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Standard Authorization Request Form

Title of Proposed Standard	Transmission Relay Loadability
Request Date	January 09, 2006
Revised: April 26, 2006	

SAR Requester Information	SAR Type (Check box for each one that applies.)	
Name NERC System Protection and Controls Task Force (SPCTF)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	New Standard
Primary Contact Charles Rogers, Chairman of SPCTF	<input type="checkbox"/>	Revision to existing Standard
Telephone (517) 788-0027 Fax (517) 788-0917	<input type="checkbox"/>	Withdrawal of existing Standard
E-mail cwrogers@cmsenergy.com	<input type="checkbox"/>	Urgent Action

Purpose/Industry Need

Protective relays have contributed to virtually all major system disturbances including the Northeast Blackout of 1965, the New York Blackout of 1977, the WECC Blackouts of 1996, and the Blackout of August 14, 2003. During the 2003 blackout, relay loadability was found to have played a pivotal role in accelerating and spreading the early part of the cascade in Ohio and Michigan. Although the U.S.-Canada Power System Outage Task Force focused on the role played by "zone 3" relays, it was later found that other phase-distance and over-current relays also contributed to the cascade.

As a result, recommendations were made for the review of relay settings and the mitigation of zone 3 relays operating under load included in NERC Blackout Recommendation 8a, *Improve System Protection to Slow or Limit the Spread of Future Cascading Outages*, and U.S.-Canada Power System Outage Task Force Recommendation 21a, *Make More Effective and Wider Use of System Protection Measures*.

Over the last 18 months, the electric industry has been reviewing protection systems to determine their conformance with the loadability criteria set forth in those recommendations. The monumental effort to review and mitigate relay loadability issues done by the industry is to be applauded. However, those improvements to the protection systems cannot be allowed to lapse if relay loadability problems are to cease to be an ongoing contributor to system disturbances.

It is imperative to the continued reliability of the North American power system that the problems of relay loadability remain corrected and that the technical solutions are properly codified in NERC reliability standards.

Reliability Functions

The Standard will Apply to the Following Functions <i>(Check box for each one that applies.)</i>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Regional Reliability Organization	Ensures the reliability of the bulk electric system within its Region.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Reliability Authority	Ensures the reliability of the bulk transmission system within its Reliability Authority area. This is the highest reliability authority.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Balancing Authority	Integrates resource plans ahead of time, and maintains load-interchange-resource balance within its metered boundary and supports system frequency in real time
<input type="checkbox"/>	Interchange Authority	Authorizes valid and balanced Interchange Schedules
<input type="checkbox"/>	Planning Authority	Plans the bulk electric system
<input type="checkbox"/>	Resource Planner	Develops a long-term (>1year) plan for the resource adequacy of specific loads within a Planning Authority area.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Transmission Planner	Develops a long-term (>1 year) plan for the reliability of transmission systems within its portion of the Planning Authority area.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Transmission Service Provider	Provides transmission services to qualified market participants under applicable transmission service agreements
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Transmission Owner	Owens transmission facilities
<input type="checkbox"/>	Transmission Operator	Operates and maintains the transmission facilities, and executes switching orders
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Distribution Provider	Provides and operates the "wires" between the transmission system and the customer
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Generator Owner	Owens and maintains generation unit(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Generator Operator	Operates generation unit(s) and performs the functions of supplying energy and Interconnected Operations Services
<input type="checkbox"/>	Purchasing-Selling Entity	The function of purchasing or selling energy, capacity and all necessary Interconnected Operations Services as required
<input type="checkbox"/>	Market Operator	Integrates energy, capacity, balancing, and transmission resources to achieve an economic, reliability-constrained dispatch.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Load-Serving Entity	Secures energy and transmission (and related generation services) to serve the end user

Reliability and Market Interface Principles

Applicable Reliability Principles <i>(Check box for each one that applies..)</i>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1. Interconnected bulk electric systems shall be planned and operated in a coordinated manner to perform reliably under normal and abnormal conditions as defined in the NERC Standards.
<input type="checkbox"/>	2. The frequency and voltage of interconnected bulk electric systems shall be controlled within defined limits through the balancing of real and reactive power supply and demand.
<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Information necessary for the planning and operation of interconnected bulk electric systems shall be made available to those entities responsible for planning and operating the systems reliably.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4. Plans for emergency operation and system restoration of interconnected bulk electric systems shall be developed, coordinated, maintained and implemented.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5. Facilities for communication, monitoring and control shall be provided, used and maintained for the reliability of interconnected bulk electric systems.
<input type="checkbox"/>	6. Personnel responsible for planning and operating interconnected bulk electric systems shall be trained, qualified, and have the responsibility and authority to implement actions.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	7. The security of the interconnected bulk electric systems shall be assessed, monitored and maintained on a wide area basis.
Does the proposed Standard comply with all of the following Market Interface Principles? <i>(Select 'yes' or 'no' from the drop-down box by double clicking the grey area.)</i>	
1. The planning and operation of bulk electric systems shall recognize that reliability is an essential requirement of a robust North American economy. Yes	
2. An Organization Standard shall not give any market participant an unfair competitive advantage. Yes	
3. An Organization Standard shall neither mandate nor prohibit any specific market structure. Yes	
4. An Organization Standard shall not preclude market solutions to achieving compliance with that Standard. Yes	
5. An Organization Standard shall not require the public disclosure of commercially sensitive information. All market participants shall have equal opportunity to access commercially non-sensitive information that is required for compliance with reliability standards. Yes	

Detailed Description (Provide enough detail so that an independent entity familiar with the industry could draft, modify, or withdraw a Standard based on this description.)

Scope

The scope of the proposed standard would be to codify the relay loadability criteria and their implementation in accordance with the tenets of NERC Blackout Recommendation 8a, *Improve System Protection to Slow or Limit the Spread of Future Cascading Outages*, and U.S.-Canada Power System Outage Task Force Recommendation 21A, *Make More Effective And Wider Use Of System Protection Measures*, to ensure that protection systems and settings shall not limit transmission loadability, nor contribute to cascading outages.

Applicability

[Definition of Transmission Protection System Owners (TPSOs)

Entities that own and/or operate protective relaying systems applied to protect transmission facilities operated at 100 kV and above, including transformer banks with low-voltage terminals operated at 100 kV and above.]

1. This standard pertains to phase protection systems applied to:
 - a. Transmission lines operated at 200 kV and above
 - b. Transmission lines operated at 100 kV to 200 kV, identified by the Region as Operationally Significant Circuits.
 - c. Transformers with low voltage terminals connected at 200 kV and above voltage levels
 - d. Transformers with low voltage terminals connected at 100 kV to 200 kV, identified by the Region as Operationally Significant Circuits.
2. Any protective functions which could trip with or without time delay, on normal or emergency load current, including but not limited to:
 - a. Phase distance
 - b. Out-of-step tripping
 - c. Out-of-step blocking
 - d. Switch-on-to-fault
 - e. Overcurrent relays
 - f. Communications aided protection schemes including but not limited to:
 - i. Permissive overreach transfer trip (POTT)
 - ii. Permissive under-reach transfer trip (PUTT)
 - iii. Directional comparison blocking (DCB)
3. The following protection systems are excluded from requirements of this standard:
 - a. Relay elements that are only enabled when other relays or associated systems fail.
 - i. Overcurrent elements that are only enabled during loss of potential conditions.
 - ii. Elements that are only enabled during a loss of communications.
 - b. Protection systems intended for the detection of ground fault conditions

- c. Protection systems intended for protection during stable power swings.
 - d. Generator protection relays that are susceptible to load.
 - e. Relays elements used only for special protection systems, applied and approved in accordance with NERC Reliability Standards PRC-012 through PRC-017.
4. This standard applies to the following entities:
 - a. Regional Reliability Organizations.
 - b. Transmission Owners that are Transmission Protection System Owners (TPSOs).
 - c. Generation Owners that are TPSOs.
 - d. Distribution Providers that are TPSOs.
 5. The standard will require that each RRO have a documented methodology for identifying its Operationally Significant Circuits and will require that each Regional Reliability Organization have a list of operationally significant circuits.
 6. The standard will require that each Transmission Owner, Generation Owner and Distribution Provider that is a Transmission Protection System Owner, comply with the transmission relay loadability criteria identified in the standard.

The standard should incorporate relay loadability criteria for all phase distance (including zone 3) and overcurrent relays, as well as, any protective functions which could trip with or without time delay, on normal or emergency load current. The Standard should specifically exclude: relay elements that are only enabled when other relays or associated systems fail, protection systems intended for the detection of ground fault conditions, protection systems intended for protection during stable power swings, generator protection relays that are susceptible to load, relays elements used only for special protection systems, applied and approved in accordance with NERC Reliability Standards PRC-012 through PRC-017.

The proposed standard should consider that during emergency loading conditions on the transmission system, the system operators should be making the human decision to open overloaded facilities, if conditions so warrant. Protection systems should not interfere with the system operators' ability to consciously take remedial action to protect system reliability. The relay loadability criterion should be specifically developed to not interfere with system operator actions, while allowing for short-term overloads, with sufficient margin to allow for inaccuracies in the relays and instrument transformers. The system operator actions may include manual removal of the transmission circuit from service at any loading level in accordance with the transmission owner's operating policies and planned operating procedures, if doing so does not violate a system operating limit (SOL) or an interconnection reliability operating limit (IROL).

Additional Information

The [Working Paper on a Proposed Transmission Relay Loadability Standard](#), prepared by the System Protection and Controls Task Force includes a proposed draft Transmission Relay Loadability Standard that codifies the relay loadability criteria prescribed in the NERC and U.S.-Canada Power System

Outage Task Force recommendations on relaying. It is available on the NERC SPCTF website using the hotlink above. That working paper was prepared to assist the Standards Authorization Committee and its SAR and/or standards drafting team in the development of the proposed standard. This working paper takes full advantage of the recent experience of applying those criteria to the EHV transmission system (200 kV and above) and ongoing work on the 100-200 kV Operationally Significant Circuits.

Additional technical information can also be found in [EHV Transmission System Relay Loadability Review and Requests for Temporary and Technical Exceptions](#) report and [Protection System Review Program - Beyond Zone 3](#) report at the NERC website

Related Standards

Standard No.	Explanation

Related SARs

SAR ID	Explanation

Regional Differences

Region	Explanation
ERCOT	
FRCC	
MRO	
NPCC	
RFC	
SERC	
SPP	
WECC	