



Northeast Power Coordinating Council, Inc. Regional Standards Committee Work Plan for Calendar Years 2016-2017

The following Regional Standards Committee (RSC) Work Plan activities for the calendar years of 2016 -2017 will be consistent with the NPCC 2016 and 2017 Business Plans and Budgets, Organizational and Strategic Goals both approved and in draft and will also continue to be supportive of the ongoing cost effective and results based standard development efforts. Also, the Work Plan is responsive to the NERC Reliability Standards Development Process and ERO strategic goals. In 2016-2017, expedited standards project schedules and enhanced periodic reviews of standards with the goal of achieving a “steady-state” of standard development will be the focus of the RSC.

Core Reliability Standards Committee Functions

- Monitor NERC’s Reliability Issues Steering Committee (RISC) top reliability related issues and priorities for potential incorporation into NERC standards, for removal from standards or for incorporation into guidelines or other non-standards solutions. Provide and coordinate NPCC’s input into those decisions.
- Coordinate and provide input to the development and prioritization of ERO reliability standards within the NERC Reliability Standards Development Plan.
- Review and support the ERO results-based standards initiative and ongoing standards development work towards the ERO goal of a ‘steady-state’ of standard development which is defined to be a core set of results-based standards achieving an adequate level of reliability and subject to little change.
- Promote the steady-state standards initiative throughout the Northeast.
- Continue to provide input to the development of a model for consideration of costs in NERC’s Standards Development program. [Cost of Risk Reduction Analysis (CRRA) first draft and pilot.]
- Oversee, and participate in the regional standards development process and base any development, revision or retirement of NPCC Regional Reliability Standards on the reliability related needs of the Region or continent-wide ERO standards.
- Engage in the newly approved NERC Compliance Policy Guidance program.¹ Support the inputs through the NPCC Compliance Committee regarding the NERC CMEP Guidance Program.
- Coordinate NPCC Regional Standards development activity with the development of standards appearing in the NERC Reliability Standards Development Plan.
- Coordinate NPCC participation in the review and the revision of NERC Standards and addressing directives from FERC and any Provincial regulatory directives through the Enhanced Periodic Review process.
- Address emerging issues FERC might have with the NPCC Regional Standard Processes to promote consistency and support the ERO One Enterprise model.
- Conduct thorough reviews of all NERC Standards being developed or revised, and coordinate timely comments within the NPCC Region based on reliability needs, results based requirements,

¹Application Guidance will require RSC support to ERO and Regional leadership to determine validity of proposed compliance approaches.

Paragraph 81, FERC directives and Enhanced Periodic Reviews.

- Develop and submit Standard Authorization Requests (SARs) for revisions when necessary to improve a Standard and address reliability related issues for approved or draft Standards.
- Develop ballot recommendations or “issues statements” for all NERC Standards under development.
- Review and develop ballot recommendations for all NERC Formal Interpretations to Standards.
- Identify candidates for NERC Standards Drafting Team members from the NPCC region to provide the NPCC perspective on Standards development.
- Provide guidance to NPCC regional Standard Drafting Teams in critical areas of results-based Standards, Violation Severity Levels, and Violation Risk Factor development as well as ensuring quality.
- Respond to FERC and Provincial filings and interrogatories on issues related to regional Standards.
- Serve as a liaison for the Northeast to the NERC Reliability Issues Steering Committee for all new and emerging reliability risks to the BES.
- Participate in the proceedings of various NERC groups to contribute to the continual improvement of NERC Standards and processes. These groups include but are not limited to:
 - NERC Standards Committee (SC)
 - NERC Standards Committee Process Subcommittee (SCPS)
 - NERC Project Management Oversight Subcommittee (PMOS)
 - NERC Functional Model Advisory Group (FMAG)
 - NERC SAR and Standards Drafting Teams (SDTs)
 - NERC Reliability Issues Steering Committee (RISC)
- Manage the development and revision of the regional reliability Directories including criteria clarifications as necessary and review all criteria to ensure consistency with NERC or regional Reliability Standards.
- Promote the NPCC criteria as being more specific or more stringent. Coordinate efforts with the NPCC Compliance Committee to facilitate further development of the NPCC Criteria Compliance Enforcement Program (CCEP) via Phase 2 of the Directory Project which was initiated to reformat the criteria section of each Directory into measurable NERC-style requirements.

NPCC Standard Activities

- Review the need for and development of regional Standards and requirements utilizing the NPCC Regional Standard Processes Manual if directed by the ERO as per Section 300 of the NERC Rules of Procedure, or as needed in response to the revision or development of the ERO standard(s).
- Address any outstanding issues with the regulatory authorities in the U.S. and all applicable Provincial authorities for regional Standards.
- Address any outstanding issues with the regulatory authorities in the U.S. and all applicable Provincial authorities for Regional Standard Authorization Requests (RSARs).
- Review and initiate action on RSARs upon their acceptance by NPCC’s Regional Standards Process Manager.
- Coordinate development of initial drafts of new or revised regional Standards for drafting teams to begin work with as necessary.
- Develop proposed standards and clarifications utilizing regional technical committees as assigned by the NPCC Reliability Coordinating Committee or RSC.
- Work with the NPCC CC to develop the necessary compliance elements of the regional Standards, for example, Violation Severity Levels (VSLs).
- Implement the NPCC Cost Effective Analysis Procedure and apply it to Directories being revised or developed, and promote and participate in the NERC Cost of Risk Reduction Analysis (CRRRA) application to the ERO draft continent-wide Standards.
- Review NERC SARs, Standards, and interpretations, and provide comments as well as participate in NERC processes.
- Ensure that the appropriate NPCC Task Forces review NERC Standards-related issuances, and provide input to support a consensus opinion.

- Solicit technically qualified candidates from NPCC to participate on each of the NERC Standard Drafting Teams and additional members to the regional drafting teams. Ensure sufficient regional representation exists on the drafting teams.
- Review FERC rulings and communicate the rulings to the NPCC Members and coordinate the issues for the Members.
- Participate in ballots for ERO Standards and provide recommended comments and ballot positions to the NPCC Members of the NERC Registered Ballot Body.
- Educate and notify stakeholders and regulators about issues related to Standards development.
- Provide a forum for NPCC review of proposed and posted documents from the NERC Critical Infrastructure Protection Committee (CIPC) and NPCC Task Force on Infrastructure Security and Technology (TFIST), and other NPCC Task Forces and Working Groups.
- Achieve NPCC reliability goals and objectives by initiating and efficiently completing Standards development activities.
- Leverage internet and web-based tool functionality to ensure interregional consistency, uniformity, and quality of regional Reliability Standards.
- Establish a long-term strategy for Standards improvement (i.e. feedback mechanisms from compliance and event analysis), and initiate implementation.
- Ensure the topics addressed by Reliability Standards reflect changing industry needs.
- Identify potential market issues for regional Standards through NPCC Reliability Coordinating Committee (RCC) reviews.
- Process Improvement
 - Coordinate implementation of the NERC Standards development processes and NPCC regional Standard processes and recommend revisions as necessary.
 - Participate in the revision and redrafting of the NERC Rules and Procedures related to standards development such as, but not limited to:
 - The NERC Functional Model Working Group (FMWG)
 - The NERC Regional Standards Group (RSG)
 - The NERC Standards Committee (SC)
 - The NERC Standards Committee Process Subcommittee (SCPS)
 - Establish goals/targets for NERC and NPCC Standards procedure improvement.
- Streamline and improve the regional standards process and continue to enhance program tools.
- Communications
 - Strengthen the relationship with the industry’s technical committees to ensure adequate input to standards development.
 - Sponsor NPCC Workshops and participate in NERC Workshops to promote awareness and educate the industry in Standards-related activities.
 - Promote the reliability objectives of NERC Standards as appropriate to NPCC Members of the NERC Registered Ballot Body.
 - Educate and inform industry stakeholders through web-based tools such as “Webinars” and participation in NERC Reliability Standards Workshops, as necessary.
 - Update and inform governmental regulators and/or authorities on the Standards development work plan and processes through individual project discussions and NPCC meetings/conferences.
 - Develop Standards program communications that support NERC’s overall communications platform.
 - Accomplish all directives of ERO and governmental and/or regulatory authorities with regard to regional Standards development and procedures.
 - Adhere to and surpass the ERO Reliability Standards Work Plan milestones, when practical, as they pertain to targets for the regional Standards.

NPCC Directory Criteria Activities

- Coordinate activities with the regulatory authorities in the U.S. and all applicable Provincial authorities for NPCC Directories.
- Coordinate Directory criteria requirements with regional Standards requirements to ensure no inconsistencies exist and identify potential areas for improvements.

- Develop filing for the Directories for the New York State Public Service Commission to fulfill obligations for the “Carve-out” outlined in Order 672 for mandatory adherence to more stringent regional criteria for New York State.
 - Develop filings of Directories as required with the Provincial authorities as per the various Memorandums of Understanding.
 - Communications
 - Develop and maintain NPCC Reliability Directories and NPCC guidance documents which will enable users, owners and operators of the international Bulk Power System in the Region to apply the more stringent NPCC regionally-specific criteria.
 - Identify future regional Standard opportunities by developing a set of regional reliability Directories incorporating the ERO Reliability Standards, regional Standards and regionally-specific more stringent criteria.
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RSC 2016-2017 Deliverables

- Solicit and develop comments for all NERC Reliability Standards related postings, highlighting issues detrimental to the reliability of the Northeast, and develop consensus suggestions to address those issues.
- Participate and coordinate NPCC’s input during the Enhanced Periodic Reviews of NERC Standards
- Coordinate and oversee the review of the NPCC regional Standards based on FERC approved NERC Standards and potential revisions and retirements to NPCC’s Standards.
- Develop ballot recommendations and/or issues notifications for all posted NERC Standards ballots.
- Review NPCC Directory criteria to ensure consistency with NERC Reliability Standards.
- Participate in further development and application of the NERC Cost of Risk Reduction Analysis (CRR).
- Participate in the revision of Section 11 of the ERO Standards Process Manual and Appendix 3A of the NERC ROP as necessary, to support compliance guidance policy activities.
- Participate in the revision of Section 7 of the ERO Standards Process Manual in response to FERC 5 year assessment concerns.
- Participate in two NPCC Standards and Compliance Workshops.
- Participate in two NERC Standards Workshops.
- Support the Compliance Guidance Policy’s Application Guidance Development.