NERC
NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY CORPORATION

Standards Announcement

Project 2008-06 Cyber Security Order 706 Version 5 CIP

Advance Notice: Formal Comment Period Will Open for Ten Standards, Implementation Plan and Definitions: Thursday, April 12, 2012

The Project 2008-06 Standards Drafting Team has carefully considered stakeholder input from a parallel formal comment period and initial ballots that ended in January. In response to stakeholder feedback, the team has revised and submitted clean and redline versions of ten standards (CIP-002-5 through CIP-011-1), the associated definitions and implementation plan, and numerous supporting documents for posting for a parallel formal comment period and successive ballot. The comment period is currently scheduled to begin on Thursday, April 12, 2012 and end at 8 p.m. Eastern on Monday, May 21, 2012.

To provide stakeholders with as much time as possible to review the changes to the documents since the last posting, the comment period has been extended to 40 days and this advance notice is being provided. Clean and redline versions of the standards and the unofficial (Word version) comment forms have been posted on the project page already.

Please note that this advance notice is being provided as a courtesy; the electronic comment form will not be available until the formal comment period opens on Thursday, April 12 and because some documents are still being reviewed, not all documents are posted yet and it is possible that changes may still be made to posted documents. If it is necessary to make changes to any of the documents that are posted for this advance review, we will indicate specifically which documents have changed in the formal announcement when the comment period opens as well as on the project page.

Link to Project Page

Background

In 2008, FERC Order No. 706 directed the ERO to develop modifications to Version 1 of the NERC CIP Cyber Security Standards to address a range of concerns in various areas of the Version 1 standards.

A Standard Drafting Team (SDT) was appointed by the NERC Standards Committee on August 7, 2008 to develop these modifications as part of Project 2008-06 – Cyber Security Order 706. The SDT has been charged to review each of the CIP reliability standards and address the modifications identified in the FERC Order No. 706. The SDT began meeting in October 2008.

Prior to this posting, the SDT developed CIP-002-2 through CIP-009-2 to comply with the near-term specific directives of FERC Order No. 706. This version of the Standards was approved by FERC in

September of 2009 with additional directives to be addressed within 90 days of the order. In response, the SDT developed CIP-003-3 through CIP-009-3, which FERC approved in March 2010.

Throughout this period, the SDT has continued efforts to develop an approach to address the remaining FERC Order No. 706 directives. An original draft version of CIP-010 and CIP-011, which included the categorization of cyber systems in CIP-010 and associated cyber security requirements consolidated into a single CIP-011, were posted for informal comment in May of 2010. After reviewing and analyzing responses from the industry, the SDT determined it was infeasible to address all of the concerns and achieve industry consensus on CIP-010 and CIP-011 by the planned target date of December 2010. Consequently, the SDT developed a limited scope of requirements in Version 4 of the CIP Cyber Security Standards (CIP-002-4 through CIP-009-4) as an interim step to address the more immediate concerns raised in FERC Order No. 706, paragraph 236, especially those associated with CIP-002's identification of Critical Assets and the risk-based methodology used for the identification. CIP-002-4, which included a bright-line based approach for criteria used to identify Critical Assets in lieu of an entity defined risk-based methodology, and the conforming changes to CIP-003 through CIP-009, was approved by the Board of Trustees in January of 2011. On September 15, 2011, FERC issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (RM11-11) to approve Version 4 of the Cyber Security Standards with a 60 day comment period.

This draft Version 5 of the NERC CIP Cyber Security Standards is intended to address the remaining standards related issues of FERC Order No. 706.

The SDT believes the NERC Version 5 CIP Cyber Security Standards provide a cyber security framework for the categorization and protection of BES Cyber Systems to support the reliable operation of the Bulk Electric System. These standards recognize the differing roles of each entity in the operation of the Bulk Electric System, the criticality and vulnerability of the cyber systems needed to support Bulk Electric System reliability, and the risks to which they are exposed.

Standards Development Process

The Standard Processes Manual 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 Monica Benson at monica.benson@nerc.net.

For more information or assistance, please contact Monica Benson, Standards Process Administrator, at monica.benson@nerc.net or at 404-446-2560.