



NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC
RELIABILITY CORPORATION

Standards Announcement

Standards Authorization Request (SAR) and Draft Definition Comment
Period Open

November 3-December 3, 2010

Now available at: http://www.nerc.com/filez/standards/SAR_Project%202010-16_Proposed_Mod_to_Def_of_System_Operator.html

Project 2010-16: Definition of System Operator

A proposed SAR and a proposed revision to the definition of “System Operator” have been posted for comment until **8 p.m. Eastern on December 3, 2010.**

Instructions

Please use this [electronic form](#) to submit comments. If you experience any difficulties in using the electronic form, please contact Monica Benson at 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

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. FERC Order 889 established rules of conduct for the industry. Order 889 prohibits a generation affiliate of a Transmission Operator from knowing any non-public information pertaining to the real time status of the Bulk Electric System (BES).

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,
Standards Process Administrator, at monica.benson@nerc.net or at 609.452.8060.*

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