

Standards Announcement

Project 2013-01 — Cold Weather Preparedness

Formal Comment Period Now Open: September 25, 2012 – October 24, 2012

[Now Available](#)

A draft Standards Authorization Request (SAR) to address cold weather preparedness has been posted for a formal 30-day comment period through **8 p.m. Eastern on Wednesday, October 24, 2012**.

Instructions for Commenting

A formal comment period is open through **8 p.m. Eastern on Wednesday, October 24, 2012**. 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](#).

Next Steps

[Nominations](#) are being accepted through October 8, 2012 for a drafting team to refine the SAR in response to industry comments. The Standards Committee will appoint the drafting team after the nomination period closes.

Background

The southwest region of the United States experienced unusually cold and windy weather during the first week of February 2011. Electric entities located within the Texas Reliability Entity, Inc. (TRE), the Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC), and the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) were affected by the extreme weather. Between February 1 and February 4, a total of 210 individual generating units within the footprint of the Electric Reliability Council of Texas, Inc. (ERCOT), which covers most of Texas, experienced either an outage, a derate, or a failure to start. The loss of generation was severe enough on February 2 to trigger a controlled load shed of 4000 MW, which affected some 3.2 million customers. On February 3, local transmission constraints coupled with the loss of local generation triggered load shedding for another 180,000 customers in the Rio Grande Valley in south Texas. In total, approximately 1.3 million electric customers were out of service at the peak of the event on February 2, and a total of 4.4 million were affected over the course of the event from February 2 through February 4.

On February 7, 2011, NERC announced that it would work with the affected Regional Entities to prepare an event analysis that would examine the adequacy of preparations for the event and identify potential improvements and lessons learned. On February 14, the Federal Energy Regulatory

Commission (FERC) initiated an inquiry into the Southwest outages and service disruptions. On May 9, FERC and NERC announced their staffs would create a joint task force to combine their separate inquiries. The report produced by the joint task force is located at http://www.nerc.com/files/SW_Cold_Weather_Event_Final_Report.pdf. Among the many key findings in that report was that “The lack of any state, regional or Reliability Standards that directly require generators to perform winterization left winter-readiness dependent on plant or corporate choices. While Reliability Standard EOP-001 R.4 and R.5 refer to winterization as a consideration in emergency plans, these requirements apply only to balancing authorities, transmission owners, and transmission operators.” (Page 196).

On June 13, 2012, an industry Cold Weather Review Team was assembled at NERC offices in Atlanta to discuss the findings of the report. This SAR was created with input from Cold Weather Review Team participants to address the key finding above.

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,
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