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NPCC Emergency Preparedness Communications Procedures

Approved by the NPCC Task Force on Coordination of Operation (TFCO)
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NPCC Emergency Preparedness Communications Procedures

I. **Introduction**

The NPCC Emergency Preparedness Conference Call establishes communications among the Operations Managers of the Reliability Coordinator (RC) Areas in NPCC to discuss issues related to the adequacy and security of the interconnected bulk power supply system of the Northeast Power Coordinating Council. The NPCC Emergency Preparedness Conference Call mechanism is a tool that augments the weekly and daily conference call procedures, as defined in Appendix F, "Procedure for Operational Planning Coordination," in NPCC Regional Reliability Reference Directory 1, “Design and Operation of the Bulk Power System,” to enable the RC Area Operations Managers in NPCC, and, as required, their counterparts in neighboring Regions, to rapidly communicate the status of current operating conditions and facilitate the procurement of assistance during emergency conditions as outlined in Appendix F of Directory 1.

To enhance its efficiency, participants in the NPCC Emergency Preparedness Conference Call are confined to the RC Area Operations Manager or his or her designated alternate, the NPCC Staff, and, as conditions require, their respective counterparts in the PJM Interconnection (PJM) and the Midwest ISO (MISO). However, this conference call is not intended to preclude direct communications among the control room operators as conditions at the moment dictate. The NPCC Emergency Preparedness Conference Call is initiated upon the request of any Area Operations Manager, or NPCC Staff, and is coordinated through the RC Area control rooms.

These procedures may be revised at any time as the need arises by the NPCC System Operations Managers Working Group (CO-8).

II. **Emergency Preparedness Conference Call Procedures**

The conference call will be requested, and initiated, by any of the five NPCC RC Area Operations Managers, or his or her designated alternate, or NPCC Staff, and each party will dial into the call. The conference call is initiated through the following numbers and codes:

**REDACTED**

In addition to the control room notifications specified below, the requesting party should send a meeting invite notification to the NPCC RC Area Operations Managers, or his or her designated alternate, NPCC Staff and PJM and/or MISO representatives, if requested. The NPCC RC Area Operations Manager requesting the call will disseminate the conference call notification to the Operations Managers of the other NPCC RC Areas and NPCC Staff, through his or her control room, and will chair the call. The conference call notification will include
the time of the Emergency Preparedness Conference Call and the following information for participant entry into the call:

REDACTED

The operations staff of each NPCC RC Area control room will advise his or her Operations Manager of the call. In the event the RC Area Operations Manager cannot be notified, the senior operator will provide participation in the call for his or her RC Area.

The NPCC RC Area Operations Manager requesting the call will, at his or her discretion, arrange for the participation of PJM and / or the MISO. The NPCC RC Area or RC Areas adjacent to the neighboring regions whose participation is desired will communicate the necessary conference call information.

The NPCC RC Area Operations Manager requesting an Emergency Preparedness Conference Call may, at his or her discretion, also request NPCC Staff to facilitate the conference call. In this case, the NPCC Staff representative will arrange for the call and provide the conference call notification and above conference call information to the senior operator of the New York ISO, who will in turn notify the remaining NPCC RC Areas.

If NPCC Staff requests an Emergency Preparedness Conference Call, the NPCC Staff representative will initiate the call by notifying the Operations Manager of the New York ISO control room, or, if unavailable, the senior operator of the New York ISO control room on duty. The NPCC Staff representative will provide the conference call notification and above conference call information to the senior operator of the New York ISO, who will in turn notify the remaining NPCC RC Areas.

NPCC Staff will be contacted during normal business hours at 212-840-1070. During weekend or evening hours, the telephone request may be directed to any of the following members of the NPCC Staff:

REDACTED

Upon completion of the conference call, NPCC Staff will prepare summary notes of the conference call discussions. The summary notes of each NPCC Emergency Preparedness Conference Call will be distributed to the members of the Working Group CO-08, the alternate representatives to the Working Group CO-08 and participants on the conference call. The confidentiality of the information exchanged must be maintained, and those operational authorities authorized to receive the information must demonstrate real time system operations responsibility.
If an additional NPCC Emergency Preparedness Conference Call is deemed necessary, the time and date agreed upon during the preceding conference call will be recorded at the end of the summary notes.

III. Conduct of the Emergency Preparedness Conference Call

Participation in the Emergency Preparedness Conference Call discussions will be by exception, limited to those systems experiencing or projecting resource deficiencies and those systems in a position to provide assistance. The entity initiating the call will begin the call and chair the discussion, summarizing its overall resource situation, particular system problems and projected operating conditions. In turn, each system similarly experiencing or projecting resource deficiencies will then discuss its overall resource situation, particular system problems and projected operating conditions. Subsequent discussion will be limited to a brief summary of the level and type of assistance available from those conference call participants in a position to support those systems experiencing or projecting resource deficiencies.

Items of particular concern that can be discussed during the Emergency Preparedness Conference Calls may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- anticipated weather only as it is critical to the system or systems experiencing or projecting resource deficiencies
- load forecast
- largest first and second contingencies
- potential need for emergency transfers
- operating reserve requirements and expected available operating reserve capacity deficiencies
- potential fuel shortages or potential fuel supply disruptions which could lead to energy shortfalls
- identified or projected voltage conditions
- status of short term contracts and other scheduled arrangements, particularly those that impact operating reserves
- additional capability available within four hours and additional capability available within twelve hours
- coordination of pumping schedules
- any problems that might develop due to light load and minimum generation requirements
- generator outages that may have a significant impact on an adjacent RC Area or neighboring system
- transmission outages that may have an adverse impact on internal and external energy transfers
- expected transfer limits and limiting elements
- anticipated implementation of NERC Transmission Loading Relief (TLR) procedures
• the temporary modification or changes in the status of relay protection systems such that the normal levels of protection will not be provided
• the arming of special protection systems not normally armed
• the application of abnormal operating procedures

IV. **Operator Communications During an Emergency**

It is the responsibility of the operator of any system or **Area** to inform the appropriate Reliability Coordinator and other systems and **Areas** whenever it anticipates or experiences an **emergency** or abnormal condition. The Reliability Coordinator will assist the operator in the dissemination of the information if requested. Prompt notice of such conditions should be communicated to:

• **The NERC Reliability Coordinator Hotline**

  The RC Hotline provides a means of exchanging information considered to be critical to the safe and reliable operation of the interconnected systems. Conditions including, but not limited to, the following may warrant initiation of an RC Hotline call:

  • Energy Emergency Alert (EEA) Level 3
  • Abnormal weather related conditions
  • Large or unexplainable loop flows
  • Expected capacity deficiencies
  • Expected transmission constraints
  • Bulk electric system damage
  • Large frequency deviations
  • Physical security (actual or anticipated) with possible impact on reliability issues
  • Blackstart communications (if available)
  • Other abnormal conditions

• **Neighboring areas via the Reliability Coordinator Information System (RCIS)**

  It is the responsibility of any system or **Area** to inform the appropriate Reliability Coordinators, other systems and **Areas** whenever it is not able to operate within the NPCC operating criteria or its status is burdening or reducing the **reliability** of the Eastern Interconnection.

V. **Monthly Emergency Preparedness Conference Call Test Procedure**

a. **Test Schedule**

  The monthly Emergency Preparedness Conference Call test should be conducted on the second Tuesday of each month. If that Tuesday is a holiday, test should be performed on the next day (Wednesday). The test
should be conducted between 10 AM and noon. The participating organizations are IESO, ISO-NE, NB Power, NPCC, NYISO and HQ-TransÉnergie. The monthly test call rotation is specified below.

b. General Testing Procedure

The facilitator of the test, in accordance with the rotation schedule, on the morning of the test day, will disseminate the conference call notification to the Operations Managers of the other NPCC RC Areas and NPCC Staff, through his or her control room, and will chair the call. In addition to the control room notifications, the requesting party should send a meeting invite notification to the NPCC RC Area Operations Managers, or his or her designated alternate, NPCC Staff and PJM and/or MISO representatives, if requested.

The conference call notification will include the time of the Emergency Preparedness Conference Call and the information for participant entry into the call utilizing conference call numbers specified in Section II above. This notification shall clearly indicate that the purpose of the call is a monthly test.

Upon receiving the notification of the test, the operations staff of each NPCC RC Area control room will advise his or her Operations Manager of the call. In the event the RC Area Operations Manager cannot be notified, the senior operator will provide participation in the call for his or her RC Area.

The NPCC RC Area Operations Manager facilitating the call will, at his or her discretion, arrange for the participation of PJM and/or the MISO. The NPCC RC Area or RC Areas adjacent to the neighboring regions whose participation is desired will communicate the necessary conference call information.

The monthly test call discussion would normally be limited to the verification by the initiating RC of the attendance of the required participants to confirm successful implementation of the notification and execution of the Emergency Preparedness conference call. At the conclusion of the participant attendance the facilitator of the call will inquire if any of the Areas have any issues or would like to discuss any system conditions covered in Section III of this document.

Monthly test would be required unless an actual Emergency Preparedness Conference call is conducted in the course of daily operations and was initiated by the RC Area responsible for performing a scheduled test for the current or the following month.
Working Group CO-08
Monthly Emergency Preparedness Conference Call Test Rotation

IESO  January
NPCC  February
NBPower  March
HQTE  April
New York ISO  May
ISO-NE  June
IESO  July
NPCC  August
NBPower  September
HQTE  October
New York ISO  November
ISO-NE  December

Lead Task Force: NPCC Task Force on Coordination of Operation
Review frequency: 3 Years