



NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC  
RELIABILITY CORPORATION

## Standards Announcement

Initial Ballot October 28-November 7, 2010

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

The initial ballot window to vote on a proposed revision to the [Standard Processes Manual](#) is open from October 28 through **8 p.m. on November 7, 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>

### Background:

On September 3, 2010, FERC approved NERC's proposed Standards Processes Manual filed on June 10, 2010, subject to one modification. In the September 3 Order, FERC expressed its concern with NERC's classification of elements of a Reliability Standard (enforceable elements, informational elements, compliance elements) and whether these distinctions conflicted with previous direction provided in Order No. 693. In Order No. 693, FERC stated that the essential element of a Reliability Standard is its Requirement and that compliance with a standard will be determined by whether an entity complied with the Requirement.

In the September 3 Order, FERC directed NERC to submit a compliance filing within 90 days (by December 1, 2010), addressing FERC's concerns with the "Elements of a Reliability Standard" section of the Standards Processes Manual. FERC noted that NERC may either revise the "Elements of a Reliability Standard" section or may remove the designation of particular elements of a Reliability Standard as enforceable if these designations are determined to be unnecessary.

### Next Steps:

Voting results will be posted and announced after the ballot window closes. The drafting team will consider all stakeholder comments (those submitted with a comment form, and those submitted with a ballot) and will determine whether to make additional changes to the manual. The team will post its response to comments and, if the team has made either no changes or only minor changes, the team will post the Standard Processes Manual and conduct a 10-day recirculation ballot.

### Standards 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,  
Standards Process Administrator, at [monica.benson@nerc.net](mailto:monica.benson@nerc.net) or at 609.452.8060.*