



MEDIA RELEASE

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NPCC Cites Actions Taken Since August 2003 Blackout To Enhance Electric Reliability

New York, NY -- 8/13/04 – The Regional organization that oversees international electric power grid reliability for Northeastern North America -- the Northeast Power Coordinating Council (NPCC) -- today cited a number of actions taken in response to last year's widespread blackout.

Edward Schwerdt, NPCC's Executive Director, noted that the strengthening of Regional, mandatory reliability criteria; the enhancement of the NPCC Reliability Compliance Program to include vegetation management and readiness reviews; the revision of the NPCC Regional Reliability Plan, which defines the operational authorities and responsibilities within the Northeast; and, the implementation of numerous "lessons learned" from the investigations of the event are concrete steps taken by NPCC to enhance reliability.

Immediately following last year's power system collapse, NPCC formed the NPCC 2003 Blackout Investigative Team to work in conjunction with the U.S.-Canada Task Force and NERC. The assessment involved scores of experts from the United States and Canada, working together, to analyze and simulate, through extensive computer modeling, the events of the blackout.

In addition to detailing the blackout's critical sequence of events within NPCC, the investigative team's effort provided lessons learned from the power restoration experience, and recommended measures to prevent or mitigate a similar event in the future.

The recommendations involve: enhancing procedures and operator training, improving the communications between grid operators, strengthening of existing NPCC criteria and compliance requirements, as well as providing better tools for operators to monitor and manage a major system disturbance. NPCC's Chairman, Charles J. Durkin, Jr., stated, "NPCC is committed to building on the lessons learned by implementing blackout recommendations to assure a reliable power system."

A summary report of the NPCC 2003 Blackout Investigative Team's findings and recommendations is posted on the NPCC website, www.npcc.org.

The Northeast Power Coordinating Council (NPCC) is the independent organization responsible for coordinating the reliability of the international, interconnected bulk power system in the Northeastern United States and Eastern Canada through the establishment of mandatory electric system reliability criteria, coordination of planning and grid operation, regular reliability assessments, and compliance with established criteria.
