Background Information

In May 2011, the Standards Committee appointed a standing CIP Interpretation Drafting Team for the development of CIP Interpretations. A project team from the CIP Interpretation Drafting Team has reviewed OGE’s request for interpretation and developed this interpretation pursuant to the NERC Guidelines for Interpretation Drafting Teams. (Available at: http://www.nerc.com/files/Guidelines_for_Interpretation_Drafting_Teams_Approved_April_2011.pdf)

The stated purpose of CIP-002-3 is, in part, to “provide a cyber security framework for the identification and protection of Critical Cyber Assets to support reliable operation of the Bulk Electric System.” (emphasis added). Paragraph 4 of the purpose specifies that CIP-002-3 “requires the identification and documentation of the Critical Cyber Assets associated with the Critical Assets that support the reliable operation of the Bulk Electric System. These Critical Assets are to be identified through the application of a risk-based assessment.” (emphasis added).

Pursuant to CIP-002-3, Requirement R1, the Responsible Entity must identify and document a risk-based assessment methodology (“RBAM”) and use the RBAM to identify its Critical Assets, if any. In determining which of its assets may constitute Critical Assets, the RBAM shall consider, pursuant to CIP-002-3, Requirement R1.2.5: “Systems and facilities critical to automatic load shedding under a common control system capable of shedding 300 MW or more.”

To the extent something is “critical to automatic load shedding under a common control system capable of shedding 300 MW or more” for the purpose of supporting reliable operation of the Bulk Electric System, the RBAM shall consider that system or facility. The RBAM drives a facts- and circumstance-based determination, which is not dependent on technology or specific types of systems or facilities. The IDT acknowledges that AMI is one of several technologies that a Responsible Entity may consider in determining applicability under CIP-002-3. AMI is an example of a technology to consider under an RBAM.

The interpretation drafting team notes that Requirement R1.2 requires the RBAM to “consider” whether the assets described in Requirement R1.2.5 should be designated as Critical
Assets. Each year, during the annual approval required under Requirement R4, a Responsible Entity that owns an AMI system should re-consider whether its AMI system is a Critical Asset pursuant to Requirement R1.2.5.

Applying these requirements to the remote connect or disconnect functionality associated with advanced metering infrastructure (AMI), the drafting team concludes in its interpretation that AMI is not a Critical Asset under R1.2.5 so long as the AMI is not designed to or cannot, without human operator intervention, shed a load of 300MW or more.

**You do not have to answer all questions. Enter All Comments in Simple Text Format.**

Please review the request for an interpretation, the associated standard, and the draft interpretation and then answer the following questions.

1. Do you agree with this interpretation? If not, what, specifically, do you disagree with? Please provide specific suggestions or proposals for any alternative language.
   - [x] Yes
   - [ ] No

   Comments: