NERC
NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY CORPORATION

Standards Announcement

Initial Ballot Windows Open
July 8–17, 2010

Now available at: https://standards.nerc.net/CurrentBallots.aspx

Project 2007-17: Protection System Maintenance and Testing

An initial ballot window for standard PRC-005-2 — Protection System Maintenance and Testing and a separate initial ballot for the definition of "Protection System" are now open **until 8 p.m. Eastern on July 17, 2010**.

In addition, members of the ballot pool associated with the standard will be able to vote in a concurrent non-binding poll on the standard's Violation Risk Factors (VRFs) and Violation Severity Levels (VSLs). Members who joined the ballot pool to vote on the standard were automatically entered in a separate pool to participate in the non-binding poll for the VRFs and VSLs. The non-binding poll will appear in your list of current ballots, and is labeled accordingly. (As a reminder, this new approach for VRFs and VSLs is one of the updates reflected in the recently FERC-approved Reliability Standards Development Procedure — Version 7.)

Instructions

Members of the ballot pools associated with this project may log in and submit their votes from the following page: https://standards.nerc.net/CurrentBallots.aspx

Next Steps

Voting results will be posted and announced after the ballot windows close.

Project Background

The draft standard combines the following previous standards:

- PRC-005-1 — Transmission and Generation Protection System Maintenance and Testing
- PRC-008-0 — Underfrequency Load Shedding Equipment Maintenance Program
- PRC-011-0 — UVLS System Maintenance and Testing
- PRC-017-0 — Special Protection System Maintenance and Testing

The proposed standard addresses FERC directives from FERC Order 693 as well as issues identified by stakeholders. In accordance with the FERC directives, this draft standard establishes requirements for a time-based maintenance program, where all relevant devices are

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maintained according to prescribed maximum intervals. It further establishes requirements for a condition-based maintenance program, where the hands-on maintenance intervals are adjusted to reflect the known and reported condition of the relevant devices, and for a performance-based maintenance program, where the hands-on maintenance intervals are adjusted to reflect the historical performance of the relevant devices.

Project page:
http://www.nerc.com/filez/standards/Protection_System_Maintenance_Project_2007-17.html

Special Notes:
On March 18, 2010, FERC issued several orders and notices of proposed rulemakings pertaining to standards development activities and processes, suggesting a lack of progress in responding to directives from Order 693 as well in the timeliness of standards development in general. At the May 2010 NERC Board meeting, Gerry Cauley, NERC's President, also expressed these concerns, indicating that the resolution to these concerns is one of NERC's top priorities in the near term. As a result, the Standards Committee has authorized deviations from the normal standards development process for the Protection System Maintenance and Testing project, as well as other projects that have been through significant stakeholder review through the development process, to demonstrate that the NERC enterprise is responsive to FERC directives, and is making progress in developing new standards.

The Standards Committee approved the following deviations from the standards development process:

- The proposed changes to the standard and definition will be posted for 35-day comment periods (rather than 45-day comment periods). The ballot pools will be formed during the first 21 days of the 35-day comment periods;
- The initial ballots will be conducted during the last 10 days of the 35-day comment periods; and
- The drafting team may make modifications between the initial and recirculation ballots based on stakeholder comments to improve the overall quality of the standard and definition.

Applicability of Standards in Project
Transmission Owners
Generator Owners
Distribution Providers

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.