



NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC  
RELIABILITY CORPORATION

## Standards Announcement

Modification to SAR for Project 2010-16: Definition of System Operator  
Comment Period Open November 3-December 3, 2010

**Updated SAR now available at:** [http://www.nerc.com/filez/standards/SAR\\_Project%202010-16\\_Proposed\\_Mod\\_to\\_Def\\_of\\_System\\_Operator.html](http://www.nerc.com/filez/standards/SAR_Project%202010-16_Proposed_Mod_to_Def_of_System_Operator.html)

### **Project 2010-16: Expedited Revisions Definition of System Operator**

The SAR for this project has been changed to clarify the reason for the requested modification. The change to the SAR does not change the intent or effect of the proposed modification. A stakeholder identified that this SAR incorrectly inferred that the Generator Operator fell under the requirements of the FERC Standards of Conduct related to the division between the Transmission and Marketer functions. While in many cases, the Generator Operator is closely integrated with the Marketer function, this is not always true.

However, the modification proposed in the SAR ensures that the NERC Glossary of Terms definition of System Operator is not inconsistent with the duties described in the Functional Model. This reason is now reflected in the justification in the SAR.

Because this change to the SAR only clarifies the reason for the proposed modification, the posting period for comments on the SAR is not being modified. NERC is providing clean and redline versions of the SAR for your convenience.

Please use the electronic form to submit comments. If you experience any difficulties in using the electronic form, please contact Monica Benson at [monica.benson@nerc.net](mailto:monica.benson@nerc.net). An off-line, unofficial copy of the comment form is posted on the project page:

[http://www.nerc.com/filez/standards/SAR\\_Project%202010-16\\_Proposed\\_Mod\\_to\\_Def\\_of\\_System\\_Operator.html](http://www.nerc.com/filez/standards/SAR_Project%202010-16_Proposed_Mod_to_Def_of_System_Operator.html)

### **Next Steps**

The drafting team will draft and post responses to comments received during this period.

### **Project Background**

The existing definition of System Operator dates to the era where the generator dispatcher sat in the same control room as the transmission operator or at a minimum in a control center down the hall from the Transmission Operator. NERC's Functional Model generally defines the responsibilities of the Generator Operator as "operat(ing) generating unit(s) and perform(ing) the functions of supplying energy and reliability related services." Given this limited scope, the Generator Operator (GOP) cannot be considered as operating on the same level as the Reliability Coordinator, Transmission Operator or Balancing Authority when it comes to real-time information on the status of the BES. The GOP does not monitor and control the BES; rather, the GOP only monitors and controls the generators that it operates and relays information to other operating entities.

This project proposes revising the existing definition of System Operator to remove the inclusion of “Generator Operator.” This change would avoid the confusion caused by the use of the term “System Operator” in reference to the real-time operating personnel who work for Generator Operators. Inaccurate definitions result in misconception of responsibilities and expectations that can negatively impact reliability.

### **Standards Development Process**

The [Standard Processes Manual](#) 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. For more information or assistance, please contact Monica Benson at [monica.benson@nerc.net](mailto:monica.benson@nerc.net).

*For more information or assistance, please contact Monica Benson,  
Standards Process Administrator, at [monica.benson@nerc.net](mailto:monica.benson@nerc.net) or at 609.452.8060.*

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