

## Standards Announcement Second Ballot Window Open July 23–August 2, 2010

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

### **Project 2007-17: Protection System Maintenance and Testing**

A second ballot window for the definition of “Protection System” is now open **until 8 p.m. Eastern on August 2, 2010.**

### **Instructions**

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

### **Recirculation Ballot Process**

The Standards Committee encourages all members of the ballot pool to review the consideration of comments submitted with the initial ballots and those submitted through the formal comment period. In this second ballot, votes are counted by exception only — if a ballot pool member does not submit a revision to that member’s original vote, the vote remains the same as in the first ballot. Members of the ballot pool may:

- Reconsider and change their vote from the first ballot.
- Vote in the second ballot even if they did not vote on the first ballot.
- Take no action if they do not want to change their original vote.

### **Next Steps**

Voting results will be posted and announced after the ballot window closes.

### **Project Background**

When the Board of Trustees was asked to approve an interpretation of PRC-005-1 that was written by the Protection System and Maintenance Standard Drafting Team, the board acknowledged the reliability gap identified by the drafting team caused by the definition of "protection system" and directed that work to close this reliability gap should be given “priority.” The Standards Committee directed the team to advance the definition of Protection System in parallel with the development of PRC-005-2.

Project page:

[http://www.nerc.com/filez/standards/Protection\\_System\\_Maintenance\\_Project\\_2007-17.html](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, to demonstrate that the NERC enterprise is responsive to FERC directives, and is making progress in developing standards.

The Standards Committee approved the following deviations from the standards development process for the definition of Protection System:

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

### **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.

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