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Subject: Important- Ballot on Project 2013-03 Geomagnetic Disturbance Mitigation TPL-007-2
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Importance: High

NPCC Members and Entities of the NERC Registered Ballot,

An initial ballot and non-binding poll for **TPL-007-2 - Transmission System Planned Performance for Geomagnetic Disturbance Events** and the associated Violation Risk Factors and Violation Severity Levels will be conducted **August 2-11, 2017**. NPCC and some representatives have directly participated in the drafting of this standard. The standard was revised to address four specific FERC Directives outlined in Order 830. These Directives were:

- Modify the benchmark GMD event definition used for GMD Vulnerability Assessments;
- Make related modifications to requirements pertaining to transformer thermal impact assessments;
- Require collection of GMD-related data. NERC is directed to make data available; and
- Require deadlines for Corrective Action Plans (CAPs) and GMD mitigating actions

The modification suggestions to the SDT made by NPCC to the SDT were taken under consideration during the drafting of this version. Specifically, the enhancement of the benchmark event and supplemental analysis, which is now being proposed to be done in a manner similar to how we assess extreme contingencies in the planning process. This equates to application of the enhanced **event** (localized peak geoelectric fields) and determining the effect on the system but not requiring a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) to correct any system issues, rather, only require an analysis of potential mitigation of those instances where Cascading potential exists.

The Regional Standards Committee RSC has discussed the proposed draft and Implementation Plan. The RSC has not reached full consensus on a ballot position. Minority opinions expressed to date have been on implementation issues and also previous concerns with the level of the benchmark event originally in version 1 of the standard (excessive) remain. However, the changes in this draft seem to strike an acceptable balance between what needs to be done to address the FERC Directives, and with weighing risk and costs to mitigate those risks.

In formulating your organization's ballot position please also take into consideration the importance of gaining an understanding of the effect of an enhanced geoelectric field on the grid through the supplemental analysis and additional transformer thermal studies. This analysis will help the industry identify weaknesses to very extreme GMD events and facilitate future planning to increase grid resiliency. In addition, this supplemental analysis will serve to lay a foundation to better understand the effects of a high geo-electric field on the grid

potentially caused by Electromagnetic Pulse (EMP) or other phenomena on the interconnected transmission system in North America.

NPCC as the regional entity, with respect to the work done to address the FERC Directives, the timeframe, and of the drafting team's acceptance of our input, will be supporting the standard and non-binding poll.

Information on the draft standard may be found on the NERC project page on the website at:

<http://www.nerc.com/pa/Stand/Pages/Project-2013-03-Geomagnetic-Disturbance-Mitigation.aspx>

If you have any questions please contact me.

Thank-you,

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