



NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC
RELIABILITY CORPORATION

Standards Announcement

Project 2010-17 BES Definition

Comment Period Open April 28-May 27, 2011

Now available at: http://www.nerc.com/filez/standards/Project2010-17_BES.html

Formal 30-day Comment Period Open through 8 p.m. on May 27, 2011

A proposed revision to the definition of “Bulk Electric System,” and an associated implementation plan have been posted for a formal comment period until **8 p.m. Eastern on May 27, 2011.**

The BES Definition Drafting Team is also working to identify what evidence is needed to support a request for an exception to the BES definition. The BES Definition team expects to post its initial Technical Justification Principles proposal describing the evidence needed to support a request for an exception to the BES definition in early May and will seek stakeholder comments on its proposal.

A separate team is working to identify the necessary changes to NERC’s Rules of Procedure to incorporate the process for requesting exceptions. The proposed changes to the Rules of Procedure will also be posted in early May. Once all three documents have been posted (draft revised BES Definition, proposed Technical Justification Principles, and proposed Rules of Procedure changes) and prior to the end of the comment periods, a webinar will be scheduled.

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/Project2010-17_BES.html

Next Steps

The drafting team will consider all comments and determine whether to make additional changes to the definition and its implementation plan. The team will post its response to comments and, if changes are made to the definition and implementation plan, submit the revised documents for quality review prior to the next posting.

Project Background

On November 18, 2010 FERC issued [Order 743](#) and directed NERC to revise the definition of Bulk Electric System so that the definition encompasses all Elements and Facilities necessary for the reliable operation and planning of the interconnected bulk power system. Additional specificity will reduce ambiguity and establish consistency across all Regions in distinguishing between BES and non-BES Elements and Facilities.

In addition, NERC was directed to develop a process for identifying any Elements or Facilities that should be excluded from the BES. NERC is working to address these directives with two activities – the definition of Bulk Electric System (BES) is being revised through the standard development process and a BES Definition

Exception Process is being developed as a proposed modification to the Rules of Procedure. The work of the BES Definition Exception Process has been publicly posted at:

http://www.nerc.com/filez/standards/Rules_of_Procedure-RF.html

Standards 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,
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