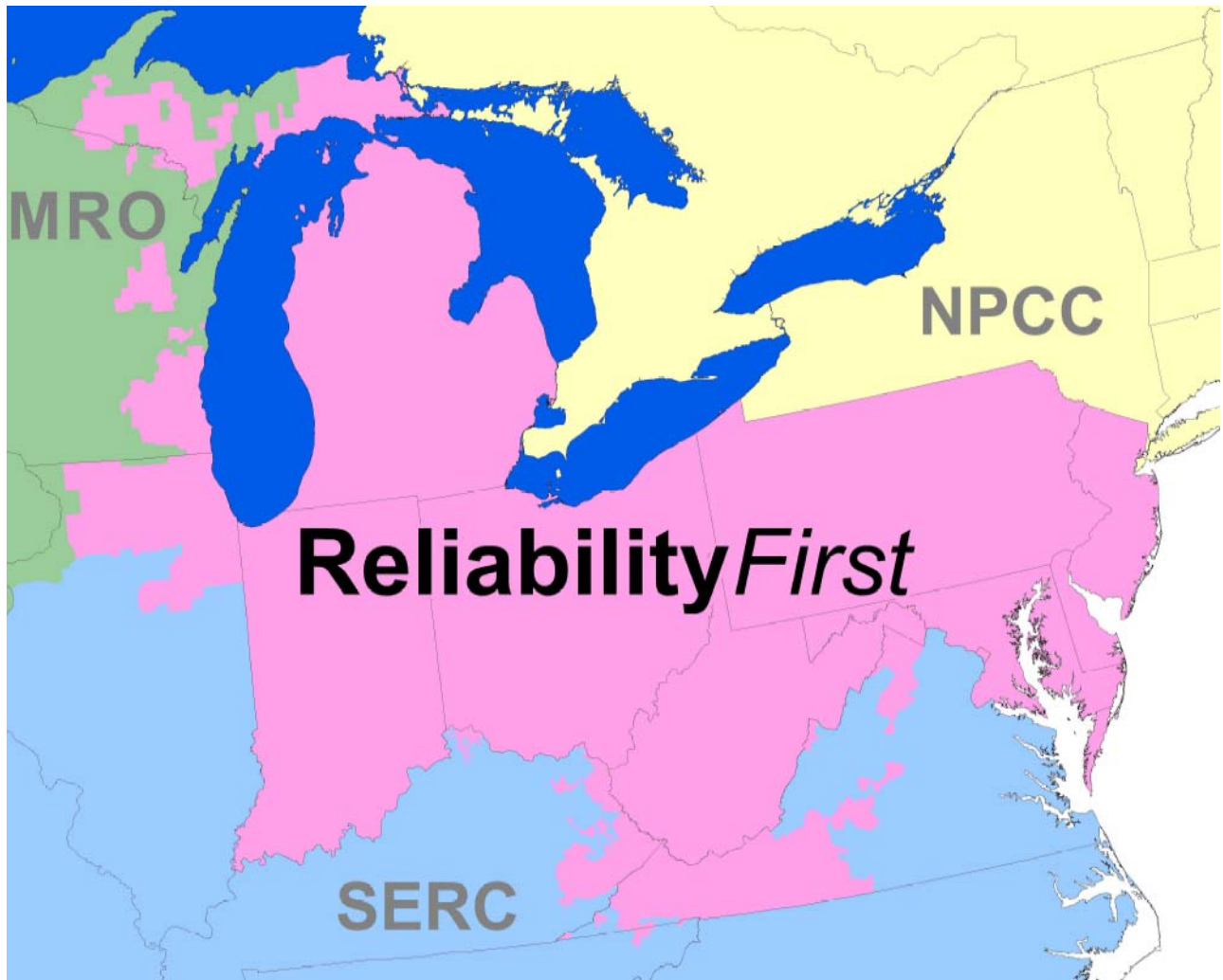


Exhibit B – Governance

Exhibit B shall set forth the Regional Entity’s bylaws, which, along with portions of the Standards Development Process as set out in Exhibit C, NERC agrees demonstrate that the Regional Entity meets the following criteria:

CRITERION 1: The Regional Entity shall be governed by an independent board, a balanced stakeholder board, or a combination independent and balanced stakeholder board. (Federal Power Act § 215(e)(4)(A), 18 C.F.R. § 39.8(c)(1), Order No. 672 at ¶ 727.)

CRITERION 2: The Regional Entity has established rules that assure its independence of the users and owners and operators of the bulk power system, while assuring fair stakeholder representation in the selection of its directors. Federal Power Act § 215(c)(2)(A) and (e)(4), 18 C.F.R. § 39.8(c)(2), Order No. 672 at ¶¶ 699, 700.)

CRITERION 3: If the Regional Entity has members, the Regional Entity has established rules that assure that its membership is open, that it charges no more than a nominal membership fee and agrees to waive the fee for good cause shown, and that membership is not a condition for participating in the development of or voting on proposed Regional Reliability Standards. (Federal Power Act § 215(c)(2)(A) and (e)(4), 18 C.F.R. § 39.8(c)(2), Order No. 672 at ¶¶ 170-173.)

CRITERION 4: The Regional Entity has established rules that assure balance in its decision-making committees and subordinate organizational structures and assure no two industry sectors can control any action and no one industry sector can veto any action. (Federal Power Act § 215(c)(2)(A) and (e)(4), 18 C.F.R. § 39.8(c)(2), Order No. 672 at ¶ 728.)

CRITERION 5: The Regional Entity has established rules that provide reasonable notice and opportunity for public comment, due process, openness, and balance of interests in exercising its duties. (Federal Power Act § 215(c)(2)(D) and (e)(4), 18 C.F.R. § 39.8(c)(2).)



AMENDED AND RESTATED BYLAWS

OF

Reliability*First* Corporation

a Delaware nonprofit corporation

Adopted December 19, 2006

Amended September 21, 2007¹

Amended December 6, 2007²

Amended May 22, 2008³

Amended December 4, 2008⁴

Amended December 1, 2011⁵

¹ Section 5.9.2

² Sections 1.2, 1.26, 16.1

³ Sections 1.12, 7.13, 7.14

⁴ Sections 5.8, 6.8, 6.9, 6.10.2, 6.10.4, 7.4, 7.5, 7.7, 7.9, 7.11, 7.13

⁵ Sections 1.24, 2.2, 6.8, 7.4, 7.7

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**AMENDED AND RESTATED
BYLAWS OF
ReliabilityFirst Corporation
a Delaware nonprofit corporation
(the “Corporation”)**

[As adopted by the Members on December 19, 2006,
amended by the Board of Directors on September 21, 2007,
amended by the Members on December 6, 2007,
amended by the Board of Directors on May 22, 2008,
amended by the Members on December 4, 2008,
and amended by the Members on December 1, 2011]

ARTICLE I.
DEFINITIONS

Section 1.1. Act. “Act” shall mean Section 215 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. §824n).

Section 1.2. Adjunct Member. “Adjunct Member” shall mean any entity that does not qualify to join an Industry Sector but has been approved for membership. Adjunct Members may include Regulatory Participants.

Section 1.3. Affiliate. “Affiliate” shall mean, with respect to any entity, any other entity that, directly or indirectly, through one or more intermediaries, controls, or is controlled by, or is under common control with, such entity, as determined in the sole discretion of the Board of the Corporation. For this purpose, “control” may be presumed by the direct or indirect ownership of ten percent (10%) or more of the outstanding voting capital stock or other equity interests having ordinary voting power.

Section 1.4. Associate Member. “Associate Member” shall mean any entity that has joined an Industry Sector and is an Affiliate or Related Party of a Regular Member.

Section 1.5. Board. “Board” shall mean the Board of Directors of the Corporation.

Section 1.6. Bulk Power System. “Bulk Power System” shall mean facilities and control systems necessary for operating an interconnected electric energy transmission network (or any portion thereof) and electric energy from generation facilities needed to maintain transmission system reliability, but does not include facilities used in the local distribution of electricity.

Section 1.7. Certificate of Incorporation. “Certificate of Incorporation” shall mean the Certificate of Incorporation of the Corporation filed with the Delaware Secretary of State, as from time to time amended.

Section 1.8. Commission. “Commission” shall mean the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Section 1.9. Delegation Agreement. “Delegation Agreement” shall mean the delegation agreement, as supplemented or amended from time to time, between NERC and the Corporation pursuant to which NERC has delegated its authority to the Corporation to propose and enforce Reliability Standards within the Region.

Section 1.10. Electronic Transmission. “Electronic transmission” shall mean any form of communication, not directly involving the physical transmission of paper, that creates a record that may be retained, retrieved and reviewed by a recipient thereof, and that may be directly reproduced in paper form by such a recipient through an automated process.

Section 1.11. ERO. “ERO” shall mean the electric reliability organization established under the Act to enforce Reliability Standards applicable to all owners, operators and users of the Bulk Power System in North America.

Section 1.12. Hearing Body. “Hearing Body” shall mean a group established with authority to conduct and render decisions in a formal compliance hearing of an entity registered in the NERC compliance registry who is the subject of a notice of alleged violation, proposed penalty or sanction, contested mitigation plan or contested remedial action directive.

Section 1.13. Industry Sector. “Industry Sector” shall mean a group of Bulk Power System owners, operators or users in the Region with substantially similar interests as pertinent to the purposes and operations of the Corporation of the Bulk Power System. The Industry Sectors shall consist of the following: (1) Suppliers, (2) Transmission Companies, (3) RTOs, (4) Small LSEs, (5) Medium LSEs, and (6) Large LSEs.

Section 1.14. Large LSEs. “Large LSEs” shall mean entities that serve, or whose Related Parties serve, end use load with annual energy delivery to such load in the Region of 50,000 GWh or greater.

Section 1.15. Medium LSEs. “Medium LSEs” shall mean entities that serve, or whose Related Parties serve, end use load with annual energy delivery to such load in the Region between 10,000 GWh and 50,000 GWh.

Section 1.16. Members. “Members” shall mean Regular Members, Associate Members and Adjunct Members.

Section 1.17. NERC. “NERC” shall mean the North American Electric Reliability Corporation, or any successor entity, which has been certified by the Commission as the ERO pursuant to the Act to establish and enforce Reliability Standards for the Bulk Power System.

Section 1.18. NERC Rules. “NERC Rules” shall mean the NERC Rules of Procedure as approved by the Commission.

Section 1.19. Net Energy for Load. “Net Energy for Load” shall mean net generation of an electric system plus energy received from others less energy delivered to others through interchange. It includes system losses, but excludes energy required for storage of energy at energy storage facilities. Calculations of net energy for load for all purposes under these Bylaws shall be based on the most recent calendar year for which data on net energy for load of the Region is available.

Section 1.20. Person. “Person” shall mean a natural person, corporation, cooperative, partnership, association, or other private or public entity.

Section 1.21. Region. “Region” shall mean the geographic boundaries of the Corporation described in the Delegation Agreement.

Section 1.22. Regional Entity. “Regional Entity” shall mean any entity with which NERC has entered into a delegation agreement to delegate, or which the Commission or a governmental authority in Canada or Mexico has directly assigned, enforcement authority for reliability standards for the Bulk Power System in a defined geographic area of North America.

Section 1.23. Regional Variance. “Regional Variance” shall mean an aspect of a Reliability Standard that applies only within a particular Regional Entity or group of Regional Entities. A Regional Variance may be used to qualify how a particular Regional Entity or Regional Entities achieves the objectives of a Reliability Standard or may establish different measures or performance criteria as necessary to achieve reliability within the particular Regional Entity or group of Regional Entities. A Regional Variance may not be inconsistent with any Reliability Standard as it would otherwise exist without the Regional Variance. Such a Regional Variance may be proposed by a Regional Entity and, if adopted by NERC and approved by the Commission, shall be enforced within the applicable Regional Entity or Regional Entities pursuant to delegated authority.

Section 1.24. Regional Reliability Standard. “Regional Reliability Standard” shall mean a type of Reliability Standard that is applicable only within a particular Regional Entity or group of Regional Entities. A Regional Reliability Standard may augment, add detail to, or implement another Reliability Standard or cover matters not addressed by other Reliability Standards. A Regional Reliability Standard is not binding upon any Member or Registered Entity, nor is it effective or enforceable, until the Regional Reliability Standard has been adopted by NERC and approved by the Commission as a Reliability Standard within the applicable Regional Entity or Regional Entities pursuant to delegated authorities.

Section 1.25. Regular Member. “Regular Member” shall mean any entity that has joined an Industry Sector that either (i) has no Affiliates or Related Parties that are

Members or (ii) is the entity designated to be the Regular Member by any related group of Associate Members.

Section 1.26. Regulatory Participant. “Regulatory Participant” shall mean any state, District of Columbia or any provincial regulatory agency in the Region exercising authority over the rates, terms or conditions of electric service of an entity other than itself within the Region, or the planning, siting, construction or operation of electric facilities of an entity other than itself within the Region, as well as the Commission, regional advisory bodies that may be established by the Commission, or any federal regulator or agency or any entity authorized by any state, the District of Columbia or any province to represent utility consumers.

Section 1.27. Related Party. “Related Party” shall mean, solely for purposes of the governance provisions of these Bylaws, any entity that is registered as part of another entity or is registered for other entities in the NERC Compliance Registry. For purposes of these Bylaws, a representative of a state or federal government agency shall not be deemed a Related Party with respect to each other, and a public body’s regulatory authority, if any, over a Member shall not be deemed to make it a Related Party with respect to that Member.

Section 1.28. Reliability Coordinator. “Reliability Coordinator” shall mean any entity that is recognized as a reliability coordinator by NERC in the Region that does not otherwise qualify as a Transmission Company or RTO.

Section 1.29. Reliability Standard. “Reliability Standard” shall mean a requirement to provide for Reliable Operation of the Bulk Power System, including, without limitation, the foregoing requirements for the operation of existing Bulk Power System facilities, including cyber security protection, and the design of planned additions or modifications to such facilities to the extent necessary for reliable operation of the Bulk Power System, but shall not include any requirement to enlarge Bulk Power System facilities or to construct new transmission capacity or generation capacity.

Section 1.30. Reliable Operation. “Reliable Operation” shall mean operating the elements of the Bulk Power System within equipment and electric system thermal, voltage and stability limits so that instability, uncontrolled separation, or cascading failure of the Bulk Power System will not occur as a result of a sudden disturbance, including a cyber security incident, or unanticipated failure of system elements.

Section 1.31. RTOs. “RTOs” shall mean PJM Interconnection L.L.C. and Midwest Independent Transmission System Operator, Inc., or such other entity that has been recognized by the Commission as a regional transmission operator or recognized functional equivalent in the Region.

Section 1.32. Small LSEs. “Small LSEs” shall mean (i) owners or operators of entities (or their representatives) that serve, or whose Related Parties serve, end use load with annual energy delivery to such load in the Region of 10,000 GWh or less, and

(ii) end-use customers interconnected with the Bulk Power System with load of at least 100 MW at one location in the Region.

Section 1.33. Suppliers. “Suppliers” shall mean owners or operators of electric generation connected to the transmission system and wholesale power marketers in the Region.

Section 1.34. Transmission Companies. “Transmission companies” shall mean (i) owners (or those with ownership entitlement), planners and operators of transmission facilities included in the Bulk Power System in the Region and (ii) Reliability Coordinators.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE AND ACTIVITIES

Section 2.1. Purpose. The business or purposes to be conducted or promoted by the Corporation are:

- (a) to be a Regional Entity and exercise enforcement authority for Reliability Standards for the Bulk Power System in the Region pursuant to the Delegation Agreement;
- (b) to carry out certain of NERC’s activities that are in furtherance of NERC’s responsibilities as the ERO under the Act or in support of delegated functions, as specified in the NERC Rules or the Delegation Agreement; and
- (c) to engage in any other lawful act or activity for which not for profit corporations may be organized under the Delaware General Corporation Law.

The Corporation shall be exempt from federal income taxation pursuant to Section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (hereinafter the “Code”) as an organization described in Section 501(c)(6) of the Code. The Corporation shall not engage directly or indirectly in any activity which would invalidate its status as an organization exempt from taxation under Section 501(a) of the Code as an organization described in Section 501(c)(6) of the Code. No part of the net income to the Corporation shall inure to the benefit of or be distributed to its directors, officers, members or other private persons, except that the Corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services actually rendered.

Section 2.2. Activities. In support and furtherance of its purpose, and in accordance with and at all times subject to the NERC Rules and the Delegation Agreement, the Corporation’s responsibilities shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- (a) Reliability Standards. The Corporation shall:

(1) propose Reliability Standards, Regional Variances or modifications thereof to NERC; and

(2) develop Regional Reliability Standards through the Corporation's standards development procedure.

(b) Enforcement. The Corporation shall enforce Reliability Standards (including Regional Variances) within the Region through the Corporation's compliance enforcement program.

(c) Delegation-Related Services. The Corporation, on behalf of NERC, shall carry out certain of NERC's activities that are in furtherance of NERC's responsibilities as the ERO under the Act or in support of delegated functions, including:

(1) Organization registration and certification.

(2) Reliability readiness audit and improvement.

(3) Reliability assessment and performance analysis.

(4) Training and education.

(5) Situational awareness and infrastructure security.

(d) Budget. The Corporation shall prepare and submit a budget to NERC for the amount of costs the Corporation will incur in support of delegated functions that are in furtherance of NERC's responsibilities as the ERO under the Act.

(e) Non-delegated Functions. The Corporation may conduct such other activities for or on behalf of the Members that are not delegated to the Corporation by NERC under the Delegation Agreement if authorized by the Board and not inconsistent with the Act, NERC Rules, the Delegation Agreement or these Bylaws.

Section 2.3. Not-for-Profit Corporation. The Corporation is operated as a Delaware non-stock nonprofit corporation and is organized pursuant to the general corporation law of the State of Delaware.

ARTICLE III. POWERS

Section 3.1. Powers. The Corporation shall have the power to engage in any lawful act or activity for which corporations may be organized under the general corporation law of the State of Delaware, subject to any limitations provided in applicable federal, provincial or state law or in the Certificate of Incorporation or these Bylaws.

ARTICLE IV. OFFICES

Section 4.1. Principal Office. The principal office of the Corporation shall be located initially within the Region, at such location as the Board may from time to time determine, giving consideration to the total cost to the Corporation and convenience of travel for staff, Members and Regulatory Participants. Once established, the principal office may remain in its location, even if outside the Region.

ARTICLE V. MEMBERS

Section 5.1. General. The terms and conditions of membership in the Corporation shall be as provided in the Certificate of Incorporation and these Bylaws if not inconsistent therewith. All Regular Members and Associate Members shall be required to join a single Industry Sector.

Section 5.2. Classes of Members. The Corporation shall have three (3) classes of Members: Regular Members, Associate Members and Adjunct Members.

5.2.1 Regular Members. Except as set forth in Sections 5.5 and 6.5 of these Bylaws, Regular Members shall have the right to vote on all matters within their Industry Sector. Regular Members shall have all the rights and obligations of being a Member in the Corporation.

5.2.2 Associate Members. Associate Members shall not be entitled to vote within their Industry Sector or for any other purpose as a Member. Associate Members shall otherwise have all the rights and obligations of being a Member in the Corporation.

5.2.3 Adjunct Members. Adjunct Members shall not be entitled to vote for any purpose as a Member. Adjunct Members shall otherwise have all the rights of being a Member in the Corporation.

Section 5.3. Qualifications of Members. Any entity eligible to join an Industry Sector may be a Regular Member or Associate Member of the Corporation. Any entity not eligible to join an Industry Sector may be an Adjunct Member of the Corporation.

Section 5.4. Admission of Members. New Members may join the Corporation upon submittal of an application, in a form approved by the Board, and upon payment of such fees or charges, if any, as may be established by the Board or required by NERC. Each Regular Member and Associate Member shall designate the Industry Sector it wishes to join. A Regular Member and Associate Member may change its Industry Sector designation once each calendar year upon notice to the Corporation. Such notice must be provided to the Secretary of the Corporation at least sixty (60) days before an annual or other meeting of Members if the change is to be effective for such meeting. The President shall review a membership application and may request demonstration by the applicant that it qualifies for membership in a particular Industry Sector. Any dispute with respect to a Regular Member's or Associate Member's

qualifications for a particular Industry Sector shall be resolved by the Board. The President shall have authority to approve an application for membership, subject to review by the Board.

Section 5.5. Voting Rights. Each Regular Member in good standing shall be entitled to one vote in the Industry Sector in which it belongs on all matters submitted to a vote of Members. The Board may suspend voting rights for a Regular Member delinquent by more than 60 days in payment of any penalties or because of the Regular Member's failure to meet other obligations to the Corporation. Except with respect to the election of Industry Sector directors as described elsewhere in the Certificate of Incorporation and these Bylaws, matters properly brought before the Members at an annual or special meeting shall be acted upon by the Industry Sectors voting together as a single class. The vote of each Industry Sector shall be split into an affirmative component based on votes for the matter(s) presented, and a negative component based on votes against the matter(s) presented, in direct proportion to the votes cast within the Industry Sector for and against the matter presented, rounded to two decimal places. If authorized in advance by the Board, voting may be held electronically under such terms and conditions as are approved by the Board.

Section 5.6. Transfer of Membership. A Member of the Corporation may not transfer its membership or a right arising from it except to any Person succeeding to all or substantially all of the assets of the Member. If challenged, the President shall have authority to approve any such transfer, subject to review by the Board.

Section 5.7. Obligations of Members. By applying for and becoming a Regular or Associate Member of the Corporation, each Member agrees to comply with all Reliability Standards, all NERC standards and requirements, and the other obligations of Members of the Corporation set forth in these Bylaws or duly adopted by the Board in order to achieve the purposes of the Corporation. A Regular or Associate Member also agrees to obligate all of its Affiliates that have an impact on reliability in the Region to comply with all Reliability Standards and NERC standards and requirements. These obligations include but are not limited to: (a) obligations to provide data and information needed to perform the functions of the Corporation, (b) payment of any authorized penalties resulting from non-compliance with Reliability Standards, (c) in the case of Regular Members, electing the Board, and (d) providing qualified candidates to serve on organizational working groups. Adjunct Members agree to provide data and information needed to perform the functions of the Corporation.

Section 5.8. Withdrawal. A Member may withdraw from participation in the Corporation upon notice given in writing or by electronic transmission to the Corporation. Such notice shall specify a date, not earlier than thirty (30) days from the date of notice, on which the withdrawal shall become effective.

Section 5.9. Funding and Dues.

5.9.1 NERC Funding. In accordance with and at all times subject to the NERC Rules and the Delegation Agreement, the Corporation shall equitably allocate its dues,

fees and other charges for the delegated functions conducted by the Corporation among all end users. The Corporation shall submit to NERC annually a list of all load-serving entities within the Region. NERC will bill all load-serving entities in the Region for the Corporation's costs for the delegated functions based on Net Energy for Load and be responsible for collection.

5.9.2 Application Fee, User-Fees and Other Charges. The Corporation may charge a nominal fee, which shall be determined by the President, for the submission of applications for membership. The Board of Directors may from time to time fix the amount of user-fees or other charges, if any, for activities that are not delegated to the Corporation by NERC under the Delegation Agreement and determine the methods of collection from entities that choose to participate in such activities.

Section 5.10. Penalties. If the Corporation initiates an investigation that leads to the imposition of a penalty, the Corporation shall receive any penalty monies that results from the investigation. All monies which the Corporation collects from the issuance of penalties shall be applied as a general offset to the Corporation's budget requirements for the subsequent fiscal year. Funds from financial penalties shall not be directly applied to any program maintained by the Corporation.

ARTICLE VI. MEETING OF MEMBERS

Section 6.1. Annual Meeting of Members. The Members shall hold an annual meeting in December of each year, or at such other time specified by the Board. At the annual meeting of Members: (i) each Industry Sector shall elect the successor(s), if any, for any director(s) from their Industry Sector whose term will expire before the next annual meeting of the Members, provided however, that any Industry Sector may elect a successor director representing such Industry Sector prior to such annual meeting, in accordance with the provisions of this Article VI, in which case the election of such succeeding director(s) shall be reported to the Corporation at such annual meeting; (ii) the President and Treasurer shall report on the activities and financial condition of the Corporation; (iii) the Industry Sectors shall elect a slate of at-large and independent directors to fill vacancies or expiring terms; and (iv) the Industry Sectors shall consider and act upon such other matters as are consistent with the notice of the annual meeting. The failure to hold an annual meeting in accordance with these Bylaws shall not affect the validity of a corporate action.

Section 6.2. Special Meetings of Members. Special meetings of the Members may be called by six (6) directors on the Board, by the President, or by Members if at least ten percent (10%) of the Regular Members sign, date, and deliver to the President one or more written demands for a special meeting describing the purpose for which it is to be held. Within fifteen (15) days after receipt of a demand for a special meeting from Regular Members, the President shall cause a special meeting to be called and held on notice in accordance with Section 6.4 of these Bylaws. If the President fails to cause a special meeting to be called and held as required by this Section 6.2, a Regular Member making the demand may call the meeting by giving notice under Section 6.4.

In either event, notice of the meeting and the costs of the meeting shall be at the expense of the Corporation. The business transacted at a special meeting is limited to the purposes stated within the notice of the meeting. Business transacted at a special meeting that is not included in those stated purposes is voidable by or on behalf of the Corporation, unless ninety percent (90%) of the Regular Members entitled to vote were present at such meeting or have waived notice of the meeting under Section 6.4.

Section 6.3. Location of Meetings of Members. Meetings of Members shall be held at a location designated by the President or the Board. If a Regular Member calls a meeting pursuant to Section 6.2, the Regular Members making the demand for the meeting may designate the location, provided the meeting must be held within the Region and in a facility of appropriate size to accommodate the Members.

Section 6.4. Notice of Meetings.

6.4.1 Notice Requirements. Notice of meetings of Members must be given at least five (5) days before the date of a meeting and not more than sixty (60) days before the date of a meeting. The notice must contain the date, time and place of the meeting, instructions for electronic attendance or voting, if applicable, and an agenda of the matters upon which action may be taken at the meeting. A matter may be added to the agenda of a meeting at the meeting upon the affirmative vote of three-quarters (3/4) of the Industry Sector votes cast on a motion to amend the agenda. If the meeting is an adjourned meeting and the date, time and place of the meeting were announced at the time of the adjournment, notice is not required unless a new record date for the adjourned meeting is or must be fixed. Notice shall be deemed given by the Corporation to the Members when (a) posted on the Corporation's public website in a reasonably prominent location, and (b) sent by mail, facsimile or reputable overnight delivery service or by electronic transmission to each Member's representative authorized pursuant to Section 6.10.1

6.4.2 Waiver of Notice; Objections. A Member may waive notice of a meeting of Members. A waiver of notice by a Member entitled to notice is effective whether given before, at, or after the meeting, and whether given in writing, or by attendance. Attendance by a Member at a meeting is a waiver of notice of that meeting, unless the Member objects at the beginning of the meeting to the transaction of business because the meeting is not lawfully called or convened, or objects before a vote on an item of business because the item may not lawfully be considered at that meeting and does not participate in the consideration of the item at that meeting.

Section 6.5. Record Date. The Board may fix a date not more than sixty (60) days before the date of a meeting of Members as the date for the determination of the Members entitled to notice of and entitled to vote at the meeting. When a date is so fixed, only Members on that date are entitled to notice and to vote at the meeting unless the Board fixes a new date for determining the right to notice and to vote, which it must do if the meeting is adjourned to a date more than sixty (60) days after the record date for determining Members entitled to notice of the original meeting.

Section 6.6. Right to Vote; Act of Members.

6.6.1 Industry Sector Voting. Voting of the Members shall be by Industry Sector, with each Industry Sector entitled to cast one vote. Each Member entitled to vote in an Industry Sector shall be entitled to cast one vote in its Industry Sector. The vote of each Industry Sector shall be split into an affirmative component based on votes for the pending motion, and a negative component based on votes against the pending motion, in direct proportion to the votes cast within the Industry Sector for and against the pending motion, rounded to two decimal places. To the extent practicable, all Member votes may be held electronically under such terms and conditions as are approved by the Board.

6.6.2 Act of Members. If a quorum is present, except with respect to any matter described in Section 6.6.3, a majority of the Industry Sector votes cast on the matter shall be the act of the Members.

6.6.3 Special Voting Requirements. Notwithstanding any other provision of these Bylaws, and except as set forth in the Certificate of Incorporation and Section 13.2 of these Bylaws, two-thirds (2/3) of the Industry Sector votes cast shall be required to:

(a) Amend the Bylaws, except as otherwise provided in Section 19.1 of these Bylaws. The substance of the proposed amendment must be contained in the notice of the meeting at which the vote will be taken; however, the Members may modify a proposed Bylaw amendment at the meeting.

(b) Approve any proposal to terminate the Corporation.

Section 6.7. Quorum. A quorum for a meeting of Members is a majority of the Regular Members entitled to vote in each Industry Sector at the meeting. A quorum for a meeting of an Industry Sector is a majority of the Regular Members of that Industry Sector entitled to vote at the meeting. In both cases, electronic participation is acceptable if authorized by the Board. A quorum is necessary for the transaction of business at a meeting of Members or of any Industry Sector. If a quorum is not present, a meeting may be adjourned for that reason by the Industry Sectors or Regular Members then represented or present.

Section 6.8. Action by Written Ballot. All elections of directors shall be by written ballot. The requirement of a written ballot shall be satisfied by a ballot submitted by electronic transmission provided that any such electronic transmission must either set forth or be submitted with information from which it can be determined that the electronic transmission was authorized by the Member.

Section 6.9. Action by Electronic Communication. A conference among Members by a means of communication through which the participants may simultaneously hear each other during the conference is a meeting of the Members, if the same notice is given of the conference as would be required for a meeting and if the number of persons participating in the conference is a quorum. Participation in a

meeting by this means is personal presence at the meeting. A Member may participate in a meeting of the Members by a means of communication through which the Member, other persons participating, and all persons physically present at the meeting may simultaneously communicate with each other during the meeting. Participation in a meeting by this means constitutes personal presence at the meeting.

Section 6.10. Member Representatives; Proxies.

6.10.1 Designation of Representative. Each year prior to the annual meeting of Members, each Regular Member shall designate the individual authorized to vote on Corporation matters on behalf of the Member, in accordance with procedures approved by the Board. A Regular Member may change such designation at any time by providing at least twenty-four (24) hour written notice to the Secretary of the Corporation. Such notice may be provided by electronic transmission.

6.10.2 Authorization. The individual designated to vote by a Regular Member may appoint a proxy to vote or otherwise act for the Regular Member at any meeting by signing an appointment form either personally or by an attorney so designated by the Regular Member. Such authorization may be in writing or by means of electronic transmission to the person who will be the holder of the proxy, provided that such electronic transmission must either set forth or be submitted with information from which it can be determined that the electronic transmission was authorized by the Member representative.

6.10.3 Effective Period. An appointment of a proxy is effective when received by the Secretary or other officer or agent authorized to tabulate votes. An appointment is valid for the next regular or specially scheduled meeting or ballot by electronic transmission. However, a proxy is not valid for more than sixty (60) days from its date of execution.

6.10.4 Revocation. An appointment of a proxy is revocable by a Regular Member. Appointment of a proxy is revoked by the person appointing the proxy either by open declaration at a meeting or by signing and delivering a revocation in writing or by electronic transmission to the Secretary or other officer or agent authorized to tabulate proxy votes. This may be done either in a statement that the appointment of the proxy is revoked or by a subsequent appointment that shall serve to cancel all prior proxies.

Section 6.11. Public Notice of Member Meetings. Notice to the public of the dates, times and places of meetings of the Members, and all nonconfidential material provided to the Members, shall be posted on the Corporation's website at approximately the same time that notice is given to the Members. Meetings of the Members shall be open to the public, subject to reasonable limitations due to the availability and size of meeting facilities; provided, that the meeting may be held in or adjourn to closed session to discuss matters of a confidential nature, including, but not limited to, personnel matters, compliance and enforcement matters, litigation or

commercially sensitive or critical infrastructure information of a Member or other Person.

Section 6.12. Posting of Minutes. Minutes of meetings of Members shall be posted on the Corporation's website when available.

Section 6.13. Reimbursement of Member Expenses. The Corporation will be under no obligation to reimburse Members for expenses associated with their attendance at regular or special Member meetings.

ARTICLE VII. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 7.1. General. The composition of the Board and the terms of office of the directors, the manner of their nomination, election or appointment, and other terms and conditions of their service, shall be as provided in the Certificate of Incorporation and these Bylaws if not inconsistent therewith.

Section 7.2. Management of Corporation. The business of the Corporation shall be managed under the direction of the Board. Specific functions of the Board shall include, but not be limited to:

- (a) govern the Corporation and oversee all of its activities;
- (b) establish and oversee all organizational groups;
- (c) approve, revise and enforce Reliability Standards utilizing a fair, open, balanced and inclusive process;
- (d) establish compliance monitoring procedures and requirements, and penalties and sanctions for non-compliance consistent with applicable NERC Rules;
- (e) impose penalties and sanctions consistent with the NERC Rules and the procedures approved by the Board;
- (f) establish and approve an annual budget for submission to NERC;
- (g) hire the Corporation's president and approve his or her salary;
- (h) annually at the first regular Board meeting following the annual meeting of Members, elect a Chair ("Chair") and a vice-chair from among the directors on the Board; and
- (i) establish Board committees as appropriate.

Section 7.3. Voting. Each director shall have one vote with respect to decisions of the Board.

Section 7.4. Composition of the Board.

(a) The Board shall consist of fourteen (14) or fifteen (15) directors which number shall be established from time to time by resolution of the Board, which resolution shall in no event have the effect of terminating the term of any incumbent director.

(b) Eight directors shall be elected by the Industry Sectors as follows:

- (i) Suppliers shall elect two (2) directors;
- (ii) Transmission Companies shall elect two (2) directors;
- (iii) RTOs shall select one (1) director;
- (iv) Small LSEs shall elect one (1) director;
- (v) Medium LSEs shall elect one (1) director; and
- (vi) Large LSEs shall elect one (1) director.

(c) Three (3) directors shall be at-large. At-large directors shall be elected by all of the Industry Sectors voting together as a single class.

(d) Three (3) directors, if the Board consists of fourteen (14) directors, and four (4) directors, if the Board consists of fifteen (15) directors, shall be independent from the Corporation and any Member or any Affiliate or Related Party of any Member. Independent directors shall be elected by all of the Industry Sectors voting together as a single class.

(e) Industry Sectors shall elect their respective sector and at-large directors from among individuals holding senior management positions in Member organizations. Any sector-elected or at-large director whose Member organization changes Industry Sectors or who ceases to hold a senior management position in a Member organization shall continue to serve out his or her remaining term, unless such director resigns or is removed. No two directors may be employees of a single Member or any Affiliate or Related Party of a Member or any Affiliate.

(f) An independent director is a person (i) who is not an officer or employee of the Corporation, an officer, director, or employee of a Member, or an officer, director or employee of any entity that would reasonably be perceived as having a direct financial interest in the outcome the Board's decisions, or (ii) who does not have a relationship that would interfere with the exercise of independent judgment in carry out the responsibilities of a director. The Board may adopt additional standards for director independence not inconsistent herewith.

(g) At-large and independent directors shall be nominated by the nominating and governance committee of the Board. When nominating at-large directors, the nominating and governance committee shall consider such factors as the geographic and functional representation of the Board. The nominating and governance committee shall seek out for nomination independent directors from diverse backgrounds, who will contribute to the effective functioning of the Board and the Corporation by bringing a broad range of industry expertise, viewpoints, experiences, skill sets and knowledge. If an incumbent independent director is not re-nominated, the nominating and governance committee will use reasonable efforts to ensure that diverse candidates are in the pool of potential nominees for the open independent director position and may retain an independent consultant to identify individuals qualified and willing to serve as an independent director.

(h) Any director which the full Board has determined has a conflict of interest on any compliance or enforcement matter brought before the Board shall not vote on such matter and shall recuse himself or herself from all Board deliberations concerning such matter.

(i) There will be no alternates or proxies for directors.

Section 7.5. Terms of Directors. The directors will be divided into three classes. The number of directors in each class shall be as nearly equal as possible. The term of office of the first class will expire at the second annual meeting of Members; the term of office of the second class will expire one year thereafter; and the term of office of the third class two years thereafter. At each annual meeting of Members, directors shall be chosen for a three year term to succeed those whose term expires. No two at-large directors and no two directors of the same Industry Sector shall be in the same class. At least one (1) independent director shall be in each class. Each director shall hold office until (a) the expiration of the term for which he or she was elected and until his or her successor is elected and qualified, or (b) his or her earlier death, resignation or removal. Any director may be removed at any time by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Industry Sector or Industry Sectors, as applicable, electing such director. A director may be removed by the Board for non-attendance at three consecutive Board meetings.

Section 7.6. Reimbursement. Independent directors shall have the right to reimbursement by the Corporation of their actual reasonable travel expenses to Board meetings or when specifically selected to represent the Corporation at a business meeting. The directors elected by the Industry Sectors and the at-large directors shall not be reimbursed by the Corporation for any expenses, unless specifically approved in advance by resolution of the Board.

Section 7.7. Resignations; Vacancies.

(a) Resignations. A director may resign from the Board upon notice given in writing or by electronic transmission to the Corporation. Such

resignation shall take effect at the time identified in the notice as the effective date of resignation.

(b) Vacancies. If a notice of resignation provides that the effective date of resignation will occur on a future date within an unexpired term, the Industry Sector or Industry Sectors, as applicable, may elect a successor director to fill the impending vacancy prior to the effective date of the resignation, in accordance with the procedures and requirements set forth above. The successor director elected by the Industry Sector or Industry Sectors, as applicable, shall commence on the effective date of the resigning director's resignation and hold office for the unexpired term of the vacated directorship replaced.

If a successor Industry Sector or at-large director is not elected prior to the resignation effective date, or if an Industry Sector or at-large director resigns, dies or otherwise becomes incapacitated or is removed during the term of office for which elected, the directorship shall thereupon be vacant and shall be filled by the Industry Sector or Industry Sectors, as applicable, by written or electronic ballot in accordance with the procedures and requirements set forth above. The successor director elected by the Industry Sector or Industry Sectors, as applicable, shall hold office for the unexpired term of the vacated directorship replaced.

If a successor independent director is not elected prior to the resignation effective date, or if an independent director resigns, dies or otherwise becomes incapacitated or is removed during the term of office for which elected or ceases to be independent, as determined by the Board, his or her directorship shall thereupon be vacant and may be filled by resolution of the Board and any independent director so chosen shall hold office until the next annual meeting of Members, at which time a permanent successor shall be elected by the Industry Sectors for the remainder of the unexpired term. Upon an increase in the number of directors on the Board in accordance with Section 7.4(a) of these Bylaws, the independent directorship created thereby may be filled by resolution of the Board and any independent director so chosen shall hold office until the next annual meeting of Members, at which time a permanent successor shall be elected by the Industry Sectors for the remainder of such director's unexpired term.

Section 7.8. Meetings; Notice; Waiver.

(a) Meetings. An annual meeting of the Board shall be held without notice immediately following the annual meeting of the Members. The Board shall elect the Chair and Vice-Chair for the next year at the annual meeting. In addition, regular meetings may be held at such time or times as fixed by the Board. Special meetings of the Board may be called by the Board's Chair, the President or by any three directors and shall be held at the principal office of the Corporation, or such other place within the Region as determined by the Chair or the President after consultation with the Board.

(b) Notice. Notice of the dates, times, and places of all regular and special meetings of the Board shall be published by the Secretary and provided to all directors and Members not less than three (3) days prior to the date of the meeting. Notice shall be deemed given by the Corporation to directors and the Members when (a) posted on the Corporation's public website in a reasonably prominent location, and (b) sent by mail, facsimile or reputable overnight delivery service or by electronic transmission to each director and each Member's representative authorized pursuant to Section 6.10.1.

(c) Waiver. Any person entitled to notice of a regular or special meeting of the Board may waive notice thereof. A waiver of notice by a person entitled to notice is effective whether given before, at, or after the meeting, and whether given in writing or by attendance. Attendance by a director at a meeting of the Board is a waiver of notice of that meeting, unless the director objects at the beginning of the meeting to the transaction of business because the meeting is not lawfully called or convened, or objects before a vote on an item of business because the item may not lawfully be considered at that meeting and does not participate in the consideration of the item at that meeting.

Section 7.9. Quorum. For the Board to take action at a meeting, a quorum of directors must be present. A quorum is a majority of the directors then in office, provided that: (a) if there are three or four independent directors holding office, two independent directors must be present to constitute a quorum, or (b) if there are two independent directors holding office, one independent director must be present to constitute a quorum. If there is only one independent director or no independent directors holding office, there is no requirement that an independent director be present in order for the Board to have a quorum. In the absence of a quorum, a majority of the directors present may adjourn a meeting, without notice, except as may be given at such meeting, until a quorum is present.

Section 7.10. Board Action. The act of a majority of the directors present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the Board, unless the act of a greater number is required by law or these Bylaws.

Section 7.11. Action Without a Meeting. Any action required or permitted to be taken at any meeting of the Board or any committee thereof may be taken without a meeting if all members of the Board or committee, as the case may be, consent thereto in writing or by electronic transmission, and the writing or writings or electronic transmission or transmissions are filed with the minutes of proceeding of the Board or the committee. Any nonconfidential material provided to the Board or a committee in connection with such action shall be posted on the Corporation's website at approximately the same time that it is given to the Board or the committee. The results of all actions taken by the Board or any committee thereof without a meeting shall be promptly posted on the Corporation's website.

Section 7.12. Action by Electronic Communication. A conference among directors by a means of communication through which the directors may simultaneously

hear each other during the conference is a Board meeting if the same notice is given of the conference as would be required for a meeting and if the number of directors participating in the conference is a quorum. Participation in a meeting by this means constitutes personal presence at the meeting. A director may participate in a Board meeting by any means of communication through which the director, other directors participating, and all directors physically present at the meeting may simultaneously communicate with each other during the meeting.

Section 7.13. Board Committees. The Board shall have an audit committee, compensation committee, nominating and governance committee and compliance committee, and such other committees the Board deems necessary and appropriate. Each committee shall be comprised of not less than three directors. The compliance committee shall be comprised of a minimum of five directors, a majority of whom are independent directors. All independent directors shall serve on the compliance committee. The Board may require that a minimum number of independent directors serve on any or all other Board committees. The Board shall have the power to appoint, and to delegate authority to, such other committees of the Board as it determines to be appropriate from time to time. The Board may require any committee to adopt a charter, subject to approval by the Board, governing the activities and authority of the committee and the composition of its members.

Section 7.14. Hearing Body. The Hearing Body shall consist of the Board compliance committee.

7.14.1 Quorum. For the Hearing Body to take action at a hearing, a quorum of members must be present. A quorum is a majority of members of the Hearing Body, provided that two independent directors are present. If a quorum of the Hearing Body does not remain after any recusals and rulings on motions for disqualification, the compliance committee shall appoint a new member to the Hearing Body from among other directors to create a quorum, provided that the requirement that at least two independent directors are present for a quorum shall at all times continue to be met. Such new member shall serve on the Hearing Body for purposes of the subject hearing through the conclusion of the hearing but not thereafter.

7.14.2 Voting. Each Hearing Body member shall have one vote with respect to matters presented at a hearing. Action may be taken at a hearing at which a quorum is present upon the vote of the majority of members present.

Section 7.15. Public Notice of Board Meetings. Notice to the public of the dates, times and places of Board meetings, including committees thereof, and all nonconfidential material provided to the Board or the committees, shall be posted on the Corporation's website, and notice of Board and committee meetings shall be sent by electronic transmission to Members, at approximately the same time that notice is given to the Board or the committee, as the case may be. Board and committee Meetings shall be open to all Members and the public, subject to reasonable limitations due to the availability and size of meeting facilities; provided, that any meeting may be held in or adjourn to closed session to discuss matters of a confidential nature, including, but not

limited to, personnel matters, compliance and enforcement matters, litigation or commercially sensitive or critical infrastructure information of a Member or other Person.

Section 7.16. Posting of Minutes. Minutes of Board and committee meetings shall be posted on the Corporation's website when available.

Section 7.17. Compensation of Directors. The directors elected by the Industry Sectors and the at-large directors shall not receive compensation for their service to the Corporation as directors on the Board. The independent directors shall be entitled to such compensation as the Board may from time to time determine. Nothing contained in these Bylaws shall preclude any director from receiving compensation for services to the Corporation in any other capacity.

ARTICLE VIII. ORGANIZATIONAL GROUPS

Section 8.1. Establishment of Organizational Groups. The Board shall establish such organizational groups, consisting of committees, sub-committees, task forces and working groups of Members, as are necessary and appropriate to accomplish the purposes of the Corporation in an efficient and cost-effective manner. All organizational groups shall be subject to the direction and control of the Board. The membership of organizational groups shall be determined based upon experience, expertise and geographic diversity and to the extent practicable shall include balanced representation of the Industry Sectors. The Board shall establish policies and procedures governing the creation of organizational groups, how they are populated, how voting and related matters are conducted, how they may be reorganized and the direction and termination of such groups. The Board shall conduct a review of all organizational groups of the Corporation on an annual basis to ensure that the business of the Corporation is conducted in an efficient, cost-effective manner.

Section 8.2. Reimbursement. The Board may authorize reimbursement for persons acting on behalf of the Corporation, as necessary in the interests of the Corporation.

ARTICLE IX. OFFICERS

Section 9.1. Officers. The officers of the Corporation shall include a President, one or more Vice Presidents, a Secretary, a Treasurer and any other officers as may be elected or appointed in accordance with the provisions of this Article. The Board may elect or appoint any additional officers that it deems desirable, such other officers to have the authority and perform the duties prescribed by the Board. The same individual may hold any number of offices, except that of President.

Section 9.2. Election and Term of Office. The officers of the Corporation shall be elected annually by the Board at the annual meeting of the Board. Each officer shall

hold office at the pleasure of the Board. If the election of officers is not held at such meeting, such election shall be held as soon thereafter as is convenient. New officers may be created and the positions filled at any meeting of the Board. Each elected officer shall hold office until his or her successor has been duly elected and qualified or upon his or her earlier resignation or removal.

Section 9.3. Removal. Any officer elected by the Board may be removed by the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the Board whenever in its judgment the best interests of the Corporation would be served thereby, but such removal shall be without prejudice to the contract rights, if any, of the officer so removed. Election or appointment of an officer or agent shall not of itself create contract rights.

Section 9.4. Vacancies. A vacancy in any office because of death, incapacity, resignation, removal, disqualification, or otherwise, may be filled by the Board for the unexpired portion of the term.

Section 9.5. President. The President shall:

- (a) be the principal executive and operating officer of the Corporation;
- (b) sign certificates of membership, and may sign any deeds, mortgages, deeds of trust, notes, bonds, contracts or other instruments authorized by the Board to be executed, except in cases in which the signing and execution thereof shall be expressly delegated by the Board or by these Bylaws to some other officer or agent of the Corporation; and
- (c) perform all duties incident to the office of President, including hiring and directing staff, and such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board from time to time.

Section 9.6. Vice Presidents. The Vice President(s) shall perform such duties and have such powers as the Board or President may from time to time prescribe. At the request of the Board, the Vice President (or in the event there be more than one Vice President, the Vice Presidents in the order designated, or in the absence of any designation, then in the order of their election) shall perform the duties of the President, and when so acting, shall have all the powers of and be subject to all the restrictions upon the President.

Section 9.7. Secretary. The Secretary shall ensure that the following duties are carried out:

- (a) the minutes of the meetings of the Members and of the Board, and each committee thereof, are recorded;
- (b) all required notices are duly given in accordance with these Bylaws and as required by law;

(c) a register of the current names and addresses of all Members is maintained and posted on the Corporation's website;

(d) a complete copy of the Certificate of Incorporation and Bylaws of the Corporation containing all amendments thereto are kept on file at all times and posted on the Corporation's website, which copies shall always be open to the inspection of any Member; and

(e) generally perform all duties incident to the office of Secretary and such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board from time to time.

Section 9.8. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall be responsible for the following activities:

(a) maintain custody of all funds and securities of the Corporation;

(b) receipt of and the issuance of receipts for all monies due and payable to the Corporation and for deposit of all such monies in the name of the Corporation in such bank or banks or financial institutions as shall be selected by the Board; and

(c) generally perform all duties incident to the office of Treasurer and such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board from time to time.

ARTICLE X. CERTIFICATES OF MEMBERSHIP

Section 10.1. Certificates of Membership. The Board may, but need not, provide for the issuance of certificates evidencing membership in the Corporation, which certificates shall be in such form as may be determined by the Board.

ARTICLE XI. BOOKS AND RECORDS

Section 11.1. Books and Records; Financial Statements. The Corporation shall keep at such office selected by the Board correct and complete copies of its Certificate of Incorporation and Bylaws, accounting records, and minutes of meetings of Members, Board, and committees having any of the authority of the Board. A Member, or the agent or attorney of a Member, may inspect all books and records for any proper purpose at any reasonable time. Upon request, the Corporation shall give the Member a statement showing the financial result of all operations and transactions affecting income and expenses during its last annual accounting period and a balance sheet containing a summary of its assets and liabilities as of the closing date of the accounting period.

ARTICLE XII.
FISCAL YEAR

Section 12.1. Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of the Corporation shall be the calendar year.

ARTICLE XIII.
TRANSFER OF ASSETS

Section 13.1. Member Approval Not Required. Subject to restrictions set forth in the Certificate of Incorporation, the Corporation, by affirmative vote of the Board, may sell, lease, transfer, or dispose of its property and assets in the usual and regular course of its activities and grant a security interest in all or substantially all of its property and assets in the usual and regular course of its activities, upon those terms and conditions and for those considerations, which may be money, securities, or other instruments for the payment of money or other property, as the Board considers expedient, in which case no Member approval is required.

Section 13.2. Member Approval Required. Subject to restrictions set forth in the Certificate of Incorporation, the Corporation may sell, lease, transfer, or dispose of all or substantially all of its property and assets, including its good will, not in the usual and regular course of its activities, upon those terms and conditions and for those considerations, which may be money, securities, or other instruments for the payment of money or other property, as the Board considers expedient only when approved at a regular or special meeting of the Members by the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of all the Members. Notice of the meeting must be given to the Members. The notice must state that a purpose of the meeting is to consider the sale, lease, transfer, or other disposition of all or substantially all of the property and assets of the Corporation.

ARTICLE XIV.
CONTRACTS, CHECKS, DEPOSITS, AND GIFTS

Section 14.1. Contracts. The Board may authorize any officer or officers or agent or agents of the Corporation, in addition to the officers so authorized by these Bylaws, to enter into any contract or execute and deliver any instrument in the name of and on behalf of the Corporation, and such authority may be general or may be confined to specific instances.

Section 14.2. Checks, Drafts, or Orders. All checks, drafts, or orders for the payment of money, notes, or other evidences of indebtedness issued in the name of the Corporation, may be signed by such officer or officers or agent or agents of the Corporation, and in such manner, as shall from time to time be determined by resolution of the Board.

Section 14.3. Deposits. All funds of the Corporation shall be deposited to the credit of the Corporation in such banks, trust companies, or other depositories as the Board may select.

Section 14.4. Gifts. The Board may accept on behalf of the Corporation any contribution, gift, bequest, or devise for any purpose of the Corporation.

ARTICLE XV.
INSURANCE, LIMITATION ON LIABILITY AND INDEMNIFICATION

Section 15.1. Insurance. The President is authorized to procure insurance to protect the Corporation against damages arising out of or related to any directive, order, procedure, action or requirement of the Corporation.

Section 15.2. Limitations on Liability. As provided in Article Fourteenth of the Certificate of Incorporation, a director of the Corporation shall not be personally liable to the Corporation or its Members for monetary damages for breach of fiduciary duty as a director, except for liability (i) for any breach of the director's duty of loyalty to the Corporation or its Members, (ii) for acts or omissions not in good faith or which involve intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law, (iii) under Section 174 of the Delaware General Corporation Law or (iv) for any transaction from which the director derived any improper personal benefit. If the Delaware General Corporation Law is amended to authorize corporate action further eliminating or limiting the personal liability of directors, then the liability of a director of the Corporation shall be eliminated or limited to the fullest extent permitted by the Delaware General Corporation Law, as so amended. Any repeal or modification of Article Fifteenth of these Bylaws by the Members of the Corporation shall not adversely affect any right or protection of a director of the Corporation existing at the time of such repeal or modification.

Section 15.3. Right to Indemnification.

15.3.1 Indemnified Persons. Each person who was or is made a party or is threatened to be made a party to or is involved in or called as a witness in any Proceeding because he or she is an Indemnified Person shall be indemnified and held harmless by the Corporation to the fullest extent permitted under the Delaware General Corporation Law (the "DGCL"), as the same now exists or may hereafter be amended (but, in the case of any such amendment, only to the extent that such amendment permits the Corporation to provide broader indemnification rights than the DGCL permitted the Corporation to provide prior to such amendment). Such indemnification shall cover all expenses incurred by an Indemnified Person (including, but not limited to, attorneys' fees and other expenses of litigation) and all liabilities and losses (including, but not limited to, judgments, fines, ERISA or other excise taxes or penalties and amounts paid or to be paid in settlement) incurred by such person in connection therewith.

15.3.2 Denial of Authorization for Certain Proceedings. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Section 15.3, except with respect to indemnification of Indemnified

Persons specified in paragraph 15.3.3 of this Section 15.3, the Corporation shall indemnify an Indemnified Person in connection with a Proceeding (or part thereof) initiated by such person only if authorization for such Proceeding (or part thereof) was not denied by the Board of the Corporation prior to the earlier of 60 days after receipt of notice thereof from such Indemnified Person.

15.3.3 Certain Defined Terms. For purposes of this Section 15.3, the following terms shall have the following meanings (such meanings to be equally applicable to both the singular and plural forms of the terms defined):

(1) a “Proceeding” is any investigation, action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative, and any appeal therefrom.

(2) an “Indemnified Person” is a person who is, was, or had agreed to become a Director of the Corporation (including, in the case of such person seeking indemnification while serving as a Director who is or was an officer of the Corporation, such person in his capacity as an officer.)

15.3.4 Expenses. Expenses, including attorneys’ fees, incurred by a person indemnified pursuant to paragraph 15.3.1 in defending or otherwise being involved in a Proceeding shall be paid by the Corporation in advance of the final disposition of such Proceeding, including any appeal therefrom, upon receipt of an undertaking (the “Undertaking”) by or on behalf of such person to repay such amount if it shall ultimately be determined that he or she is not entitled to be indemnified by the Corporation; provided that in connection with a Proceeding (or part thereof) initiated by such person, except a Proceeding authorized by paragraph 15.3.5, the Corporation shall pay said expenses in advance of final disposition only if authorization for such Proceeding (or part thereof) was not denied by the Board of the Corporation prior to the earlier of 60 days after receipt of a request for such advancement accompanied by the Undertaking. A person to whom expenses are advanced pursuant hereto shall not be obligated to repay such expenses until the final determination of any pending Proceeding in a court of competent jurisdiction concerning the right of such person to be indemnified or the obligation of such person to repay such expenses.

15.3.5 Protection of Rights. If a claim by an Indemnified Person under paragraph 15.3.1 is not promptly paid in full by the Corporation after a written claim has been received by the Corporation or if expenses pursuant to paragraph 15.3.4 have not been promptly advanced after a written request for such advancement by an Indemnified Person (accompanied by the Undertaking required by paragraph 15.3.4) has been received by the Corporation, the claimant may at any time thereafter bring suit against the Corporation to recover the unpaid amount of the claim or the advancement of expenses. If successful, in whole or in part, in such suit, such claimant shall also be entitled to be paid the reasonable expense thereof. It shall be a defense to any such action (other than an action brought to enforce a claim for expenses incurred in defending any Proceeding in advance of its final disposition where the Undertaking has been tendered to the Corporation that indemnification of the claimant is prohibited by law, but the burden of proving such defense shall be on the Corporation. Neither the

failure of the Corporation (including the Board, independent legal counsel, or the Members) to have made a determination, if required, prior to the commencement of such action that indemnification of the claimant is proper in the circumstances, nor an actual determination by the Corporation (including the Board, independent legal counsel, or the Members) that indemnification of the claimant is prohibited, shall be a defense to the action or create a presumption that indemnification of the claimant is prohibited.

15.3.6 Miscellaneous.

(a) Non-Exclusivity of Rights. The rights conferred on any person by this Section 15.3 shall not be exclusive of any other rights which such person may have or hereafter acquire under any statute, provision of the Certificate of Incorporation, Bylaw, agreement, vote of Members or disinterested directors or otherwise. The Board shall have the authority, by resolution, to provide for such other indemnification of directors, and such indemnification of officers, delegates, employees, agents, or others of the Corporation as it shall deem appropriate.

(b) Insurance, contracts, and funding. The Corporation may maintain insurance, at its expense, to protect itself and any director, officer, employee, delegate or agent of the Corporation against any expenses, liabilities or losses, whether or not the Corporation would have the power to indemnify such person against such expenses, liabilities or losses under the DGCL. The Corporation may enter into contracts with any director, officer, or employee of the Corporation in furtherance of the provisions of this Section 15.3 and may create a trust fund, grant a security interest or use other means (including, without limitation, a letter of credit) to ensure the payment of such amounts as may be necessary to effect the advancing of expenses and indemnification as provided in such contracts or as otherwise provided in this Section 15.3.

(c) Contractual nature. The provisions of this Section 15.3 shall continue as to a person who has ceased to be a director and shall inure to the benefit of the heirs, executors and administrators of such person. This Section 15.3 shall be deemed to be a contract between the Corporation and each person who, at any time that this Section 15.3 is in effect, serves or agrees to serve in any capacity which entitles him to indemnification and advancement of expenses hereunder and any repeal or other modification of this Section 15.3 or any repeal or modification of the DGCL or any other applicable law shall not limit any rights of indemnification for Proceedings then existing or arising out of events, acts or omissions occurring prior to such repeal or modification, including, without limitation, the right to indemnification and advancement of expenses for Proceedings commenced after such repeal or modification to enforce this Section 15.3 with regard to Proceedings arising out of acts, omissions or events arising prior to such repeal or modification.

(d) Cooperation. Each Indemnified Person shall cooperate with the person, persons or entity making the determination with respect to such

Indemnified Person's entitlement to indemnification under this Section 15.3, including providing to such person, persons or entity upon reasonable advance request any documentation or information which is not privileged or otherwise protected from disclosure and which is reasonably available to such Indemnified Person and reasonably necessary to such determination. Any costs or expenses (including attorneys' fees and disbursements) incurred by such Indemnified Person in so cooperating with the person, persons or entity making such determination shall be borne by the Corporation (irrespective of the determination as to such Indemnified Person's entitlement to indemnification) and the Corporation hereby indemnifies and agrees to hold such Indemnified Person harmless therefrom.

(e) Subrogation. In the event of any payment under this Section 15.3 to an Indemnified Person, the Corporation shall be subrogated to the extent of such payment to all of the rights of recovery of such Indemnified Person, who shall execute all papers required and take all action necessary to secure such rights, including execution of such documents as are necessary to enable the Corporation to bring suit to enforce such rights.

(f) Severability. If this Section 15.3 or any portion hereof shall be invalidated or held to be unenforceable on any ground by any court of competent jurisdiction, the decision of which shall not have been reversed on appeal, this Section 15.3 shall be deemed to be modified to the minimum extent necessary to avoid a violation of law and, as so modified, this Section 15.3 and the remaining provisions hereof shall remain valid and enforceable in accordance with their terms to the fullest extent permitted by law.

ARTICLE XVI. TRANSITION

Section 16.1. Transition Standards. The Corporation will use the existing standards, criteria, rules or guides from each existing reliability council region for those Members that join the Corporation as in effect immediately prior to formation of the Corporation until such standards, criteria, rules or guides are adopted, superseded, or rejected by the Corporation. The Corporation will establish any necessary transition committees, subcommittees, working groups or task forces to administer the existing regional reliability standards, criteria, rules and guides until they are adopted, superseded, or rejected by the Corporation. The Corporation will employ its best efforts, within two (2) years of its formation, to work toward a uniform set of Reliability Standards for the entire Region. The Board will develop and implement a standards process and a plan for transition to new Reliability Standards. This process will include a requirement that two-thirds of the directors present at a meeting must vote to adopt new Reliability Standards.

ARTICLE XVII.
PARTICIPATION BY REGULATORY PARTICIPANTS

Section 17.1. Regulatory Participants. All Regulatory Participants shall be entitled to and be provided with the same rights to notice of and participation in meetings or other activities of the Corporation as are provided to Members, but shall not have the right to vote.

ARTICLE XVIII.
BUDGET AND BUSINESS PLAN

Section 18.1. Budget and Business Plan. Each annual budget and business plan of the Corporation shall be approved by the Board in sufficient time in each fiscal year to allow for timely submittal of the approved annual budget and business plan to NERC in accordance with the NERC Rules. The Corporation shall post a draft of each budget and business plan on the Corporation's website for purposes of review and comment by the Members at least ten (10) days prior to the Board meeting at which the budget and business plan are to be approved.

ARTICLE XIX.
AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS

Section 19.1. Amendment Of Bylaws. The power to adopt, amend or repeal these Bylaws is vested in the Members as set forth in Section 6.6.3 of these Bylaws; provided, however, that upon the passage of any federal electric reliability legislation, and/or the adoption of any rules or regulations of the Commission, NERC or other governmental entity with jurisdiction, the Board shall have authority to amend these Bylaws as necessary and appropriate to comply with such law, legislation, rules and regulations.

Exhibit C – Regional Standard Development Procedure

Exhibit C shall set forth the Regional Entity’s standards development procedure, which NERC agrees meets the following common attributes:

COMMON ATTRIBUTE 1

Proposed regional reliability standards shall be subject to approval by NERC, as the electric reliability organization, and by FERC before becoming mandatory and enforceable under Section 215 of the FPA [add reference to any applicable authorities in Canada and Mexico]. No regional reliability standard shall be effective within the [Regional Entity Name] area unless filed by NERC with FERC [and applicable authorities in Canada and Mexico] and approved by FERC [and applicable authorities in Canada and Mexico].

COMMON ATTRIBUTE 2

[Regional Entity Name] regional reliability standards shall provide for as much uniformity as possible with reliability standards across the interconnected bulk power system of the North American continent. A [Regional Entity Name] reliability standard shall be more stringent than a continent-wide reliability standard, including a regional difference that addresses matters that the continent-wide reliability standard does not, or shall be a regional difference necessitated by a physical difference in the bulk power system. A regional reliability standard that satisfies the statutory and regulatory criteria for approval of proposed North American reliability standards, and that is more stringent than a continent-wide reliability standard, would generally be acceptable.

COMMON ATTRIBUTE 3

[Regional Entity Name] regional reliability standards, when approved by FERC [add applicable authorities in Canada], shall be made part of the body of NERC reliability standards and shall be enforced upon all applicable bulk power system owners, operators, and users within the [Regional Entity Name] area, regardless of membership in the region.

COMMON ATTRIBUTE 4

Requester — The requester is the sponsor of the regional reliability standard request and may assist in the development of the standard. Any member of [Regional Entity Name], or group within [Regional Entity Name] shall be allowed to request that a regional reliability standard be developed, modified, or withdrawn. Additionally, any entity (person, organization, company, government agency, individual, etc.) that is directly and materially affected by the reliability of the bulk power system in the [Regional Entity Name] area shall be allowed to request a regional reliability standard be developed, modified, or withdrawn.

COMMON ATTRIBUTE 5

[Standards or other named] committee — The [Regional Entity Name] [standards] committee manages the standards development process. The [standards] committee will consider which requests for new or revised standards shall be assigned for development (or existing standards considered for deletion). The [standards] committee will advise the [Regional Entity Name] board on standards presented for adoption.

COMMON ATTRIBUTE 6

[Alternative 6A: For a Regional Entity that chooses to vote using a balanced stakeholder committee.]

The [standards] committee is a balanced stakeholder committee, inclusive of all stakeholder interests that provide for or are materially impacted by the reliability of the bulk power system. [The [standards] committee votes to approve standards.] See Appendix A for the representation model of the [standards] committee.

[Alternative 6B: For a Regional Entity that chooses to vote using a balanced ballot body of stakeholders.]

[Registered ballot body] — The registered ballot body comprises all entities or individuals that qualify for one of the stakeholder segments; are registered with [Regional Entity Name] as potential ballot participants in the voting on standards; and are current with any designated fees. Each member of the registered ballot body is eligible to vote on standards. [Each standard action has its own ballot pool formed of interested members of the registered ballot body. Each ballot pool comprises those members of the registered ballot body that respond to a pre-ballot survey for that particular standard action indicating their desire to participate in such a ballot pool.] The representation model of the registered ballot body is provided in Appendix A.]

COMMON ATTRIBUTE 7

[Regional Entity Name] will coordinate with NERC such that the acknowledgement of receipt of a standard request identified in step 1, notice of comment posting period identified in step 4, and notice for vote identified in step 5 below are concurrently posted on both the [Regional Entity Name] and NERC websites.

COMMON ATTRIBUTE 8

An acceptable standard request shall contain a description of the proposed regional reliability standard subject matter containing sufficiently descriptive detail to clearly define the purpose, scope, impacted parties, and other relevant information of the proposed standard.

COMMON ATTRIBUTE 9

Within [no greater than 60] days of receipt of a completed standard request, the [standards] committee shall determine the disposition of the standard request.

COMMON ATTRIBUTE 10

The [standards] committee may take one of the following actions:

- Accept the standard request as a candidate for development of a new standard, revision of an existing standard, or deletion of an existing standard. The [standards] committee may, at its discretion, expand or narrow the scope of the standard request under consideration. The [standards] committee shall prioritize the development of standard in relation to other proposed standards, as may be required based on the volume of requests and resources.
- Reject the standard request. If the [standards] committee rejects a standard request, a written explanation for rejection will be delivered to the requester within [no greater than 30] days of the decision.
- Remand the standard request back to the requester for additional work. The standards process manager will make reasonable efforts to assist the requester in addressing the deficiencies identified by the [standards] committee. The requester may then resubmit the modified standard request using the process above. The requester may choose to withdraw the standard request from further consideration prior to acceptance by the [standards] committee.

COMMON ATTRIBUTE 11

Any standard request that is accepted by the [standards] committee for development of a standard (or modification or deletion of an existing standard) shall be posted for public viewing on the [Regional Entity Name] website within [no greater than 30] days of acceptance by the committee.

COMMON ATTRIBUTE 12

The standards process manager shall submit the proposed members of the drafting team to the [standards] committee. The [standards] committee shall approve the drafting team membership within 60 days of accepting a standard request for development, modifying the recommendations of the standards process manager as the committee deems appropriate, and assign development of the proposed standard to the drafting team.

COMMON ATTRIBUTE 13

At the direction from the [standards] committee, the standards process manager shall facilitate the posting of the draft standard on the [Regional Entity Name] website, along with a draft implementation plan and supporting documents, for a no less than a [30]-day comment period. The standards process manager shall provide notice to [Regional Entity Name] stakeholders and other potentially interested entities, both within and outside of the [Regional Entity Name] area, of the posting using communication procedures then currently in effect or by other means as deemed appropriate.

COMMON ATTRIBUTE 14

The drafting team shall prepare a summary of the comments received and the changes made to the proposed standard as a result of these comments. The drafting team shall summarize comments that were rejected by the drafting team and the reason(s) that these comments were rejected, in part or whole. The summary, along with a response to each comment received will be posted on the [Regional Entity Name] website no later than the next posting of the proposed standard.

COMMON ATTRIBUTE 15

Upon recommendation of the drafting team, and if the [standards] committee concurs that all of the requirements for development of the standard have been met, the standards process manager shall post the proposed standard and implementation plan for ballot and shall announce the vote to approve the standard, including when the vote will be conducted and the method for voting. Once the notice for a vote has been issued, no substantive modifications may be made to the proposed standard unless the revisions are posted and a new notice of the vote is issued.

COMMON ATTRIBUTE 16

The standards process manager shall schedule a vote by the [Regional Entity Name] [registered ballot body/[standards] committee]. The vote shall commence no sooner than [15] days and no later than [30] days following the issuance of the notice for the vote.

COMMON ATTRIBUTE 17

[Alternative 17A: For an RE that chooses to vote using a balanced stakeholder committee.]

The [standards] committee shall give due consideration to the work of the drafting team, as well as the comments of stakeholders and minority objections, in approving a proposed regional reliability standard for submittal to the [Regional Entity Name] board. The [standards]

committee may vote to approve or not approve the standard. Alternatively, the [standards] committee may remand the standard to the drafting team for further work or form a new drafting team for that purpose.

[Alternative 17B: For an RE that chooses to vote using a balanced ballot body of stakeholders.]

The [Regional Entity Name] registered ballot body shall be able to vote on the proposed standard during a period of [not less than 10] days.

COMMON ATTRIBUTE 18

[Alternative 18A: For an RE that chooses to vote using a balanced stakeholder committee.]

The [standards] committee may not itself modify the standard without issuing a new notice to stakeholders regarding a vote of the modified standard.

[Alternative 18B: For an RE that chooses to vote using a balanced ballot body of stakeholders.]

All members of [Regional Entity Name] are eligible to participate in voting on proposed new standards, standard revisions or standard deletions. [Alternatively: Each standard action requires formation of a ballot pool of interested members of the registered ballot body.]

COMMON ATTRIBUTE 19

[Alternative 19A: For an RE that chooses to vote using a balanced stakeholder committee.]

Actions by the committee shall be recorded in the regular minutes of the committee.

[Alternative 19B: For an RE that chooses to vote using a balanced ballot body of stakeholders.]

Approval of the proposed regional reliability standard shall require a [two thirds] majority in the affirmative (affirmative votes divided by the sum of affirmative and negative votes). Abstentions and non-responses shall not count toward the results, except that abstentions may be used in the determination of a quorum. A quorum shall mean [XX%] of the members of the [registered ballot body/ballot pool] submitted a ballot.

COMMON ATTRIBUTE 20

Under no circumstances may the board substantively modify the proposed regional reliability standard.

COMMON ATTRIBUTE 21

Once a regional reliability standard is approved by the board, the standard will be submitted to NERC for approval and filing with FERC [and applicable authorities in Canada and Mexico.]

COMMON ATTRIBUTE 22

- **Open** - Participation in the development of a regional reliability standard shall be open to all organizations that are directly and materially affected by the [Regional Entity Name] bulk power system reliability. There shall be no undue financial barriers to participation. Participation shall not be conditioned upon membership in [Regional Entity Name], and shall not be unreasonably restricted on the basis of technical qualifications or other such requirements. Meetings of drafting teams shall be open to the [Regional Entity Name] members and others.

COMMON ATTRIBUTE 23

- **Balanced** - The [Regional Entity Name] standards development process strives to have an appropriate balance of interests and shall not be dominated by any two interest categories and no single interest category shall be able to defeat a matter.

COMMON ATTRIBUTE 24

- **Inclusive** — Any entity (person, organization, company, government agency, individual, etc.) with a direct and material interest in the bulk power system in the [Regional Entity Name] area shall have a right to participate by: a) expressing a position and its basis, b) having that position considered, and c) having the right to appeal.

COMMON ATTRIBUTE 25

- **Fair due process** — The regional reliability standards development procedure shall provide for reasonable notice and opportunity for public comment. At a minimum, the procedure shall include public notice of the intent to develop a standard, a public comment period on the proposed standard, due consideration of those public comments, and a ballot of interested stakeholders.

COMMON ATTRIBUTE 26

- **Transparent** — All actions material to the development of regional reliability standards shall be transparent. All standards development meetings shall be open and publicly noticed on the regional entity's Web site.

COMMON ATTRIBUTE 27

- Does not unnecessarily delay development of the proposed reliability standard.

COMMON ATTRIBUTE 28

Each standard shall enable or support one or more of the reliability principles, thereby ensuring that each standard serves a purpose in support of the reliability of the regional bulk power system. Each standard shall also be consistent with all of the reliability principles, thereby ensuring that no standard undermines reliability through an unintended consequence.

COMMON ATTRIBUTE 29

While reliability standards are intended to promote reliability, they must at the same time accommodate competitive electricity markets. Reliability is a necessity for electricity markets, and robust electricity markets can support reliability. Recognizing that bulk power system reliability and electricity markets are inseparable and mutually interdependent, all regional reliability standards shall be consistent with NERC's market interface principles. Consideration of the market interface principles is intended to ensure that standards are written such that they achieve their reliability objective without causing undue restrictions or adverse impacts on competitive electricity markets.

COMMON ATTRIBUTE 30

To ensure uniformity of regional reliability standards, a regional reliability standard shall consist of the elements identified in this section of the procedure. These elements are intended to apply a systematic discipline in the development and revision of standards. This discipline is necessary to achieving standards that are measurable, enforceable, and consistent.

COMMON ATTRIBUTE 31

All mandatory requirements of a regional reliability standard shall be within the standard. Supporting documents to aid in the implementation of a standard may be referenced by the standard but are not part of the standard itself.

COMMON ATTRIBUTE 32

Applicability	<p>Clear identification of the functional classes of entities responsible for complying with the standard, noting any specific additions or exceptions.</p> <p>If not applicable to the entire [Regional Entity Name] area, then a clear identification of the portion of the bulk power system to which the standard applies.</p> <p>Any limitation on the applicability of the standard based on electric facility requirements should be described.</p>
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COMMON ATTRIBUTE 33

Measure(s)	<p>Each requirement shall be addressed by one or more measures. Measures are used to assess performance and outcomes for the purpose of determining compliance with the requirements stated above. Each measure will identify to whom the measure applies and the expected level of performance or outcomes required demonstrating compliance. Each measure shall be tangible, practical, and as objective as is practical. It is important to realize that measures are proxies to assess required performance or outcomes. Achieving the measure should be a necessary and sufficient indicator that the requirement was met. Each measure shall clearly refer to the requirement(s) to which it applies.</p>
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COMMON ATTRIBUTE 34

Compliance Monitoring Process	<p>Defines for each measure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The specific data or information that is required to measure performance or outcomes.• The entity that is responsible for providing the data or information for measuring performance or outcomes.• The process that will be used to evaluate data or information for the purpose of assessing performance or outcomes.• The entity that is responsible for evaluating data or
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	<p>information to assess performance or outcomes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The time period in which performance or outcomes is measured, evaluated, and then reset.• Measurement data retention requirements and assignment of responsibility for data archiving.
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Reliability*First* Corporation
Reliability Standards Development
Procedure
Version 4

Reliability*First* Corporation Reliability Standards Development Procedure

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Reliability*First* Corporation Reliability Standards Development Procedure

Introduction

This procedure establishes the process for adoption of a Regional Reliability Standard¹ (hereinafter referred to as “Standard”) of the Reliability*First* Corporation (Reliability*First*) and the development of consensus for adoption, approval, revision, reaffirmation, and deletion of such Standards¹. Reliability*First* Standards provide for the reliable regional and sub-regional planning and operation of the Bulk Power System¹ (BPS), consistent with Good Utility Practice¹ within the Reliability*First* geographical footprint.

This procedure was developed under the direction of the Reliability*First* Board of Directors (Board), who may request changes to this Reliability*First* Reliability Standards Development Procedure (hereinafter referred to as “this Procedure”) as deemed appropriate. A procedure for revising this Procedure is contained in Appendix A. This Procedure is consistent with the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) Reliability Standards Development Procedure.

Reliability*First* standards shall be subject to approval by NERC, as the electric reliability organization, and by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) before becoming mandatory and enforceable under Section 215 of the FPA. No Standard shall be effective within the Reliability*First* area unless filed by NERC with FERC and approved by FERC. The effective date will depend on the implementation plan that is provided with each new or revised standard. The Reliability*First* standard is mandatory and enforceable to all applicable Entities within the Reliability*First* footprint upon approval by the FERC.

Reliability*First* Standards shall provide for as much uniformity as possible with NERC reliability standards across the interconnected BPS. A Reliability*First* Standard shall be more stringent than a NERC reliability standard, including a regional difference that addresses matters that the NERC reliability standard does not, or shall be a regional difference necessitated by a physical difference in the BPS. A Reliability*First* Standard that satisfies the statutory and regulatory criteria for approval of proposed NERC reliability standards, and that is more stringent than a NERC reliability standard, would generally be acceptable.

Reliability*First* Standards, when approved by FERC, shall be made part of the body of NERC reliability standards and shall be enforced upon all applicable BPS owners,

¹ As defined in the Reliability*First* Bylaws

operators, and users within the Reliability*First* area, regardless of membership in the region.

Background

Regions may develop, through their own processes, separate “Regional Standards” (Reliability*First* Standards) that go beyond, add detail to or aid implementation of NERC reliability standards, or otherwise address issues that are not addressed in NERC reliability standards.

As a condition of Reliability*First* membership, all Reliability*First* Members² agree to adhere to the NERC reliability standards. As such, the Reliability*First* and its Members will adhere to the NERC reliability standards in addition to the Reliability*First* Standards. NERC reliability standards and the Reliability*First* Standards are both to be included within the Reliability*First* Compliance Program.

Reliability*First* Standards are intended to apply only to that part of the Eastern Interconnection within the Reliability*First* geographical footprint. The development of these Reliability*First* Standards is developed according to the following principles via the process contained within this Procedure:

- Developed in a fair and open process that provided an opportunity for all interested parties to participate;
- Does not have an adverse impact on commerce that is not necessary for reliability;
- Provides a level of BPS reliability that is adequate to protect public health, safety, welfare, and national security and would not have a significant adverse impact on reliability; and
- Based on a justifiable difference between Regions or between sub-Regions within the Regional geographic area.

² As defined in the Reliability*First* By-laws

Regional Reliability Standard Definition, Characteristics, and Elements

Definition of a Reliability Standard

As contained in the ReliabilityFirst By-laws, ReliabilityFirst “Regional Reliability Standard” shall mean a type of Reliability Standard that is applicable only within a particular Regional Entity or group of Regional Entities. A Regional Reliability Standard may augment, add detail to, or implement another Reliability Standard or cover matters not addressed by other Reliability Standards. A Regional Reliability Standard is not binding upon any Member or Registered Entity, nor is it effective or enforceable, until the Regional Reliability Standard has been adopted by NERC and approved by the Commission as a Reliability Standard within the applicable Regional Entity or Regional Entities pursuant to delegated authorities.

Inherent in this definition, a ReliabilityFirst Standard will define certain obligations or requirements of entities that own, operate, plan, and use the BPS within the ReliabilityFirst geographical footprint. These obligations or requirements as contained in the ReliabilityFirst Standards are to be measurable and consistent with Good Utility Practice. Standards are not to include processes or procedures that implement a Standard. In addition, obligations, requirements or procedures imposed upon ReliabilityFirst by NERC reliability standards are not to be ReliabilityFirst Standards, unless those obligations, requirements or procedures require the establishment of a “policy or standard” as defined by the ReliabilityFirst By-laws.

Characteristics of a Regional Reliability Standard

A Standard is policy, including adequacy criteria to provide for the reliable regional and sub-regional planning and operation of the BPS, consistent with Good Utility Practice

A Standard shall generally have the following characteristics:

- **Measurable** - A Standard shall establish technical or performance requirements that can be practically measured.
- **Relative to NERC Reliability Standards** - A Standard generally must go beyond, add detail to, or implement NERC Reliability Standards, or cover matters not addressed in NERC Reliability Standards.

Format Requirements of a Regional Reliability Standard

A Standard shall consist of the requirements shown in the Regional Reliability Standard Template. These requirements apply to the development and revision of Standards. These requirements are necessary to achieve Standards that are measurable, enforceable,

and consistent. Supporting documents to aid in the implementation of a Standard may be referenced by the Standard but are not part of the Standard itself. The most current version of the approved NERC Reliability Standard template and its associated elements posted on the NERC website will be used at the time of the development of a Reliability*First* Regional Reliability Standard if different from the elements listed below.

Regional Reliability Standard Format Requirement Template Example

Identification Number	A unique identification number assigned in accordance with an administrative classification system to facilitate tracking and reference Reliability <i>First</i> documentation.
Title	A brief, descriptive phrase identifying the topic of the Standard.
Applicability	Clear identification of the functional classes of entities responsible for complying with the Standard, noting any specific additions or exceptions. If not applicable to the entire Reliability <i>First</i> area, then a clear identification of the portion of the BPS to which the Standard applies. Any limitation on the applicability of the Standard based on electric facility requirements should be described.
Effective Date and Status	The effective date of the Standard is the date of the FERC approval and the applicable implementation timeline.
Purpose	The purpose of the Standard. The purpose shall explicitly state what outcome will be achieved or is expected by this Standard.
Requirement(s)	Explicitly stated technical, performance, and preparedness requirements. Each requirement identifies what entity is responsible and what action is to be performed or what outcome is to be achieved. Compliance is mandatory for each statement in the requirements section.

<p>Risk Factor(s)</p>	<p>The potential reliability significance of each requirement, designated as a High, Medium, or Lower Risk Factor in accordance with the criteria listed below:</p> <p>A High Risk Factor requirement (a) is one that, if violated, could directly cause or contribute to BPS instability, separation, or a cascading sequence of failures, or could place the BPS at an unacceptable risk of instability, separation, or cascading failures; or (b) is a requirement in a planning timeframe that, if violated, could, under emergency, abnormal, or restorative conditions anticipated by the preparations, directly cause or contribute to BPS instability, separation, or a cascading sequence of failures, or could place the BPS at an unacceptable risk of instability, separation, or cascading failures, or could hinder restoration to abnormal condition.</p> <p>A Medium Risk Factor requirement (a) is a requirement that, if violated, could directly affect the electrical state or the capability of the BPS, or the ability to effectively monitor and control the BPS, but is unlikely to lead to BPS instability, separation, or cascading failures; or (b) is a requirement in a planning timeframe that, if violated, could, under emergency, abnormal, or restorative conditions anticipated by the preparations, directly affect the electrical state or capability of the BPS, or the ability to effectively monitor, control, or restore the BPS, but is unlikely, under emergency, abnormal, or restoration conditions anticipated by the preparations, to lead to BPS instability, separation, or cascading failures, nor to hinder restoration to a normal condition.</p> <p>A Lower Risk Factor requirement is administrative in nature and (a) is a requirement that, if violated, would not be expected to affect the electrical state or capability of the BPS, or the ability to effectively monitor and control the BPS; or (b) is a requirement in a planning time frame that, if violated, would not, under the emergency, abnormal, or restorative conditions anticipated by the preparations, be expected to affect the electrical state or capability of the BPS, or the ability to effectively monitor, control, or restore the BPS.</p>
<p>Measure(s)</p>	<p>Each requirement shall be addressed by one or more measurements that will be used to assess performance and outcomes for the purpose of determining compliance with the requirements stated above. Each measurement identifies to whom the measurement applies. Each measurement shall be tangible, and as objective as is practical. Achieving the full compliance level of each measurement is a necessary and sufficient indicator that the requirement was met.</p>

Compliance Administration Elements

Compliance Monitoring Process	Defines for each measure: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The specific data or information that is required to measure performance or outcomes.• The entity that is responsible to provide the data or information for measuring performance or outcomes.• The process that will be used to evaluate information for the purpose of assessing performance or outcomes.• The entity that is responsible for evaluating information to assess performance or outcomes.• The time period in which performance or outcomes is measured, evaluated, and then reset.• Data retention requirements and assignment of responsibility for data archiving.• Violation severity levels.
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Supporting Information Elements

Interpretations	Any Reliability <i>First</i> interpretations of the Standards that were developed, and approved in accordance with the “Interpretation of Standards” section of this Procedure, to expound on the application of the Standard for unusual or unique situations or provide clarifications.
Implementation Plan	Each Reliability <i>First</i> Standard shall have an associated implementation plan describing the effective date of the Standard or effective dates if there is a phased implementation. The implementation plan may also describe the implementation of the Standard in the compliance program and other considerations in the initial use of the Standard, such as necessary tools, training, etc. The implementation plan must be posted for at least one public comment period and be approved as part of the ballot of the standard.
Supporting References	This section references related documents that support reasons for, or provide additional information related to the Standard. Examples include, but are not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glossary of Terms • Developmental history of the Standard and prior versions • Subcommittee(s) responsible for Standard • Notes pertaining to implementation or compliance • Standard references • Procedures/Practices • Training and/or Technical Reference

Roles in the Regional Reliability Standards Development Process

Process Roles

Originator - Any entity (person, organization, company, government agency, individual, etc.) that is directly and materially affected by the reliability of the Reliability*First* BPS, is allowed to request a Standard be developed or an existing Standard is modified, or deleted, by creating a Standards Authorization Request (SAR). See Appendix B.

Board – The Reliability*First* Board shall act on any proposed Standard that has gone through the process contained in this Procedure. Once the Reliability*First* Board approves a Standard, compliance with the Standard will be enforced consistent with the By-laws and the terms of the Standard.

Standards Committee (SC) - The ReliabilityFirst SC will consider which requests for new or revised Standards shall be assigned for development (or existing Standards considered for deletion). The SC manages the Standards development process. The SC will advise the ReliabilityFirst Board on Standards presented for adoption by the ReliabilityFirst Board.

Standards Process Manager (SPM) – A person or persons on the ReliabilityFirst staff assigned the task of ensuring that the development, revision or deletion of Standards is in accordance with this Procedure. The SPM works to ensure the integrity of the process and consistency of quality and completeness of the Standards. The SPM facilitates the administration of all actions contained in all steps in the process.

Standards Process Staff – Employees of the ReliabilityFirst that work with or for the SPM.

Standard Drafting Team (SDT) – A team of technical experts, and typically including a member of the ReliabilityFirst Standards staff and the Originator, assigned the task of developing a proposed Standard based upon an approved SAR using the Standard development process contained in this Procedure.

Ballot Body (BB) – The Ballot Body comprises all entities that qualify for one or more of the categories and are registered with ReliabilityFirst as potential ballot participants in the voting on standards. The categories of registration within the Ballot Body and the registration process are described in Appendix D.

Ballot Pool – The Ballot Pool is comprised of those members of the Ballot Body that register to vote for each particular standard. A separate Ballot Pool is established for each standard up for vote. Only individuals who have joined the Ballot Pool for that particular standard are eligible to vote on a standard.

Reliability Committee (RC) – The ReliabilityFirst RC serves as a technical advisory body to address the reliability related activities required by the Reliability Standards via review and discussion of the regional activities as requested by the SC.

Regional Reliability Standard Development Process (Flow chart of Process shown in Appendix C)

Assumptions and Prerequisites

The ReliabilityFirst Regional Reliability Standards Development Process has the following characteristics:

- **Fair due process** - The ReliabilityFirst standards development process shall provide for reasonable notice and opportunity for public comment. At a minimum, the procedure shall include public notice

of the intent to develop a standard, a public comment period on the proposed standard, due consideration of those public comments, and a ballot of interested stakeholders.

- **Openness** - Participation is open to all Organizations who are directly and materially affected by the Reliability*First* region BPS reliability. There shall be no undue financial barriers to participation. Participation shall not be conditioned upon membership in the Reliability*First*, and shall not be unreasonably restricted on the basis of technical qualifications or other such requirements. Meetings of SDTs are open to the Reliability*First* membership and to others.
- **Balanced** - The Reliability*First* standards development process strives to have an appropriate balance of interests and shall not be dominated by any two interest categories and no single interest category shall be able to defeat a matter.
- **Inclusive** - Any entity (person, organization, company, government agency, individual, etc.) with a direct and material interest in the BPS in the Reliability*First* area shall have a right to participate by: a) expressing a position and its basis, b) having that position considered, and c) having the right to appeal.
- **Transparent** - All actions material to the development of Reliability*First* Standards shall be transparent. All standards development meetings shall be open and publicly noticed on Reliability*First*'s Web site.
- Does not unnecessarily delay development of the proposed Standard.

Note: The term “days” refers to calendar days.

Each standard shall enable or support one or more of the reliability principles, thereby ensuring that each standard serves a purpose in support of the reliability of the regional BPS. Each standard shall also be consistent with all of the reliability principles, thereby ensuring that no standard undermines reliability through an unintended consequence.

While Reliability*First* Standards are intended to promote reliability, they must at the same time accommodate competitive electricity markets. Reliability is a necessity for electricity markets, and robust electricity markets can support reliability. Recognizing that BPS reliability and electricity markets are inseparable and mutually interdependent, all Reliability*First* Standards shall be consistent with NERC's market interface principles. Consideration of the market interface principles is intended to ensure that standards are written such that they achieve their reliability objective without causing undue restrictions or adverse impacts on competitive electricity markets.

ReliabilityFirst will coordinate with NERC such that the acknowledgement of receipt of a standard request identified in step 1, notice of comment posting period identified in step 4, and notice for vote identified in step 5 below are concurrently posted on both the ReliabilityFirst and NERC websites.

Step 1 - Development of a Standards Authorization Request (SAR) to Develop, Revise or Delete a Regional Reliability Standard

Any individual representing an organization (Originator) which is directly or materially impacted by the operation of the BPS within the geographical footprint of the ReliabilityFirst may request, via a submittal of a Standard Authorization Request (SAR) form, the development, modification, or deletion of a ReliabilityFirst Standard. Any such request shall be submitted to the ReliabilityFirst SPM, or his/her designee, or by another process as otherwise posted on the ReliabilityFirst website. The SAR form may be downloaded from the ReliabilityFirst website.

The SAR contains a description of the proposed Standard subject matter containing sufficiently descriptive detail to clearly define the purpose, scope, impacted parties, and other relevant information of the proposed Standard. The SPM will verify that the submitted SAR form has been adequately completed. The SPM may offer the Originator suggestions regarding changes and/or improvements to improve clarity and assist the ReliabilityFirst community to understand the Originator's intent and objectives. The Originator is free to accept or reject these suggestions. Within 15 days the SPM will electronically acknowledge receipt of the SAR.

The SPM will forward the adequately complete SAR to the ReliabilityFirst SC, at which time, the SC will post the SAR for comments within 15 days, SARs will be posted and publicly noticed.

Comments on the SARs will be accepted for a 30-day period from the notice of posting. Comments will be accepted online using an internet-based application. The SPM will provide a copy of the comments to the Originator and the SC.

Based on the comments, the SC shall make available a consideration of comments report and determine the disposition of the SAR (within 60 calendar days following the SAR commenting period). The disposition decision and decision process shall use the normal "business rules and procedures" of the SC then in effect. The SC may take one of the following actions³ in accordance with the ReliabilityFirst Standards Committee Governance document:

³Actions by the Standards Committee may be appealed per the Appeals process in Appendix A

- Accept the SAR as a candidate for: development of a new Standard, revision of an existing Standard or deletion of an existing Standard. The SC may, in its sole discretion, expand or narrow the scope of the SAR under consideration. The SC shall prioritize the development of SARs as may be required based on the number of SARs under development at any time.
- Reject the SAR. If the SC rejects a SAR, a written explanation for rejection will be delivered to the Originator within 30 days of the decision.
- Remand the SAR back to the Originator for redirection to the NERC process. In cases where there is a Reliability need identified in the SAR but it does not meet the criteria for Regional standards (more stringent reliability requirements than the NERC reliability standard or cover matters not covered by an existing NERC reliability standard), the Standards Committee will assist the Originator in submitting the SAR to NERC.
- Remand the SAR back to the Originator for additional work. The SPM will make reasonable efforts to assist the Originator in addressing the deficiencies identified by the SC. The Originator may then resubmit the modified SAR using the process above. The Originator may choose to withdraw the SAR from further consideration prior to re-submittal to the SC

Any SAR that is accepted by the SC for development of a Standard (or modification or deletion of an existing Standard) shall be posted for public viewing on the ReliabilityFirst website within 30 days of acceptance by the SC. The status of posted SARs will be publicly posted.

Any documentation of the deliberations of the SC concerning SARs shall be made available according to the “ReliabilityFirst Standards Committee Governance” document then in effect.

The SC shall submit a written report to the ReliabilityFirst Board on a periodic basis (at least at every regularly scheduled ReliabilityFirst Board meeting) showing the status of all SARs that have been brought to the SC for consideration.

Step 2 – Formation of the Standard Drafting Team and Declaration of Milestone Date

Upon acceptance by the SC of a SAR for development of a new Standard (or modification or deletion of an existing Standard), the SC shall direct the SPM to develop a qualified balance slate for the SDT using the specific directions and preferences of the SC. The SPM will send out self-nomination forms to solicit SDT nominees. The SDT will consist of a group of people (members of ReliabilityFirst and, as appropriate, non-members) who collectively have the necessary technical expertise and work process skills. The SPM will recommend a slate of ad-hoc individuals or a preexisting task force, work group or similar for the SDT based upon the SC’s desired SDT capabilities.

The SC may also direct the SPM to designate an existing Reliability*First* committee (or subset thereof) as the SDT augmented by other persons as may be appropriate for the subject matter. The SC will insure that SDT membership includes all necessary administrative support. This support typically includes a Reliability*First* staff member and the Originator if he/she chooses to participate. The SC appoints the interim chair (should not be a staff person) of the SDT. The SDT will elect the permanent Chair and Vice-chair at its first meeting.

The SPM submits the proposed list of names of the SDT to the SC. The SC will either accept the recommendations of the SPM or modify the SDT slate, as it deems appropriate within 60 days of accepting a SAR for development.

Upon approval of the SDT slate, the SC will declare a preliminary date on which the SDT is expected to have ready a completed draft Standard and associated supporting documentation available for consideration by the Reliability*First* membership.

Step 3 – Work and Work Product of the Standard Drafting Team

The SDT will then develop a work plan for completing the Standard development work, including the establishment of milestones for completing critical elements of the work in sufficient detail to ensure that the SDT will meet the deadline established by the SC or the SDT shall propose an alternative date. This plan is then delivered to the SC for its concurrence.

The SDT is to meet, either in person or via electronic means as necessary, establish sub-work teams (made up of members of the SDT) as necessary, and performs other activities to address the parameters of the SAR and the milestone date(s) established by the SC.

The work product of the SDT will consist of the following:

- A draft Standard consistent with the SAR on which it was based.
- An assessment of the impact of the SAR on neighboring regions, and appropriate input from the neighboring regions if the SAR is determined to impact any neighboring region.
- An implementation plan, including the nature, extent and duration of field-testing, if any.
- Identification of any existing Standard that will be deleted, in part or whole, or otherwise impacted by the implementation of the draft Standard.
- Technical reports, white papers and/or work papers that provide technical support for the draft Standard under consideration.
- Document the perceived reliability impact should the Standard be approved.

Upon completion of these tasks, the SDT submits these documents to the SC, which will verify that the proposed Standard is consistent with the SAR on which it was developed

The SDT regularly (at least once each month) informs the SC of its progress in meeting a timely completion of the draft Standard. The SDT may request of the SC scope changes of the SAR at any point in the Standard development process.

The SC may, at any time, exercise its authority over the Standards development process by directing the SDT to move to Step 4 and post for comment the current work product. If there are competing drafts, the SC may, at its sole discretion, post the version(s) of the draft Standard for comment on the *ReliabilityFirst* website. The SC may take this step at any time after a SDT has been commissioned to develop the Standard.

Step 4 – *Comment Posting Period*

At the direction from the SC, the SPM then facilitates the posting of the draft Standard on the *ReliabilityFirst* website, along with a draft implementation plan and supporting documents, for a 30-day comment period. The SPM shall also inform *ReliabilityFirst* Members and other potentially interested entities inside or outside of *ReliabilityFirst* of the posting using typical membership communication procedures then currently in effect or by other means as deemed appropriate. As early as the start of the first posting for comment, entities may join the Ballot Pool established for the eventual voting on the proposed standard. The Ballot Pool category description and associated requirements are in Appendix D.

Within 30 days of the conclusion of 30-day comment posting period the SDT shall convene and consider changes to the draft Standard, the implementation plan and/or supporting technical documents based upon comments received. Based upon these comments, the SDT may elect to return to step 3 to revise the draft Standard, implementation plan and/or supporting technical documentation.

The SDT shall prepare a “modification report” summarizing the comments received and the changes made as a result of these comments. The modification report also summarizes comments that were rejected by the SDT and the reason(s) that these comments were rejected, in part or whole. Responses to all comments will be posted on the *ReliabilityFirst* website no later than the next posting of the proposed Standard.

Step 5 – *Posting for Voting by ReliabilityFirst Registered Ballot Body*

Upon recommendation of the SDT, and if the SC concurs that all of the requirements for development of the Standard have been met, the SPM will post the revised draft Standard, implementation plan, supporting technical documentation and the “modification report”. Once the notice for a vote has been issued, no substantive modifications may be made to the proposed standard unless the revisions are posted and a new notice of the vote is issued.

Entities may register in the BB at any time during the Standards process. The BB category description and associated rules are in Appendix D.

By 11:59 PM Central Prevailing Time (CPT) of the seventh day of the 15 day pre-ballot posting period, registered BB members intending to vote on the proposed standard must have joined the Ballot Pool established for the eventual voting on the proposed standard being posted. The SPM will schedule a Vote by the Ballot Pool which is to be scheduled to commence no sooner than 15 days and no later than 30 days following this posting. The Vote by the Ballot Pool is an advisory to the Reliability*First* Board.

The Ballot Pool shall be allowed to vote over a period of 15 days. Votes will be submitted electronically, but may be submitted through other means as approved by the SC.

All BB members are eligible to participate in voting on proposed new Standards, Standard revisions or Standard deletions. There is a requirement to join a Ballot Pool to participate in voting for each standard.

The voting results will be composed of only the votes from BB entities that have joined the Ballot Pool for the standard being voted on and responding within the voting period. Votes may be accompanied by comments explaining the vote, but are not required. All comments shall be responded to and posted to the Reliability*First* website prior to going to the SC or Board.

Step 6A – Voting Receives Two-Thirds or Greater Majority of Affirmative Category Votes

A two-thirds or greater majority⁴ of votes within a category determines the vote for that category. The Initial ballot has passed if there is a two-thirds or greater affirmative majority of category votes (only those categories with votes cast will be considered) during the 15-day voting period and a quorum⁵ is met.

If there is at least one (1) Negative vote with comment during the initial ballot, then the standard will be posted for a 10-day Recirculation ballot. If there are no Negative votes with comments, the SC will forward the Standard to the Reliability*First* Board for action (Step 7). In the recirculation ballot, members of the Ballot Pool shall again be presented the proposed standard (that has not been significantly changed from the previous ballot) along with the reasons for negative votes, the responses, and any resolution of the differences. An insignificant revision is a revision that does not change the scope, applicability, or intent of any requirement and includes but is not limited to things such as correcting the numbering of a requirement, correcting the spelling of a word, adding an

⁴ For the purposes of determining majority within a category, an abstention is not considered a vote.

⁵ A quorum is achieved when three-fourths (75%) or greater of the ballot pool casts a vote

obviously missing word, or rephrasing a requirement for improved clarity. Where there is a question as to whether a proposed modification is “substantive” the Standards Committee shall make the final determination. All members of the Ballot Pool shall be permitted to reconsider and change their vote from the prior ballot. Members of the Ballot Pool who did not respond to the prior ballot shall be permitted to vote in the recirculation ballot. In the recirculation ballot, Ballot Pool members may indicate a revision to their original vote otherwise their vote shall remain the same as in their prior ballot.

Upon successful completion of the initial and recirculation voting periods, the SC will forward the Standard to the Reliability*First* Board for action (Step 7).

Step 6B – Voting Does Not Receive Two-Thirds or Greater Majority of Affirmative Category Votes or a Quorum⁵ is Not Met

If a draft Standard does not receive a two-thirds or greater affirmative majority of votes determined for each category (only those categories with votes cast will be considered) or does not reach quorum during the 15-day Initial voting period, the SC may:

- Direct the SDT to respond to ballot comments and post the standard for a 10-day Recirculation ballot (as discussed in Step 6A) to determine if the response to comments alleviates reasons for the Negative initial ballots.
- Direct the existing SDT to reconsider or modify certain aspects of the draft Standard and/or implementation plan. The resulting draft Standard and/or implementation plan will be posted for a second initial voting period. The SC may require a second comment period prior to the second voting period. The second posting of the draft Standard, implementation plan, and supporting documentation shall be within 60 days of the SC action.
 - If there is a two-thirds or greater affirmative majority of categories with votes cast and a quorum is met during the second initial ballot and second recirculation ballot, the SC will forward it to the Reliability*First* Board for action (Step 7).
 - If a draft Standard does not receive a two-thirds or greater majority of affirmative category votes cast during the second initial ballot or a quorum is not met, the SC will refer the draft Standard and implementation plan to the Reliability*First* Board. The SC may also submit an assessment, opinion and recommendations to the Reliability*First* Board (Step 7).
- Revise the SAR on which the draft Standard was based and remand the development work back to the original SDT or a newly appointed SDT. The resulting draft Standard and/or implementation plan will be posted for a second voting period. The SC may require a second comment period prior to a second

voting period. The second posting of the draft Standard, implementation plan, and supporting documentation shall be within 60 days of the SC action.

- If there is a two-thirds or greater affirmative majority of categories with votes cast and a quorum is met during the second initial ballot and second recirculation ballot, the SC will forward it to the Reliability*First* Board for action (Step 7).
- If a draft Standard does not receive a two-thirds or greater majority of affirmative category votes cast during the second voting period or a quorum is not met, the SC will refer the draft Standard and implementation plan to the Reliability*First* Board. The SC may also submit an assessment, opinion and recommendations to the Reliability*First* Board (Step 7).
- Recommend termination of all work on the development of the Standard action under consideration and so notify the Reliability*First* Board.

Step 7 – Action by the ReliabilityFirst Board

A draft Standard submitted to the Reliability*First* Board for action must be publicly posted at least 30 days prior to action by the Board. At a regular or special meeting, the Reliability*First* Board shall consider adoption of the draft Standard. The Board will consider the results of the voting and dissenting opinions. The Board will consider any advice offered by the SC.

Draft Standards that received a two-thirds or greater of categories with votes cast shall be delivered to the Reliability*First* Board for their action. The Reliability*First* Board shall be provided with an “informational package” which includes:

- The draft Standard and any modification or deletion of other related existing Standard(s)
- Implementation Plan (including recommending field testing and effective dates)
- Technical Documentation supporting the draft Standard
- A summary of the vote and summary of the comments and responses that accompanied the votes.

The Reliability*First* Board is expected to either:

- Approve the draft Standard action with only minor or no modification. Under no circumstances may the Board substantively modify the proposed regional reliability standard.
- Remand to the SC with comments and instructions, or
- Disapprove the draft Standard action without recourse.

Draft Standards that did not receive a two-thirds or greater of categories with votes cast in the second voting period shall be delivered to the Reliability*First* Board for their action. The Reliability*First* Board shall be provided with an “informational package”.

The Reliability*First* Board is expected to either:

- Approve the draft Standard action with only minor or no modification. Under no circumstances may the Board substantively modify the proposed regional reliability standard.
- Remand to the SC with comments and instructions, or
- Disapprove the draft Standard action without recourse.

Once a regional Reliability*First* Standard is approved by the Board, the standard will be submitted to NERC for approval and filing with FERC.

Step 8 - Implementation of a Regional Reliability Standard

Upon approval of a draft Standard action by the FERC, the SPM will notify the membership and applicable Entities within the Reliability*First* footprint of the effective date through the normal and customary membership communication procedures and processes then in effect. The SPM will also notify the Reliability*First* Compliance Staff for integration into the Reliability*First* Compliance Program.

Appendix A

Maintenance of Regional Reliability Standards Development Process

Significant changes to this Procedure shall begin with the preparation of a SAR and be handled using the same procedure as a request to add, modify, or delete a Standard.

The Reliability*First* SC has the authority to make ‘minor’ changes to this Procedure as deemed appropriate by the SC and subject to the SC voting practices and procedures according to the “Reliability*First* Standards Committee Governance” document. The SC shall promptly notify the Reliability*First* Board of such ‘minor’ changes to this Procedure for their review and concurrence at the next Reliability*First* Board meeting.

Maintenance of Regional Reliability Standards

The SC shall ensure that each Standard shall be reviewed at least once every five years from the effective date of the Standard or the latest revision to the Standard, whichever is the later. The review process shall be conducted by soliciting comments from the stakeholders. If no changes are warranted, the SC shall recommend to the Reliability*First* Board that the Standard be reaffirmed. If the review indicates a need to revise or delete a Standard, a SAR shall be prepared and submitted in accordance with the standards development process contained in this Procedure.

Urgent Action

Under certain conditions, the SC may designate a proposed Standard or revision to a Standard as requiring urgent action. Urgent action may be appropriate when a delay in implementing a proposed Standard or revision could materially impact reliability of the BPS. The SC must use its judgment carefully to ensure an urgent action is truly necessary and not simply an expedient way to change or implement a Standard.

A requester prepares a SAR and a draft of the proposed Standard and submits both to the SPM. The SAR must include a justification for urgent action. The SPM submits the request to the SC for its consideration. If the SC designates the requested Standard or revision as an urgent action item, then the SPM shall immediately post the draft for pre-ballot review. This posting requires a minimum 30-day posting period before the ballot and applies the same voting procedure as detailed in Step 5. Processing will continue as outlined in the subsequent steps. In the event additional drafting is required, a SDT will be assembled as outlined in the Procedure.

Any Standard approved as an urgent action shall have a termination date specified that shall not exceed one year from the approval date. Should there be a need to make the Standard permanent, then the Standard would be required to go through the full Standard

development process. All urgent action Standards require ReliabilityFirst Board, NERC and FERC approval, as outlined for Standards in the regular process.

Urgent actions that expire may be renewed using the urgent action process again, in the event a permanent Standard is not adopted. In determining whether to authorize an urgent action Standard for a renewal ballot, the SC shall consider the impact of the Standard on the reliability of the BPS and whether expeditious progress is being made toward a permanent replacement Standard. The SC shall not authorize a renewal ballot if there is insufficient progress toward adopting a permanent replacement Standard or if the SC lacks confidence that a reasonable completion date is achievable. The intent is to ensure that an urgent action Standard does not in effect take on a degree of permanence due to the lack of an expeditious effort to develop a permanent replacement Standard. With these principles, there is no predetermined limit on the number of times an urgent action may be renewed. However, each urgent action Standard renewal shall be effective only upon approval by the ReliabilityFirst Board, NERC and FERC.

Any person or entity, including the SDT working on a permanent replacement Standard, may at any time submit a SAR proposing that an urgent action Standard become a permanent Standard by following the full Standards process.

Interpretations of Standards

All persons who are directly and materially affected by the reliability of ReliabilityFirst BPS shall be permitted to request an interpretation of the standard. The person requesting an interpretation will send a request to the SPM explaining the specific circumstances surrounding the request and what clarifications are required as applied to those circumstances. The request should indicate the material impact to the requesting party or others caused by the lack of clarity or a possibly incorrect interpretation of the standard.

The SPM, along with guidance from the SC, will assemble a team with the relevant expertise to address the request. The Interpretation Drafting Team (IDT) typically consists of members from the original SDT. The SPM submits the proposed list of names of the IDT to the SC. The SC will either accept the recommendations of the SPM or modify the IDT slate.

As soon as practical (not more than 45 days), the team will prepare an initial draft interpretation of the standard addressing the issues raised. Once the IDT has completed the initial draft interpretation, the team will post the draft for a 30-day informal⁶ stakeholder comment period. The IDT will review the stakeholder feedback and may make changes before preparing a final draft of the interpretation. The IDT will then forward the draft interpretation to the SPM. The SPM will forward the interpretation to

⁶ An informal comment period does not require the IDT to respond to every stakeholder comment and is only used to make potential changes for the final draft of the interpretation.

the Reliability Committee (RC). Barring receipt of an opinion from the RC within 21 calendar days, that the interpretation is not technically appropriate for the Standard, respectively, the SPM will forward the interpretation to the SC. The SC will determine if the interpretation is consistent with the Standard and does not add additional requirements to the standard. The SC will forward the interpretation to the Reliability *First* Board for informational purposes as being appended to the approved Standard.

Note: In the event that the RC determines that the interpretation makes the standard technically inappropriate the RC shall provide an explanation of its reasoning to the SPM and IDT for inclusion in a subsequent revision. In either case, the IDT and SPM will continue to re-circulate the interpretation as stated above.

The interpretation will stand until such time as the standard is revised through the normal process, at which time the standard will be modified to incorporate the clarifications provided by the interpretation.

Appeals

Persons who have directly and materially affected interests and who have been or will be adversely affected by any substantive or procedural action or inaction related to the development, approval, revision, reaffirmation, or withdrawal of a Standard shall have the right to appeal. This appeals process applies only to the Standards process as defined in this Procedure.

The burden of proof to show adverse effect shall be on the appellant. Appeals shall be made within 30 days of the date of the action purported to cause the adverse effect, except appeals for inaction, which may be made at any time. In all cases, the request for appeal must be made prior to the next step in the process.

The final decisions of any appeal shall be documented in writing and made public.

The appeals process has two levels, with the goal of expeditiously resolving the issue to the satisfaction of the participants:

Level 1 Appeal

Level 1 is the required first step in the appeals process. The appellant submits a complaint in writing to the SPM that describes the substantive or procedural action or inaction associated with a Standard or the standards process. The appellant describes in the complaint the actual or potential adverse impact to the appellant. Assisted by any necessary staff and committee resources, the SPM shall prepare a written response addressed to the appellant as soon as practical but not more than 45-days after receipt of the complaint. If the appellant accepts the response as a satisfactory resolution of the

issue, both the complaint and response will be made a part of the public record associated with the standard.

Level 2 Appeal

If after the Level 1 Appeal the appellant remains unsatisfied with the resolution, as indicated by the appellant in writing to the SPM, the SPM shall convene a Level 2 Appeals Panel. This panel shall consist of five members total appointed by the Reliability*First* Board.

In all cases, Level 2 Appeals Panel members shall have no direct affiliation with the participants in the appeal.

The SPM shall post the complaint and other relevant materials and provide at least 30-days notice of the meeting of the Level 2 Appeals Panel. In addition to the appellant, any person that is directly and materially affected by the substantive or procedural action or inaction referenced in the complaint shall be heard by the panel. The panel shall not consider any expansion of the scope of the appeal that was not presented in the Level 1 Appeal. The panel may in its decision find for the appellant and remand the issue to the SC with a statement of the issues and facts in regard to which fair and equitable action was not taken. The panel may find against the appellant with a specific statement of the facts that demonstrate fair and equitable treatment of the appellant and the appellant's objections. The panel may not, however, revise, approve, disapprove, or adopt a reliability standard. The actions of the Level 2 Appeals Panel shall be publicly posted.

In addition to the foregoing, a procedural objection that has not been resolved may be submitted to the Reliability*First* Board for consideration at the time the Board decides whether to adopt a particular reliability standard. The objection must be in writing, signed by an officer of the objecting entity, and contain a concise statement of the relief requested and a clear demonstration of the facts that justify that relief. The objection must be filed no later than 30-days after the announcement of the vote on the Standard in question.

Appendix B

Standard Authorization Request

The SC shall be responsible for implementing and maintaining this form as needed to support the information requirements of the standards development process in this Procedure. Changes to this form are considered minor, and therefore subject to only the approval of the SC.

ReliabilityFirst Standard Authorization Request Form

**ReliabilityFirst
will complete**

Title of Proposed Standard
Request Date

ID
Authorized for Posting
Authorized for Development

SAR Originator Information

Name	SAR Type (Check box for one of these selections.)	
Company	<input type="checkbox"/>	New Standard
Telephone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Revision to Existing Standard
Fax	<input type="checkbox"/>	Withdrawal of Existing Standard
E-mail	<input type="checkbox"/>	Urgent Action

Purpose (Provide one or two sentences.)

Industry Need (Provide one or two sentences.)

Brief Description (A few sentences or a paragraph.)

Reliability Functions

The Standard will Apply to the Following Functions (Check box for each one that applies.)

	Reliability Authority	Ensures the reliability of the bulk transmission system within its Reliability Authority area. This is the highest reliability authority.
	Balancing Authority	Integrates resource plans ahead of time, and maintains load-interchange-resource balance within its metered boundary and supports system frequency in real time
	Generator Owner	Owns and maintains generating units
	Interchange Authority	Authorizes valid and balanced Interchange Schedules
	Planning Authority	Plans the BPS
	Resource Planner	Develops a long-term (generally one year and beyond) plan for the resource adequacy of specific loads (customer demand and energy requirements) within a Planning Authority Area
	Transmission Planner	Develops a long-term (generally one year and beyond) plan for the reliability (adequacy) of the interconnected bulk electric transmission systems within its portion of the Planning Authority Area
	Transmission Service Provider	Provides transmission services to qualified market participants under applicable transmission service agreements
	Transmission Owner	Owns transmission facilities
	Transmission Operator	Operates and maintains the transmission facilities, and executes switching orders

	Distribution Provider	Provides and operates the “wires” between the transmission system and the customer
	Generator Operator	Operates generating unit(s) and performs the functions of supplying energy and Interconnected Operations Services
	Purchasing-Selling Entity	The function of purchasing or selling energy, capacity and all necessary Interconnected Operations Services as required
	Load-Serving Entity	Secures energy and transmission (and related generation services) to serve the end user
	Market Operator	Integrates energy, capacity, balancing, and transmission resources to achieve an economic, reliability-constrained dispatch of resources. The dispatch may be either cost-based or bid-based
	Regional Reliability Organizations	An entity that ensures that a defined area of the BPS is reliable, adequate and secure. A member of the North American Electric Reliability Council. The Regional Reliability Organization can serve as the Compliance Monitor

NOTE: The SDT may find it necessary to modify the initial reliability function responsibility assignment as a result of the standards development and comments received.

Reliability Principles

<i>Applicable Reliability Principles (Check box for all that apply.)</i>	
	1. Interconnected BPS shall be planned and operated in a coordinated manner to perform reliably under normal and abnormal conditions as defined in the NERC Standards.
	2. The frequency and voltage of interconnected BPS shall be controlled within defined limits through the balancing of real and reactive power supply and demand.
	3. Information necessary for the planning and operation of interconnected BPS shall be made available to those entities responsible for planning and operating the systems reliably.
	4. Plans for emergency operation and system restoration of interconnected BPS shall be developed, coordinated, maintained, and implemented.
	5. Facilities for communication, monitoring, and control shall be provided, used, and maintained for the reliability of interconnected BPS.

	6. Personnel responsible for planning and operating interconnected BPS shall be trained, qualified, and have the responsibility and authority to implement actions.
	7. The security of the interconnected BPS shall be assessed, monitored, and maintained on a wide-area basis.

Market Interface Principles

<i>Does the proposed Standard comply with all of the following Market Interface Principles?</i>	
Recognizing that reliability is an essential requirement of a robust North American economy:	
yes or no	1. A reliability standard shall not give any market participant an unfair competitive advantage.
yes or no	2. A reliability standard shall neither mandate nor prohibit any specific market structure.
yes or no	3. A reliability standard shall not preclude market solutions to achieving compliance with that standard.
yes or no	4. A reliability standard shall not require the public disclosure of commercially sensitive information. All market participants shall have equal opportunity to access commercially non-sensitive information that is required for compliance with reliability standards.

Detailed Description (Provide enough detail so that an independent entity familiar with the industry could draft a Standard based on this description.)

Related Standards (NERC and Regional)

Standard No.	Explanation

Related SARs

SAR ID	Explanation

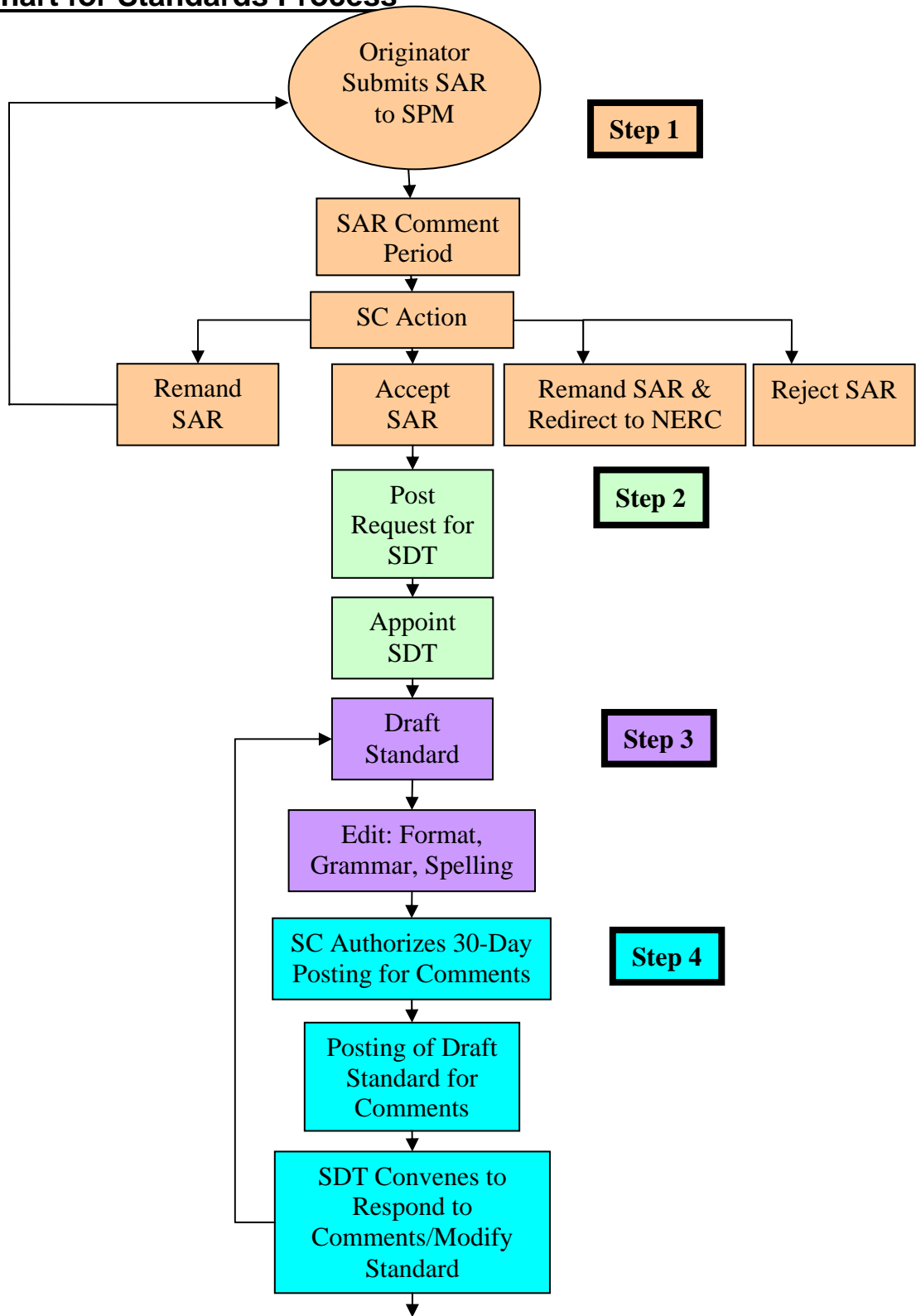
Implementation Plan

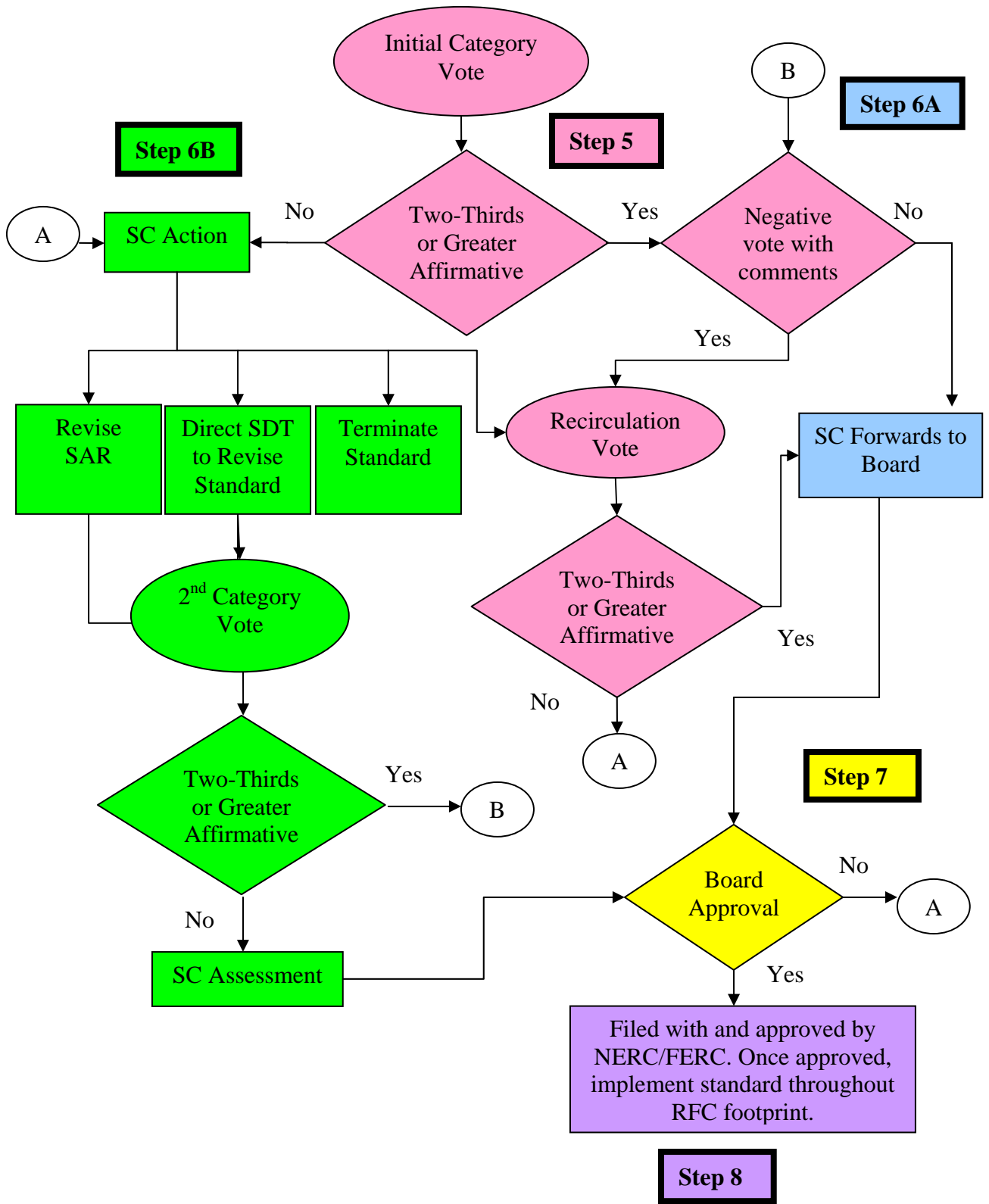
<p>Description (<i>Provide plans for the implementation of the proposed standard, including any known systems or training requirements. Include the reliability risk(s) associated with the violation that the standard will mitigate, and the costs associated with implementation.</i>)</p>	
<p>Proposed Implementation</p>	<p>days after Board adoption or</p>
<p>_____</p> <p>on (date):</p>	

Assignments

	<i>Assignment</i>
<i>Team Members</i>	
ReliabilityFirst Staff	

Appendix C
Flowchart for Standards Process





Appendix D

Ballot Pool Categories

For the purposes of category Ballot Pool registration and voting, a person or entity may join the registered Ballot Pool to vote on standards, whether or not such person or entity is a member of Reliability*First*.

A corporation or other organization with integrated operations or with affiliates that qualifies to belong to more than one category (e.g., Transmission Owners and Load Serving Entities) may join and vote once in each category for which it qualifies, provided that each category constitutes a separate membership in the Ballot Body and the organization is represented in each category by a different representative. Affiliated entities are collectively limited to one membership in each category in the Ballot Pool for which they are qualified.

Category 1 – Transmission Owner, Transmission Operator, Transmission Service Provider

Category 2 – Generator Owner, Generator Operator

Category 3 – Load Serving Entity, Purchasing and Selling Entity, End User

Category 4 – Reliability Coordinator, Planning Coordinator, Transmission Planner, Resource Planner, Regional Transmission Organization, Balancing Authority, regulatory or governmental agency

Category 5 – Distribution Provider

Ballot Body Registration

Entities may register in the BB at any time during the Standards process. The SPM shall review all applications for joining the BB, and make a determination of whether they qualify for the self-selection category. In order to comment or vote you must have an active membership in the BB. When you submit your registration request to join the BB, you are placed in a “pending stage” until your account is activated. Activation of your account may take up to 24 hours. You will be unable to submit comments or join a Ballot Pool until your account is activated. The contact designated as primary representative to Reliability*First* is the voting member with the secondary contact as the backup.

Note: Registration for a BB is not the same as registration for the compliance registry. Although the terminology used to describe the BB categories in most cases has the same meaning as the terms used in the NERC Functional Model, registration in a BB goes

beyond the compliance registry in that entities smaller than those stated in the compliance registry guidelines are allowed to register in a BB. Entities shall have evidence that they qualify for the BB category they register in. Such evidence shall be available for the SPM review to verify BB registration and may include compliance registration.

Ballot Pool Formation

In order to participate in voting on a particular standard, an entity must join the Ballot Pool being established for the standard as follows:

- 1 – As early as the start of the first posting for comment, entities may join the Ballot Pool established for the eventual voting on the proposed standard being posted.
- 2 - By close of business of the seventh day of the 15 day pre ballot posting period, entities wishing to vote must have joined the Ballot Pool established for the eventual voting on the proposed standard being posted.

EXHIBIT D – COMPLIANCE MONITORING AND ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM

1.0 REGIONAL COMPLIANCE MONITORING AND ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM

ReliabilityFirst will implement the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program, Appendix 4C to the NERC Rules of Procedure (which for purposes of this section 1.0 shall not include Attachment 2, Hearing Procedures), to monitor and enforce compliance with Reliability Standards by the owners, operators, and users within ReliabilityFirst's geographic or electrical boundaries, and such other scope, set forth on **Exhibit A** of this Agreement.

2.0 REGIONAL HEARING OF COMPLIANCE MATTERS

ReliabilityFirst shall establish and maintain a hearing body with authority to conduct and render decisions in compliance hearings in which a Registered Entity may contest a finding of alleged violation, proposed penalty or sanction, or a proposed mitigation plan, which shall be either ReliabilityFirst's board or a balanced compliance panel reporting directly to ReliabilityFirst's board. ReliabilityFirst's hearing body is a composition of members of the ReliabilityFirst Compliance Committee as established by the Board of Directors of ReliabilityFirst as set out in the ReliabilityFirst Compliance Committee Charter. No two industry sectors may control any decision and no single segment may veto any matter brought before the Hearing Body either before or after any recusals or disqualifications.

ReliabilityFirst shall conduct all compliance hearings in which a Registered Entity may contest a finding of alleged violation, proposed penalty or sanction, proposed Mitigation Plan, or a proposed Remedial Action Directive, in accordance with Attachment 2, Hearing Procedures, to the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program, subject to the following deviations, if any: None.

3.0 OTHER DECISION-MAKING BODIES

None.

Exhibit E — Funding

1. Scope of activities funded through the ERO funding mechanism

ReliabilityFirst shall include in its annual budget submission to NERC amounts for costs it will incur in performing its delegated functions and related activities as described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 of the Agreement. These activities shall include:

- Reliability Standard Development
- Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement
- Organization Registration and Certification
- Reliability Assessment and Performance Analysis (including necessary data gathering activities)
- Event Analysis and Reliability Improvement
- Training and Education
- Situation Awareness
- Infrastructure Security

2. Preparation of Annual Business Plan and Budget

(a) NERC and ReliabilityFirst, in conjunction with the other Regional Entities, shall collaboratively develop an annual schedule for the development, submission, review and approval of ReliabilityFirst's business plan and budget. The annual schedule for the preparation of business plans and budgets shall require ReliabilityFirst (i) to submit to NERC draft(s) of ReliabilityFirst's proposed business plan and budget and other preliminary documents and information, and (ii) to submit a final proposed business plan and budget that has been approved by ReliabilityFirst Board of Trustees to NERC by July 1 or such other agreed date as provides sufficient time for NERC's review, approval and submission of ReliabilityFirst's business plan and budget to the Commission 130 days in advance of the beginning of each fiscal year. The ReliabilityFirst business plan and budget submission shall include supporting materials, including ReliabilityFirst's complete business plan and organization chart, explaining the proposed collection of all assessments, dues, fees and charges, and the proposed expenditure of the funds to be collected in sufficient detail to justify the requested budgeted expenditures and assessments. ReliabilityFirst's business plan and budget and proposed assessments shall provide for reasonable reserve mechanisms for unforeseen and extraordinary expenses and other contingencies, consistent with generally accepted accounting principles.

(b) NERC shall review and approve ReliabilityFirst's proposed business plan and budget and proposed assessments for performing the delegated functions and related activities described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 of this Agreement and listed above in Section 1 of this **Exhibit E**, or shall direct ReliabilityFirst to make such revisions as NERC deems appropriate prior to approval. NERC shall submit ReliabilityFirst's approved business plan and budget and proposed assessments to the Commission for approval as part of NERC's overall business plan and budget submission, in accordance with the ERO Regulations.

3. Allocation of Costs

Assessments to fund the costs of *ReliabilityFirst*'s delegated functions and related activities pursuant to the Agreement shall be allocated among all load-serving entities on the basis of Net Energy for Load, unless a different method(s) of allocating and calculating such assessments has been submitted to and approved by NERC and the Commission in accordance with Section 9(b) of the Agreement. *ReliabilityFirst* shall submit to NERC annually at the same time it submits its budget request a list of the load-serving entities or designees within its geographic boundaries that shall be responsible for paying *ReliabilityFirst*'s assessment and the load-serving entities' proportionate Net Energy for Load, and such other data and information as is necessary to allocate and calculate the allocation of *ReliabilityFirst*'s assessment to the load-serving entities or designees under the method(s) of allocation and calculation that will be used.

4. Collection of Funding

(a) NERC shall submit invoices to the load-serving entities or designees identified by *ReliabilityFirst* covering the NERC and *ReliabilityFirst* assessments approved for collection.

(b) NERC shall pursue any non-payments of assessment amounts and shall request assistance from ERO Governmental Authorities as necessary to secure collection. To the extent reasonably practicable, *ReliabilityFirst* shall assist NERC in pursuing and collecting any non-payments. Notwithstanding the foregoing, *ReliabilityFirst* is not responsible and does not assume any liability for recovering non-payments or underpayments of assessment amounts. NERC shall retain sole responsibility for recovering non-payments or underpayments of assessment amounts. NERC shall add the amount of any non-payments by end-users or designees within *ReliabilityFirst*'s region, that are reasonably determined to be uncollectible, to NERC's assessments for a subsequent year with the amount of such non-payments to be allocated to end-users within *ReliabilityFirst*'s region.

(c) Upon approval by ERO Governmental Authorities of *ReliabilityFirst*'s annual assessment to fund the costs of its delegated functions and related activities, NERC shall pay *ReliabilityFirst*'s annual assessment to Regional Entity in four equal quarterly payments on January 15, April 15, July 15 and October 15 of the budget year.

5. Application of Penalties

Except as otherwise approved by the Commission, all penalty monies received by *ReliabilityFirst*, other than penalty monies received from an operational function or division or affiliated entity of *ReliabilityFirst*, shall be applied as a general offset to *ReliabilityFirst*'s budget requirements for U.S.-related activities under this Agreement for the subsequent fiscal year. Funds from financial penalties shall not be directly applied to any program maintained by the investigating entity. Except as otherwise approved by the Commission, any penalty monies received from an operational function or division or affiliated entity of *ReliabilityFirst* shall be transmitted to or retained by NERC and shall be used by NERC as a general offset to NERC's budget for its activities as the ERO under the Act for the following year.

6. Budget and Funding for ReliabilityFirst's Non-Statutory Activities

In addition to its delegated functions and related activities, as specified in Sections 5, 6 and 7 of the Agreement and in Section 1 of this **Exhibit E** (such delegated functions and activities referred to in this Section 6 as "statutory activities"), ReliabilityFirst performs the following other functions and activities (such other functions and activities being referred to in this Section 6 as "non-statutory activities"): **None**

ReliabilityFirst shall employ the following methods and procedures to (i) keep its funding mechanisms for its statutory activities separate from its funding mechanisms for its non-statutory activities, and (ii) record the costs it incurs in the performance of its non-statutory functions separately from the costs it incurs in the performance of its statutory functions: [List and describe the methods and procedures Regional Entity employs to keep costs and funding of statutory activities separate from costs and funding of non-statutory activities, including at a minimum a description of how Regional Entity's bank accounts and receivables/payables procedures are set up for both statutory and non-statutory functions, a description of how Regional Entity ensures each employee involved in both statutory and non-statutory functions keeps accurate time records reflecting his/her activities, and a description of how Regional Entity's general and administrative costs are allocated between statutory activities and non-statutory activities. If the necessary descriptions are lengthy they may be provided in a separate attachment labeled "Attachment E-1", and state here "See Attachment E-1." **Not applicable**

ReliabilityFirst shall provide its budget for such non-statutory activities to NERC at the same time that ReliabilityFirst submits its proposed annual business plan and budget for statutory activities to NERC pursuant to Section 9 of the Agreement. ReliabilityFirst's budget for non-statutory activities that is provided to NERC shall contain a detailed list of ReliabilityFirst's non-statutory activities and a description of the funding sources for the non-statutory activities. ReliabilityFirst agrees that no costs (which shall include a reasonable allocation of ReliabilityFirst's general and administrative costs) of non-statutory activities are to be included in the calculation of ReliabilityFirst's assessments, dues, fees, and other charges for its statutory activities. **Not applicable**

7. Amended or Supplemental Business Plans and Budgets

During the course of the fiscal year, if ReliabilityFirst determines it does not or will not have sufficient funds to carry out its delegated functions and related activities, ReliabilityFirst shall submit to NERC one or more proposed amended or supplemental business plans and budgets and requests for approval of supplemental assessments, reflecting costs, cost increases or funding shortfalls not provided for in ReliabilityFirst's approved business plan and budget for the fiscal year. NERC shall review and approve the proposed amended or supplemental business plan and budget and proposed supplemental assessment, or shall direct ReliabilityFirst to make such revisions as NERC deems appropriate prior to approval. NERC shall submit ReliabilityFirst's approved amended or supplemental business plan and budget and proposed supplemental assessment to the Commission for approval.

8. NERC Review of Regional Entity Financial Records

Upon a request made to ReliabilityFirst with reasonable notice, NERC shall have access to and may review all financial records of ReliabilityFirst, including records used to prepare ReliabilityFirst's financial statements. NERC shall conduct reviews of the quarterly and annual financial statements submitted by ReliabilityFirst pursuant to Section 9(h) and (i) of the Agreement. ReliabilityFirst shall provide supporting documentation for the quarterly and annual financial statements as reasonably requested by NERC.

ATTACHMENT 2

AMENDED DELEGATION AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY CORPORATION

AND

RELIABILITYFIRST CORPORATION

REDLINED VERSION

**AMENDED AND RESTATED DELEGATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN
NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY CORPORATION
AND RELIABILITYFIRST CORPORATION**

AMENDED AND RESTATED DELEGATION AGREEMENT (“Agreement”) made as of January 1, 2011, between the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (“NERC”), an organization certified by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (“Commission”) pursuant to Section 215(c) of the Federal Power Act to establish and enforce Reliability Standards for the Bulk-Power System, and ReliabilityFirst Corporation (ReliabilityFirst), an organization established to develop and enforce Reliability Standards within the geographic boundaries identified on **Exhibit A** to this Agreement, and for other purposes. NERC and ReliabilityFirst may be individually referred to herein as “Party” or collectively as “Parties.”

WITNESSETH

WHEREAS, Subtitle A of the Electricity Modernization Act of 2005 added Section 215 to the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. § 824n) (hereafter “the Act”), which, among other things, provides for the establishment of an electric reliability organization (“ERO”) to develop and enforce Reliability Standards applicable to all owners, operators, and users of the Bulk-Power System;

WHEREAS, the Commission has adopted regulations for the implementation of the Act, which are set forth at Chapter I, Title 18, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 39 (the “ERO Regulations”);

WHEREAS, the Commission has certified NERC as the ERO that will, in accordance with the Act, establish and enforce Reliability Standards for the Bulk-Power System, subject to certain delegation provisions described below;

WHEREAS, the Act recognizes the international interdependency of electric reliability within North America and envisions the ERO and such applicable Regional Entities as international organizations;

WHEREAS, the Act and Section 39.8 of the ERO Regulations provide for the delegation by the ERO of authority to propose and enforce Reliability Standards to regional entities (“Regional Entities”) such as Reliability*First* provided that:

(A) The Regional Entity is governed by —

- (i) an independent board;
- (ii) a balanced stakeholder board; or
- (iii) a combination independent and balanced stakeholder board.

(B) The Regional Entity otherwise satisfies the provisions of Section 215(c)(1) and (2) of the Act; and

(C) The agreement promotes effective and efficient administration of Bulk-Power System reliability;

WHEREAS, certain Regional Entities are organized on an Interconnection-wide basis and are therefore entitled to the presumption set forth in the Act that: “[t]he ERO and the Commission shall rebuttably presume that a proposal for delegation to a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis promotes effective and efficient administration of bulk power system reliability and should be approved”;

WHEREAS, the Act further provides that the ERO shall rebuttably presume that a proposal from a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis for a Reliability Standard or modification to a Reliability Standard to be applicable on an Interconnection-wide basis is just, reasonable, and not unduly discriminatory or preferential, and in the public interest;

WHEREAS, Reliability*First* is not organized on an Interconnection-wide basis and therefore is not entitled to the rebuttable presumptions accorded such an entity;

WHEREAS, NERC will work through Reliability*First* to carry out certain of its activities in furtherance of its responsibilities as the ERO under the Act;

WHEREAS, NERC has concluded that ReliabilityFirst meets all requirements of the Act, the ERO Regulations, and the NERC Rules of Procedure as approved by the Commission (“NERC Rules of Procedure”) necessary to qualify for delegation; and

WHEREAS, NERC and ReliabilityFirst, having operated under a predecessor agreement to this Agreement, have negotiated this amended and restated Agreement so as to incorporate the benefits of their mutual experience and lessons learned while operating under the predecessor agreement and thereby provide for the more efficient and effective execution of their respective responsibilities in a transparent manner that is pursuant to Section 215 of the Act and the ERO Regulations;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants and agreements herein contained, NERC and ReliabilityFirst agree as follows:

1. Definitions. The capitalized terms used in this Agreement shall be defined as set forth in the Act, the ERO Regulations, the NERC Rules of Procedure, or the NERC Glossary of Terms Used in Reliability Standards, or, if not so defined, shall be defined as set forth in this Section 1 or elsewhere in the text of this Agreement:

(a) Breach means (i) the failure of a Party to perform or observe any material term, condition or covenant of the Agreement or (ii) a representation in Section 2 of the Agreement shall have become materially untrue.

(b) Cross-Border Regional Entity means a Regional Entity that encompasses a part of the United States and a part of Canada or Mexico.

(c) Delegated Authority means the authority delegated by NERC to ReliabilityFirst to propose and enforce Reliability Standards pursuant to the Act and to undertake related activities set forth in this Agreement in furtherance of these delegated functions in accordance with the Act, the ERO Regulations and this Agreement.

2. Representations.

(a) For purposes of its Delegated Authority, ReliabilityFirst hereby represents and warrants to NERC that:

(i) ReliabilityFirst is and shall remain during the term of this Agreement validly existing and in good standing pursuant to all applicable laws relevant to this Agreement and that no applicable law, contract or other legal obligation prevents it from executing this Agreement and fulfilling its obligations hereunder. ReliabilityFirst is governed in accordance with its bylaws by a combination independent and balanced stakeholder board. Pursuant to these bylaws, no two industry sectors can control any ReliabilityFirst decision and no single industry sector can veto any ReliabilityFirst decision. The relevant portions of such bylaws are attached hereto in **Exhibit B**¹, and as so attached are in full force and effect. No other such corporate governance documents are binding upon ReliabilityFirst.

(ii) As set forth in **Exhibit C** hereto², ReliabilityFirst has developed a standards development procedure, which provides the process that ReliabilityFirst may use to develop Regional Reliability Standards that are proposed to NERC for adoption.

(iii) As set forth in **Exhibit D** hereto, ReliabilityFirst has adopted the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program, Appendix 4C to the NERC Rules of Procedure, which provides for the enforcement of Reliability Standards within ReliabilityFirst's geographic boundaries as shown on **Exhibit A**.

(b) NERC hereby represents and warrants to ReliabilityFirst that:

(i) NERC is and shall remain during the term of this Agreement validly existing and in good standing pursuant to all applicable laws relevant to this Agreement and that no applicable law, contract or other legal obligation prevents it from executing this Agreement and fulfilling its obligations hereunder; and

(ii) NERC has been certified as the ERO by the Commission pursuant to the Act.

3. Covenants.

¹ The **Exhibit B** from ReliabilityFirst shall meet the requirements contained in **Exhibit B** to this Agreement.

² The **Exhibit C** from ReliabilityFirst shall meet the requirements contained in **Exhibit C** to this Agreement.

(a) During the term of this Agreement, ReliabilityFirst shall maintain and preserve its qualifications for delegation pursuant to the Act and shall not amend its Regional Entity Rules without NERC's approval, which shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed and which shall, in the case of a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis, be governed by the presumptions provided for in Section 215(d)(2) and (e)(4)(C) of the Act, and be subject to any required Commission approval.

(b) During the term of this Agreement, NERC shall maintain its qualification and status as the ERO pursuant to the Act and, subject to the provisions of Sections 17 and 18 of this Agreement, NERC shall not adopt amendments to the NERC Rules of Procedure that conflict with the rights, obligations or programs of ReliabilityFirst under this Agreement without first obtaining the consent of ReliabilityFirst, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed.

(c) During the term of this Agreement, NERC and ReliabilityFirst shall adhere to and require that all participants in their respective activities under this Agreement follow and comply with the NERC Antitrust Compliance Guidelines.

4. Delegation of Authority.

(a) Based upon the representations, warranties and covenants of ReliabilityFirst in Sections 2 and 3 above, the corporate governance documents set forth in **Exhibit B**, the standards development process set forth in **Exhibit C**, and the compliance monitoring and enforcement program set forth in **Exhibit D**, NERC hereby delegates authority, pursuant to Section 215(e)(4) of the Act, to ReliabilityFirst for the purpose of proposing Reliability Standards to NERC, as set forth in Section 5 of this Agreement, and enforcing Reliability Standards, as set forth in Section 6 of this Agreement, within the geographic boundaries and such other scope set forth on **Exhibit A**, *provided*, that ReliabilityFirst shall not monitor and enforce compliance with Reliability Standards for ReliabilityFirst or an affiliated entity with respect to reliability functions for which ReliabilityFirst or an affiliate is a Registered Entity. Any exclusions from this delegation of authority to ReliabilityFirst within, or additions to this delegation of authority to ReliabilityFirst beyond, the geographic boundaries set forth on **Exhibit A** are stated on **Exhibit A**.

(b) In circumstances where ReliabilityFirst or an affiliated entity is a Registered Entity, ReliabilityFirst shall enter into an agreement with another Regional Entity or NERC for the other Regional Entity or NERC to monitor and enforce ReliabilityFirst's or affiliate's compliance with Reliability Standards. Such agreements are subject to NERC and Commission approval.

(c) Nothing in this Agreement shall prohibit ReliabilityFirst from entering into an arrangement between one or more other Regional Entities to perform compliance monitoring and enforcement activities outside of its region, on behalf of NERC and/or other Regional Entities, for Registered Entities that have registered functions monitored by more than one Regional Entity, subject to approval by NERC.

(d) For Cross-Border Regional Entities, the authority delegated by this Agreement shall extend only to the portion of the region identified on **Exhibit A** that is within the United States. Any delegation of authority by ERO Governmental Authorities in Canada or Mexico shall be governed by a separate agreement and is outside the scope of this Agreement; provided, however, that both ReliabilityFirst and NERC shall endeavor to ensure that this Agreement and such separate agreements are compatible.

(e) As a condition to this delegation of authority and subject to the provisions of Section 17 of this Agreement, ReliabilityFirst shall comply with the applicable provisions of NERC's Certificate of Incorporation, Bylaws, Rules of Procedure, and Reliability Standards, as from time to time adopted, approved, or amended.

5. Development and Proposal of Reliability Standards.

(a) In connection with its Delegated Authority, ReliabilityFirst shall be entitled to:

(i) propose Reliability Standards, Regional Variances, or modifications thereof to NERC, which shall be considered by NERC through an open and inclusive process for proposing and adopting Reliability Standards that affords ReliabilityFirst reasonable notice and opportunity to be heard; and

(ii) develop Regional Reliability Standards through ReliabilityFirst's process as set forth in **Exhibit C**. Proposals approved through ReliabilityFirst's process shall be reviewed by the NERC Board after NERC provides notice and an opportunity for interested persons to comment. In the case of a proposal from a Regional Entity organized on an

Interconnection-wide basis, comments shall be limited to the factors identified in NERC Rule of Procedure 312.3 as it may be amended from time to time. The NERC Board shall promptly thereafter consider such proposed Regional Reliability Standard or Regional Variance, applying the rebuttable presumption described in subsection 5(b) of this Agreement if the proposed Regional Reliability Standard or Regional Variance is from a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis, and either approve the proposed Regional Reliability Standard or Regional Variance and submit it to the Commission for approval, or disapprove it in writing setting forth its reasons. ReliabilityFirst may appeal any disapproval of a proposed Regional Reliability Standard or Regional Variance to the Commission.

(b) Pursuant to Section 215(d)(3) of the Act, NERC shall rebuttably presume that a proposal from a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis for a Regional Reliability Standard or Regional Variance or modification thereof to be applicable on an Interconnection-wide basis is just, reasonable, and not unduly discriminatory or preferential, and in the public interest. Any person challenging such proposal from the Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis shall have the burden of proof. NERC shall not find that this presumption has been rebutted except based upon substantial evidence that has been disclosed to, and been subject to comment by, the Interconnection-wide Regional Entity during NERC's review of the proposal.

6. Enforcement of Compliance with Reliability Standards.

(a) In connection with its delegated authority pursuant to this Agreement, ReliabilityFirst shall enforce Reliability Standards (including Regional Reliability Standards and Regional Variances) within the geographic boundaries set forth, or as otherwise specified, in **Exhibit A** through the compliance monitoring and enforcement program set forth in **Exhibit D**. NERC and ReliabilityFirst agree that this compliance monitoring and enforcement program meets all applicable requirements of the Act, Order No. 672 of the Commission, and the ERO Regulations, including, *inter alia*, the requirement for an audit program pursuant to Section 39.7(a) of the ERO Regulations, the assessment of penalties pursuant to Section 39.7(c) through 39.7(g) of the ERO Regulations and the requirements for due process. ReliabilityFirst may not change its compliance monitoring and enforcement program set forth in **Exhibit D** absent NERC's approval, which shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed, and the approval of the

Commission. Subject to the rights and limitations specified in Sections 17 and 18 of this Agreement, *ReliabilityFirst* agrees to comply with the NERC Rules of Procedure, with any directives issued pursuant to Section 8(c) of this Agreement, and with any guidance and directions issued by the NERC Board or a Board committee pursuant to Section 8(d) of this Agreement, in implementing this program.

(b) *ReliabilityFirst* shall report promptly to NERC any Possible Violation, Alleged Violation, or Confirmed Violation of a Reliability Standard, and its eventual disposition by *ReliabilityFirst*. Such report shall include the owner's, operator's, or user's name, which Reliability Standard or Reliability Standards were the subject of the Possible Violation, Alleged Violation, or Confirmed Violation, when the Possible Violation, Alleged Violation, or Confirmed Violation occurred, other pertinent facts including circumstances surrounding the Possible Violation, Alleged Violation, or Confirmed Violation with any known risk to the Bulk-Power System, when the Possible Violation, Alleged Violation, or Confirmed Violation was or will be mitigated, the name of a person knowledgeable about the Possible Violation, Alleged Violation, or Confirmed Violation to serve as a point of contact with the Commission, and any other information required by NERC compliance program procedures. NERC shall promptly forward such report to the Commission. NERC and *ReliabilityFirst* shall cooperate in filing such periodic summary reports as the Commission shall from time to time direct on Possible Violations, Alleged Violations, and Confirmed Violations of Reliability Standards and summary analyses of such Possible Violations, Alleged Violations, and Confirmed Violations.

(c) Each Possible Violation, Alleged Violation, or Confirmed Violation shall be treated as nonpublic unless the matter is filed with the Commission as a Notice of Penalty, or, if disclosure is required, dismissed. The disposition of each Possible Violation, Alleged Violation, or Confirmed Violation that relates to a Cybersecurity Incident or that would jeopardize the security of the Bulk-Power System if publicly disclosed shall remain nonpublic unless the Commission directs otherwise.

(d) All dispositions by *ReliabilityFirst* of Possible Violations, Alleged Violations, and Confirmed Violations of Reliability Standards shall be reported to NERC for review and, in the case of Confirmed Violations, penalties or sanctions, and settlements, for approval. Following approval of a disposition by NERC, NERC shall file the disposition with the Commission, if required by, and in accordance with, Section 215(e) of the Act and Section 39.7

of the ERO Regulations. NERC shall review ReliabilityFirst's dispositions based on the following criteria:

(i) whether the disposition is supported by a sufficient record compiled by ReliabilityFirst in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure, NERC directives and Commission requirements, taking into account the nature of the Possible Violation, Alleged Violation, or Confirmed Violation,

(ii) whether the disposition is consistent with any applicable directives issued pursuant to Section 8(c) of this Agreement, any applicable directions or guidance issued by the NERC Board or a Board committee pursuant to Section 8(d) of this Agreement, or other applicable NERC guidance, concerning the Reliability Standards to which the Possible Violation, Alleged Violation, or Confirmed Violation relates,

(iii) if the disposition is a Confirmed Violation or settlement, whether it provides for a penalty or sanction, or a determination of no penalty or sanction, determined in accordance with the NERC Sanction Guidelines, Appendix 4B to the NERC Rules of Procedure, and

(iv) whether the disposition is reasonably consistent with other dispositions by ReliabilityFirst and by other Regional Entities of Possible Violations, Alleged Violations, and Confirmed Violations involving the same or similar facts and circumstances.

NERC may reject any disposition, with an explanation of why NERC believes the disposition does not meet the above criteria. ReliabilityFirst may submit a disposition requiring NERC approval that has been rejected by NERC, or a revised disposition following a rejection, directly to the NERC Board Compliance Committee for approval without revising the disposition to address all the grounds on which NERC originally rejected the disposition. The final approval of ReliabilityFirst's disposition of a Possible Violation, Alleged Violation, or Confirmed Violation shall be made by the NERC Board Compliance Committee, provided, that the NERC Board or NERC Board Compliance Committee may, by appropriate resolution, delegate authority for final approval of dispositions of specified categories of Possible Violations, Alleged Violations, or Confirmed Violations to the NERC President.

(e) All appeals of penalties imposed by ReliabilityFirst as a result of a decision by ReliabilityFirst's Hearing Body shall be filed with, heard by and disposed of by, NERC in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure.

(f) ReliabilityFirst shall maintain the capability to conduct investigations of Possible Violations and Alleged Violations of Reliability Standards and to conduct such investigations in a confidential manner.

(g) ReliabilityFirst shall maintain a program of proactive monitoring and enforcement of compliance with Reliability Standards, in accordance with the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program and the annual NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program Implementation Plan.

(h) As part of its compliance monitoring and enforcement program, ReliabilityFirst shall maintain a conflict of interest policy that assures the integrity and independence of such program, including the integrity and independence of the persons or decision-making bodies making final determinations in compliance enforcement actions under Section 5.0 of the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program. A Regional Entity may have stakeholders lead or participate in its board compliance committee so long as integrity and independence are assured through reasonable and appropriate recusal procedures.

(i) As often as NERC deems necessary, but no less than every five years, NERC shall review ReliabilityFirst's compliance monitoring and enforcement program to determine that: (i) the program meets all applicable legal requirements; (ii) actual practices reflect the requirements; and (iii) the program administered pursuant to the Delegated Authority promotes consistent interpretations across North America of Reliability Standards and comparable levels of sanctions and penalties for violations of Reliability Standards constituting comparable levels of threat to reliability of the Bulk-Power System.

7. Delegation-Related Activities.

NERC will engage ReliabilityFirst on its behalf to carry out certain of its activities that are in furtherance of Bulk-Power System reliability and NERC's responsibilities as the ERO under the Act or in support of the Delegated Authority, as specified in the NERC Rules of Procedure and listed on **Exhibit E**. These delegation-related activities shall include, but are not

limited to, those described in subsections (a) through (f), each of which shall be considered a statutory activity:

(a) Certification of Bulk-Power System Entities. The NERC Board shall set criteria for certification in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure. ReliabilityFirst shall issue certifications in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure.

(b) Registration of owners, operators, and users of the Bulk-Power System as responsible for compliance with requirements of Reliability Standards.

(i) The NERC Board shall develop criteria for registration of owners, operators, and users of the Bulk-Power System as Registered Entities and shall apply the registration criteria to register owners, operators and users of the Bulk-Power System as Registered Entities.

(ii) NERC shall maintain a registration database of Registered Entities, based on data and information provided by ReliabilityFirst and other Regional Entities. ReliabilityFirst shall provide timely and accurate information relating to registrations to NERC, on at least a monthly basis, to enable NERC to maintain a registration database that is accurate and up-to-date.

(iii) The NERC Board Compliance Committee shall hear and decide appeals from owners, operators and users of the Bulk-Power System contesting registration, in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure. If the NERC Board Compliance Committee upholds the decision to register an owner, operator, or user, NERC shall defend the decision in any subsequent appeal of the decision by the Registered Entity to the Commission.

(c) Reliability Assessment and Performance Analysis. ReliabilityFirst shall develop assessments of the reliability of the Bulk-Power System, or ensure that data and information are collected, analyzed and provided to NERC in support of the development of reliability assessments, in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure. ReliabilityFirst shall also develop and maintain, and collect data in support of the development and maintenance of, reliability performance metrics and assessments of risks to the Reliable Operation of the Bulk-Power System, in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure and NERC directives. NERC shall develop data-gathering quality control procedures, forms and reporting mechanisms, which shall be used by ReliabilityFirst and other Regional Entities in carrying out their responsibilities under this subsection (c).

(d) Event Analysis and Reliability Improvement. ReliabilityFirst shall conduct event analysis pursuant to the NERC Rules of Procedure and applicable governmental regulations. NERC and ReliabilityFirst shall coordinate event analysis to support the effective and efficient use of their collective resources, consistency in event analysis, and timely delivery of event analysis reports. In collaboration with NERC, ReliabilityFirst shall disseminate to the electric industry lessons learned and other information obtained or resulting from event analysis.

(e) Training and Education. ReliabilityFirst may provide training and education to Registered Entities, as it deems necessary, in support of its performance of delegated functions and related activities under this Agreement. NERC may also provide training and education programs to Registered Entities on topics relating to NERC's responsibilities as the ERO.

(f) Situation Awareness and Infrastructure Security.

(i) ReliabilityFirst shall gather and assess situation awareness information provided by Registered Entities pursuant to the NERC Rules of Procedure and applicable governmental regulations, and shall provide other data, information and assistance to NERC in support of NERC's activities in monitoring present conditions, and responding to events, on the Bulk-Power System

(ii) ReliabilityFirst shall collaborate with NERC in its efforts to coordinate electric industry activities to promote critical infrastructure protection of the Bulk-Power System in North America.

8. Oversight of Performance of Delegated Functions and Related Activities.

This Section 8 sets forth processes and procedures which the Parties intend shall be used in NERC's oversight of ReliabilityFirst's performance of its Delegated Authority and related activities pursuant to this Agreement. It is the intent of NERC and ReliabilityFirst that matters relating to NERC's oversight of ReliabilityFirst's performance of its Delegated Authority and related activities shall be established or resolved by collaboration between NERC and ReliabilityFirst and, where applicable, other Regional Entities, to the maximum extent possible, consistent with the construct that NERC and the Regional Entities are operating together in a collaborative manner to carry out the responsibilities of the ERO under Section 215 of the Act and the ERO Regulations.

(a) (i) NERC shall develop, in collaboration with ReliabilityFirst and other Regional Entities, performance goals, measures and other parameters (including, without limiting the scope of such goals, measures and parameters, financial performance goals, measures and parameters), and performance reports, which shall be used to measure NERC's and ReliabilityFirst's performance of their respective functions and related activities. The performance goals, measures and parameters and the form of performance reports shall be approved by the NERC President and shall be made public. ReliabilityFirst shall provide data, information and reports to NERC, in accordance with established schedules, to enable NERC to calculate ReliabilityFirst's performance to the agreed-upon goals, measures and parameters.

(ii) NERC shall use the performance goals, measures and parameters and performance reports to evaluate ReliabilityFirst's performance of its delegated functions and related activities and to provide advice and direction to ReliabilityFirst on performance improvements. The performance goals, measures and other parameters and the values of such goals, measures and parameters, shall be reviewed by NERC, ReliabilityFirst and the other Regional Entities, revised if appropriate, and made public, on the same timeline as the annual business planning and budgeting process described in Section 9 of this Agreement.

(iii) At the request of the President of NERC, ReliabilityFirst shall be required to develop, submit for NERC approval, and implement action plans to address areas of its performance that are reasonably determined by NERC, based on analysis of ReliabilityFirst's performance against the performance goals, measures and parameters, or performance of specific activities, to be unsatisfactory, *provided*, that prior to requiring ReliabilityFirst to adopt and implement an action plan or other remedial action, NERC shall issue a notice to ReliabilityFirst of the need and basis for an action plan or other remedial action and provide an opportunity for ReliabilityFirst to submit a written response contesting NERC's evaluation of ReliabilityFirst's performance and the need for an action plan. ReliabilityFirst may request that the President of NERC reconsider the request, and thereafter may request that the NERC Board review and reconsider the request. NERC and ReliabilityFirst shall work collaboratively as needed in the development and implementation of ReliabilityFirst's action plan. A final action plan submitted by ReliabilityFirst to NERC shall be made public unless the President of NERC makes a written determination that the action plan or specific portions of the plan should be maintained as non-public.

(b) NERC shall make available to ReliabilityFirst standardized training and education programs, which shall be designed taking into account input from ReliabilityFirst and other Regional Entities, for ReliabilityFirst personnel on topics relating to the delegated functions and related activities.

(c) (i) NERC may issue directives to ReliabilityFirst concerning the manner in which ReliabilityFirst shall perform its delegated functions and related activities under this Agreement. The NERC Rules of Procedure, or any other ERO Rule requiring approval of the Commission, shall not be considered “directives.” NERC shall initiate the development of a directive through a collaborative process with ReliabilityFirst and, if applicable, other Regional Entities to which the directive will apply. Any directive developed through the collaborative process shall be approved by, and issued under the signature of, the NERC President.

(ii) If after a period of time that is reasonable under the circumstances, NERC and ReliabilityFirst and, if applicable, other Regional Entities are unable to reach agreement on the contents of the directive, NERC may issue the directive with the approval of and under the signature of the NERC President; *provided*, that before the NERC President issues a directive pursuant to this paragraph (ii), ReliabilityFirst and, if applicable, other Regional Entities, shall be given a reasonable opportunity to present their positions on, and a suggested alternative version or versions of, the proposed directive to the NERC President.

(iii) Upon issuance of a directive by the NERC President, it shall be binding upon, and shall be complied with by, ReliabilityFirst, subject to reasonable time periods for adoption, implementation, and funding of any necessary resources. Upon request by ReliabilityFirst, the NERC Board (or a committee of the Board to which the Board delegates appropriate authority) shall review and shall confirm, revise or revoke any directive that was issued by the NERC President without ReliabilityFirst’s agreement, *provided*, that ReliabilityFirst shall request such review within thirty (30) days following issuance of the directive by the NERC President unless good cause can be shown for a later request.

(iv) NERC and ReliabilityFirst and, if applicable, other Regional Entities, shall collaborate in deciding whether a directive (whether issued pursuant to paragraph (ii) or paragraph (iii)) shall be made public. If no agreement is reached by the date of issuance as to whether the directive shall be made public, the NERC President shall decide whether the directive will be made public, *provided*, that is the intent of the Parties that the NERC President

shall apply a presumption that directives should be made public, unless the NERC President makes a written determination stating a specific reason for maintaining a particular directive as non-public.

(d) In addition to the issuance of directives pursuant to subsection (c), the NERC Board (or a Board committee to which the Board has delegated authority) may issue guidance or directions as to the manner in which ReliabilityFirst, and, if applicable, other Regional Entities, shall perform delegated functions and related activities. The Board or Board committee shall also establish reasonable time periods for the implementation of any such guidance or directions, taking into account the impact on the reliability of the Bulk-Power System and the need for funding of additional resources. Any such guidance or directions shall be stated in writing and shall be public, unless the Board or Board committee makes a written determination stating a specific reason for maintaining particular guidance or directions as non-public. ReliabilityFirst, either individually or in conjunction with other Regional Entities, may request that the NERC Board or Board committee reconsider or revise the guidance or direction.

(e) NERC shall conduct collaborative reviews with ReliabilityFirst, either individually or in conjunction with one or more other Regional Entities, that provide for the exchange of information on practices, experiences, and lessons learned in the implementation of the delegated functions.

(f) Any audits of ReliabilityFirst performed by NERC shall be limited to an examination of ReliabilityFirst's compliance with this Agreement, NERC's Rules of Procedure, the Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program, Commission requirements, and directives that are in effect pursuant to Section 8(c).

(g) The Commission and the Commission staff shall have full access to action plans and remedial actions, directives, and directions and guidance issued pursuant to subsections (a)(iii), (c)(iv) and (d), respectively, that are maintained as non-public.

9. Funding. ReliabilityFirst and NERC shall ensure, subject to Commission approval in accordance with the ERO Regulations, that the delegated functions and related activities described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 and listed on **Exhibit E** have reasonable and adequate funding and resources by undertaking the following:

(a) ReliabilityFirst shall develop, through a collaborative process with NERC, and propose, an annual business plan and budget, in accordance with ERO Regulations, Commission orders and NERC business planning and budgeting policies and instructions. ReliabilityFirst's proposed business plan and budget shall describe the activities necessary for, and provide a budget with adequate resources for, ReliabilityFirst to carry out its Delegated Authority under this Agreement, including the functions and activities described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 and listed on **Exhibit E**. ReliabilityFirst's business plan and budget shall show the funding sources and amounts to fund the proposed budget, including as applicable assessments to end users, penalty monies, and other sources of funds.

(b) ReliabilityFirst and NERC agree that the portion of ReliabilityFirst's approved budget for the functions and activities described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 and listed on **Exhibit E** that is to be funded by assessments, will be equitably allocated among end users within the geographic boundaries described in **Exhibit A** and recovered through a formula based on Net Energy for Load, or through such other formula as is proposed by ReliabilityFirst and approved by NERC and the Commission. If ReliabilityFirst proposes to use a formula other than Net Energy for Load beginning in the following year, ReliabilityFirst shall submit the proposed formula to NERC in sufficient time that NERC may review and approve the proposed formula and file it with the Commission by May 15 for approval, and the proposed formula shall be effective for the following year if approved by the Commission on or before the date the Commission approves the annual business plan and budget submitted by NERC and ReliabilityFirst to the Commission pursuant to the ERO Regulations for such year.

(c) NERC shall determine that the assessments to fund the costs for its statutory functions in its Commission-approved budget are first allocated fairly among the Interconnections and regions according to the applicability of this work to those Interconnections and regions, and then equitably among the end users of the applicable interconnections and regions as appropriate. Allocation on a Net Energy for Load basis will be presumed to satisfy this equity requirement.

(d) NERC shall provide ReliabilityFirst with the form or forms for business plan and budget submittal, and any accompanying instructions, in accordance with the schedule for preparation of the business plan and budget developed by NERC and the Regional Entities.

(e) ReliabilityFirst shall submit its proposed annual business plan and budget for carrying out its Delegated Authority functions and related activities described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 and listed on Exhibit E, as well as for all other activities of ReliabilityFirst, to NERC for review and approval in accordance with the annual schedule for the preparation of business plans and budgets which shall be developed collaboratively by NERC and the Regional Entities, as more fully described in **Exhibit E**.

(f) NERC shall fund ReliabilityFirst's performance of its Delegated Authority and related activities in accordance with ReliabilityFirst's Commission-approved business plan and budget, in the amount of ReliabilityFirst's assessments to end users approved by the Commission. **Exhibit E** sets forth the procedures and timing for billing and collecting ReliabilityFirst's approved assessments from end users and other entities and payment of the approved assessment amount to ReliabilityFirst, unless otherwise modified and approved by NERC and the Commission. NERC shall not impose any material obligation or requirement regarding the Delegated Authority upon ReliabilityFirst that has not been provided for in an approved business plan and budget or an approved amended or supplemental business plan and budget, without ReliabilityFirst's consent.

(g) NERC shall develop, in consultation with the Regional Entities, a reasonable and consistent system of accounts, with a level of detail and record keeping comparable to the Commission's Uniform System of Accounts and sufficient to allow the Commission to compare each Commission-approved NERC and ReliabilityFirst fiscal year budget with the actual results at the NERC and Regional Entity levels. ReliabilityFirst shall follow NERC's prescribed system of accounts except to the extent that NERC permits a departure from the prescribed system of accounts. NERC shall make an informational filing with the Commission describing any such waiver it permits and providing an explanation supporting the permitted departure.

(h) ReliabilityFirst shall submit unaudited quarterly interim financial statements in form provided by NERC no later than 20 days after the end of the fiscal quarter (March 31, June 30, September 30, and December 31).

(i) ReliabilityFirst shall submit audited financial statements annually, including supporting materials, in a form provided by NERC no later than May 1 of the following year.

(j) **Exhibit E** to this Agreement sets forth the mechanism through which ReliabilityFirst shall offset penalty monies it receives (other than penalty monies received from

an operational function or division or affiliated entity of ReliabilityFirst) against its next year's annual budget for carrying out functions under this Agreement, and the mechanism by which ReliabilityFirst shall transmit to NERC any penalty monies received from an operational function or division or affiliated entity of ReliabilityFirst . *Provided*, that, subject to approval by NERC and the Commission, ReliabilityFirst may propose and implement an alternative use of penalty monies to that set forth in **Exhibit E**.

10. Assignment. This Agreement may be assigned by either Party only with the prior written consent of the other, which consent shall be granted or withheld in such non-assigning Party's sole discretion, subject to approval by the Commission. Any assignment under this Agreement shall not relieve a Party of its obligations, nor shall a Party's obligations be enlarged, in whole or in part, by reason thereof. ReliabilityFirst may not delegate in whole or in part its Delegated Authority to any other entity without NERC's express consent; provided, however, that nothing in this provision shall prohibit ReliabilityFirst from contracting with other entities to assist it in carrying out its Delegated Authority, provided ReliabilityFirst retains control and responsibility for such Delegated Authority.

11. Default and Cure. Upon a Breach, the non-breaching Party shall give written notice of such Breach to the breaching Party (the "Default Notice"). Subject to a suspension of the following deadlines as specified below, the breaching Party shall have thirty (30) calendar days from receipt of the Default Notice within which to cure such Breach; *provided however*, that if such Breach is not capable of cure within thirty (30) calendar days, the breaching Party shall commence such cure within thirty (30) calendar days after notice and continuously and diligently complete such cure within ninety (90) calendar days from receipt of the Default Notice; and, if cured within such time, the Breach specified in such notice shall cease to exist. Subject to the limitation specified in the following sentence, if a Breach is not cured as provided in this Section 11, or if a Breach is not capable of being cured within the period provided for herein, the nonbreaching Party shall have the right to declare a default and terminate this Agreement by written notice at any time until cure occurs, and be relieved of any further obligation hereunder. The deadlines for cure and the right to declare a default and terminate this Agreement shall be suspended during the pendency of any efforts or proceedings in accordance

with Section 18 of this Agreement to resolve a dispute as to whether a Breach has occurred or been cured. The provisions of this Section 11 will survive termination of this Agreement.

12. Term and Termination.

(a) This Agreement shall become effective on January 1, 2011 (the “Effective Date”).

(b) The term of the Agreement shall be five (5) years from the Effective Date, prior to which time NERC shall conduct an audit pursuant to subsection 6(i) to ensure that ReliabilityFirst continues to meet all applicable statutory and regulatory requirements necessary to maintain its eligibility for delegation. If ReliabilityFirst meets such requirements, this Agreement may be renewed for another five (5) year term. This Agreement may be renewed for successive additional five (5) year renewal terms provided that prior to the end of each renewal term, NERC shall conduct an audit pursuant to subsection 6(i) to ensure that ReliabilityFirst continues to meet all applicable statutory and regulatory requirements necessary to maintain its eligibility for delegation. Provided, that either Party may terminate this Agreement as of the end of a term by giving written notice to terminate at least one (1) year prior to the end of the term. If this Agreement is not renewed or becomes subject to termination for any reason, the Parties shall work to provide for a transition of ReliabilityFirst’s Delegated Authority to NERC or to another eligible entity and to provide for the resolution of any wind-up costs associated with termination of this Agreement. The termination of this Agreement shall not take effect until such transition has been effected, unless the transition period exceeds one year, at which time ReliabilityFirst may unilaterally terminate.

(c) If any provision of this Agreement, or the application thereof to any person, entity or circumstance, is held by a court or regulatory authority of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, void, or unenforceable, or if a modification or condition to this Agreement is imposed by a regulatory authority exercising jurisdiction over this Agreement, the Parties shall endeavor in good faith to negotiate such amendment or amendments to this Agreement as will restore the relative benefits and obligations of the signatories under this Agreement immediately prior to such holding, modification or condition. If either Party finds such holding, modification or condition unacceptable and the Parties are unable to renegotiate a mutually acceptable resolution, either Party may unilaterally terminate this Agreement. Such termination shall be

effective one year following written notice by either Party to the other Party and to the Commission, or at such other time as may be mutually agreed by ReliabilityFirst and NERC.

(d) Notwithstanding any termination of this Agreement, provisions contained in Limitation of Liability (Section 13), No Third Party Beneficiaries (Section 14) and Confidentiality (Section 15) shall survive this Agreement in accordance with their terms until sixty (60) days following the expiration of any applicable statute of limitations.

13. Limitation of Liability. ReliabilityFirst and NERC agree not to sue each other or their directors, officers, employees, and persons serving on their committees and subgroups based on any act or omission of any of the foregoing in the performance of duties pursuant to this Agreement or in conducting activities under the authority of Section 215 of the Act, other than seeking a review of such action or inaction by the Commission. NERC and ReliabilityFirst shall not be liable to one another for any damages whatsoever, including without limitation, direct, indirect, incidental, special, multiple, consequential (including attorneys' fees and litigation costs), exemplary, or punitive damages arising out of or resulting from any act or omission associated with the performance of the ReliabilityFirst's or NERC's responsibilities under this Agreement or in conducting activities under the authority of Section 215 of the Act, except to the extent that the ReliabilityFirst or NERC is found liable for gross negligence or intentional misconduct, in which case ReliabilityFirst or NERC shall not be liable for any indirect, incidental, special, multiple, consequential (including without limitation attorneys' fees and litigation costs), exemplary, or punitive damages.

14. No Third Party Beneficiaries. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to create any duty to, any standard of care with reference to, or any liability to, any third party.

15. Confidentiality. During the course of the Parties' performance under this Agreement, a Party may receive Confidential Information, as defined in Section 1500 of NERC's Rules of Procedure. Except as set forth herein, the Parties agree to keep in confidence and not to copy, disclose, or distribute any Confidential Information or any part thereof, without the prior written permission of the issuing Party, unless disclosure is required by subpoena, law, or other

directive of a court, administrative agency, or arbitration panel, in which event the recipient hereby agrees to provide the Party that provided the Confidential Information with prompt notice of such request or requirement in order to enable such issuing Party to (a) seek an appropriate protective order or other remedy, (b) consult with the recipient with respect to taking steps to resist or narrow the scope of such request or legal process, or (c) waive compliance, in whole or in part, with the terms of this Section. In the event a protective order or other remedy is not obtained or the issuing Party waives compliance with the provisions, the recipient agrees to furnish only that portion of the Confidential Information which the recipient's counsel advises is legally required and to exercise best efforts to obtain assurance that confidential treatment will be accorded to such Confidential Information. In addition, each Party shall ensure that its officers, trustees, directors, employees, subcontractors and subcontractors' employees, and agents to whom Confidential Information is exposed are under obligations of confidentiality that are at least as restrictive as those contained herein. This confidentiality provision does not prohibit reporting and disclosure as directed by NERC, as set forth in Section 6 of this Agreement.

16. Amendment. Neither this Agreement nor any of the terms hereof, may be amended unless such amendment is made in writing, signed by the Parties, and filed with and approved by the Commission.

17. Amendments to the NERC Rules of Procedure. NERC shall not adopt amendments to the NERC Rules of Procedure that conflict with the rights, obligations, or programs of ReliabilityFirst under this Agreement without first obtaining the consent of ReliabilityFirst, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed. To the extent ReliabilityFirst does not consent, NERC shall have the right to invoke the dispute resolution provisions of Section 18 and, if such effort fails to resolve the dispute, to petition the Commission to adopt the amendment to the NERC Rules of Procedure. To the extent that the Commission issues an order amending or materially affecting the rights or obligations of ReliabilityFirst under this Agreement, ReliabilityFirst shall have the option, exercisable no later than 60 days after issuance of such order, to terminate this Agreement. Such termination shall be effective one

year following written notice by ReliabilityFirst to NERC and the Commission, or at such other time as may be mutually agreed by ReliabilityFirst and NERC.

18. Dispute Resolution. In the event a dispute arises under this Agreement between NERC and ReliabilityFirst (including disputes relating to NERC's performance of its obligations under this Agreement and/or disputes relating to ReliabilityFirst's performance of its obligations under this Agreement) which cannot be resolved through discussions between representatives of the Parties in the normal course of operations, the Parties shall use the following procedures ("Dispute Resolution") to attempt to resolve the dispute. ReliabilityFirst shall not suspend performance of any delegated function, and the Parties shall continue to make reasonable, good faith efforts to comply with their obligations under this Agreement, during the pendency of Dispute Resolution. All notices required to be sent pursuant to this Dispute Resolution procedure shall be sent in accordance with Section 19 of this Agreement. This Dispute Resolution procedure is separate from and in addition to all other processes provided for in this Agreement.

(a) The Party invoking Dispute Resolution shall send a notice to the other Party describing the dispute, stating the invoking Party's position with respect to the dispute, stating that the Party is invoking Dispute Resolution, and naming the Party's designated representative for negotiating a resolution of the dispute. The designated representative shall have authority to resolve the dispute on behalf of the invoking Party.

(b) Within three (3) business days after receipt of the notice invoking Dispute Resolution, the receiving Party shall send a notice to the invoking Party acknowledging receipt of the notice invoking Dispute Resolution, stating the receiving Party's position with respect to the dispute, and naming the Party's designated representative for negotiating a resolution of the dispute. The designated representative shall have authority to resolve the dispute on behalf of the receiving Party.

(c) During the period commencing three (3) business days and ending twenty (20) business days after the date of the receiving Party's notice, the designated representatives shall engage in good faith negotiations to attempt to resolve the dispute, *provided*, that the designated representatives may agree prior to the end of such twenty (20) business day period that the process should move to the next step of Dispute Resolution.

(d) If the designated representatives are unable to arrive at a resolution of the dispute by the end of the time period described in subsection (c), they shall notify the chief executive officers of their respective Parties. The chief executive officers of the Parties shall thereafter engage in good faith negotiations to attempt to resolve the dispute during the period of twenty (20) business days immediately following the time period described in subsection (c), *provided*, that the chief executive officers may agree prior to the end of such twenty (20) business day period that negotiations are at impasse and the process may move to the next step as described in subsection (f). Upon mutual agreement of the Parties, the twenty (20) business day period may be extended to pursue ongoing good faith negotiations.

(e) If a resolution of the dispute is achieved by the Parties, it shall be memorialized in a writing that is acceptable in form and substance to each party and is signed by the designated representative or chief executive officer on behalf of each Party.

(f) If the Parties are unable to resolve the dispute pursuant to the process described in subsections (a) through (e), then either Party may invoke any other available dispute resolution mechanism, including, without limitation, filing a complaint or petition with the Commission requesting resolution of the dispute by the Commission, or filing a complaint for relief in a court having jurisdiction over Parties and the subject matter of the dispute in accordance with Section 20. *Provided, however*, that: (i) it is the intent of the Parties that unresolved disputes shall be presented to and resolved by the Commission if the Commission has and accepts jurisdiction over the subject matter of the dispute, (ii) the Parties may, by mutual agreement, attempt to resolve the dispute through arbitration, mediation, or other process involving resort to an impartial neutral, and (iii) it is the intent of the Parties that resolution of disputes through Commission proceedings, arbitration, mediation, or other use of an impartial neutral, is preferred over resort to judicial proceedings.

(g) This Section 18 shall not apply to compliance enforcement actions against individual Registered Entities.

19. Notice. Whether expressly so stated or not, all notices, demands, requests, and other communications required or permitted by or provided for in this Agreement shall be given in writing to a Party at the address set forth below, or at such other address as a Party shall

designate for itself in writing in accordance with this Section, and shall be delivered by hand or reputable overnight courier:

If to NERC:

North American Electric
Reliability Corporation
116-390 Village Blvd.
Princeton, NJ 08540-5721
Attn: General Counsel
Facsimile: (609) 452-9550

If to ReliabilityFirst:

ReliabilityFirst Corporation
320 Springside Drive
Suite 300
Akron, OH 44333
Attn: Timothy Gallagher, President
Facsimile: (330) 456-3648

20. Governing Law. When not in conflict with or preempted by federal law, this Agreement will be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of New Jersey without giving effect to the conflict of law principles thereof. The Parties recognize and agree not to contest the exclusive or primary jurisdiction of the Commission to interpret and apply this Agreement; provided however that if the Commission declines to exercise or is precluded from exercising jurisdiction of any action arising out of or concerning this Agreement, such action shall be brought in any state or federal court of competent jurisdiction in New Jersey. All Parties hereby consent to the jurisdiction of any state or federal court of competent jurisdiction in New Jersey for the purpose of hearing and determining any action not heard and determined by the Commission.

21. Headings. The headings and captions in this Agreement are for convenience of reference only and shall not define, limit, or otherwise affect any of the terms or provisions hereof.

22. Savings Clause. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to preempt or limit any authority that ReliabilityFirst may have to adopt reliability requirements or take other actions to maintain reliability of the Bulk-Power System within the geographic boundaries described in **Exhibit A** that are outside the Delegated Authority, as long as such reliability requirements and actions are not inconsistent with Reliability Standards applicable to the region described in **Exhibit A** and do not result in a lessening of reliability outside the region described in **Exhibit A**.

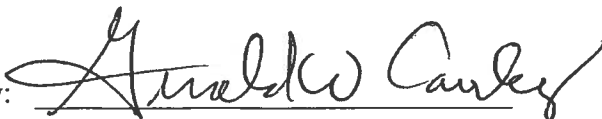
23. **Entire Agreement.** This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement, and supersedes all prior agreements and understandings, both written and oral, among the parties with respect to the subject matter of this Agreement.

24. **Execution of Counterparts.** This Agreement may be executed in counterparts and each shall have the same force and effect as the original.

NOW THEREFORE, the parties have caused this Agreement to be executed by its duly authorized representatives, effective as of the Effective Date.

NORTH AMERICAN
ELECTRIC RELIABILITY CORPORATION

RELIABILITYFIRST
CORPORATION

By: 

By: Timothy R Gallagher

Name: GERALD W CAULEY

Name: Timothy R Gallagher

Title: PRESIDENT + CEO

Title: CEO

Date: 10/7/2011

Date: 10/7/11

Exhibit A - Boundaries of Delegation Agreement

The Boundaries of **ReliabilityFirst** Corporation (**ReliabilityFirst**) are defined by the service territories of Load Serving Entities (LSEs) and include all of New Jersey, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Maryland, District of Columbia, West Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, Lower Michigan and portions of Upper Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee and Virginia as shown on the map below. In addition, transmission systems and generation within the metered boundaries of the LSEs are within **ReliabilityFirst** even if outside the respective service territories shown. The area is electrically contiguous.

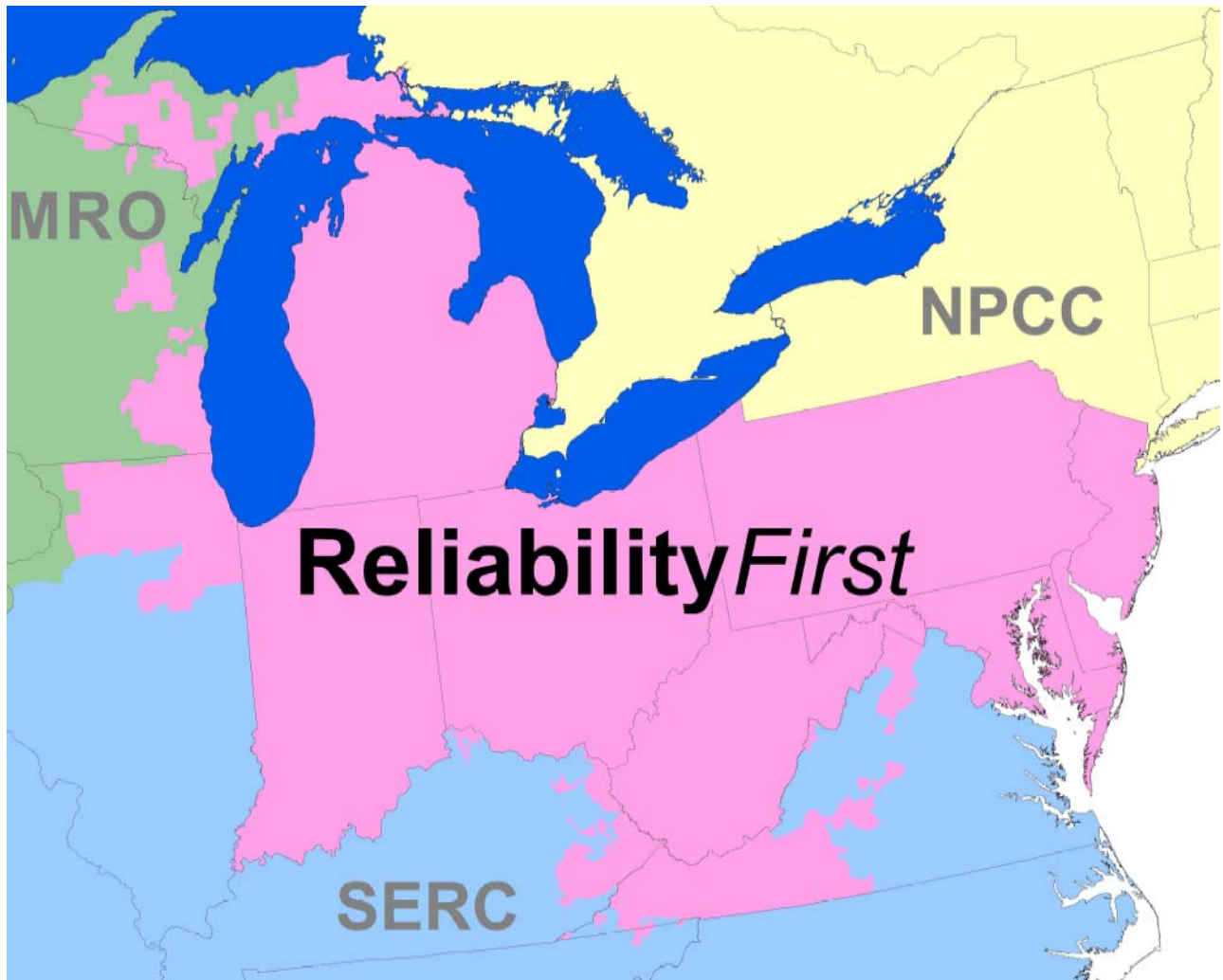


Exhibit B – Governance

Exhibit B shall set forth the Regional Entity’s bylaws, which, along with portions of the Standards Development Process as set out in Exhibit C, NERC agrees demonstrate that the Regional Entity meets the following criteria:

CRITERION 1: The Regional Entity shall be governed by an independent board, a balanced stakeholder board, or a combination independent and balanced stakeholder board. (Federal Power Act § 215(e)(4)(A), 18 C.F.R. § 39.8(c)(1), Order No. 672 at ¶ 727.)

CRITERION 2: The Regional Entity has established rules that assure its independence of the users and owners and operators of the bulk power system, while assuring fair stakeholder representation in the selection of its directors. Federal Power Act § 215(c)(2)(A) and (e)(4), 18 C.F.R. § 39.8(c)(2), Order No. 672 at ¶¶ 699, 700.)

CRITERION 3: If the Regional Entity has members, the Regional Entity has established rules that assure that its membership is open, that it charges no more than a nominal membership fee and agrees to waive the fee for good cause shown, and that membership is not a condition for participating in the development of or voting on proposed Regional Reliability Standards. (Federal Power Act § 215(c)(2)(A) and (e)(4), 18 C.F.R. § 39.8(c)(2), Order No. 672 at ¶¶ 170-173.)

CRITERION 4: The Regional Entity has established rules that assure balance in its decision-making committees and subordinate organizational structures and assure no two industry sectors can control any action and no one industry sector can veto any action. (Federal Power Act § 215(c)(2)(A) and (e)(4), 18 C.F.R. § 39.8(c)(2), Order No. 672 at ¶ 728.)

CRITERION 5: The Regional Entity has established rules that provide reasonable notice and opportunity for public comment, due process, openness, and balance of interests in exercising its duties. (Federal Power Act § 215(c)(2)(D) and (e)(4), 18 C.F.R. § 39.8(c)(2).)



AMENDED AND RESTATED BYLAWS

OF

ReliabilityFirst Corporation

a Delaware nonprofit corporation

Adopted December 19, 2006

Amended September 21, 2007¹

Amended December 6, 2007²

Amended May 22, 2008³

Amended December 4, 2008⁴

[Amended December 1, 2011⁵](#)

¹ Section 5.9.2

² Sections 1.2, 1.26, 16.1

³ Sections 1.12, 7.13, 7.14

⁴ Sections 5.8, 6.8, 6.9, 6.10.2, 6.10.4, 7.4, 7.5, 7.7, 7.9, 7.11, 7.13

⁵ [Sections 1.24, 2.2, 6.8, 7.4, 7.7](#)

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**AMENDED AND RESTATED
BYLAWS OF
ReliabilityFirst Corporation
a Delaware nonprofit corporation
(the “Corporation”)**

[As adopted by the Members on December 19, 2006,
amended by the Board of Directors on September 21, 2007,
amended by the Members on December 6, 2007,
amended by the Board of Directors on May 22, 2008,
~~and~~ amended by the Members on December 4, 2008,
and amended by the Members on December 1, 2011]

ARTICLE I.
DEFINITIONS

Section 1.1. Act. “Act” shall mean Section 215 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. §824n).

Section 1.2. Adjunct Member. “Adjunct Member” shall mean any entity that does not qualify to join an Industry Sector but has been approved for membership. Adjunct Members may include Regulatory Participants.

Section 1.3. Affiliate. “Affiliate” shall mean, with respect to any entity, any other entity that, directly or indirectly, through one or more intermediaries, controls, or is controlled by, or is under common control with, such entity, as determined in the sole discretion of the Board of the Corporation. For this purpose, “control” may be presumed by the direct or indirect ownership of ten percent (10%) or more of the outstanding voting capital stock or other equity interests having ordinary voting power.

Section 1.4. Associate Member. “Associate Member” shall mean any entity that has joined an Industry Sector and is an Affiliate or Related Party of a Regular Member.

Section 1.5. Board. “Board” shall mean the Board of Directors of the Corporation.

Section 1.6. Bulk Power System. “Bulk Power System” shall mean facilities and control systems necessary for operating an interconnected electric energy transmission network (or any portion thereof) and electric energy from generation facilities needed to maintain transmission system reliability, but does not include facilities used in the local distribution of electricity.

Section 1.7. Certificate of Incorporation. “Certificate of Incorporation” shall mean the Certificate of Incorporation of the Corporation filed with the Delaware Secretary of State, as from time to time amended.

Section 1.8. Commission. “Commission” shall mean the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Section 1.9. Delegation Agreement. “Delegation Agreement” shall mean the delegation agreement, as supplemented or amended from time to time, between NERC and the Corporation pursuant to which NERC has delegated its authority to the Corporation to propose and enforce Reliability Standards within the Region.

Section 1.10. Electronic Transmission. “Electronic transmission” shall mean any form of communication, not directly involving the physical transmission of paper, that creates a record that may be retained, retrieved and reviewed by a recipient thereof, and that may be directly reproduced in paper form by such a recipient through an automated process.

Section 1.11. ERO. “ERO” shall mean the electric reliability organization established under the Act to enforce Reliability Standards applicable to all owners, operators and users of the Bulk Power System in North America.

Section 1.12. Hearing Body. “Hearing Body” shall mean a group established with authority to conduct and render decisions in a formal compliance hearing of an entity registered in the NERC compliance registry who is the subject of a notice of alleged violation, proposed penalty or sanction, contested mitigation plan or contested remedial action directive.

Section 1.13. Industry Sector. “Industry Sector” shall mean a group of Bulk Power System owners, operators or users in the Region with substantially similar interests as pertinent to the purposes and operations of the Corporation of the Bulk Power System. The Industry Sectors shall consist of the following: (1) Suppliers, (2) Transmission Companies, (3) RTOs, (4) Small LSEs, (5) Medium LSEs, and (6) Large LSEs.

Section 1.14. Large LSEs. “Large LSEs” shall mean entities that serve, or whose Related Parties serve, end use load with annual energy delivery to such load in the Region of 50,000 GWh or greater.

Section 1.15. Medium LSEs. “Medium LSEs” shall mean entities that serve, or whose Related Parties serve, end use load with annual energy delivery to such load in the Region between 10,000 GWh and 50,000 GWh.

Section 1.16. Members. “Members” shall mean Regular Members, Associate Members and Adjunct Members.

Section 1.17. NERC. “NERC” shall mean the North American Electric Reliability Corporation, or any successor entity, which has been certified by the Commission as the ERO pursuant to the Act to establish and enforce Reliability Standards for the Bulk Power System.

Section 1.18. NERC Rules. “NERC Rules” shall mean the NERC Rules of Procedure as approved by the Commission.

Section 1.19. Net Energy for Load. “Net Energy for Load” shall mean net generation of an electric system plus energy received from others less energy delivered to others through interchange. It includes system losses, but excludes energy required for storage of energy at energy storage facilities. Calculations of net energy for load for all purposes under these Bylaws shall be based on the most recent calendar year for which data on net energy for load of the Region is available.

Section 1.20. Person. “Person” shall mean a natural person, corporation, cooperative, partnership, association, or other private or public entity.

Section 1.21. Region. “Region” shall mean the geographic boundaries of the Corporation described in the Delegation Agreement.

Section 1.22. Regional Entity. “Regional Entity” shall mean any entity with which NERC has entered into a delegation agreement to delegate, or which the Commission or a governmental authority in Canada or Mexico has directly assigned, enforcement authority for reliability standards for the Bulk Power System in a defined geographic area of North America.

Section 1.23. Regional Variance. “Regional Variance” shall mean an aspect of a Reliability Standard that applies only within a particular Regional Entity or group of Regional Entities. A Regional Variance may be used to qualify how a particular Regional Entity or Regional Entities achieves the objectives of a Reliability Standard or may establish different measures or performance criteria as necessary to achieve reliability within the particular Regional Entity or group of Regional Entities. A Regional Variance may not be inconsistent with any Reliability Standard as it would otherwise exist without the Regional Variance. Such a Regional Variance may be proposed by a Regional Entity and, if adopted by NERC and approved by the Commission, shall be enforced within the applicable Regional Entity or Regional Entities pursuant to delegated authority.

Section 1.24. Regional Reliability Standard. “Regional Reliability Standard” shall mean a type of Reliability Standard that is applicable only within a particular Regional Entity or group of Regional Entities. A Regional Reliability Standard may augment, add detail to, or implement another Reliability Standard or cover matters not addressed by other Reliability Standards. A Regional Reliability Standard is not binding upon any Member or Registered Entity, nor is it effective or enforceable, until the Regional Reliability Standard has been s, upon adoption adopted by NERC and ~~approval~~approved by the Commission; ~~shall be as a~~ Reliability Standard ~~s and shall be enforced~~ within the applicable Regional Entity or Regional Entities pursuant to delegated authorities.

Section 1.25. Regular Member. “Regular Member” shall mean any entity that has joined an Industry Sector that either (i) has no Affiliates or Related Parties that are

Members or (ii) is the entity designated to be the Regular Member by any related group of Associate Members.

Section 1.26. Regulatory Participant. “Regulatory Participant” shall mean any state, District of Columbia or any provincial regulatory agency in the Region exercising authority over the rates, terms or conditions of electric service of an entity other than itself within the Region, or the planning, siting, construction or operation of electric facilities of an entity other than itself within the Region, as well as the Commission, regional advisory bodies that may be established by the Commission, or any federal regulator or agency or any entity authorized by any state, the District of Columbia or any province to represent utility consumers.

Section 1.27. Related Party. “Related Party” shall mean, solely for purposes of the governance provisions of these Bylaws, any entity that is registered as part of another entity or is registered for other entities in the NERC Compliance Registry. For purposes of these Bylaws, a representative of a state or federal government agency shall not be deemed a Related Party with respect to each other, and a public body’s regulatory authority, if any, over a Member shall not be deemed to make it a Related Party with respect to that Member.

Section 1.28. Reliability Coordinator. “Reliability Coordinator” shall mean any entity that is recognized as a reliability coordinator by NERC in the Region that does not otherwise qualify as a Transmission Company or RTO.

Section 1.29. Reliability Standard. “Reliability Standard” shall mean a requirement to provide for Reliable Operation of the Bulk Power System, including, without limitation, the foregoing requirements for the operation of existing Bulk Power System facilities, including cyber security protection, and the design of planned additions or modifications to such facilities to the extent necessary for reliable operation of the Bulk Power System, but shall not include any requirement to enlarge Bulk Power System facilities or to construct new transmission capacity or generation capacity.

Section 1.30. Reliable Operation. “Reliable Operation” shall mean operating the elements of the Bulk Power System within equipment and electric system thermal, voltage and stability limits so that instability, uncontrolled separation, or cascading failure of the Bulk Power System will not occur as a result of a sudden disturbance, including a cyber security incident, or unanticipated failure of system elements.

Section 1.31. RTOs. “RTOs” shall mean PJM Interconnection L.L.C. and Midwest Independent Transmission System Operator, Inc., or such other entity that has been recognized by the Commission as a regional transmission operator or recognized functional equivalent in the Region.

Section 1.32. Small LSEs. “Small LSEs” shall mean (i) owners or operators of entities (or their representatives) that serve, or whose Related Parties serve, end use load with annual energy delivery to such load in the Region of 10,000 GWh or less, and

(ii) end-use customers interconnected with the Bulk Power System with load of at least 100 MW at one location in the Region.

Section 1.33. Suppliers. “Suppliers” shall mean owners or operators of electric generation connected to the transmission system and wholesale power marketers in the Region.

Section 1.34. Transmission Companies. “Transmission companies” shall mean (i) owners (or those with ownership entitlement), planners and operators of transmission facilities included in the Bulk Power System in the Region and (ii) Reliability Coordinators.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE AND ACTIVITIES

Section 2.1. Purpose. The business or purposes to be conducted or promoted by the Corporation are:

- (a) to be a Regional Entity and exercise enforcement authority for Reliability Standards for the Bulk Power System in the Region pursuant to the Delegation Agreement;
- (b) to carry out certain of NERC’s activities that are in furtherance of NERC’s responsibilities as the ERO under the Act or in support of delegated functions, as specified in the NERC Rules or the Delegation Agreement; and
- (c) to engage in any other lawful act or activity for which not for profit corporations may be organized under the Delaware General Corporation Law.

The Corporation shall be exempt from federal income taxation pursuant to Section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (hereinafter the “Code”) as an organization described in Section 501(c)(6) of the Code. The Corporation shall not engage directly or indirectly in any activity which would invalidate its status as an organization exempt from taxation under Section 501(a) of the Code as an organization described in Section 501(c)(6) of the Code. No part of the net income to the Corporation shall inure to the benefit of or be distributed to its directors, officers, members or other private persons, except that the Corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services actually rendered.

Section 2.2. Activities. In support and furtherance of its purpose, and in accordance with and at all times subject to the NERC Rules and the Delegation Agreement, the Corporation’s responsibilities shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- (a) Reliability Standards. The Corporation shall:

(1) propose Reliability Standards, Regional Variances or modifications thereof to NERC; and

(2) develop Regional Reliability Standards through the Corporation's standards development procedure.

(b) Enforcement. The Corporation shall enforce Reliability Standards (including ~~Regional Reliability Standards and~~ Regional Variances) within the Region through the Corporation's compliance enforcement program.

(c) Delegation-Related Services. The Corporation, on behalf of NERC, shall carry out certain of NERC's activities that are in furtherance of NERC's responsibilities as the ERO under the Act or in support of delegated functions, including:

(1) Organization registration and certification.

(2) Reliability readiness audit and improvement.

(3) Reliability assessment and performance analysis.

(4) Training and education.

(5) Situational awareness and infrastructure security.

(d) Budget. The Corporation shall prepare and submit a budget to NERC for the amount of costs the Corporation will incur in support of delegated functions that are in furtherance of NERC's responsibilities as the ERO under the Act.

(e) Non-delegated Functions. The Corporation may conduct such other activities for or on behalf of the Members that are not delegated to the Corporation by NERC under the Delegation Agreement if authorized by the Board and not inconsistent with the Act, NERC Rules, the Delegation Agreement or these Bylaws.

Section 2.3. Not-for-Profit Corporation. The Corporation is operated as a Delaware non-stock nonprofit corporation and is organized pursuant to the general corporation law of the State of Delaware.

ARTICLE III. POWERS

Section 3.1. Powers. The Corporation shall have the power to engage in any lawful act or activity for which corporations may be organized under the general corporation law of the State of Delaware, subject to any limitations provided in applicable federal, provincial or state law or in the Certificate of Incorporation or these Bylaws.

ARTICLE IV. OFFICES

Section 4.1. Principal Office. The principal office of the Corporation shall be located initially within the Region, at such location as the Board may from time to time determine, giving consideration to the total cost to the Corporation and convenience of travel for staff, Members and Regulatory Participants. Once established, the principal office may remain in its location, even if outside the Region.

ARTICLE V. MEMBERS

Section 5.1. General. The terms and conditions of membership in the Corporation shall be as provided in the Certificate of Incorporation and these Bylaws if not inconsistent therewith. All Regular Members and Associate Members shall be required to join a single Industry Sector.

Section 5.2. Classes of Members. The Corporation shall have three (3) classes of Members: Regular Members, Associate Members and Adjunct Members.

5.2.1 Regular Members. Except as set forth in Sections 5.5 and 6.5 of these Bylaws, Regular Members shall have the right to vote on all matters within their Industry Sector. Regular Members shall have all the rights and obligations of being a Member in the Corporation.

5.2.2 Associate Members. Associate Members shall not be entitled to vote within their Industry Sector or for any other purpose as a Member. Associate Members shall otherwise have all the rights and obligations of being a Member in the Corporation.

5.2.3 Adjunct Members. Adjunct Members shall not be entitled to vote for any purpose as a Member. Adjunct Members shall otherwise have all the rights of being a Member in the Corporation.

Section 5.3. Qualifications of Members. Any entity eligible to join an Industry Sector may be a Regular Member or Associate Member of the Corporation. Any entity not eligible to join an Industry Sector may be an Adjunct Member of the Corporation.

Section 5.4. Admission of Members. New Members may join the Corporation upon submittal of an application, in a form approved by the Board, and upon payment of such fees or charges, if any, as may be established by the Board or required by NERC. Each Regular Member and Associate Member shall designate the Industry Sector it wishes to join. A Regular Member and Associate Member may change its Industry Sector designation once each calendar year upon notice to the Corporation. Such notice must be provided to the Secretary of the Corporation at least sixty (60) days before an annual or other meeting of Members if the change is to be effective for such meeting. The President shall review a membership application and may request demonstration by the applicant that it qualifies for membership in a particular Industry Sector. Any dispute with respect to a Regular Member's or Associate Member's

qualifications for a particular Industry Sector shall be resolved by the Board. The President shall have authority to approve an application for membership, subject to review by the Board.

Section 5.5. Voting Rights. Each Regular Member in good standing shall be entitled to one vote in the Industry Sector in which it belongs on all matters submitted to a vote of Members. The Board may suspend voting rights for a Regular Member delinquent by more than 60 days in payment of any penalties or because of the Regular Member's failure to meet other obligations to the Corporation. Except with respect to the election of Industry Sector directors as described elsewhere in the Certificate of Incorporation and these Bylaws, matters properly brought before the Members at an annual or special meeting shall be acted upon by the Industry Sectors voting together as a single class. The vote of each Industry Sector shall be split into an affirmative component based on votes for the matter(s) presented, and a negative component based on votes against the matter(s) presented, in direct proportion to the votes cast within the Industry Sector for and against the matter presented, rounded to two decimal places. If authorized in advance by the Board, voting may be held electronically under such terms and conditions as are approved by the Board.

Section 5.6. Transfer of Membership. A Member of the Corporation may not transfer its membership or a right arising from it except to any Person succeeding to all or substantially all of the assets of the Member. If challenged, the President shall have authority to approve any such transfer, subject to review by the Board.

Section 5.7. Obligations of Members. By applying for and becoming a Regular or Associate Member of the Corporation, each Member agrees to comply with all Reliability Standards, all NERC standards and requirements, and the other obligations of Members of the Corporation set forth in these Bylaws or duly adopted by the Board in order to achieve the purposes of the Corporation. A Regular or Associate Member also agrees to obligate all of its Affiliates that have an impact on reliability in the Region to comply with all Reliability Standards and NERC standards and requirements. These obligations include but are not limited to: (a) obligations to provide data and information needed to perform the functions of the Corporation, (b) payment of any authorized penalties resulting from non-compliance with Reliability Standards, (c) in the case of Regular Members, electing the Board, and (d) providing qualified candidates to serve on organizational working groups. Adjunct Members agree to provide data and information needed to perform the functions of the Corporation.

Section 5.8. Withdrawal. A Member may withdraw from participation in the Corporation upon notice given in writing or by electronic transmission to the Corporation. Such notice shall specify a date, not earlier than thirty (30) days from the date of notice, on which the withdrawal shall become effective.

Section 5.9. Funding and Dues.

5.9.1 NERC Funding. In accordance with and at all times subject to the NERC Rules and the Delegation Agreement, the Corporation shall equitably allocate its dues,

fees and other charges for the delegated functions conducted by the Corporation among all end users. The Corporation shall submit to NERC annually a list of all load-serving entities within the Region. NERC will bill all load-serving entities in the Region for the Corporation's costs for the delegated functions based on Net Energy for Load and be responsible for collection.

5.9.2 Application Fee, User-Fees and Other Charges. The Corporation may charge a nominal fee, which shall be determined by the President, for the submission of applications for membership. The Board of Directors may from time to time fix the amount of user-fees or other charges, if any, for activities that are not delegated to the Corporation by NERC under the Delegation Agreement and determine the methods of collection from entities that choose to participate in such activities.

Section 5.10. Penalties. If the Corporation initiates an investigation that leads to the imposition of a penalty, the Corporation shall receive any penalty monies that results from the investigation. All monies which the Corporation collects from the issuance of penalties shall be applied as a general offset to the Corporation's budget requirements for the subsequent fiscal year. Funds from financial penalties shall not be directly applied to any program maintained by the Corporation.

ARTICLE VI. MEETING OF MEMBERS

Section 6.1. Annual Meeting of Members. The Members shall hold an annual meeting in December of each year, or at such other time specified by the Board. At the annual meeting of Members: (i) each Industry Sector shall elect the successor(s), if any, for any director(s) from their Industry Sector whose term will expire before the next annual meeting of the Members, provided however, that any Industry Sector may elect a successor director representing such Industry Sector prior to such annual meeting, in accordance with the provisions of this Article VI, in which case the election of such succeeding director(s) shall be reported to the Corporation at such annual meeting; (ii) the President and Treasurer shall report on the activities and financial condition of the Corporation; (iii) the Industry Sectors shall elect a slate of at-large and independent directors to fill vacancies or expiring terms; and (iv) the Industry Sectors shall consider and act upon such other matters as are consistent with the notice of the annual meeting. The failure to hold an annual meeting in accordance with these Bylaws shall not affect the validity of a corporate action.

Section 6.2. Special Meetings of Members. Special meetings of the Members may be called by six (6) directors on the Board, by the President, or by Members if at least ten percent (10%) of the Regular Members sign, date, and deliver to the President one or more written demands for a special meeting describing the purpose for which it is to be held. Within fifteen (15) days after receipt of a demand for a special meeting from Regular Members, the President shall cause a special meeting to be called and held on notice in accordance with Section 6.4 of these Bylaws. If the President fails to cause a special meeting to be called and held as required by this Section 6.2, a Regular Member making the demand may call the meeting by giving notice under Section 6.4.

In either event, notice of the meeting and the costs of the meeting shall be at the expense of the Corporation. The business transacted at a special meeting is limited to the purposes stated within the notice of the meeting. Business transacted at a special meeting that is not included in those stated purposes is voidable by or on behalf of the Corporation, unless ninety percent (90%) of the Regular Members entitled to vote were present at such meeting or have waived notice of the meeting under Section 6.4.

Section 6.3. Location of Meetings of Members. Meetings of Members shall be held at a location designated by the President or the Board. If a Regular Member calls a meeting pursuant to Section 6.2, the Regular Members making the demand for the meeting may designate the location, provided the meeting must be held within the Region and in a facility of appropriate size to accommodate the Members.

Section 6.4. Notice of Meetings.

6.4.1 Notice Requirements. Notice of meetings of Members must be given at least five (5) days before the date of a meeting and not more than sixty (60) days before the date of a meeting. The notice must contain the date, time and place of the meeting, instructions for electronic attendance or voting, if applicable, and an agenda of the matters upon which action may be taken at the meeting. A matter may be added to the agenda of a meeting at the meeting upon the affirmative vote of three-quarters (3/4) of the Industry Sector votes cast on a motion to amend the agenda. If the meeting is an adjourned meeting and the date, time and place of the meeting were announced at the time of the adjournment, notice is not required unless a new record date for the adjourned meeting is or must be fixed. Notice shall be deemed given by the Corporation to the Members when (a) posted on the Corporation's public website in a reasonably prominent location, and (b) sent by mail, facsimile or reputable overnight delivery service or by electronic transmission to each Member's representative authorized pursuant to Section 6.10.1

6.4.2 Waiver of Notice; Objections. A Member may waive notice of a meeting of Members. A waiver of notice by a Member entitled to notice is effective whether given before, at, or after the meeting, and whether given in writing, or by attendance. Attendance by a Member at a meeting is a waiver of notice of that meeting, unless the Member objects at the beginning of the meeting to the transaction of business because the meeting is not lawfully called or convened, or objects before a vote on an item of business because the item may not lawfully be considered at that meeting and does not participate in the consideration of the item at that meeting.

Section 6.5. Record Date. The Board may fix a date not more than sixty (60) days before the date of a meeting of Members as the date for the determination of the Members entitled to notice of and entitled to vote at the meeting. When a date is so fixed, only Members on that date are entitled to notice and to vote at the meeting unless the Board fixes a new date for determining the right to notice and to vote, which it must do if the meeting is adjourned to a date more than sixty (60) days after the record date for determining Members entitled to notice of the original meeting.

Section 6.6. Right to Vote; Act of Members.

6.6.1 Industry Sector Voting. Voting of the Members shall be by Industry Sector, with each Industry Sector entitled to cast one vote. Each Member entitled to vote in an Industry Sector shall be entitled to cast one vote in its Industry Sector. The vote of each Industry Sector shall be split into an affirmative component based on votes for the pending motion, and a negative component based on votes against the pending motion, in direct proportion to the votes cast within the Industry Sector for and against the pending motion, rounded to two decimal places. To the extent practicable, all Member votes may be held electronically under such terms and conditions as are approved by the Board.

6.6.2 Act of Members. If a quorum is present, except with respect to any matter described in Section 6.6.3, a majority of the Industry Sector votes cast on the matter shall be the act of the Members.

6.6.3 Special Voting Requirements. Notwithstanding any other provision of these Bylaws, and except as set forth in the Certificate of Incorporation and Section 13.2 of these Bylaws, two-thirds (2/3) of the Industry Sector votes cast shall be required to:

(a) Amend the Bylaws, except as otherwise provided in Section 19.1 of these Bylaws. The substance of the proposed amendment must be contained in the notice of the meeting at which the vote will be taken; however, the Members may modify a proposed Bylaw amendment at the meeting.

(b) Approve any proposal to terminate the Corporation.

Section 6.7. Quorum. A quorum for a meeting of Members is a majority of the Regular Members entitled to vote in each Industry Sector at the meeting. A quorum for a meeting of an Industry Sector is a majority of the Regular Members of that Industry Sector entitled to vote at the meeting. In both cases, electronic participation is acceptable if authorized by the Board. A quorum is necessary for the transaction of business at a meeting of Members or of any Industry Sector. If a quorum is not present, a meeting may be adjourned for that reason by the Industry Sectors or Regular Members then represented or present.

Section 6.8. Action by [Written Ballot](#). All elections of directors shall be by written ballot. ~~Any other action that may be taken at a regular or special meeting of Members or any Industry Sector may be taken without a meeting or during a meeting if the Corporation mails or delivers a written ballot to every Regular Member entitled to vote on the matter. Approval by written ballot is valid only when the number of votes cast by ballot equals or exceeds the quorum required to be present at a meeting authorizing the action, and the number of approvals equals or exceeds the number of votes that would be required to approve the matter at a meeting at which the total number of votes cast was the same as the number of votes cast by ballot. Solicitations for votes by written ballot must: (i) indicate the number of responses needed to meet the~~

~~quorum requirements; (ii) state the percentage of approvals necessary to approve the matter; (iii) specify the time by which a ballot must be received by the Corporation in order to be counted; and (iv) may not be revoked once received. If authorized by the Board, t~~The requirement of a written ballot shall be satisfied by a ballot submitted by electronic transmission provided that any such electronic transmission must either set forth or be submitted with information from which it can be determined that the electronic transmission was authorized by the Member.

Section 6.9. Action by Electronic Communication. A conference among Members by a means of communication through which the participants may simultaneously hear each other during the conference is a meeting of the Members, if the same notice is given of the conference as would be required for a meeting and if the number of persons participating in the conference is a quorum. Participation in a meeting by this means is personal presence at the meeting. A Member may participate in a meeting of the Members by a means of communication through which the Member, other persons participating, and all persons physically present at the meeting may simultaneously communicate with each other during the meeting. Participation in a meeting by this means constitutes personal presence at the meeting.

Section 6.10. Member Representatives; Proxies.

6.10.1 Designation of Representative. Each year prior to the annual meeting of Members, each Regular Member shall designate the individual authorized to vote on Corporation matters on behalf of the Member, in accordance with procedures approved by the Board. A Regular Member may change such designation at any time by providing at least twenty-four (24) hour written notice to the Secretary of the Corporation. Such notice may be provided by electronic transmission.

6.10.2 Authorization. The individual designated to vote by a Regular Member may appoint a proxy to vote or otherwise act for the Regular Member at any meeting by signing an appointment form either personally or by an attorney so designated by the Regular Member. Such authorization may be in writing or by means of electronic transmission to the person who will be the holder of the proxy, provided that such electronic transmission must either set forth or be submitted with information from which it can be determined that the electronic transmission was authorized by the Member representative.

6.10.3 Effective Period. An appointment of a proxy is effective when received by the Secretary or other officer or agent authorized to tabulate votes. An appointment is valid for the next regular or specially scheduled meeting or ballot by electronic transmission. However, a proxy is not valid for more than sixty (60) days from its date of execution.

6.10.4 Revocation. An appointment of a proxy is revocable by a Regular Member. Appointment of a proxy is revoked by the person appointing the proxy either by open declaration at a meeting or by signing and delivering a revocation in writing or by electronic transmission to the Secretary or other officer or agent authorized to

tabulate proxy votes. This may be done either in a statement that the appointment of the proxy is revoked or by a subsequent appointment that shall serve to cancel all prior proxies.

Section 6.11. Public Notice of Member Meetings. Notice to the public of the dates, times and places of meetings of the Members, and all nonconfidential material provided to the Members, shall be posted on the Corporation's website at approximately the same time that notice is given to the Members. Meetings of the Members shall be open to the public, subject to reasonable limitations due to the availability and size of meeting facilities; provided, that the meeting may be held in or adjourn to closed session to discuss matters of a confidential nature, including, but not limited to, personnel matters, compliance and enforcement matters, litigation or commercially sensitive or critical infrastructure information of a Member or other Person.

Section 6.12. Posting of Minutes. Minutes of meetings of Members shall be posted on the Corporation's website when available.

Section 6.13. Reimbursement of Member Expenses. The Corporation will be under no obligation to reimburse Members for expenses associated with their attendance at regular or special Member meetings.

ARTICLE VII. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 7.1. General. The composition of the Board and the terms of office of the directors, the manner of their nomination, election or appointment, and other terms and conditions of their service, shall be as provided in the Certificate of Incorporation and these Bylaws if not inconsistent therewith.

Section 7.2. Management of Corporation. The business of the Corporation shall be managed under the direction of the Board. Specific functions of the Board shall include, but not be limited to:

- (a) govern the Corporation and oversee all of its activities;
- (b) establish and oversee all organizational groups;
- (c) approve, revise and enforce Reliability Standards utilizing a fair, open, balanced and inclusive process;
- (d) establish compliance monitoring procedures and requirements, and penalties and sanctions for non-compliance consistent with applicable NERC Rules;
- (e) impose penalties and sanctions consistent with the NERC Rules and the procedures approved by the Board;

- (f) establish and approve an annual budget for submission to NERC;
- (g) hire the Corporation's president and approve his or her salary;
- (h) annually at the first regular Board meeting following the annual meeting of Members, elect a Chair ("Chair") and a vice-chair from among the directors on the Board; and
- (i) establish Board committees as appropriate.

Section 7.3. Voting. Each director shall have one vote with respect to decisions of the Board.

Section 7.4. Composition of the Board.

(a) The Board shall consist of fourteen (14) or fifteen (15) directors which number shall be established from time to time by resolution of the Board, which resolution shall in no event have the effect of terminating the term of any incumbent director.

(b) Eight directors shall be elected by the Industry Sectors as follows:

- (i) Suppliers shall elect two (2) directors;
- (ii) Transmission Companies shall elect two (2) directors;
- (iii) RTOs shall select one (1) director;
- (iv) Small LSEs shall elect one (1) director;
- (v) Medium LSEs shall elect one (1) director; and
- (vi) Large LSEs shall elect one (1) director.

(c) Three (3) directors shall be at-large. At-large directors shall be elected by all of the Industry Sectors voting together as a single class.

(d) Three (3) directors, if the Board consists of fourteen (14) directors, and four (4) directors, if the Board consists of fifteen (15) directors, shall be independent from the Corporation and any Member or any Affiliate or Related Party of any Member. Independent directors shall be elected by all of the Industry Sectors voting together as a single class.

(e) Industry Sectors shall elect their respective sector and at-large directors from among individuals holding senior management positions in Member organizations. Any sector-elected or at-large director whose Member organization changes Industry Sectors or who ceases to hold a senior management position in a Member organization shall continue to serve out his or her remaining term, unless such director resigns or is removed. ~~When selecting~~

~~at-large directors, Industry Sectors shall consider such factors as the geographic and functional representation of the Board.~~—No two directors may be employees of a single Member or any Affiliate or Related Party of a Member or any Affiliate.

(f) An independent director is a person (i) who is not an officer or employee of the Corporation, an officer, director, or employee of a Member, or an officer, director or employee of any entity that would reasonably be perceived as having a direct financial interest in the outcome the Board's decisions, or (ii) who does not have a relationship that would interfere with the exercise of independent judgment in carry out the responsibilities of a director. The Board may adopt additional standards for director independence not inconsistent herewith.

(g) At-large and independent directors shall be nominated by the nominating and governance committee of the Board. When nominating at-large directors, the nominating and governance committee shall consider such factors as the geographic and functional representation of the Board. The nominating and governance committee shall seek out for nomination independent directors from diverse backgrounds, who will contribute to the effective functioning of the Board and the Corporation by bringing a broad range of industry expertise, viewpoints, experiences, skill sets and knowledge. If an incumbent independent director is not re-nominated, the nominating and governance committee will use reasonable efforts to ensure that diverse candidates are in the pool of potential nominees for the open independent director position and may retain an independent consultant to identify individuals qualified and willing to serve as an independent director.

(h) Any director which the full Board has determined has a conflict of interest on any compliance or enforcement matter brought before the Board shall not vote on such matter and shall recuse himself or herself from all Board deliberations concerning such matter.

(i) There will be no alternates or proxies for directors.

Section 7.5. Terms of Directors. The directors will be divided into three classes. The number of directors in each class shall be as nearly equal as possible. The term of office of the first class will expire at the second annual meeting of Members; the term of office of the second class will expire one year thereafter; and the term of office of the third class two years thereafter. At each annual meeting of Members, directors shall be chosen for a three year term to succeed those whose term expires. No two at-large directors and no two directors of the same Industry Sector shall be in the same class. At least one (1) independent director shall be in each class. Each director shall hold office until (a) the expiration of the term for which he or she was elected and until his or her successor is elected and qualified, or (b) his or her earlier death, resignation or removal. Any director may be removed at any time by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Industry Sector or Industry Sectors, as applicable, electing such director. A director may be removed by the Board for non-attendance at three consecutive Board meetings.

Section 7.6. Reimbursement. Independent directors shall have the right to reimbursement by the Corporation of their actual reasonable travel expenses to Board meetings or when specifically selected to represent the Corporation at a business meeting. The directors elected by the Industry Sectors and the at-large directors shall not be reimbursed by the Corporation for any expenses, unless specifically approved in advance by resolution of the Board.

Section 7.7. Resignations; Vacancies.

(a) Resignations. A director may resign ~~at any time~~ from the Board upon notice given in writing or by electronic transmission to the Corporation. Such resignation shall take effect at the time identified in the notice as the effective date of resignation~~of its receipt by the Corporation~~.

(b) Vacancies. If a notice of resignation provides that the effective date of resignation will occur on a future date within an unexpired term, the Industry Sector or Industry Sectors, as applicable, may elect a successor director to fill the impending vacancy prior to the effective date of the resignation, in accordance with the procedures and requirements set forth above. The successor director elected by the Industry Sector or Industry Sectors, as applicable, shall commence on the effective date of the resigning director's resignation and hold office for the unexpired term of the vacated directorship replaced.

If a successor Industry Sector or at-large director is not elected prior to the resignation effective date, or if~~if~~ an Industry Sector or at-large director resigns, dies or otherwise becomes incapacitated or is removed during the term of office for which elected, the directorship shall thereupon be vacant and shall be filled by the Industry Sector or Industry Sectors, as applicable, by written or electronic ballot in accordance with the procedures and requirements set forth above. The successor director elected by the Industry Sector or Industry Sectors, as applicable, shall hold office for the unexpired term of the vacated directorship replaced.

If a successor independent director is not elected prior to the resignation effective date, or if an independent director resigns, dies or otherwise becomes incapacitated or is removed during the term of office for which elected or ceases to be independent, as determined by the Board, his or her directorship shall thereupon be vacant and may be filled by resolution of the Board and any independent director so chosen shall hold office until the next annual meeting of Members, at which time a permanent successor shall be elected by the Industry Sectors for the remainder of the unexpired term. Upon an increase in the number of directors on the Board in accordance with Section 7.4(a) of these Bylaws, the independent directorship created thereby may be filled by resolution of the Board and any independent director so chosen shall hold office until the next annual meeting of Members, at which time a permanent successor shall be elected by the Industry Sectors for the remainder of such director's unexpired term.

Section 7.8. Meetings; Notice; Waiver.

(a) Meetings. An annual meeting of the Board shall be held without notice immediately following the annual meeting of the Members. The Board shall elect the Chair and Vice-Chair for the next year at the annual meeting. In addition, regular meetings may be held at such time or times as fixed by the Board. Special meetings of the Board may be called by the Board's Chair, the President or by any three directors and shall be held at the principal office of the Corporation, or such other place within the Region as determined by the Chair or the President after consultation with the Board.

(b) Notice. Notice of the dates, times, and places of all regular and special meetings of the Board shall be published by the Secretary and provided to all directors and Members not less than three (3) days prior to the date of the meeting. Notice shall be deemed given by the Corporation to directors and the Members when (a) posted on the Corporation's public website in a reasonably prominent location, and (b) sent by mail, facsimile or reputable overnight delivery service or by electronic transmission to each director and each Member's representative authorized pursuant to Section 6.10.1.

(c) Waiver. Any person entitled to notice of a regular or special meeting of the Board may waive notice thereof. A waiver of notice by a person entitled to notice is effective whether given before, at, or after the meeting, and whether given in writing or by attendance. Attendance by a director at a meeting of the Board is a waiver of notice of that meeting, unless the director objects at the beginning of the meeting to the transaction of business because the meeting is not lawfully called or convened, or objects before a vote on an item of business because the item may not lawfully be considered at that meeting and does not participate in the consideration of the item at that meeting.

Section 7.9. Quorum. For the Board to take action at a meeting, a quorum of directors must be present. A quorum is a majority of the directors then in office, provided that: (a) if there are three or four independent directors holding office, two independent directors must be present to constitute a quorum, or (b) if there are two independent directors holding office, one independent director must be present to constitute a quorum. If there is only one independent director or no independent directors holding office, there is no requirement that an independent director be present in order for the Board to have a quorum. In the absence of a quorum, a majority of the directors present may adjourn a meeting, without notice, except as may be given at such meeting, until a quorum is present.

Section 7.10. Board Action. The act of a majority of the directors present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the Board, unless the act of a greater number is required by law or these Bylaws.

Section 7.11. Action Without a Meeting. Any action required or permitted to be taken at any meeting of the Board or any committee thereof may be taken without a

meeting if all members of the Board or committee, as the case may be, consent thereto in writing or by electronic transmission, and the writing or writings or electronic transmission or transmissions are filed with the minutes of proceeding of the Board or the committee. Any nonconfidential material provided to the Board or a committee in connection with such action shall be posted on the Corporation's website at approximately the same time that it is given to the Board or the committee. The results of all actions taken by the Board or any committee thereof without a meeting shall be promptly posted on the Corporation's website.

Section 7.12. Action by Electronic Communication. A conference among directors by a means of communication through which the directors may simultaneously hear each other during the conference is a Board meeting if the same notice is given of the conference as would be required for a meeting and if the number of directors participating in the conference is a quorum. Participation in a meeting by this means constitutes personal presence at the meeting. A director may participate in a Board meeting by any means of communication through which the director, other directors participating, and all directors physically present at the meeting may simultaneously communicate with each other during the meeting.

Section 7.13. Board Committees. The Board shall have an audit committee, compensation committee, nominating and governance committee and compliance committee, and such other committees the Board deems necessary and appropriate. Each committee shall be comprised of not less than three directors. The compliance committee shall be comprised of a minimum of five directors, a majority of whom are independent directors. All independent directors shall serve on the compliance committee. The Board may require that a minimum number of independent directors serve on any or all other Board committees. The Board shall have the power to appoint, and to delegate authority to, such other committees of the Board as it determines to be appropriate from time to time. The Board may require any committee to adopt a charter, subject to approval by the Board, governing the activities and authority of the committee and the composition of its members.

Section 7.14. Hearing Body. The Hearing Body shall consist of the Board compliance committee.

7.14.1 Quorum. For the Hearing Body to take action at a hearing, a quorum of members must be present. A quorum is a majority of members of the Hearing Body, provided that two independent directors are present. If a quorum of the Hearing Body does not remain after any recusals and rulings on motions for disqualification, the compliance committee shall appoint a new member to the Hearing Body from among other directors to create a quorum, provided that the requirement that at least two independent directors are present for a quorum shall at all times continue to be met. Such new member shall serve on the Hearing Body for purposes of the subject hearing through the conclusion of the hearing but not thereafter.

7.14.2 Voting. Each Hearing Body member shall have one vote with respect to matters presented at a hearing. Action may be taken at a hearing at which a quorum is present upon the vote of the majority of members present.

Section 7.15. Public Notice of Board Meetings. Notice to the public of the dates, times and places of Board meetings, including committees thereof, and all nonconfidential material provided to the Board or the committees, shall be posted on the Corporation's website, and notice of Board and committee meetings shall be sent by electronic transmission to Members, at approximately the same time that notice is given to the Board or the committee, as the case may be. Board and committee Meetings shall be open to all Members and the public, subject to reasonable limitations due to the availability and size of meeting facilities; provided, that any meeting may be held in or adjourn to closed session to discuss matters of a confidential nature, including, but not limited to, personnel matters, compliance and enforcement matters, litigation or commercially sensitive or critical infrastructure information of a Member or other Person.

Section 7.16. Posting of Minutes. Minutes of Board and committee meetings shall be posted on the Corporation's website when available.

Section 7.17. Compensation of Directors. The directors elected by the Industry Sectors and the at-large directors shall not receive compensation for their service to the Corporation as directors on the Board. The independent directors shall be entitled to such compensation as the Board may from time to time determine. Nothing contained in these Bylaws shall preclude any director from receiving compensation for services to the Corporation in any other capacity.

ARTICLE VIII. ORGANIZATIONAL GROUPS

Section 8.1. Establishment of Organizational Groups. The Board shall establish such organizational groups, consisting of committees, sub-committees, task forces and working groups of Members, as are necessary and appropriate to accomplish the purposes of the Corporation in an efficient and cost-effective manner. All organizational groups shall be subject to the direction and control of the Board. The membership of organizational groups shall be determined based upon experience, expertise and geographic diversity and to the extent practicable shall include balanced representation of the Industry Sectors. The Board shall establish policies and procedures governing the creation of organizational groups, how they are populated, how voting and related matters are conducted, how they may be reorganized and the direction and termination of such groups. The Board shall conduct a review of all organizational groups of the Corporation on an annual basis to ensure that the business of the Corporation is conducted in an efficient, cost-effective manner.

Section 8.2. Reimbursement. The Board may authorize reimbursement for persons acting on behalf of the Corporation, as necessary in the interests of the Corporation.

ARTICLE IX. OFFICERS

Section 9.1. Officers. The officers of the Corporation shall include a President, one or more Vice Presidents, a Secretary, a Treasurer and any other officers as may be elected or appointed in accordance with the provisions of this Article. The Board may elect or appoint any additional officers that it deems desirable, such other officers to have the authority and perform the duties prescribed by the Board. The same individual may hold any number of offices, except that of President.

Section 9.2. Election and Term of Office. The officers of the Corporation shall be elected annually by the Board at the annual meeting of the Board. Each officer shall hold office at the pleasure of the Board. If the election of officers is not held at such meeting, such election shall be held as soon thereafter as is convenient. New officers may be created and the positions filled at any meeting of the Board. Each elected officer shall hold office until his or her successor has been duly elected and qualified or upon his or her earlier resignation or removal.

Section 9.3. Removal. Any officer elected by the Board may be removed by the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the Board whenever in its judgment the best interests of the Corporation would be served thereby, but such removal shall be without prejudice to the contract rights, if any, of the officer so removed. Election or appointment of an officer or agent shall not of itself create contract rights.

Section 9.4. Vacancies. A vacancy in any office because of death, incapacity, resignation, removal, disqualification, or otherwise, may be filled by the Board for the unexpired portion of the term.

Section 9.5. President. The President shall:

- (a) be the principal executive and operating officer of the Corporation;
- (b) sign certificates of membership, and may sign any deeds, mortgages, deeds of trust, notes, bonds, contracts or other instruments authorized by the Board to be executed, except in cases in which the signing and execution thereof shall be expressly delegated by the Board or by these Bylaws to some other officer or agent of the Corporation; and
- (c) perform all duties incident to the office of President, including hiring and directing staff, and such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board from time to time.

Section 9.6. Vice Presidents. The Vice President(s) shall perform such duties and have such powers as the Board or President may from time to time prescribe. At

the request of the Board, the Vice President (or in the event there be more than one Vice President, the Vice Presidents in the order designated, or in the absence of any designation, then in the order of their election) shall perform the duties of the President, and when so acting, shall have all the powers of and be subject to all the restrictions upon the President.

Section 9.7. Secretary. The Secretary shall ensure that the following duties are carried out:

- (a) the minutes of the meetings of the Members and of the Board, and each committee thereof, are recorded;
- (b) all required notices are duly given in accordance with these Bylaws and as required by law;
- (c) a register of the current names and addresses of all Members is maintained and posted on the Corporation's website;
- (d) a complete copy of the Certificate of Incorporation and Bylaws of the Corporation containing all amendments thereto are kept on file at all times and posted on the Corporation's website, which copies shall always be open to the inspection of any Member; and
- (e) generally perform all duties incident to the office of Secretary and such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board from time to time.

Section 9.8. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall be responsible for the following activities:

- (a) maintain custody of all funds and securities of the Corporation;
- (b) receipt of and the issuance of receipts for all monies due and payable to the Corporation and for deposit of all such monies in the name of the Corporation in such bank or banks or financial institutions as shall be selected by the Board; and
- (c) generally perform all duties incident to the office of Treasurer and such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board from time to time.

ARTICLE X. CERTIFICATES OF MEMBERSHIP

Section 10.1. Certificates of Membership. The Board may, but need not, provide for the issuance of certificates evidencing membership in the Corporation, which certificates shall be in such form as may be determined by the Board.

ARTICLE XI.
BOOKS AND RECORDS

Section 11.1. Books and Records; Financial Statements. The Corporation shall keep at such office selected by the Board correct and complete copies of its Certificate of Incorporation and Bylaws, accounting records, and minutes of meetings of Members, Board, and committees having any of the authority of the Board. A Member, or the agent or attorney of a Member, may inspect all books and records for any proper purpose at any reasonable time. Upon request, the Corporation shall give the Member a statement showing the financial result of all operations and transactions affecting income and expenses during its last annual accounting period and a balance sheet containing a summary of its assets and liabilities as of the closing date of the accounting period.

ARTICLE XII.
FISCAL YEAR

Section 12.1. Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of the Corporation shall be the calendar year.

ARTICLE XIII.
TRANSFER OF ASSETS

Section 13.1. Member Approval Not Required. Subject to restrictions set forth in the Certificate of Incorporation, the Corporation, by affirmative vote of the Board, may sell, lease, transfer, or dispose of its property and assets in the usual and regular course of its activities and grant a security interest in all or substantially all of its property and assets in the usual and regular course of its activities, upon those terms and conditions and for those considerations, which may be money, securities, or other instruments for the payment of money or other property, as the Board considers expedient, in which case no Member approval is required.

Section 13.2. Member Approval Required. Subject to restrictions set forth in the Certificate of Incorporation, the Corporation may sell, lease, transfer, or dispose of all or substantially all of its property and assets, including its good will, not in the usual and regular course of its activities, upon those terms and conditions and for those considerations, which may be money, securities, or other instruments for the payment of money or other property, as the Board considers expedient only when approved at a regular or special meeting of the Members by the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of all the Members. Notice of the meeting must be given to the Members. The notice must state that a purpose of the meeting is to consider the sale, lease, transfer, or other disposition of all or substantially all of the property and assets of the Corporation.

ARTICLE XIV.
CONTRACTS, CHECKS, DEPOSITS, AND GIFTS

Section 14.1. Contracts. The Board may authorize any officer or officers or agent or agents of the Corporation, in addition to the officers so authorized by these Bylaws, to enter into any contract or execute and deliver any instrument in the name of and on behalf of the Corporation, and such authority may be general or may be confined to specific instances.

Section 14.2. Checks, Drafts, or Orders. All checks, drafts, or orders for the payment of money, notes, or other evidences of indebtedness issued in the name of the Corporation, may be signed by such officer or officers or agent or agents of the Corporation, and in such manner, as shall from time to time be determined by resolution of the Board.

Section 14.3. Deposits. All funds of the Corporation shall be deposited to the credit of the Corporation in such banks, trust companies, or other depositories as the Board may select.

Section 14.4. Gifts. The Board may accept on behalf of the Corporation any contribution, gift, bequest, or devise for any purpose of the Corporation.

ARTICLE XV.
INSURANCE, LIMITATION ON LIABILITY AND INDEMNIFICATION

Section 15.1. Insurance. The President is authorized to procure insurance to protect the Corporation against damages arising out of or related to any directive, order, procedure, action or requirement of the Corporation.

Section 15.2. Limitations on Liability. As provided in Article Fourteenth of the Certificate of Incorporation, a director of the Corporation shall not be personally liable to the Corporation or its Members for monetary damages for breach of fiduciary duty as a director, except for liability (i) for any breach of the director's duty of loyalty to the Corporation or its Members, (ii) for acts or omissions not in good faith or which involve intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law, (iii) under Section 174 of the Delaware General Corporation Law or (iv) for any transaction from which the director derived any improper personal benefit. If the Delaware General Corporation Law is amended to authorize corporate action further eliminating or limiting the personal liability of directors, then the liability of a director of the Corporation shall be eliminated or limited to the fullest extent permitted by the Delaware General Corporation Law, as so amended. Any repeal or modification of Article Fifteenth of these Bylaws by the Members of the Corporation shall not adversely affect any right or protection of a director of the Corporation existing at the time of such repeal or modification.

Section 15.3. Right to Indemnification.

15.3.1 Indemnified Persons. Each person who was or is made a party or is threatened to be made a party to or is involved in or called as a witness in any

Proceeding because he or she is an Indemnified Person shall be indemnified and held harmless by the Corporation to the fullest extent permitted under the Delaware General Corporation Law (the "DGCL"), as the same now exists or may hereafter be amended (but, in the case of any such amendment, only to the extent that such amendment permits the Corporation to provide broader indemnification rights than the DGCL permitted the Corporation to provide prior to such amendment). Such indemnification shall cover all expenses incurred by an Indemnified Person (including, but not limited to, attorneys' fees and other expenses of litigation) and all liabilities and losses (including, but not limited to, judgments, fines, ERISA or other excise taxes or penalties and amounts paid or to be paid in settlement) incurred by such person in connection therewith.

15.3.2 Denial of Authorization for Certain Proceedings. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Section 15.3, except with respect to indemnification of Indemnified Persons specified in paragraph 15.3.3 of this Section 15.3, the Corporation shall indemnify an Indemnified Person in connection with a Proceeding (or part thereof) initiated by such person only if authorization for such Proceeding (or part thereof) was not denied by the Board of the Corporation prior to the earlier of 60 days after receipt of notice thereof from such Indemnified Person.

15.3.3 Certain Defined Terms. For purposes of this Section 15.3, the following terms shall have the following meanings (such meanings to be equally applicable to both the singular and plural forms of the terms defined):

(1) a "Proceeding" is any investigation, action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative, and any appeal therefrom.

(2) an "Indemnified Person" is a person who is, was, or had agreed to become a Director of the Corporation (including, in the case of such person seeking indemnification while serving as a Director who is or was an officer of the Corporation, such person in his capacity as an officer.)

15.3.4 Expenses. Expenses, including attorneys' fees, incurred by a person indemnified pursuant to paragraph 15.3.1 in defending or otherwise being involved in a Proceeding shall be paid by the Corporation in advance of the final disposition of such Proceeding, including any appeal therefrom, upon receipt of an undertaking (the "Undertaking") by or on behalf of such person to repay such amount if it shall ultimately be determined that he or she is not entitled to be indemnified by the Corporation; provided that in connection with a Proceeding (or part thereof) initiated by such person, except a Proceeding authorized by paragraph 15.3.5, the Corporation shall pay said expenses in advance of final disposition only if authorization for such Proceeding (or part thereof) was not denied by the Board of the Corporation prior to the earlier of 60 days after receipt of a request for such advancement accompanied by the Undertaking. A person to whom expenses are advanced pursuant hereto shall not be obligated to repay such expenses until the final determination of any pending Proceeding in a court of competent jurisdiction concerning the right of such person to be indemnified or the obligation of such person to repay such expenses.

15.3.5 Protection of Rights. If a claim by an Indemnified Person under paragraph 15.3.1 is not promptly paid in full by the Corporation after a written claim has been received by the Corporation or if expenses pursuant to paragraph 15.3.4 have not been promptly advanced after a written request for such advancement by an Indemnified Person (accompanied by the Undertaking required by paragraph 15.3.4) has been received by the Corporation, the claimant may at any time thereafter bring suit against the Corporation to recover the unpaid amount of the claim or the advancement of expenses. If successful, in whole or in part, in such suit, such claimant shall also be entitled to be paid the reasonable expense thereof. It shall be a defense to any such action (other than an action brought to enforce a claim for expenses incurred in defending any Proceeding in advance of its final disposition where the Undertaking has been tendered to the Corporation that indemnification of the claimant is prohibited by law, but the burden of proving such defense shall be on the Corporation. Neither the failure of the Corporation (including the Board, independent legal counsel, or the Members) to have made a determination, if required, prior to the commencement of such action that indemnification of the claimant is proper in the circumstances, nor an actual determination by the Corporation (including the Board, independent legal counsel, or the Members) that indemnification of the claimant is prohibited, shall be a defense to the action or create a presumption that indemnification of the claimant is prohibited.

15.3.6 Miscellaneous.

(a) Non-Exclusivity of Rights. The rights conferred on any person by this Section 15.3 shall not be exclusive of any other rights which such person may have or hereafter acquire under any statute, provision of the Certificate of Incorporation, Bylaw, agreement, vote of Members or disinterested directors or otherwise. The Board shall have the authority, by resolution, to provide for such other indemnification of directors, and such indemnification of officers, delegates, employees, agents, or others of the Corporation as it shall deem appropriate.

(b) Insurance, contracts, and funding. The Corporation may maintain insurance, at its expense, to protect itself and any director, officer, employee, delegate or agent of the Corporation against any expenses, liabilities or losses, whether or not the Corporation would have the power to indemnify such person against such expenses, liabilities or losses under the DGCL. The Corporation may enter into contracts with any director, officer, or employee of the Corporation in furtherance of the provisions of this Section 15.3 and may create a trust fund, grant a security interest or use other means (including, without limitation, a letter of credit) to ensure the payment of such amounts as may be necessary to effect the advancing of expenses and indemnification as provided in such contracts or as otherwise provided in this Section 15.3.

(c) Contractual nature. The provisions of this Section 15.3 shall continue as to a person who has ceased to be a director and shall inure to the benefit of the heirs, executors and administrators of such person. This Section 15.3 shall be deemed to be a contract between the Corporation and each person

who, at any time that this Section 15.3 is in effect, serves or agrees to serve in any capacity which entitles him to indemnification and advancement of expenses hereunder and any repeal or other modification of this Section 15.3 or any repeal or modification of the DGCL or any other applicable law shall not limit any rights of indemnification for Proceedings then existing or arising out of events, acts or omissions occurring prior to such repeal or modification, including, without limitation, the right to indemnification and advancement of expenses for Proceedings commenced after such repeal or modification to enforce this Section 15.3 with regard to Proceedings arising out of acts, omissions or events arising prior to such repeal or modification.

(d) Cooperation. Each Indemnified Person shall cooperate with the person, persons or entity making the determination with respect to such Indemnified Person's entitlement to indemnification under this Section 15.3, including providing to such person, persons or entity upon reasonable advance request any documentation or information which is not privileged or otherwise protected from disclosure and which is reasonably available to such Indemnified Person and reasonably necessary to such determination. Any costs or expenses (including attorneys' fees and disbursements) incurred by such Indemnified Person in so cooperating with the person, persons or entity making such determination shall be borne by the Corporation (irrespective of the determination as to such Indemnified Person's entitlement to indemnification) and the Corporation hereby indemnifies and agrees to hold such Indemnified Person harmless therefrom.

(e) Subrogation. In the event of any payment under this Section 15.3 to an Indemnified Person, the Corporation shall be subrogated to the extent of such payment to all of the rights of recovery of such Indemnified Person, who shall execute all papers required and take all action necessary to secure such rights, including execution of such documents as are necessary to enable the Corporation to bring suit to enforce such rights.

(f) Severability. If this Section 15.3 or any portion hereof shall be invalidated or held to be unenforceable on any ground by any court of competent jurisdiction, the decision of which shall not have been reversed on appeal, this Section 15.3 shall be deemed to be modified to the minimum extent necessary to avoid a violation of law and, as so modified, this Section 15.3 and the remaining provisions hereof shall remain valid and enforceable in accordance with their terms to the fullest extent permitted by law.

ARTICLE XVI. TRANSITION

Section 16.1. Transition Standards. The Corporation will use the existing standards, criteria, rules or guides from each existing reliability council region for those Members that join the Corporation as in effect immediately prior to formation of the Corporation until such standards, criteria, rules or guides are adopted, superseded, or

rejected by the Corporation. The Corporation will establish any necessary transition committees, subcommittees, working groups or task forces to administer the existing regional reliability standards, criteria, rules and guides until they are adopted, superseded, or rejected by the Corporation. The Corporation will employ its best efforts, within two (2) years of its formation, to work toward a uniform set of Reliability Standards for the entire Region. The Board will develop and implement a standards process and a plan for transition to new Reliability Standards. This process will include a requirement that two-thirds of the directors present at a meeting must vote to adopt new Reliability Standards.

ARTICLE XVII.
PARTICIPATION BY REGULATORY PARTICIPANTS

Section 17.1. Regulatory Participants. All Regulatory Participants shall be entitled to and be provided with the same rights to notice of and participation in meetings or other activities of the Corporation as are provided to Members, but shall not have the right to vote.

ARTICLE XVIII.
BUDGET AND BUSINESS PLAN

Section 18.1. Budget and Business Plan. Each annual budget and business plan of the Corporation shall be approved by the Board in sufficient time in each fiscal year to allow for timely submittal of the approved annual budget and business plan to NERC in accordance with the NERC Rules. The Corporation shall post a draft of each budget and business plan on the Corporation's website for purposes of review and comment by the Members at least ten (10) days prior to the Board meeting at which the budget and business plan are to be approved.

ARTICLE XIX.
AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS

Section 19.1. Amendment Of Bylaws. The power to adopt, amend or repeal these Bylaws is vested in the Members as set forth in Section 6.6.3 of these Bylaws; provided, however, that upon the passage of any federal electric reliability legislation, and/or the adoption of any rules or regulations of the Commission, NERC or other governmental entity with jurisdiction, the Board shall have authority to amend these Bylaws as necessary and appropriate to comply with such law, legislation, rules and regulations.

Exhibit C – Regional Standard Development Procedure

Exhibit C shall set forth the Regional Entity’s standards development procedure, which NERC agrees meets the following common attributes:

COMMON ATTRIBUTE 1

Proposed regional reliability standards shall be subject to approval by NERC, as the electric reliability organization, and by FERC before becoming mandatory and enforceable under Section 215 of the FPA [add reference to any applicable authorities in Canada and Mexico]. No regional reliability standard shall be effective within the [Regional Entity Name] area unless filed by NERC with FERC [and applicable authorities in Canada and Mexico] and approved by FERC [and applicable authorities in Canada and Mexico].

COMMON ATTRIBUTE 2

[Regional Entity Name] regional reliability standards shall provide for as much uniformity as possible with reliability standards across the interconnected bulk power system of the North American continent. A [Regional Entity Name] reliability standard shall be more stringent than a continent-wide reliability standard, including a regional difference that addresses matters that the continent-wide reliability standard does not, or shall be a regional difference necessitated by a physical difference in the bulk power system. A regional reliability standard that satisfies the statutory and regulatory criteria for approval of proposed North American reliability standards, and that is more stringent than a continent-wide reliability standard, would generally be acceptable.

COMMON ATTRIBUTE 3

[Regional Entity Name] regional reliability standards, when approved by FERC [add applicable authorities in Canada], shall be made part of the body of NERC reliability standards and shall be enforced upon all applicable bulk power system owners, operators, and users within the [Regional Entity Name] area, regardless of membership in the region.

COMMON ATTRIBUTE 4

Requester — The requester is the sponsor of the regional reliability standard request and may assist in the development of the standard. Any member of [Regional Entity Name], or group within [Regional Entity Name] shall be allowed to request that a regional reliability standard be developed, modified, or withdrawn. Additionally, any entity (person, organization, company, government agency, individual, etc.) that is directly and materially affected by the reliability of the bulk power system in the [Regional Entity Name] area shall be allowed to request a regional reliability standard be developed, modified, or withdrawn.

COMMON ATTRIBUTE 5

[Standards or other named] committee — The [Regional Entity Name] [standards] committee manages the standards development process. The [standards] committee will consider which requests for new or revised standards shall be assigned for development (or existing standards considered for deletion). The [standards] committee will advise the [Regional Entity Name] board on standards presented for adoption.

COMMON ATTRIBUTE 6

[Alternative 6A: For a Regional Entity that chooses to vote using a balanced stakeholder committee.]

The [standards] committee is a balanced stakeholder committee, inclusive of all stakeholder interests that provide for or are materially impacted by the reliability of the bulk power system. [The [standards] committee votes to approve standards.] See Appendix A for the representation model of the [standards] committee.

[Alternative 6B: For a Regional Entity that chooses to vote using a balanced ballot body of stakeholders.]

[Registered ballot body] — The registered ballot body comprises all entities or individuals that qualify for one of the stakeholder segments; are registered with [Regional Entity Name] as potential ballot participants in the voting on standards; and are current with any designated fees. Each member of the registered ballot body is eligible to vote on standards. [Each standard action has its own ballot pool formed of interested members of the registered ballot body. Each ballot pool comprises those members of the registered ballot body that respond to a pre-ballot survey for that particular standard action indicating their desire to participate in such a ballot pool.] The representation model of the registered ballot body is provided in Appendix A.]

COMMON ATTRIBUTE 7

[Regional Entity Name] will coordinate with NERC such that the acknowledgement of receipt of a standard request identified in step 1, notice of comment posting period identified in step 4, and notice for vote identified in step 5 below are concurrently posted on both the [Regional Entity Name] and NERC websites.

COMMON ATTRIBUTE 8

An acceptable standard request shall contain a description of the proposed regional reliability standard subject matter containing sufficiently descriptive detail to clearly define the purpose, scope, impacted parties, and other relevant information of the proposed standard.

COMMON ATTRIBUTE 9

Within [no greater than 60] days of receipt of a completed standard request, the [standards] committee shall determine the disposition of the standard request.

COMMON ATTRIBUTE 10

The [standards] committee may take one of the following actions:

- Accept the standard request as a candidate for development of a new standard, revision of an existing standard, or deletion of an existing standard. The [standards] committee may, at its discretion, expand or narrow the scope of the standard request under consideration. The [standards] committee shall prioritize the development of standard in relation to other proposed standards, as may be required based on the volume of requests and resources.
- Reject the standard request. If the [standards] committee rejects a standard request, a written explanation for rejection will be delivered to the requester within [no greater than 30] days of the decision.
- Remand the standard request back to the requester for additional work. The standards process manager will make reasonable efforts to assist the requester in addressing the deficiencies identified by the [standards] committee. The requester may then resubmit the modified standard request using the process above. The requester may choose to withdraw the standard request from further consideration prior to acceptance by the [standards] committee.

COMMON ATTRIBUTE 11

Any standard request that is accepted by the [standards] committee for development of a standard (or modification or deletion of an existing standard) shall be posted for public viewing on the [Regional Entity Name] website within [no greater than 30] days of acceptance by the committee.

COMMON ATTRIBUTE 12

The standards process manager shall submit the proposed members of the drafting team to the [standards] committee. The [standards] committee shall approve the drafting team membership within 60 days of accepting a standard request for development, modifying the recommendations of the standards process manager as the committee deems appropriate, and assign development of the proposed standard to the drafting team.

COMMON ATTRIBUTE 13

At the direction from the [standards] committee, the standards process manager shall facilitate the posting of the draft standard on the [Regional Entity Name] website, along with a draft implementation plan and supporting documents, for a no less than a [30]-day comment period. The standards process manager shall provide notice to [Regional Entity Name] stakeholders and other potentially interested entities, both within and outside of the [Regional Entity Name] area, of the posting using communication procedures then currently in effect or by other means as deemed appropriate.

COMMON ATTRIBUTE 14

The drafting team shall prepare a summary of the comments received and the changes made to the proposed standard as a result of these comments. The drafting team shall summarize comments that were rejected by the drafting team and the reason(s) that these comments were rejected, in part or whole. The summary, along with a response to each comment received will be posted on the [Regional Entity Name] website no later than the next posting of the proposed standard.

COMMON ATTRIBUTE 15

Upon recommendation of the drafting team, and if the [standards] committee concurs that all of the requirements for development of the standard have been met, the standards process manager shall post the proposed standard and implementation plan for ballot and shall announce the vote to approve the standard, including when the vote will be conducted and the method for voting. Once the notice for a vote has been issued, no substantive modifications may be made to the proposed standard unless the revisions are posted and a new notice of the vote is issued.

COMMON ATTRIBUTE 16

The standards process manager shall schedule a vote by the [Regional Entity Name] [registered ballot body/[standards] committee]. The vote shall commence no sooner than [15] days and no later than [30] days following the issuance of the notice for the vote.

COMMON ATTRIBUTE 17

[Alternative 17A: For an RE that chooses to vote using a balanced stakeholder committee.]

The [standards] committee shall give due consideration to the work of the drafting team, as well as the comments of stakeholders and minority objections, in approving a proposed regional reliability standard for submittal to the [Regional Entity Name] board. The [standards]

committee may vote to approve or not approve the standard. Alternatively, the [standards] committee may remand the standard to the drafting team for further work or form a new drafting team for that purpose.

[Alternative 17B: For an RE that chooses to vote using a balanced ballot body of stakeholders.]

The [Regional Entity Name] registered ballot body shall be able to vote on the proposed standard during a period of [not less than 10] days.

COMMON ATTRIBUTE 18

[Alternative 18A: For an RE that chooses to vote using a balanced stakeholder committee.]

The [standards] committee may not itself modify the standard without issuing a new notice to stakeholders regarding a vote of the modified standard.

[Alternative 18B: For an RE that chooses to vote using a balanced ballot body of stakeholders.]

All members of [Regional Entity Name] are eligible to participate in voting on proposed new standards, standard revisions or standard deletions. [Alternatively: Each standard action requires formation of a ballot pool of interested members of the registered ballot body.]

COMMON ATTRIBUTE 19

[Alternative 19A: For an RE that chooses to vote using a balanced stakeholder committee.]

Actions by the committee shall be recorded in the regular minutes of the committee.

[Alternative 19B: For an RE that chooses to vote using a balanced ballot body of stakeholders.]

Approval of the proposed regional reliability standard shall require a [two thirds] majority in the affirmative (affirmative votes divided by the sum of affirmative and negative votes). Abstentions and non-responses shall not count toward the results, except that abstentions may be used in the determination of a quorum. A quorum shall mean [XX%] of the members of the [registered ballot body/ballot pool] submitted a ballot.

COMMON ATTRIBUTE 20

Under no circumstances may the board substantively modify the proposed regional reliability standard.

COMMON ATTRIBUTE 21

Once a regional reliability standard is approved by the board, the standard will be submitted to NERC for approval and filing with FERC [and applicable authorities in Canada and Mexico.]

COMMON ATTRIBUTE 22

- **Open** - Participation in the development of a regional reliability standard shall be open to all organizations that are directly and materially affected by the [Regional Entity Name] bulk power system reliability. There shall be no undue financial barriers to participation. Participation shall not be conditioned upon membership in [Regional Entity Name], and shall not be unreasonably restricted on the basis of technical qualifications or other such requirements. Meetings of drafting teams shall be open to the [Regional Entity Name] members and others.

COMMON ATTRIBUTE 23

- **Balanced** - The [Regional Entity Name] standards development process strives to have an appropriate balance of interests and shall not be dominated by any two interest categories and no single interest category shall be able to defeat a matter.

COMMON ATTRIBUTE 24

- **Inclusive** — Any entity (person, organization, company, government agency, individual, etc.) with a direct and material interest in the bulk power system in the [Regional Entity Name] area shall have a right to participate by: a) expressing a position and its basis, b) having that position considered, and c) having the right to appeal.

COMMON ATTRIBUTE 25

- **Fair due process** — The regional reliability standards development procedure shall provide for reasonable notice and opportunity for public comment. At a minimum, the procedure shall include public notice of the intent to develop a standard, a public comment period on the proposed standard, due consideration of those public comments, and a ballot of interested stakeholders.

COMMON ATTRIBUTE 26

- **Transparent** — All actions material to the development of regional reliability standards shall be transparent. All standards development meetings shall be open and publicly noticed on the regional entity's Web site.

COMMON ATTRIBUTE 27

- Does not unnecessarily delay development of the proposed reliability standard.

COMMON ATTRIBUTE 28

Each standard shall enable or support one or more of the reliability principles, thereby ensuring that each standard serves a purpose in support of the reliability of the regional bulk power system. Each standard shall also be consistent with all of the reliability principles, thereby ensuring that no standard undermines reliability through an unintended consequence.

COMMON ATTRIBUTE 29

While reliability standards are intended to promote reliability, they must at the same time accommodate competitive electricity markets. Reliability is a necessity for electricity markets, and robust electricity markets can support reliability. Recognizing that bulk power system reliability and electricity markets are inseparable and mutually interdependent, all regional reliability standards shall be consistent with NERC's market interface principles. Consideration of the market interface principles is intended to ensure that standards are written such that they achieve their reliability objective without causing undue restrictions or adverse impacts on competitive electricity markets.

COMMON ATTRIBUTE 30

To ensure uniformity of regional reliability standards, a regional reliability standard shall consist of the elements identified in this section of the procedure. These elements are intended to apply a systematic discipline in the development and revision of standards. This discipline is necessary to achieving standards that are measurable, enforceable, and consistent.

COMMON ATTRIBUTE 31

All mandatory requirements of a regional reliability standard shall be within the standard. Supporting documents to aid in the implementation of a standard may be referenced by the standard but are not part of the standard itself.

COMMON ATTRIBUTE 32

Applicability	<p>Clear identification of the functional classes of entities responsible for complying with the standard, noting any specific additions or exceptions.</p> <p>If not applicable to the entire [Regional Entity Name] area, then a clear identification of the portion of the bulk power system to which the standard applies.</p> <p>Any limitation on the applicability of the standard based on electric facility requirements should be described.</p>
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COMMON ATTRIBUTE 33

Measure(s)	<p>Each requirement shall be addressed by one or more measures. Measures are used to assess performance and outcomes for the purpose of determining compliance with the requirements stated above. Each measure will identify to whom the measure applies and the expected level of performance or outcomes required demonstrating compliance. Each measure shall be tangible, practical, and as objective as is practical. It is important to realize that measures are proxies to assess required performance or outcomes. Achieving the measure should be a necessary and sufficient indicator that the requirement was met. Each measure shall clearly refer to the requirement(s) to which it applies.</p>
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COMMON ATTRIBUTE 34

Compliance Monitoring Process	<p>Defines for each measure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The specific data or information that is required to measure performance or outcomes.• The entity that is responsible for providing the data or information for measuring performance or outcomes.• The process that will be used to evaluate data or information for the purpose of assessing performance or outcomes.• The entity that is responsible for evaluating data or
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	<p>information to assess performance or outcomes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The time period in which performance or outcomes is measured, evaluated, and then reset.• Measurement data retention requirements and assignment of responsibility for data archiving.
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Reliability*First* Corporation
Reliability Standards Development
Procedure
Version 4

Reliability*First* ~~Reliability Standards Development Procedure~~
Board Approval December 1, 2011~~6th, 2007~~
Standards Committee Modified September 16, 2011 ~~April 1st, 2008~~ ~~Board Concurrence~~
May 22nd, 2008

ReliabilityFirst Corporation Reliability Standards Development Procedure

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ReliabilityFirst ~~Reliability Standards Development Procedure~~

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May 22nd, 2008

ReliabilityFirst Corporation Reliability Standards Development Procedure

Introduction

This procedure establishes the process for adoption of a Regional Reliability Standard¹ (hereinafter referred to as “Standard”) of the ReliabilityFirst Corporation (ReliabilityFirst) and the development of consensus for adoption, approval, revision, reaffirmation, and deletion of such Standards¹. ReliabilityFirst Standards provide for the reliable regional and sub-regional planning and operation of the Bulk Power System^{1,2} (BPS), consistent with Good Utility Practice^{1,2} within the ReliabilityFirst geographical footprint.

This procedure was developed under the direction of the ReliabilityFirst Board of Directors (Board), who may request changes to this ReliabilityFirst Reliability Standards Development Procedure (hereinafter referred to as “this Procedure”) as deemed appropriate. A procedure for revising this Procedure is contained in Appendix A. This Procedure is consistent with the North American Electric Reliability Council Corporation (NERC) Reliability Standards Development Procedure.

Proposed ReliabilityFirst Standards shall be subject to approval by NERC, as the electric reliability organization, and by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) before becoming mandatory and enforceable under Section 215 of the FPA. No Standard shall be effective within the ReliabilityFirst area unless filed by NERC with FERC and approved by FERC. The effective date will depend on the implementation plan that is provided with each new or revised standard. The ReliabilityFirst standard is mandatory and enforceable to all applicable Entities within the ReliabilityFirst footprint upon approval by the FERC.

ReliabilityFirst Standards shall provide for as much uniformity as possible with NERC reliability standards across the interconnected BPS. A ReliabilityFirst Standard shall be more stringent than a NERC reliability standard, including a regional difference that addresses matters that the NERC reliability standard does not, or shall be a regional difference necessitated by a physical difference in the BPS. A ReliabilityFirst Standard that satisfies the statutory and regulatory criteria for approval of proposed NERC reliability standards, and that is more stringent than a NERC reliability standard, would generally be acceptable.

¹ ~~Legacy standards, such as ECAR Documents, MAIN Guides, and MAAC Procedures shall be considered ReliabilityFirst Regional Reliability Standards for the purposes of this document until otherwise acted upon by the ReliabilityFirst Board~~

² As defined in the ReliabilityFirst Bylaws

Reliability*First* Standards, when approved by FERC, shall be made part of the body of NERC reliability standards and shall be enforced upon all applicable BPS owners, operators, and users within the Reliability*First* area, regardless of membership in the region.

Background

Regions may develop, through their own processes, separate “Regional Standards” (Reliability*First* Standards) that go beyond, add detail to, or ~~implement~~ aid implementation of NERC reliability standards, or otherwise address issues that are not addressed in NERC reliability standards.

As a condition of Reliability*First* membership, all Reliability*First* Members² agree to adhere to the NERC reliability standards. As such, the Reliability*First* and its Members will adhere to the NERC reliability standards in addition to the Reliability*First* Standards. NERC reliability standards and the Reliability*First* Standards are both to be included within the Reliability*First* Compliance Program.

Reliability*First* Standards are intended to apply only to that part of the Eastern Interconnection within the Reliability*First* geographical footprint. The development of these Reliability*First* Standards is developed according to the following principles via the process contained within this Procedure:

- Developed in a fair and open process that provided an opportunity for all interested parties to participate;
- Does not have an adverse impact on commerce that is not necessary for reliability;
- Provides a level of BPS reliability that is adequate to protect public health, safety, welfare, and national security and would not have a significant adverse impact on reliability; and
- Based on a justifiable difference between Regions or between sub-Regions within the Regional geographic area.

² As defined in the Reliability*First* By-laws

Regional Reliability Standard Definition, Characteristics, and Elements

Definition of a Reliability Standard

As contained in the ReliabilityFirst By-laws, ReliabilityFirst “Regional Reliability Standard” shall mean a type of Reliability Standard that is applicable only within a particular Regional Entity or group of Regional Entities. A Regional Reliability Standard may augment, add detail to, or implement another Reliability Standard or cover matters not addressed by other Reliability Standards. A Regional Reliability Standard, is not binding upon any Member or Registered Entity, nor is it effective or enforceable, until the Regional Reliability Standard has been adopted ~~adoption~~ by NERC and approved ~~at~~ by the Commission, ~~shall be as a Reliability Standard and shall be enforced~~ within the applicable Regional Entity or Regional Entities pursuant to delegated authorities.

Inherent in this definition, a ReliabilityFirst Standard will define certain obligations or requirements of entities that own, operate, plan, and use the BPS within the ReliabilityFirst geographical footprint. These obligations or requirements as contained in the ReliabilityFirst Standards are to be measurable and consistent with Good Utility Practice. Standards are not to include processes or procedures that implement a Standard. In addition, obligations, requirements or procedures imposed upon ReliabilityFirst by NERC reliability standards are not to be ReliabilityFirst Standards, unless those obligations, requirements or procedures require the establishment of a “policy or standard” as defined by the ReliabilityFirst By-laws.

Characteristics of a Regional Reliability Standard

A Standard is ~~policy or standard~~, including adequacy criteria to provide for the reliable regional and sub-regional planning and operation of the BPS, consistent with Good Utility Practice

A Standard shall generally have the following characteristics:

- **Measurable** - A Standard shall establish technical or performance requirements that can be practically measured.
- **Relative to NERC Reliability Standards** - A Standard generally must go beyond, add detail to, or implement NERC Reliability Standards, or cover matters not addressed in NERC Reliability Standards.

Format Requirements of a Regional Reliability Standard

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A Standard shall consist of the ~~format~~ requirements shown in the Regional Reliability Standard Template. These requirements apply to the development and revision of Standards. These requirements are necessary to achieve Standards that are measurable, enforceable, and consistent. Supporting documents to aid in the implementation of a Standard may be referenced by the Standard but are not part of the Standard itself. The most current version of the approved NERC Reliability Standard template and its associated elements posted on the NERC website will be used at the time of the development of a ReliabilityFirst Regional Reliability Standard if different from the elements listed below.

Regional Reliability Standard Format Requirement Template Example

Identification Number	A unique identification number assigned in accordance with an administrative classification system to facilitate tracking and reference ReliabilityFirst documentation.
Title	A brief, descriptive phrase identifying the topic of the Standard.
Applicability	Clear identification of the functional classes of entities responsible for complying with the Standard, noting any specific additions or exceptions. If not applicable to the entire ReliabilityFirst area, then a clear identification of the portion of the BPS to which the Standard applies. Any limitation on the applicability of the Standard based on electric facility requirements should be described.
Effective Date and Status	The effective date of the Standard <u>is the date of the FERC or, prior to approval and the applicable implementation timeline of the Standard, the proposed effective date.</u>
Purpose	The purpose of the Standard. The purpose shall explicitly state what outcome will be achieved or is expected by this Standard.
Requirement(s)	Explicitly stated technical, performance, and preparedness requirements. Each requirement identifies what entity is responsible and what action is to be performed or what outcome is to be achieved. <u>Compliance is mandatory for e</u> Each statement in the requirements section shall be a statement for which compliance is mandatory.

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<p>Risk Factor(s)</p>	<p>The potential reliability significance of each requirement, designated as a High, Medium, or Lower Risk Factor in accordance with the criteria listed below:</p> <p>A High Risk Factor requirement (a) is one that, if violated, could directly cause or contribute to BPS instability, separation, or a cascading sequence of failures, or could place the BPS at an unacceptable risk of instability, separation, or cascading failures; or (b) is a requirement in a planning timeframe that, if violated, could, under emergency, abnormal, or restorative conditions anticipated by the preparations, directly cause or contribute to BPS instability, separation, or a cascading sequence of failures, or could place the BPS at an unacceptable risk of instability, separation, or cascading failures, or could hinder restoration to abnormal condition.</p> <p>A Medium Risk Factor requirement (a) is a requirement that, if violated, could directly affect the electrical state or the capability of the BPS, or the ability to effectively monitor and control the BPS, but is unlikely to lead to BPS instability, separation, or cascading failures; or (b) is a requirement in a planning timeframe that, if violated, could, under emergency, abnormal, or restorative conditions anticipated by the preparations, directly affect the electrical state or capability of the BPS, or the ability to effectively monitor, control, or restore the BPS, but is unlikely, under emergency, abnormal, or restoration conditions anticipated by the preparations, to lead to BPS instability, separation, or cascading failures, nor to hinder restoration to a normal condition.</p> <p>A Lower Risk Factor requirement is administrative in nature and (a) is a requirement that, if violated, would not be expected to affect the electrical state or capability of the BPS, or the ability to effectively monitor and control the BPS; or (b) is a requirement in a planning time frame that, if violated, would not, under the emergency, abnormal, or restorative conditions anticipated by the preparations, be expected to affect the electrical state or capability of the BPS, or the ability to effectively monitor, control, or restore the BPS.</p>
<p>Measure(s)</p>	<p>Each requirement shall be addressed by one or more measurements. Measurements that will be used to assess performance and outcomes for the purpose of determining compliance with the requirements stated above. Each measurement identifies to whom the measurement applies. Each measurement shall be tangible, practical, and as objective as is practical. Achieving the full compliance level of each measurement should be a necessary and sufficient indicator that the requirement was met.</p>

Compliance Administration Elements

Compliance Monitoring Process	Defines for each measure: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The specific data or information that is required to measure performance or outcomes.• The entity that is responsible to provide the data or information for measuring performance or outcomes.• The process that will be used to evaluate data or information for the purpose of assessing performance or outcomes.• The entity that is responsible for evaluating data or information to assess performance or outcomes.• The time period in which performance or outcomes is measured, evaluated, and then reset.• Measurement of Data retention requirements and assignment of responsibility for data archiving.• Violation severity levels.
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Supporting Information Elements

Interpretations	Any Reliability <i>First</i> interpretations of the Standards that were developed, and approved in accordance with the “Interpretation of Standards” section of this Procedure, to expound on the application of the Standard for unusual or unique situations or provide clarifications.
Implementation Plan	Each Reliability <i>First</i> Standard shall have an associated implementation plan describing the effective date of the Standard or effective dates if there is a phased implementation. The implementation plan may also describe the implementation of the Standard in the compliance program and other considerations in the initial use of the Standard, such as necessary tools, training, etc. The implementation plan must be posted for at least one public comment period and <u>is-be</u> approved as part of the ballot of the standard.
Supporting References	This section references related documents that support reasons for, or <u>otherwise</u> provide additional information related to the Standard Examples include, but are not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glossary of Terms • Developmental history of the Standard and prior versions • Subcommittee(s) responsible for Standard • Notes pertaining to implementation or compliance • Standard references • Procedures/Practices • Training and/or Technical Reference

Roles in the Regional Reliability Standards Development Process

Process Roles

Originator - Any entity (person, organization, company, government agency, individual, etc.) that is directly and materially affected by the reliability of the Reliability*First* BPS, is allowed to request a Standard be developed or an existing Standard is modified, or deleted, by creating a Standards Authorization Request (SAR). See Appendix B.

Board – The Reliability*First* Board shall act on any proposed Standard that has gone through the process contained in this Procedure. Once the Reliability*First* Board approves a Standard, compliance with the Standard will be enforced consistent with the By-laws and the terms of the Standard.

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Standards Committee (SC) - The ReliabilityFirst SC will consider which requests for new or revised Standards shall be assigned for development (or existing Standards considered for deletion). The SC manages the Standards development process. The SC will advise the ReliabilityFirst Board on Standards presented for adoption by the ReliabilityFirst Board.

Standards Process Manager (SPM) – A person or persons on the ReliabilityFirst staff assigned the task of ensuring that the development, revision or deletion of Standards is in accordance with this Procedure. The SPM works to ensure the integrity of the process and consistency of quality and completeness of the Standards. The SPM facilitates the administration of all actions contained in all steps in the process.

Standards Process Staff – Employees of the ReliabilityFirst that work with or for the SPM.

~~**Interim Compliance Committee (ICC)** – The ReliabilityFirst committee responsible for the administration of the ReliabilityFirst Compliance Program. The duties of this committee includes, but not limited to, providing inputs and comments during the standards development process to ensure the measures will be effective and other aspects of the Compliance Program can be practically implemented.~~

Standard Drafting Team (SDT) – ~~Normally a~~ team of technical experts, and typically includes ing a member of the ReliabilityFirst Standards staff and the Originator, assigned the task of developing a proposed Standard based upon an approved SAR using the Standard development process contained in this Procedure.

Ballot Body (BB) – The Ballot Body comprises all entities that qualify for one or more of the categories and are registered with ReliabilityFirst as potential ballot participants in the voting on standards. The categories of registration within the Ballot Body and the registration process are described in Appendix D.

Ballot Pool – The Ballot Pool is comprised of those members of the Ballot Body that register to vote for each particular standard ~~that is up for vote~~. A separate Ballot Pool is established for each standard up for vote. Only individuals who have joined the Ballot Pool for that particular standard are eligible to vote on a standard.

Reliability Committee (RC) – The ReliabilityFirst RC serves as a technical advisory body to address the reliability related activities required by the Reliability Standards via review and discussion of the regional activities as requested by the SC.

Regional Reliability Standard Development Process (Flow chart of Process shown in Appendix C)

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Assumptions and Prerequisites

The Reliability*First* Regional Reliability Standards Development Process has the following characteristics:

- **Fair due process** - The Reliability*First* standards development process shall provide for reasonable notice and opportunity for public comment. At a minimum, the procedure shall include public notice of the intent to develop a standard, a public comment period on the proposed standard, due consideration of those public comments, and a ballot of interested stakeholders.
- **Openness** - Participation is open to all Organizations who are directly and materially affected by the Reliability*First* region BPS reliability. There shall be no undue financial barriers to participation. Participation shall not be conditioned upon membership in the Reliability*First*, and shall not be unreasonably restricted on the basis of technical qualifications or other such requirements. Meetings of SDTs are open to the Reliability*First* membership and to others.
- **Balanced** - The Reliability*First* standards development process strives to have an appropriate balance of interests and shall not be dominated by any two interest categories and no single interest category shall be able to defeat a matter.
- **Inclusive** - Any entity (person, organization, company, government agency, individual, etc.) with a direct and material interest in the BPS in the Reliability*First* area shall have a right to participate by: a) expressing a position and its basis, b) having that position considered, and c) having the right to appeal.
- **Transparent** - All actions material to the development of Reliability*First* Standards shall be transparent. All standards development meetings shall be open and publicly noticed on Reliability*First*'s Web site.
- Does not unnecessarily delay development of the proposed Standard.

Note: The term “days” refers to calendar days.

Each standard shall enable or support one or more of the reliability principles, thereby ensuring that each standard serves a purpose in support of the reliability of the regional BPS. Each standard shall also be consistent with all of the reliability principles, thereby ensuring that no standard undermines reliability through an unintended consequence.

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While ReliabilityFirst Standards are intended to promote reliability, they must at the same time accommodate competitive electricity markets. Reliability is a necessity for electricity markets, and robust electricity markets can support reliability. Recognizing that BPS reliability and electricity markets are inseparable and mutually interdependent, all ReliabilityFirst Standards shall be consistent with NERC's market interface principles. Consideration of the market interface principles is intended to ensure that standards are written such that they achieve their reliability objective without causing undue restrictions or adverse impacts on competitive electricity markets.

ReliabilityFirst will coordinate with NERC such that the acknowledgement of receipt of a standard request identified in step 1, notice of comment posting period identified in step 4, and notice for vote identified in step 5 below are concurrently posted on both the ReliabilityFirst and NERC websites.

Step 1 - Development of a Standards Authorization Request (SAR) to Develop, Revise or Delete a Regional Reliability Standard

Any individual representing an organization (Originator) which is directly or materially impacted by the operation of the BPS within the geographical footprint of the ReliabilityFirst may request, via a submittal of a Standard Authorization Request (SAR) form, the development, modification, or deletion of a ReliabilityFirst Standard. Any such request shall be submitted to the ReliabilityFirst SPM, or his/her designee, or by another process as otherwise posted on the ReliabilityFirst website. The SAR form may be downloaded from the ReliabilityFirst website.

The SAR contains a description of the proposed Standard subject matter containing sufficiently descriptive detail to clearly define the purpose, scope, impacted parties, and other relevant information of the proposed Standard. The SPM will verify that the submitted SAR form has been adequately completed. The SPM may offer the Originator suggestions regarding changes and/or improvements to improve clarity and assist the ReliabilityFirst community to understand the Originator's intent and objectives. The Originator is free to accept or reject these suggestions. Within 15 days the SPM will electronically acknowledge receipt of the SAR.

The SPM will forward ~~all the~~ adequately completed SARs to the ReliabilityFirst SC, at which time, the SC will post the SAR for comments within 15 days, SARs will be posted and publicly noticed.

Comments on the SARs will be accepted for a 30-day period from the notice of posting. Comments will be accepted online using an internet-based application. The SPM will provide a copy of the comments to the Originator and the SC.

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Based on the comments, the SC shall make available a consideration of comments report and, ~~Within 60 days of receipt of an adequately completed SAR, the SC shall determine~~ the disposition of the SAR (within 60 calendar days following the SAR commenting period). The disposition decision and decision process shall use the normal “business rules and procedures” of the SC then in effect. The SC may take one of the following actions³ in accordance with the ReliabilityFirst Standards Committee Governance document:

- Accept the SAR as a candidate for: development of a new Standard, revision of an existing Standard or deletion of an existing Standard. The SC may, in its sole discretion, expand or narrow the scope of the SAR under consideration. The SC shall prioritize the development of SARs as may be required based on the number of SARs under development at any time.
- Reject the SAR. If the SC rejects a SAR, a written explanation for rejection will be delivered to the Originator within 30 days of the decision.
- Remand the SAR back to the Originator for redirection to the NERC process. In cases where there is a Reliability need identified in the SAR but it does not meet the criteria for Regional standards (more stringent reliability requirements than the NERC reliability standard or cover matters not covered by an existing NERC reliability standard), the Standards Committee will assist the Originator in submitting the SAR to NERC.
- Remand the SAR back to the Originator for additional work. The SPM will make reasonable efforts to assist the Originator in addressing the deficiencies identified by the SC. The Originator may then resubmit the modified SAR using the process above. The Originator may choose to withdraw the SAR from further consideration prior to re-submittal to the SC

Any SAR that is accepted by the SC for development of a Standard (or modification or deletion of an existing Standard) shall be posted for public viewing on the ReliabilityFirst website within ~~no greater than 30 days~~ of acceptance by the SC. The status of posted SARs will be publicly posted, noted at regularly scheduled (appropriately two weeks) intervals.

Any documentation of the deliberations of the SC concerning SARs shall be made available according to the “ReliabilityFirst Standards Committee Governance” document then in effect.

³Actions by the Standards Committee may be appealed per the Appeals process in Appendix A

The SC shall submit a written report to the ReliabilityFirst Board on a periodic basis (at least at every regularly scheduled ReliabilityFirst Board meeting) showing the status of all SARs that have been brought to the SC for consideration.

Step 2 – Formation of the Standard Drafting Team and Declaration of Milestone Date

Upon acceptance by the SC of a SAR for development of a new Standard (or modification or deletion of an existing Standard), the SC shall direct the SPM to develop a qualified balance slate for the SDT using the specific directions and preferences of the SC. The SPM will send out self-nomination forms to solicit SDT nominees. The SDT will consist of a group of people (members of ReliabilityFirst and, as appropriate, non-members) who collectively have the necessary technical expertise and work process skills. The SPM will recommend a slate of ad-hoc individuals or a preexisting task force, work group or similar for the SDT based upon the SC's desired SDT capabilities.

The SC may also direct the SPM to designate an existing ReliabilityFirst committee (or subset thereof) as the SDT augmented by other persons as may be appropriate for the subject matter. The SC will insure that SDT membership includes all necessary administrative support. This support typically includes a ReliabilityFirst staff member and the Originator if he/she chooses to participate. The SC appoints the interim chair (should not be a staff person) of the SDT. The SDT will elect the permanent Chair and Vice-chair at its first meeting.

The SPM submits the proposed list of names of the SDT to the SC. The SC will either accept the recommendations of the SPM or modify the SDT slate, as it deems appropriate within 60 days of accepting a SAR for development.

Upon approval of the SDT slate, the SC will declare a preliminary date on which the SDT is expected to have ready a completed draft Standard and associated supporting documentation available for consideration by the ReliabilityFirst membership.

Step 3 – Work and Work Product of the Standard Drafting Team

The SDT will then develop a work plan for completing the Standard development work, including the establishment of milestones for completing critical elements of the work in sufficient detail to ensure that the SDT will meet the ~~date objective deadline~~ established by the SC or the SDT shall propose an alternative date. This plan is then delivered to the SC for its concurrence.

The SDT is to meet, either in person or via electronic means as necessary, establish sub-work teams (made up of members of the SDT) as necessary, and performs other activities to address the parameters of the SAR and the milestone date(s) established by the SC.

The work product of the SDT will consist of the following:

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- A draft Standard consistent with the SAR on which it was based.
- An assessment of the impact of the SAR on neighboring regions, and appropriate input from the neighboring regions if the SAR is determined to impact any neighboring region.
- An implementation plan, including the nature, extent and duration of field-testing, if any.
- Identification of any existing Standard that will be deleted, in part or whole, or otherwise impacted by the implementation of the draft Standard.
- Technical reports, white papers and/or work papers that provide technical support for the draft Standard under consideration.
- Document the perceived reliability impact should the Standard be approved.

Upon completion of these tasks, the SDT submits these documents to the SC, which will verify that the proposed Standard is consistent with the SAR on which it was developed

The SDT regularly (at least once each month) informs the SC of its progress in meeting a timely completion of the draft Standard. The SDT may request of the SC scope changes of the SAR at any point in the Standard development process.

The SC may, at any time, exercise its authority over the Standards development process by directing the SDT to move to Step 4 and post for comment the current work product. If there are competing drafts, the SC may, at its sole discretion, ~~have posted~~ post the version(s) of the draft Standard for comment on the ReliabilityFirst website. The SC may take this step at any time after a SDT has been commissioned to develop the Standard.

Step 4 – Comment Posting Period

At the direction from the SC, the SPM then facilitates the posting of the draft Standard on the ReliabilityFirst website, along with a draft implementation plan and supporting documents, for a 30-day comment period. The SPM shall also inform ReliabilityFirst Members and other potentially interested entities inside or outside of ReliabilityFirst of the posting using typical membership communication procedures then currently in effect or by other means as deemed appropriate. As early as the start of the first posting for comment, entities may join ~~one of the five categories of~~ the Ballot Pool established for the eventual voting on the proposed standard ~~being posted~~. The Ballot Pool category description and associated requirements are in Appendix D.

Within 30 days of the conclusion of 30-day comment posting period the SDT shall convene and consider changes to the draft Standard, the implementation plan and/or supporting technical documents based upon comments received. Based upon these

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comments, the SDT may elect to return to step 3 to revise the draft Standard, implementation plan and/or supporting technical documentation.

The SDT shall prepare a “modification report” summarizing the comments received and the changes made as a result of these comments. The modification report also summarizes comments that were rejected by the SDT and the reason(s) that these comments were rejected, in part or whole. Responses to all comments will be posted on the ReliabilityFirst website no later than the next posting of the proposed Standard.

Step 5 – Posting for Voting by ReliabilityFirst Registered Ballot Body

Upon recommendation of the SDT, and if the SC concurs that all of the requirements for development of the Standard have been met, the SPM will post the revised draft Standard, implementation plan, supporting technical documentation and the “modification report”. Once the notice for a vote has been issued, no substantive modifications may be made to the proposed standard unless the revisions are posted and a new notice of the vote is issued.

Entities may register in the BB at any time during the Standards process. The BB category description and associated rules are in Appendix D.

By 11:59 PM Central Prevailing Time (CPT) of the seventh day of the 15 day pre-ballot posting period, registered BB ~~entities~~ members intending to vote on the proposed standard must have joined ~~one of the five categories of~~ the Ballot Pool established for the eventual voting on the proposed standard being posted. The SPM will schedule a Vote by the Ballot Pool which is to be scheduled to commence no sooner than 15 days and no later than 30 days following this posting. The Vote by the Ballot Pool is an advisory to the ReliabilityFirst Board.

The Ballot Pool shall be allowed to vote over a period of 15 days. ~~It is expected that~~ Votes will be submitted electronically, but may be submitted through other means as approved by the SC.

All ~~entities registered as part of the~~ BB members are eligible to participate in voting on proposed new Standards, Standard revisions or Standard deletions. There is a requirement to separately join a Ballot Pool to participate in voting for each standard. ~~Each entity can join only in one category of the Ballot Pool and shall have one vote.~~

The voting results will be composed of only the votes from BB entities that have joined the Ballot Pool for the standard being voted on and responding within the ~~15-day~~ voting period. Votes may be accompanied by comments explaining the vote, but are not required. All comments shall be responded to and posted to the ReliabilityFirst website prior to going to the SC or Board.

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Step 6A – Voting Receives Simple Two-Thirds or Greater Majority of Affirmative Category Votes

A simple two-thirds or greater majority⁴ of votes within a category determines the vote for that category. The Initial ballot has passed iff there is a two-thirds or greater~~simple~~ affirmative majority of category votes (only those categories with votes cast will be considered) during the 15-day voting period and a quorum⁵ is met ~~(a quorum consists of a simple majority of individuals who have joined the Ballot Pool)~~, the SC will forward the Standard to the Reliability~~First~~ Board for action (Step 7).

If there is at least one (1) Negative vote with comment during the initial ballot, then the standard will be posted for a 10-day Recirculation ballot. If there are no Negative votes with comments, the SC will forward the Standard to the Reliability~~First~~ Board for action (Step 7). In the recirculation ballot, members of the Ballot Pool shall again be presented the proposed standard (that has not been significantly changed from the previous ballot) along with the reasons for negative votes, the responses, and any resolution of the differences. An insignificant revision is a revision that does not change the scope, applicability, or intent of any requirement and includes but is not limited to things such as correcting the numbering of a requirement, correcting the spelling of a word, adding an obviously missing word, or rephrasing a requirement for improved clarity. Where there is a question as to whether a proposed modification is “substantive” the Standards Committee shall make the final determination. All members of the Ballot Pool shall be permitted to reconsider and change their vote from the prior ballot. Members of the Ballot Pool who did not respond to the prior ballot shall be permitted to vote in the recirculation ballot. In the recirculation ballot, Ballot Pool members may indicate a revision to their original vote otherwise their vote shall remain the same as in their prior ballot.

Upon successful completion of the initial and recirculation voting periods, the SC will forward the Standard to the Reliability~~First~~ Board for action (Step 7).

Step 6B – Voting Does Not Receive Simple Two-Thirds or Greater Majority of Affirmative Category Votes or a Quorum⁵ is Not Met

If a draft Standard does not receive a two-thirds or greater ~~simple~~ affirmative majority of votes determined for each category (only those categories with votes cast will be considered) or does not reach quorum during the 15-day ~~voting period or a quorum is not met during the 15-day~~ Initial voting period, the SC may:

⁴ For the purposes of determining majority within a category, an abstention is not considered a vote.

⁵ A quorum is achieved when three-fourths (75%) or greater of the ballot pool casts a vote

- Direct the SDT to respond to ballot comments and post the standard for a 10-day Recirculation ballot (as discussed in Step 6A) to determine if the response to comments alleviates reasons for the Negative initial ballots.
- Direct the existing SDT to reconsider or modify certain aspects of the draft Standard and/or implementation plan. The resulting draft Standard and/or implementation plan will be posted for a second initial voting period. The SC may require a second comment period prior to the second voting period. The second posting of the draft Standard, implementation plan, and supporting documentation shall be within 60 days of the SC action.
 - If there is a two-thirds or greater simple-affirmative majority of categories with votes cast and a quorum is met during the second initial ballot and second recirculation ballot~~voting period~~, the SC will forward it to the Reliability*First* Board for action (Step 7).
 - If a draft Standard does not receive a two-thirds or greater simple-majority of affirmative category votes cast during the second initial ballot~~voting period~~ or a quorum is not met, the SC will refer the draft Standard and implementation plan to the Reliability*First* Board. The SC may also submit an assessment, opinion and recommendations to the Reliability*First* Board (Step 7).
- Revise the SAR on which the draft Standard was based and remand the development work back to the original SDT or a newly appointed SDT. The resulting draft Standard and/or implementation plan will be posted for a second voting period. The SC may require a second comment period prior to a second voting period. The second posting of the draft Standard, implementation plan, and supporting documentation shall be within 60 days of the SC action.
 - If there is a two-thirds or greater simple-affirmative majority of categories with votes cast ~~during the second voting period~~ and a quorum is met during the second initial ballot and second recirculation ballot, the SC will forward it to the Reliability*First* Board for action (Step 7).
 - If a draft Standard does not receive a two-thirds or greater simple-majority of affirmative category votes cast during the second voting period or a quorum is not met, the SC will refer the draft Standard and implementation plan to the Reliability*First* Board. The SC may also submit an assessment, opinion and recommendations to the Reliability*First* Board (Step 7).
- Recommend termination of all work on the development of the Standard action under consideration and so notify the Reliability*First* Board.

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Step 7 – Action by the ReliabilityFirst Board

A draft Standard submitted to the ReliabilityFirst Board for action must be publicly posted at least 30 days prior to action by the Board. At a regular or special meeting, the ReliabilityFirst Board shall consider adoption of the draft Standard. The Board will consider the results of the voting and dissenting opinions. The Board will consider any advice offered by the SC.

Draft Standards that received a ~~two-thirds or greater simple affirmative majority~~ of categories with votes cast shall be delivered to the ReliabilityFirst Board for their action. The ReliabilityFirst Board shall be provided with an “informational package” which includes:

- The draft Standard and any modification or deletion of other related existing Standard(s)
- Implementation Plan (including recommending field testing and effective dates)
- Technical Documentation supporting the draft Standard
- A summary of the vote and summary of the comments and responses that accompanied the votes.

The ReliabilityFirst Board is expected to either:

- Approve the draft Standard action with only minor or no modification. Under no circumstances may the Board substantively modify the proposed regional reliability standard.
- Remand to the SC with comments and instructions, or
- Disapprove the draft Standard action without recourse.

Draft Standards that did not receive a ~~two-thirds or greater simple affirmative majority~~ of categories with votes cast in the second voting period shall be delivered to the ReliabilityFirst Board for their action. The ReliabilityFirst Board shall be provided with an “informational package”.

The ReliabilityFirst Board is expected to either:

- Approve the draft Standard action with only minor or no modification. Under no circumstances may the Board substantively modify the proposed regional reliability standard.
- Remand to the SC with comments and instructions, or
- Disapprove the draft Standard action without recourse.

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Once a regional Reliability*First* Standard is approved by the Board, the standard will be submitted to NERC for approval and filing with FERC.

Step 8 - Implementation of a Regional Reliability Standard

Upon approval of a draft Standard action by the FERC, the SPM will notify the membership and applicable Entities within the Reliability*First* footprint of the effective date through the normal and customary membership communication procedures and processes then in effect. The SPM will also notify the Reliability*First* Compliance Staff for integration into the Reliability*First* Compliance Program.

Appendix A

Maintenance of Regional Reliability Standards Development Process

Significant changes to this Procedure shall begin with the preparation of a SAR and be handled using the same procedure as a request to add, modify, or delete a Standard.

The ReliabilityFirst SC has the authority to make ‘minor’ changes to this Procedure as deemed appropriate by the SC and subject to the SC voting practices and procedures according to the “ReliabilityFirst Standards Committee Governance” document ~~then in effect~~. The SC shall promptly notify the ReliabilityFirst Board of such ‘minor’ changes to this Procedure for their review and concurrence at the next ReliabilityFirst Board meeting.

Maintenance of Regional Reliability Standards

The SC shall ensure that each Standard shall be reviewed at least once every five years from the effective date of the Standard or the latest revision to the Standard, whichever is the later. The review process shall be conducted by soliciting comments from the stakeholders. If no changes are warranted, the SC shall recommend to the ReliabilityFirst Board that the Standard be reaffirmed. If the review indicates a need to revise or delete a Standard, a SAR shall be prepared and submitted in accordance with the standards development process contained in this Procedure.

Urgent Action

Under certain conditions, the SC may designate a proposed Standard or revision to a Standard as requiring urgent action. Urgent action may be appropriate when a delay in implementing a proposed Standard or revision could materially impact reliability of the BPS. The SC must use its judgment carefully to ensure an urgent action is truly necessary and not simply an expedient way to change or implement a Standard.

A requester prepares a SAR and a draft of the proposed Standard and submits both to the SPM. The SAR must include a justification for urgent action. The SPM submits the request to the SC for its consideration. If the SC designates the requested Standard or revision as an urgent action item, then the SPM shall immediately post the draft for pre-ballot review. This posting requires a minimum 30-day posting period before the ballot and applies the same voting procedure as detailed in Step 5. Processing will continue as outlined in the subsequent steps. In the event additional drafting is required, a SDT will be assembled as outlined in the Procedure.

Any Standard approved as an urgent action shall have a termination date specified that shall not exceed one year from the approval date. Should there be a need to make the

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Standard permanent, then the Standard would be required to go through the full Standard development process. All urgent action Standards require ReliabilityFirst Board, NERC and FERC approval, as outlined for Standards in the regular process.

Urgent actions that expire may be renewed using the urgent action process again, in the event a permanent Standard is not adopted. In determining whether to authorize an urgent action Standard for a renewal ballot, the SC shall consider the impact of the Standard on the reliability of the BPS and whether expeditious progress is being made toward a permanent replacement Standard. The SC shall not authorize a renewal ballot if there is insufficient progress toward adopting a permanent replacement Standard or if the SC lacks confidence that a reasonable completion date is achievable. The intent is to ensure that an urgent action Standard does not in effect take on a degree of permanence due to the lack of an expeditious effort to develop a permanent replacement Standard. With these principles, there is no predetermined limit on the number of times an urgent action may be renewed. However, each urgent action Standard renewal shall be effective only upon approval by the ReliabilityFirst Board, NERC and FERC.

Any person or entity, including the SDT working on a permanent replacement Standard, may at any time submit a SAR proposing that an urgent action Standard become a permanent Standard by following the full Standards process.

Interpretations of Standards

All persons who are directly and materially affected by the reliability of ReliabilityFirst BPS shall be permitted to request an interpretation of the standard. The person requesting an interpretation will send a request to the SPM explaining the specific circumstances surrounding the request and what clarifications are required as applied to those circumstances. The request should indicate the material impact to the requesting party or others caused by the lack of clarity or a possibly incorrect interpretation of the standard.

The SPM, along with guidance from the SC, will assemble a team with the relevant expertise to address the request. The Interpretation Drafting Team (IDT) typically consists of members from the original SDT. The SPM submits the proposed list of names of the IDT to the SC. The SC will either accept the recommendations of the SPM or modify the IDT slate.

As soon as practical (not more than 45 days), the team will prepare an initial draft a written interpretation of the standard addressing the issues raised. Once the IDT has completed the initial a-draft interpretation to the Standard addressing only the issues raised, the team will post the draft for a 30-day informal⁶ stakeholder comment period.

⁶ An informal comment period does not require the IDT to respond to every stakeholder comment and is only used to make potential changes for the final draft of the interpretation.

The IDT will review the stakeholder feedback and may make changes before preparing a final draft of the interpretation. The IDT will then forward the draft interpretation to the SPM. The SPM will forward the draft interpretation to the Interim Compliance Committee (ICC). The ICC is to assess if the inclusion of the interpretation lessens the measurability of the Standard. In addition, the The SPM will forward the interpretation to the Reliability Committee (RC). Barring receipt of an opinion from ~~either the ICC or RC~~ within 21 calendar days, that the interpretation ~~sufficiently lessens measurability or~~ is not technically appropriate for the Standard, respectively, the SPM will forward the interpretation to the SC. The SC will determine if the interpretation is consistent with the Standard and does not add additional requirements to the standard. The SC will forward the interpretation to the Reliability *First* Board for informational purposes as being appended to the approved Standard.

Note: In the event that the ~~RC/ICC~~ determines that ~~measurability is lessened~~ the interpretation makes the standard technically inappropriate ~~the RC,~~ the ICC shall provide an explanation of its reasoning to the SPM and IDT for inclusion in a subsequent revision. ~~The RC shall in a similar manner provide an explanation of its reasoning if it determines that the interpretation makes the standard technically inappropriate.~~ In either case, the IDT and SPM will continue to re-circulate the interpretation as stated above.

The interpretation will stand until such time as the standard is revised through the normal process, at which time the standard will be modified to incorporate the clarifications provided by the interpretation.

Appeals

Persons who have directly and materially affected interests and who have been or will be adversely affected by any substantive or procedural action or inaction related to the development, approval, revision, reaffirmation, or withdrawal of a Standard shall have the right to appeal. This appeals process applies only to the Standards process as defined in this Procedure.

The burden of proof to show adverse effect shall be on the appellant. Appeals shall be made within 30 days of the date of the action purported to cause the adverse effect, except appeals for inaction, which may be made at any time. In all cases, the request for appeal must be made prior to the next step in the process.

The final decisions of any appeal shall be documented in writing and made public.

The appeals process ~~provides~~ has two levels, with the goal of expeditiously resolving the issue to the satisfaction of the participants:

Level 1 Appeal

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Level 1 is the required first step in the appeals process. The appellant submits a complaint in writing to the SPM that describes the substantive or procedural action or inaction associated with a Standard or the standards process. The appellant describes in the complaint the actual or potential adverse impact to the appellant. Assisted by any necessary staff and committee resources, the SPM shall prepare a written response addressed to the appellant as soon as practical but not more than 45-days after receipt of the complaint. If the appellant accepts the response as a satisfactory resolution of the issue, both the complaint and response will be made a part of the public record associated with the standard.

Level 2 Appeal

If after the Level 1 Appeal the appellant remains unsatisfied with the resolution, as indicated by the appellant in writing to the SPM, the SPM shall convene a Level 2 Appeals Panel. This panel shall consist of five members total appointed by the ReliabilityFirst Board.

In all cases, Level 2 Appeals Panel members shall have no direct affiliation with the participants in the appeal.

The SPM shall post the complaint and other relevant materials and provide at least 30-days notice of the meeting of the Level 2 Appeals Panel. In addition to the appellant, any person that is directly and materially affected by the substantive or procedural action or inaction referenced in the complaint shall be heard by the panel. The panel shall not consider any expansion of the scope of the appeal that was not presented in the Level 1 Appeal. The panel may in its decision find for the appellant and remand the issue to the SC with a statement of the issues and facts in regard to which fair and equitable action was not taken. The panel may find against the appellant with a specific statement of the facts that demonstrate fair and equitable treatment of the appellant and the appellant's objections. The panel may not, however, revise, approve, disapprove, or adopt a reliability standard. The actions of the Level 2 Appeals Panel shall be publicly posted.

In addition to the foregoing, a procedural objection that has not been resolved may be submitted to the ReliabilityFirst Board for consideration at the time the Board decides whether to adopt a particular reliability standard. The objection must be in writing, signed by an officer of the objecting entity, and contain a concise statement of the relief requested and a clear demonstration of the facts that justify that relief. The objection must be filed no later than 30-days after the announcement of the vote on the Standard in question.

Appendix B

Standard Authorization Request

The SC shall be responsible for implementing and maintaining this form as needed to support the information requirements of the standards development process in this Procedure. Changes to this form are considered minor, and therefore subject to only the approval of the SC.

ReliabilityFirst Standard Authorization Request Form

**ReliabilityFirst
will complete**

Title of Proposed Standard
Request Date

ID
Authorized for Posting
Authorized for Development

SAR Originator Information

Name	SAR Type (Check box for one of these selections.)	
Company	<input type="checkbox"/>	New Standard
Telephone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Revision to Existing Standard
Fax	<input type="checkbox"/>	Withdrawal of Existing Standard
E-mail	<input type="checkbox"/>	Urgent Action

Purpose (Provide one or two sentences.)
--

Industry Need (Provide one or two sentences.)

Brief Description (A few sentences or a paragraph.)

Reliability Functions

The Standard will Apply to the Following Functions (Check box for each one that applies.)

	Reliability Authority	Ensures the reliability of the bulk transmission system within its Reliability Authority area. This is the highest reliability authority.
	Balancing Authority	Integrates resource plans ahead of time, and maintains load-interchange-resource balance within its metered boundary and supports system frequency in real time
	Generator Owner	Owns and maintains generating units
	Interchange Authority	Authorizes valid and balanced Interchange Schedules
	Planning Authority	Plans the BPS
	Resource Planner	Develops a long-term (generally one year and beyond) plan for the resource adequacy of specific loads (customer demand and energy requirements) within a Planning Authority Area
	Transmission Planner	Develops a long-term (generally one year and beyond) plan for the reliability (adequacy) of the interconnected bulk electric transmission systems within its portion of the Planning Authority Area
	Transmission Service Provider	Provides transmission services to qualified market participants under applicable transmission service

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		agreements
	Transmission Owner	Owns transmission facilities
	Transmission Operator	Operates and maintains the transmission facilities, and executes switching orders
	Distribution Provider	Provides and operates the “wires” between the transmission system and the customer
	Generator Operator	Operates generating unit(s) and performs the functions of supplying energy and Interconnected Operations Services
	Purchasing-Selling Entity	The function of purchasing or selling energy, capacity and all necessary Interconnected Operations Services as required
	Load-Serving Entity	Secures energy and transmission (and related generation services) to serve the end user
	Market Operator	Integrates energy, capacity, balancing, and transmission resources to achieve an economic, reliability-constrained dispatch of resources. The dispatch may be either cost-based or bid-based
	Regional Reliability Organizations	An entity that ensures that a defined area of the BPS is reliable, adequate and secure. A member of the North American Electric Reliability Council. The Regional Reliability Organization can serve as the Compliance Monitor

NOTE: The SDT may find it necessary to modify the initial reliability function responsibility assignment as a result of the standards development and comments received.

Reliability Principles

<i>Applicable Reliability Principles (Check box for all that apply.)</i>	
	1. Interconnected BPS shall be planned and operated in a coordinated manner to perform reliably under normal and abnormal conditions as defined in the NERC Standards.
	2. The frequency and voltage of interconnected BPS shall be controlled within defined limits through the balancing of real and reactive power supply and demand.

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	3. Information necessary for the planning and operation of interconnected BPS shall be made available to those entities responsible for planning and operating the systems reliably.
	4. Plans for emergency operation and system restoration of interconnected BPS shall be developed, coordinated, maintained, and implemented.
	5. Facilities for communication, monitoring, and control shall be provided, used, and maintained for the reliability of interconnected BPS.
	6. Personnel responsible for planning and operating interconnected BPS shall be trained, qualified, and have the responsibility and authority to implement actions.
	7. The security of the interconnected BPS shall be assessed, monitored, and maintained on a wide-area basis.

Market Interface Principles

<i>Does the proposed Standard comply with all of the following Market Interface Principles?</i>	
Recognizing that reliability is an essential requirement of a robust North American economy:	
yes or no	1. A reliability standard shall not give any market participant an unfair competitive advantage.
yes or no	2. A reliability standard shall neither mandate nor prohibit any specific market structure.
yes or no	3. A reliability standard shall not preclude market solutions to achieving compliance with that standard.
yes or no	4. A reliability standard shall not require the public disclosure of commercially sensitive information. All market participants shall have equal opportunity to access commercially non-sensitive information that is required for compliance with reliability standards.

Detailed Description (Provide enough detail so that an independent entity familiar with the industry could draft a Standard based on this description.)

Related Standards (NERC and Regional)

Standard No.	Explanation

Related SARs

SAR ID	Explanation

Implementation Plan

<p>Description (<i>Provide plans for the implementation of the proposed standard, including any known systems or training requirements. Include the reliability risk(s) associated with the violation that the standard will mitigate, and the costs associated with implementation.</i>)</p>
<p>Proposed Implementation days after Board adoption or</p> <hr/> <p>on (date):</p>

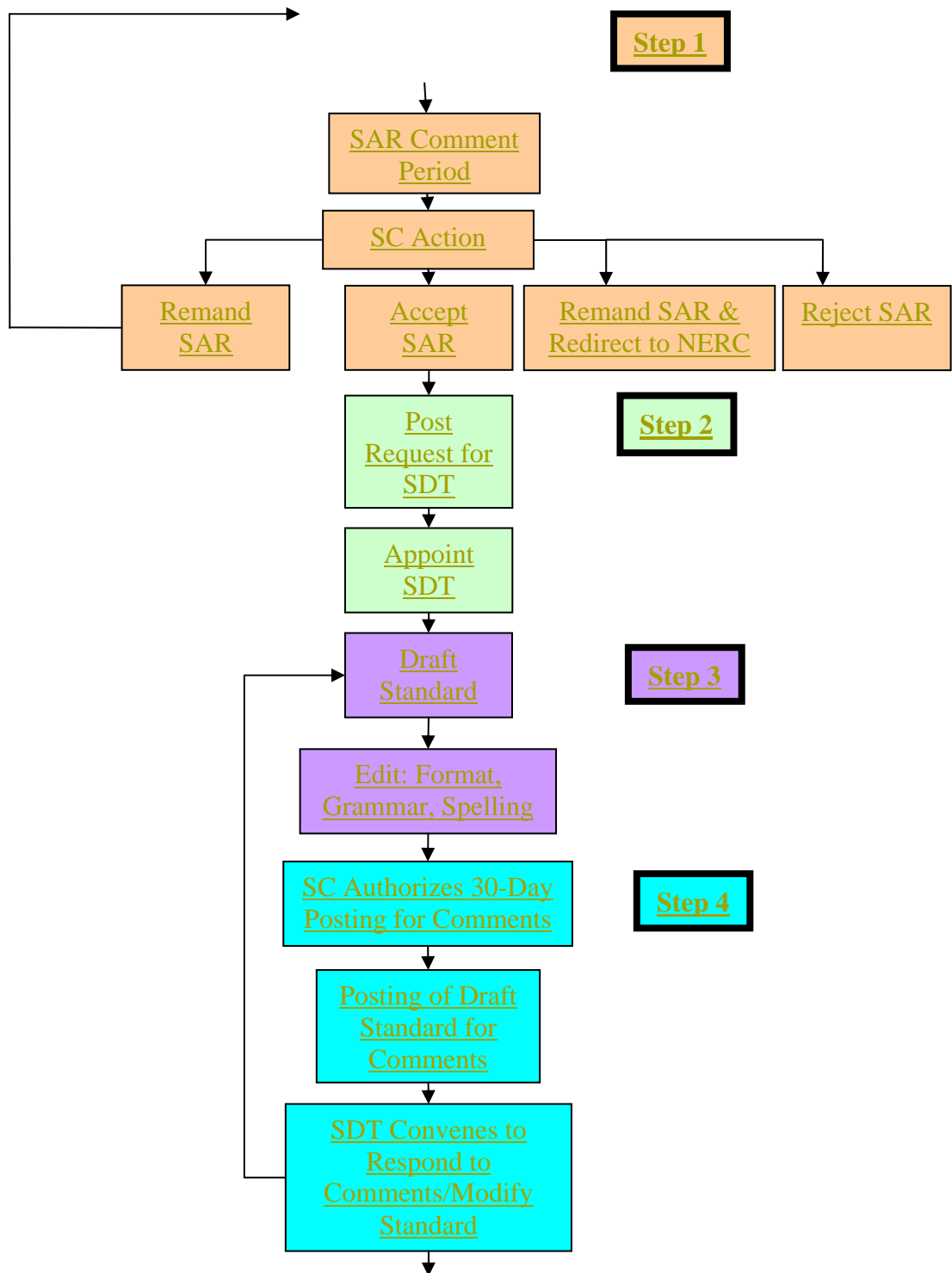
Assignments

	<i>Assignment</i>
Team Members	
ReliabilityFirst Staff	

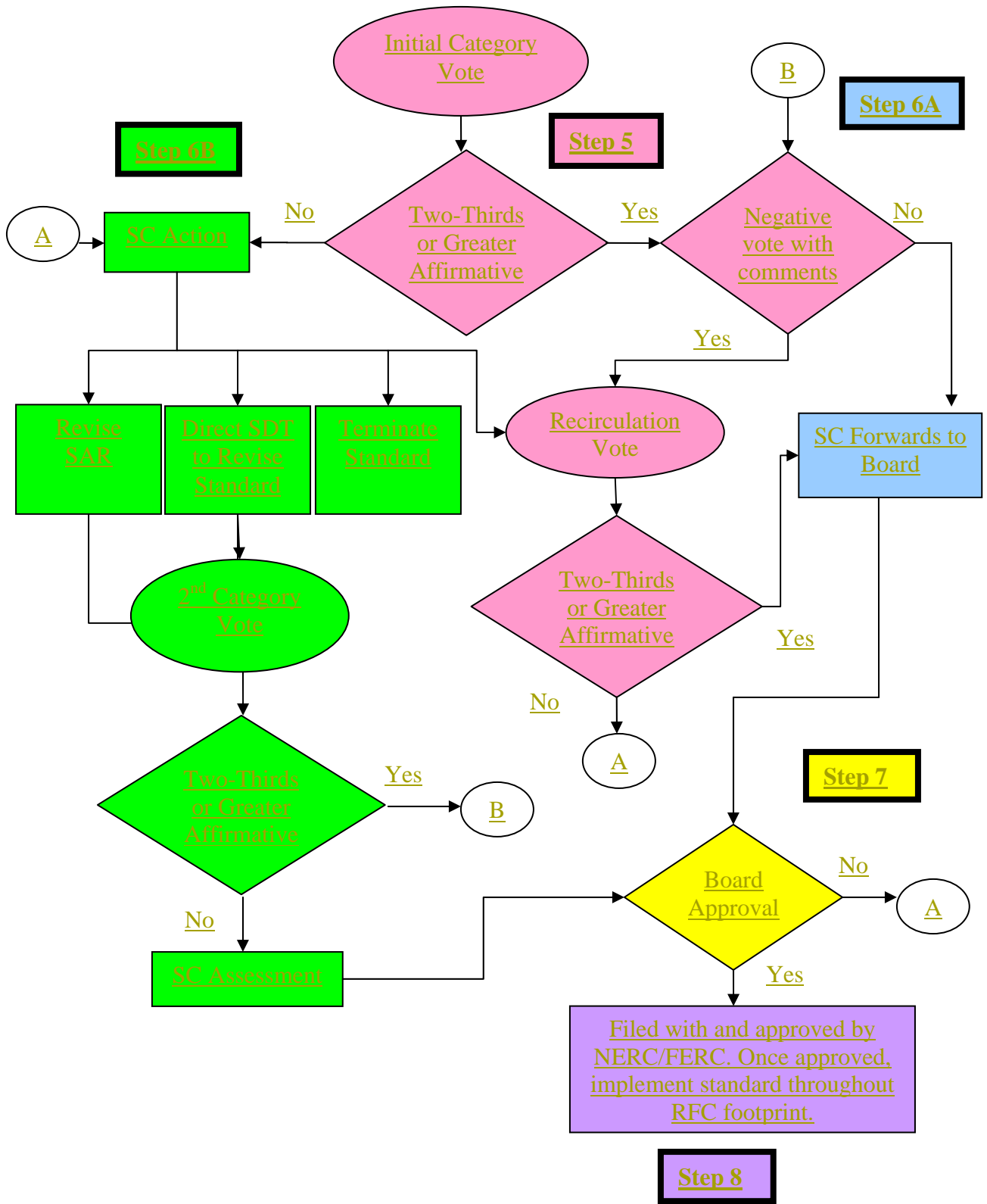
Appendix C

Flowchart for Standards Process





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Appendix D

Ballot Pool Categories

For the purposes of category Ballot Pool registration and voting, an person or entity may join the registered Ballot Pool to vote on standards, whether or not such person or entity is a member of ReliabilityFirst, shall register in only one of the following categories for each standard that will be voted on (only one vote is allowed per entity per vote):

A corporation or other organization with integrated operations or with affiliates that qualifies to belong to more than one category (e.g., Transmission Owners and Load Serving Entities) may join and vote once in each category for which it qualifies, provided that each category constitutes a separate membership in the Ballot Body and the organization is represented in each category by a different representative. Affiliated entities are collectively limited to one membership in each category in the Ballot Pool for which they are qualified.

Category 1 – Transmission Owner, Transmission Operator, Transmission Service Provider

Category 2 – Generator Owner, Generator Operator

Category 3 – Load Serving Entity, Purchasing and Selling Entity, End User

Category 4 – Reliability Coordinator, Planning Coordinator, Transmission Planner, Resource Planner, Regional Transmission Organization, Balancing Authority, regulatory or governmental agency

Category 5 – Distribution Provider

Ballot Body Registration

Entities may register in the BB at any time during the Standards process. The SPM shall review all applications for joining the BB, and make a determination of whether they qualify for the self-selection category(ies). In order to comment or vote you must have an active membership in the BB. When you submit your registration request to join the BB, you are placed in a “pending stage” until your account is activated. Activation of your account may take up to 24 hours. You will be unable to submit comments or join a Ballot Pool until your account is activated. The contact designated as primary representative to ReliabilityFirst is the voting member with the secondary contact as the backup.

ReliabilityFirst Board Approval December 1, 2011-6th, 2007
Standards Committee Modified September 16, 2011-April 1st, 2008 – Board Concurrence
May 22nd, 2008

Note: Registration for a BB is not the same as registration for the compliance registry. Although the terminology used to describe the BB categories in most cases has the same meaning as the terms used in the NERC Functional Model, registration in a BB goes beyond the compliance registry in that entities smaller than those stated in the compliance registry guidelines are allowed to register in a BB. Entities shall have evidence that they qualify for the BB category they register in. Such evidence shall be available for the SPM review to verify BB registration and may include compliance registration.

Ballot Pool Formation

In order to participate in voting on a particular standard, an entity must join the Ballot Pool being established for the standard as follows:

1 – As early as the start of the first posting for comment, entities may join ~~one of the five categories of~~ the Ballot Pool established for the eventual voting on the proposed standard being posted.

2 - By close of business of the seventh day of the 15 day pre ballot posting period, entities wishing to vote must have joined ~~one of the five categories of~~ the Ballot Pool established for the eventual voting on the proposed standard being posted.

EXHIBIT D – COMPLIANCE MONITORING AND ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM

1.0 REGIONAL COMPLIANCE MONITORING AND ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM

ReliabilityFirst will implement the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program, Appendix 4C to the NERC Rules of Procedure (which for purposes of this section 1.0 shall not include Attachment 2, Hearing Procedures), to monitor and enforce compliance with Reliability Standards by the owners, operators, and users within ReliabilityFirst's geographic or electrical boundaries, and such other scope, set forth on **Exhibit A** of this Agreement.

2.0 REGIONAL HEARING OF COMPLIANCE MATTERS

ReliabilityFirst shall establish and maintain a hearing body with authority to conduct and render decisions in compliance hearings in which a Registered Entity may contest a finding of alleged violation, proposed penalty or sanction, or a proposed mitigation plan, which shall be either ReliabilityFirst's board or a balanced compliance panel reporting directly to ReliabilityFirst's board. ReliabilityFirst's hearing body is a composition of members of the ReliabilityFirst Compliance Committee as established by the Board of Directors of ReliabilityFirst as set out in the ReliabilityFirst Compliance Committee Charter. No two industry sectors may control any decision and no single segment may veto any matter brought before the Hearing Body either before or after any recusals or disqualifications.

ReliabilityFirst shall conduct all compliance hearings in which a Registered Entity may contest a finding of alleged violation, proposed penalty or sanction, proposed Mitigation Plan, or a proposed Remedial Action Directive, in accordance with Attachment 2, Hearing Procedures, to the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program, subject to the following deviations, if any: None.

3.0 OTHER DECISION-MAKING BODIES

None.

Exhibit E — Funding

1. Scope of activities funded through the ERO funding mechanism

ReliabilityFirst shall include in its annual budget submission to NERC amounts for costs it will incur in performing its delegated functions and related activities as described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 of the Agreement. These activities shall include:

- Reliability Standard Development
- Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement
- Organization Registration and Certification
- Reliability Assessment and Performance Analysis (including necessary data gathering activities)
- Event Analysis and Reliability Improvement
- Training and Education
- Situation Awareness
- Infrastructure Security

2. Preparation of Annual Business Plan and Budget

(a) NERC and ReliabilityFirst, in conjunction with the other Regional Entities, shall collaboratively develop an annual schedule for the development, submission, review and approval of ReliabilityFirst's business plan and budget. The annual schedule for the preparation of business plans and budgets shall require ReliabilityFirst (i) to submit to NERC draft(s) of ReliabilityFirst's proposed business plan and budget and other preliminary documents and information, and (ii) to submit a final proposed business plan and budget that has been approved by ReliabilityFirst Board of Trustees to NERC by July 1 or such other agreed date as provides sufficient time for NERC's review, approval and submission of ReliabilityFirst's business plan and budget to the Commission 130 days in advance of the beginning of each fiscal year. The ReliabilityFirst business plan and budget submission shall include supporting materials, including ReliabilityFirst's complete business plan and organization chart, explaining the proposed collection of all assessments, dues, fees and charges, and the proposed expenditure of the funds to be collected in sufficient detail to justify the requested budgeted expenditures and assessments. ReliabilityFirst's business plan and budget and proposed assessments shall provide for reasonable reserve mechanisms for unforeseen and extraordinary expenses and other contingencies, consistent with generally accepted accounting principles.

(b) NERC shall review and approve ReliabilityFirst's proposed business plan and budget and proposed assessments for performing the delegated functions and related activities described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 of this Agreement and listed above in Section 1 of this **Exhibit E**, or shall direct ReliabilityFirst to make such revisions as NERC deems appropriate prior to approval. NERC shall submit ReliabilityFirst's approved business plan and budget and proposed assessments to the Commission for approval as part of NERC's overall business plan and budget submission, in accordance with the ERO Regulations.

3. Allocation of Costs

Assessments to fund the costs of *ReliabilityFirst*'s delegated functions and related activities pursuant to the Agreement shall be allocated among all load-serving entities on the basis of Net Energy for Load, unless a different method(s) of allocating and calculating such assessments has been submitted to and approved by NERC and the Commission in accordance with Section 9(b) of the Agreement. *ReliabilityFirst* shall submit to NERC annually at the same time it submits its budget request a list of the load-serving entities or designees within its geographic boundaries that shall be responsible for paying *ReliabilityFirst*'s assessment and the load-serving entities' proportionate Net Energy for Load, and such other data and information as is necessary to allocate and calculate the allocation of *ReliabilityFirst*'s assessment to the load-serving entities or designees under the method(s) of allocation and calculation that will be used.

4. Collection of Funding

(a) NERC shall submit invoices to the load-serving entities or designees identified by *ReliabilityFirst* covering the NERC and *ReliabilityFirst* assessments approved for collection.

(b) NERC shall pursue any non-payments of assessment amounts and shall request assistance from ERO Governmental Authorities as necessary to secure collection. To the extent reasonably practicable, *ReliabilityFirst* shall assist NERC in pursuing and collecting any non-payments. Notwithstanding the foregoing, *ReliabilityFirst* is not responsible and does not assume any liability for recovering non-payments or underpayments of assessment amounts. NERC shall retain sole responsibility for recovering non-payments or underpayments of assessment amounts. NERC shall add the amount of any non-payments by end-users or designees within *ReliabilityFirst*'s region, that are reasonably determined to be uncollectible, to NERC's assessments for a subsequent year with the amount of such non-payments to be allocated to end-users within *ReliabilityFirst*'s region.

(c) Upon approval by ERO Governmental Authorities of *ReliabilityFirst*'s annual assessment to fund the costs of its delegated functions and related activities, NERC shall pay *ReliabilityFirst*'s annual assessment to Regional Entity in four equal quarterly payments on January 15, April 15, July 15 and October 15 of the budget year.

5. Application of Penalties

Except as otherwise approved by the Commission, all penalty monies received by *ReliabilityFirst*, other than penalty monies received from an operational function or division or affiliated entity of *ReliabilityFirst*, shall be applied as a general offset to *ReliabilityFirst*'s budget requirements for U.S.-related activities under this Agreement for the subsequent fiscal year. Funds from financial penalties shall not be directly applied to any program maintained by the investigating entity. Except as otherwise approved by the Commission, any penalty monies received from an operational function or division or affiliated entity of *ReliabilityFirst* shall be transmitted to or retained by NERC and shall be used by NERC as a general offset to NERC's budget for its activities as the ERO under the Act for the following year.

6. Budget and Funding for ReliabilityFirst's Non-Statutory Activities

In addition to its delegated functions and related activities, as specified in Sections 5, 6 and 7 of the Agreement and in Section 1 of this **Exhibit E** (such delegated functions and activities referred to in this Section 6 as "statutory activities"), ReliabilityFirst performs the following other functions and activities (such other functions and activities being referred to in this Section 6 as "non-statutory activities"): **None**

ReliabilityFirst shall employ the following methods and procedures to (i) keep its funding mechanisms for its statutory activities separate from its funding mechanisms for its non-statutory activities, and (ii) record the costs it incurs in the performance of its non-statutory functions separately from the costs it incurs in the performance of its statutory functions: [List and describe the methods and procedures Regional Entity employs to keep costs and funding of statutory activities separate from costs and funding of non-statutory activities, including at a minimum a description of how Regional Entity's bank accounts and receivables/payables procedures are set up for both statutory and non-statutory functions, a description of how Regional Entity ensures each employee involved in both statutory and non-statutory functions keeps accurate time records reflecting his/her activities, and a description of how Regional Entity's general and administrative costs are allocated between statutory activities and non-statutory activities. If the necessary descriptions are lengthy they may be provided in a separate attachment labeled "Attachment E-1", and state here "See Attachment E-1." **Not applicable**

ReliabilityFirst shall provide its budget for such non-statutory activities to NERC at the same time that ReliabilityFirst submits its proposed annual business plan and budget for statutory activities to NERC pursuant to Section 9 of the Agreement. ReliabilityFirst's budget for non-statutory activities that is provided to NERC shall contain a detailed list of ReliabilityFirst's non-statutory activities and a description of the funding sources for the non-statutory activities. ReliabilityFirst agrees that no costs (which shall include a reasonable allocation of ReliabilityFirst's general and administrative costs) of non-statutory activities are to be included in the calculation of ReliabilityFirst's assessments, dues, fees, and other charges for its statutory activities. **Not applicable**

7. Amended or Supplemental Business Plans and Budgets

During the course of the fiscal year, if ReliabilityFirst determines it does not or will not have sufficient funds to carry out its delegated functions and related activities, ReliabilityFirst shall submit to NERC one or more proposed amended or supplemental business plans and budgets and requests for approval of supplemental assessments, reflecting costs, cost increases or funding shortfalls not provided for in ReliabilityFirst's approved business plan and budget for the fiscal year. NERC shall review and approve the proposed amended or supplemental business plan and budget and proposed supplemental assessment, or shall direct ReliabilityFirst to make such revisions as NERC deems appropriate prior to approval. NERC shall submit ReliabilityFirst's approved amended or supplemental business plan and budget and proposed supplemental assessment to the Commission for approval.

8. NERC Review of Regional Entity Financial Records

Upon a request made to ReliabilityFirst with reasonable notice, NERC shall have access to and may review all financial records of ReliabilityFirst, including records used to prepare ReliabilityFirst's financial statements. NERC shall conduct reviews of the quarterly and annual financial statements submitted by ReliabilityFirst pursuant to Section 9(h) and (i) of the Agreement. ReliabilityFirst shall provide supporting documentation for the quarterly and annual financial statements as reasonably requested by NERC.