



NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC
RELIABILITY CORPORATION

Standards Announcement

Informal Comment Period Open

March 1–31, 2010

Now available at: http://www.nerc.com/filez/standards/Vegetation-Management_Project_2007-7.html

Project 2007-07: Transmission Vegetation Management

The Transmission Vegetation Management Standard Drafting Team is seeking comments on the following documents **until 8 p.m. Eastern on March 31, 2010**:

- FAC-003-2 — Transmission Vegetation Management Program
- Mapping document (comparing this draft to previous)
- Implementation plan

Special Notes for this Project

On January 14, 2010, the NERC Standards Committee endorsed the selection of FAC-003 as the proof-of-concept for using “results-based” criteria for developing a reliability standard, and the drafting team has been working with a consultant to apply a results-based approach to draft standard FAC-003-2. The overall approach includes considerably more emphasis on the “concepts and assumptions” underlying the development of requirements and goes beyond the steps most drafting teams use when developing a standard. Accordingly, the “look and feel” of the vegetation management standard is quite different than NERC’s existing standards. However, at the core is a set of mandatory and enforceable requirements with useful guidance supporting these requirements, an approach NERC’s legal counsel has reviewed and finds acceptable.

In addition to the format changes, the Standards Committee authorized the drafting team to discontinue work in developing a complete consideration of comments report for the comments received in response to the posting of the second draft of FAC-003-2 (August 2009). Instead of posting an individual response to each comment, the team has posted the comments along with a summary of the actions taken by the team in response to those comments. The Standards Committee also authorized this approach going forward for this project, so this and future postings will be considered informal comment periods. Please see the “Next Steps” section below and the comment form for more information.

Instructions

Please use this [electronic form](#) to submit comments. If you experience any difficulties in using the electronic form, please contact Lauren Koller at Lauren.Koller@nerc.net. An off-line, unofficial copy of the comment form is posted on the project page:

http://www.nerc.com/filez/standards/Vegetation-Management_Project_2007-7.html

Next Steps

Since this is an informal comment period, the drafting team will post 1) the comments received, 2) a summary of how the team used the comments, and 3) a redline version of the standard showing the changes made based on the comments. More information about the scheduling for this project is available in the comment form for this posting.

Project Background

The project is an update to FAC-003-1, which was approved in 2006. The items identified for revision include the incorporation of FERC Order 693 comments related to applicability, procedural repairs to conform to the current standards format and development procedure, technical updates and guidance to address stakeholder suggestions, and the elimination of “fill-in-the-blank” components. More information is available on the project page:

http://www.nerc.com/filez/standards/Vegetation-Management_Project_2007-7.html

As mentioned, the NERC Standards Committee endorsed the use of Project 2007-07 Vegetation Management as the prototype for the proof-of-concept for using the “results-based” criteria for developing a reliability standard. More information about results-based standards can be found at:

http://www.nerc.com/filez/standards/Project2010-06_Results-based_Reliability_Standards.html

Applicability of Standards in Project

Transmission Owner

Specific facilities (see proposed standard for more information)

Standards Development Process

The [Reliability Standards Development Procedure](#) contains all the procedures governing the standards development process. The success of the NERC standards development process depends on stakeholder participation. We extend our thanks to all those who participate.

*For more information or assistance,
please contact Shaun Streeter at shaun.streeter@nerc.net or at 609.452.8060.*