

Standards Announcement

Standard Processes Manual Revisions to Implement SPIG Recommendations

Recirculation Ballot is now open through 8 p.m. Monday, January 28, 2013

[Available Now](#)

A recirculation ballot is now open for the Standard Processes Manual Revisions through **8 p.m. Eastern on Monday, January 28, 2013**.

Instructions

In the recirculation ballot, votes are counted by exception. Only members of the ballot pool may cast a ballot; all ballot pool members may change their previously cast votes. A ballot pool member who failed to cast a ballot during the last ballot window may cast a ballot in the recirculation ballot window. If a ballot pool member does not participate in the recirculation ballot, that member's vote cast in the previous ballot will be carried over as that member's vote in the recirculation ballot.

Members of the ballot pools associated with this project may log in and submit their vote for the Standard Processes Manual Revisions by clicking [here](#).

Next Steps

Voting results will be posted and announced after the ballot window closes. If approved, the Standard Processes Manual Revisions will be submitted to the Board of Trustees for approval and then filed with the appropriate regulatory authorities.

Background

At its February 9, 2012 meeting, the NERC Board of Trustees (BOT) requested the assistance of the NERC Member Representatives Committee (MRC) to provide policy input, and a proposed framework, for specific improvements to the standards development process. The MRC Chair and Vice Chair invited several members of the MRC, two NERC BOT members, the NERC CEO, and the Standards Committee (SC) Chair – the group collectively known as the Standard Process Input Group (SPIG) – to join with them as participants in developing recommendations to improve the standards development process. Further detail on the SPIG recommendations is available in [the posted SPIG report](#).

These recommendations were presented to the BOT and approved on May 9, 2012. The SC was specifically charged with addressing SPIG Recommendations 1, 4, and 5. The SC has organized this effort by leveraging each of its subcommittees, the Process Subcommittee (SCPS) and the Communications and Planning Subcommittee (SCPCS), to work in parallel on developing proposed

revisions and conducting outreach to industry stakeholders to ensure that all interested stakeholders have an opportunity to provide their input.

A successive ballot of the proposed revisions to the SPM concluded on December 20, 2012 and received an 84.48% approval. The SCPS reviewed all of the comments from the comment period that ended December 20, 2012, and has made the following non-substantive changes in response to the comments, and corrected typographical errors:

- **Section 1.0 Introduction** – conformed the language concerning consensus to match Section 4.10: Criteria for Ballot Pool Approval.
- **Section 2.5 Elements of a Reliability Standard** – clarified language in the footnote concerning “Compliance Elements” to conform to clarifications made in section 3.10.
- **Section 3.10 Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program** – clarified that Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement staff are responsible for developing compliance tools such as RSAWs, not Compliance Elements.
- **Section 4.5 Informal Feedback** – added a sentence to clarify that drafting teams are encouraged to reach out to individual stakeholders to facilitate resolution of identified stakeholder concerns.
- **Section 4.10 Criteria for Ballot Pool Approval** – corrected language indicating how a quorum would be determine, removing the phrase “excluding unreturned ballots” to address comments that this language would result in quorum never being less than 100%.
- **Section 4.11 Voting Positions** – clarified the footnote describing the treatment of negative votes in a Final Ballot.
- **Section 7.0 Interpretations** – clarified that an Interpretation Drafting Team (IDT) may, but is not required to, submit a Standards Authorization Request to the Standards Committee when it notifies the Standards Committee if the IDT determines that there is a reliability gap.
- **Charts** – adopted suggestion to clarify language in the last step of several charts to indicate that *BOT*-approved documents are filed with Applicable Governmental Authorities. (Note that the chart changes are not redlined.)

The SC, its subcommittees, and NERC staff are grateful for the industry participation and input to develop SPM revisions that result in efficient use of industry resources to develop high-quality results-based standards in a timely manner.

Additional documentation is available on the [project page](#).

*For more information or assistance, please contact Monica Benson,
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