

# Standards, Compliance, and Enforcement Bulletin

May 17–23, 2021

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## ACTIVE STANDARDS POSTINGS

### Current and Upcoming Ballots (ballot periods close at 8:00 p.m. Eastern)

Project	Action	Start Date	End Date
<a href="#">Project 2020-04 – Modifications to CIP-012</a>	<a href="#">Initial Ballots and Non-Binding Polls</a>	05/31/21	06/09/21

### Join Ballot Pools

Project	Action	Start Date	End Date
<a href="#">Project 2020-04 – Modifications to CIP-012</a>	<a href="#">Join Ballot Pools</a>	04/26/21	05/25/21

### Posted for Comment

Project	Action	Start Date	End Date
<a href="#">Project 2020-04 – Modifications to CIP-012</a>	<a href="#">Comment Period</a>	04/26/21	06/09/21

**OTHER ACTIVE COMMENT PERIODS**

**Posted for Comment**

Posting	Action	Start Date	End Date
<p><b>Comment Period Open for Midwest Reliability Organization Regional Reliability Standards Process Manual:</b> The proposed Midwest Reliability Organization Regional Reliability Standards Process Manual (MRO RRSPM) is posted for a 45-day comment period. Regional Reliability Standards development procedures, such as the MRO RRSPM, define a Regional Entity’s process for development, revision, reaffirmation, and withdrawal of a Regional Reliability Standard.</p>	<p>Use the <a href="#">Standards Balloting and Commenting System (SBS)</a> to submit comments. An unofficial Word version of the comment form is posted on the <a href="#">Regional Reliability Standards Under Development</a> page.</p>	<p>04/21/21</p>	<p>06/04/21</p>
<p><b>NEW Comment Period Open for Proposed Revisions to the NERC Rules of Procedure:</b> NERC is proposing a series of revisions to Section 300 (Reliability Standards Development), Appendix 3B (Procedures for Election of Members of the Standards Committee), and Appendix 3D (Development of the Registered Ballot Body) of its Rules of Procedure. The changes consist of updating language, staff titles, and processes, removing unnecessary or duplicative obligations, and clarifying roles and responsibilities.</p> <p>Redlined versions of NERC Rules of Procedure, title(s) of proposed revised ROP section(s) and/or appendices showing the proposed revisions are now available at: <a href="#">NERC Rules of Procedure</a>. In addition, the posting includes a separate document that provides a detailed summary of the proposed revisions at: <a href="#">Summary</a>. NERC intends to submit these changes to the NERC Board of Trustees for consideration at its August 2021 meeting.</p>	<p>Please submit comments electronically to <a href="mailto:ROPcomments@nerc.net">ROPcomments@nerc.net</a>.</p>	<p>05/14/21</p>	<p>06/28/21</p>

## STANDARDS NEWS

### **NEW Results for Standards Committee Segment 4 Special Election**

The Standards Committee (SC) nomination period for the special election for Segment 4 to fill the remainder of the 2021–2022 term closed April 20, 2021.

The following individuals were nominated to represent Segment 4:

- Alice Wright
- Karie L. Barczak

An election was held from April 29– May 10, 2021. After verification of votes cast, the following election results are considered final. Alice Wright received the majority vote and is elected to fill the remainder of the two-year term ending December 31, 2022.

### Quick Links

- [Register in the SBS](#)
- [Projected Standards Posting Schedule](#)
- [Project Tracking Spreadsheet](#)
- [2019–2021 Reliability Standards Development Plan](#)
- [Quality Review Application](#)
- [One-Stop Shop \(Status, Purpose, Implementation Plans, FERC Orders, RSAWs\)](#)
- [CIP Standards Efficiency Review](#)
- [Submit Questions or Feedback](#)

## GENERAL COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT NEWS

### **NEW ERO Enterprise Issues Extension of Self-Logging Program Expansion and Deferment of On-Site Activities**

In May 2020, the ERO Enterprise released guidance that provided regulatory relief related to registered entities' COVID-19 response and temporarily expanded the Self-Logging Program. As the pandemic progressed, the ERO Enterprise extended this [guidance](#) each of the past several quarters. Due to the ongoing pandemic, the ERO Enterprise is further extending this expansion through December 31, 2021, to allow all registered entities to self-log instances of potential noncompliance with minimal or moderate risk related to their COVID-19 response.

The ERO Enterprise will also continue to defer on-site audits through December 31, 2021. As COVID-19 cases and vaccine administration evolve, this will allow registered entities to continue to focus their resources on keeping their workforces safe and the lights on. The ERO Enterprise has had success throughout 2020 and into 2021 in coordinating remote virtual audits and other activities that were originally scheduled to be on-site, which will continue. On-site CMEP work remains an important part of assessing reliability and security, and the ERO Enterprise looks forward

### Quick Links

- [Compliance Monitoring & Enforcement Program One-Stop Shop](#)
- [CIP V5 Transition Program](#)
- [ERO Enterprise Program Alignment Process](#)
- [Consistency Reporting Tool \(EthicsPoint\)](#)
- [Risk-Based Registration Initiative](#)
- [Reliability Standard Audit Worksheets](#)
- [Enforcement & Mitigation: Enforcement Actions](#)
- [Align Project \(formerly CMEP Technology Project\)](#)

to resuming on-site work when it is safe to do so. When that happens, the ERO Enterprise will coordinate on-site activities in a manner that prioritizes risk and safety.

While the ERO Enterprise will continue to evaluate the circumstances, given anticipated developments in COVID-19 response throughout 2021, it anticipates that this extension will be the final extension of this guidance.

### **NEW ERO Enterprise Deploys Release 1 of Align and the ERO SEL in WECC Region**

The ERO Enterprise is excited to announce the Release 1 launch of Align and the ERO Secure Evidence Locker (SEL) for WECC as of May 10, 2021. Align and the ERO SEL are tools designed to process and track all compliance monitoring and enforcement activities with the goal of improving security and standardizing processes across the ERO Enterprise.

WECC is joining MRO, NERC, and Texas RE, which have been using Align and the ERO SEL since March 31, 2021. This launch marks an important milestone for the Align project, and Release 1 deployment will continue across the ERO Enterprise through May 24, 2021. Release 1 includes self-reporting/self-logging, enforcement processing, and mitigation functionality in Align, as well as the use of the ERO SEL to collect registered entity-provided evidence as part of the ERO Enterprise's CMEP activities. Subsequent releases will introduce new functionalities to the platform throughout 2021.

“We are excited that Align has arrived in the Western Interconnection and are certain our registered entities in the West will soon see the benefits from a consistent CMEP reporting platform along with a secure method of managing and storing evidence and data,” said Melanie M. Frye, president and CEO of WECC. “Throughout this and subsequent releases, we stand ready to perform our functions within Align and to assist entities in any way possible to help create a smooth transition.”

Numerous resources have been developed to assist users, including registered and Regional Entity newsletters, webinars, and a frequently asked questions document, which are available on the [Align page](#). Additionally, [the NERC Training Site](#) contains all Align and ERO SEL training materials, including training videos and the Start, Stop, Continue Guide as well as Align and ERO SEL user guides.

### **NEW BES Artifact Submittal Exception Process Posted**

On May 14, 2020, the ERO Enterprise published the [Bulk Electric System \(BES\) Artifact Submittal Exception Process](#). The process provides an alternative framework for the Compliance Enforcement Authority and a registered entity to collaborate on effective and secure evidence submittal in certain cases when a registered entity prefers to take additional measures, at its own expense, to submit certain sensitive information outside of the ERO SEL. While the use of this alternative framework is limited to highly sensitive information as identified on the

Cyber Security Artifact list, attached to the process as Appendix A, the ERO Enterprise anticipates that the majority of registered entities will use the ERO SEL, or their own SEL. Registered entities that choose to coordinate alternate means according to this process must separately coordinate with NERC and any applicable governmental authorities to provide the evidence in a manner convenient to NERC and authorized government agencies (AGAs) should NERC or the AGA determine it needs to review evidence, as it will not be available in the ERO SEL (e.g., as part of NERC’s regular oversight of REs or in support of reviewing enforcement actions). Additional questions should be submitted to [AskAlign@nerc.net](mailto:AskAlign@nerc.net).

## OTHER NEWS

### NEW Webinar Resources Posted

NERC has posted the [presentation](#) and [streaming webinar](#) from the April 28, 2021 NERC Energy Management System Performance Special Assessment webinar.

## STANDARDS SUBJECT TO FUTURE ENFORCEMENT

Please refer to the [U.S. Effective Dates page](#) for the most up-to-date information on effective dates and for more detail on the below.

### U.S. Effective Dates for Reliability Standards

U.S. Effective Date	Standard(s)
July 1, 2021	<a href="#">TPL-007-4 – Transmission System Planned Performance for Geomagnetic Disturbance Events (Requirements R12 and R13)</a>
January 1, 2022	<a href="#">PRC-012-2 – Remedial Action Schemes (Requirement R9)</a>
	<a href="#">TPL-007-4 – Transmission System Planned Performance for Geomagnetic Disturbance Events (Requirements R6, 6.1–6.4, R10, 10.1–10.4)</a>
July 1, 2022	<a href="#">CIP-012-1 – Cyber Security – Communications between Control Centers</a>
	<a href="#">PRC-002-2 – Disturbance Monitoring and Reporting Requirements (100% compliance for Requirements R2–R4, R6–R11)</a>
October 1, 2022	<a href="#">CIP-005-7 – Cyber Security – Electronic Security Perimeter(s)</a>
	<a href="#">CIP-010-4 – Cyber Security – Configuration Change Management and Vulnerability Assessments</a>
	<a href="#">CIP-013-2 – Cyber Security - Supply Chain Risk Management</a>
	<a href="#">PRC-024-3 – Frequency and Voltage Protection Settings for Generating Resources</a>
January 1, 2023	<a href="#">TPL-007-4 – Transmission System Planned Performance for Geomagnetic Disturbance Events (Requirements R3, R4, 4.1.4.1.1–4.1.2, 4.2, 4.3, 4.3.1, R8, 8.1, 8.1.1–8.1.2, 8.2, 8.3, 8.3.1)</a>
July 1, 2023	<a href="#">TPL-001-5.1 – Transmission System Planning Performance Requirements</a>   <a href="#">Implementation Plan</a>

January 1, 2024

[TPL-007-4 – Transmission System Planned Performance for Geomagnetic Disturbance Events \(Requirements R7, 7.1–7.3, 7.3.1–7.3.2, 7.4, 7.4.1–7.4.3, 7.5, 7.5.1, R11, 11.1–11.3, 11.3.1–11.3.2, 11.4, 11.4.1–11.4.3, 11.5, and 11.5.1\)](#)

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND FERC ACTION

### **NEW Electric–Gas Interdependencies, Potential Summer Energy Shortfalls are Focus of Board Discussions**

Critical infrastructure interdependencies and potential energy shortfalls this summer were featured during NERC’s quarterly Board of Trustees meeting. Participants emphasized that cyber risk and extreme weather are significant threats to reliability that demand continuous vigilance by all stakeholders.

Opening remarks were made by Nick Akins, chief executive officer (CEO) at American Electric Power; James Danly, commissioner at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC); Patricia Hoffman, acting assistant secretary at the Department of Energy’s (DOE’s) Office of Electricity; and David Morton, CAMPUT representative to NERC. For the full announcement, click [here](#).

### **NEW FERC Open Meeting Agenda Posted**

FERC released the [Sunshine Agenda](#) for its upcoming May 20, 2021 open meeting. There is one item directly related to NERC’s responsibilities under section 215 of the Federal Power Act:

- E-8 - RM05-5-029, RM05-5-030 - Standards for Business Practices and Communication Protocols for Public Utilities

## UPCOMING EVENTS

For information about other NERC events, such as meetings and conference calls for other standing committees, subcommittees, task forces, and working groups, please refer to the [NERC calendar](#).

### **Workshops and Conferences**

There are no workshops or conferences currently scheduled.

### **Webinars**

- Project 2020-04 – Modifications to CIP-012 webinar – 2:00–3:00 p.m. Eastern, May 18, 2021 | **UPDATED** [Register](#)

### **Standing Committee Meetings and Conference Calls**

- Personnel Certification Governance Committee Meeting – May 17–21, 2021 | [Agenda](#)

- **NEW** Reliability Issues Steering Committee Meeting – 1:00–3:00 p.m. Eastern, May 19, 2021 | [Register](#) | [Agenda](#)
- Standards Committee Conference Call – 1:00–3:00 p.m. Eastern, May 19, 2021 | [Register](#) | **NEW** [Agenda](#)
- Standards Committee Conference Call – 1:00–3:00 p.m. Eastern, June 16, 2021 | [Register](#)

### **Standard Drafting Team Meetings and Conference Calls**

- Project 2020-03 – Supply Chain Low Impact Revisions Drafting Team Conference Call – 3:00–4:30 p.m. Eastern, May 19, 2021 | [Register](#)
- Project 2019-04 – Modifications to PRC-005-6 Drafting Team Conference Call – 1:30–3:30 p.m. Eastern, May 21, 2021 | [Register](#)
- Project 2017-01 – Phase II Modifications to BAL-003 Standard Drafting Team Conference Call – 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Eastern, May 25, 2021 | [Register](#)

### **Regional Entity and Industry Events**

- **NEW** SERC Extreme Weather Webinar – 8:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Eastern, May 18, 2021 | [Register](#) | [Agenda](#)
- Texas RE CIP Workshop – 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. Central, June 3, 2021 | [Register](#)
- ReliabilityFirst Operational Resilience Webinar – 11:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Eastern, June 8, 2021 | [Register](#)

## **ABOUT THE STANDARDS, COMPLIANCE, AND ENFORCEMENT BULLETIN**

This weekly bulletin compiles a list of standards, compliance, and enforcement projects with actionable deadlines, as well as upcoming events, recently posted resources, other NERC documents posted for comment, and other relevant news and information. Please email [Amy Klagholz](#) with feedback on this bulletin. The current bulletin and old bulletins are available under “Program News” on both the [Standards home page](#) and the [Compliance & Enforcement home page](#).

If you would like to receive this bulletin or be added to the distribution list for a particular project, please submit a ticket through the [Help Desk](#). Select the “NERC Email Distribution List” option under the “Applications” menu. In the Description Box, please specify which lists you would like your email address to be added to or note which announcements you would like to receive. This bulletin is distributed to several lists, including the Standards distro list (Standards-specific announcements) and the NERC-info distro list (most NERC announcements).