NERC
NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY CORPORATION

Standards Announcement
Initial Ballot Results

Now available at: https://standards.nerc.net/Ballots.aspx

Project 2007-07: Transmission Vegetation Management
The initial ballot for proposed standard FAC-003-2 — Transmission Vegetation Management ended on July 19, 2010.

Ballot Results
Voting statistics are listed below, and the Ballot Results Web page provides a link to the detailed results:

Quorum: 86.18 %
Approval: 65.93 %

Since at least one negative ballot included a comment, and the affirmative votes did not meet the threshold for approval, these results are not final. Another comment and ballot period will be conducted.

Violation Risk Factor (VRF) and Violation Severity Level (VSL) Non-binding Poll Results
Only 6% of the non-binding polls for VRFs and VSLs were returned, rendering the results inconclusive. By comparison, the Underfrequency Load Shedding, Protection System Maintenance and Testing, Backup Facilities, and Transmission Loading Relief standards all had greater than 80% of the non-binding polls for VRFs and VSLs returned with an opinion.

Next Steps
The drafting team must draft and post responses to comments received through the public comment period and the initial ballot. The response to comments and proposed revisions will be posted for a 30-day comment period, and a "successive ballot" will be conducted during the last ten days of that 30-day comment period. A non-binding poll of the proposed VRFs and VSLs will also be conducted during the last ten days of the 30-day comment period.

Project Background
The project is an update to FAC-003-1, which was approved in 2006. The items identified for revision include the incorporation of FERC Order 693 comments related to applicability, procedural repairs to conform to the current standards format and development procedure, technical updates and guidance to address stakeholder suggestions, and the elimination of "fill-in-the-blank" components.

More information is available on the project page: http://www.nerc.com/filez/standards/Vegetation-Management_Project_2007-7.html

The NERC Standards Committee endorsed the use of Project 2007-07: Vegetation Management as the prototype for the proof-of-concept for using the "results-based" criteria for developing a reliability standard. The overall approach includes considerably more emphasis on the "concepts and assumptions" underlying the development of requirements and goes beyond the steps most drafting teams use when developing a standard. Accordingly, the "look and feel" of the vegetation management standard is quite

different than NERC's existing standards. However, at the core is a set of mandatory and enforceable requirements with useful guidance supporting these requirements, an approach NERC's legal counsel has reviewed and finds acceptable. More information about results-based standards can be found at: http://www.nerc.com/filez/standards/Project2010-06_Results-based_Reliability_Standards.html

Standards Development Process

The *Reliability Standards Development Procedure* contains all the procedures governing the standards development process. The success of the NERC standards development process depends on stakeholder participation. We extend our thanks to all those who participate.

Ballot Criteria

Approval requires both a (1) quorum, which is established by at least 75% of the members of the ballot pool for submitting either an affirmative vote, a negative vote, or an abstention, and (2) A two-thirds majority of the weighted segment votes cast must be affirmative; the number of votes cast is the sum of affirmative and negative votes, excluding abstentions and nonresponses. If there are no negative votes with reasons from the first ballot, the results of the first ballot shall stand. If, however, one or more members submit negative votes with reasons, a second ballot shall be conducted.

> *For more information or assistance,*
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