

2025-2027 Standards Committee Strategic Work Plan

Introduction

The Standards Committee (SC) Strategic Work Plan (Plan) focuses SC actions on overseeing Standards development activities including:

- Supporting process improvements to enhance agility, efficiency, and effectiveness
- Addressing emerging risks using input from various sources, including the Reliability and Security Technical Committee (RSTC) and the Reliability Issues Steering Committee (RISC)
- Prioritizing standards development activities
- Addressing Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) directives
- Standards Quality

Emerging Risks

Through input by a NERC technical committee, the RISC or a governmental authority (such as FERC), the SC authorizes the development new or revised standards to mitigate emergent risks, as appropriate.

Vision, Mission, and Guiding Principles

Vision

A comprehensive body of results-based Reliability Standards focused on minimizing risk to the North American bulk power system (BPS).

Mission

The SC is a ballot body elected stakeholder Committee serving and reporting directly to the NERC Board of Trustees (Board). The SC partners with NERC staff to manage and oversee development of a comprehensive set of results-based Reliability Standards prioritized and focused on risk to the bulk power system while maintaining attributes of due process, openness, and balance of interests.

Guiding Principles

- Promote and implement a collaborative working environment with other NERC Standing Committees, NERC Standards staff, stakeholders, and standard drafting teams.
- Execute the Standards development process in an open and inclusive manner for effective and efficient use of NERC and industry resources.
- Promote and take a leadership role on consensus-building activities.

Work Plan

Consistent with the 2024-2026 Reliability Standards Development Plan (RSDP), this Plan recognizes the transition of the Standard development process to primarily address an increasing number of FERC directives, emerging risks, and process improvements. The details of the goals and objectives for 2025-2027 appear in the RSDP.

Focus Area: Process Improvement

To promote continuous improvement existing processes must be periodically reviewed. In support of the vision, mission and guiding principles above, the SC will undertake certain actions.

SC and RSTC Tiger Team

The SC and the RSTC formed a joint task force in late 2024 with the objective to enhance timely completion and approval of Standard Authorization Requests and to leverage RSTC expertise during the development process. The work of the task force is pending.

Focus Area: Risk Mitigation

To develop a comprehensive body of risk and results-based Reliability Standards the SC will focus on the activities below:

Standards Development Prioritization

In support of the recommendations of the Stakeholder Engagement Group, the SC will partner with NERC Staff and consult with the SCCG to effectively prioritize standards development projects based on reliability risk. As first detailed in the 2025-2027 Reliability Standards Development Plan, a formalized and consistent approach is implemented in the prioritization of standards.

Risk Framework

Continue to execute and build on the role of the SC in the NERC Risk Mitigation Framework, which includes active participation in the SCCG identified opportunities for feedback loops.

FERC Directives

As detailed in the 2025-2027 Reliability Standards Development Plan, there are 82 outstanding FERC directives being resolved through the Development process. The SC will continue to monitor progress and support final resolution of these directives, as well as any future work related to directives.

Focus Area: Standards Quality

The Reliability Standards should be clearly written, effective in mitigating risk to the BPS, and not unnecessarily administratively burdensome. To ensure the highest quality body of Standards, the SC will focus on the following:

Standards Grading

In 2023 the SC and the Compliance and Certification Committee convened a joint task force to evaluate the existing Standards Grading process, identify opportunities, and provide recommendations for improvement. This review occurred in lieu of the annual Standards Grading exercise. The work of the task force is still ongoing and will continue into 2025.

Periodic Reviews

Given the number of high priority projects in development this initiative will not be pursued in 2025; however, will be considered for workplan inclusion in 2026 or 2027. If included in future workplans the Project Management and Oversight Subcommittee (PMOS) and NERC staff will identify and schedule Periodic Reviews for SC endorsement. The PMOS will use the most recent Standards Grading results to prioritize/schedule by the end of 1st quarter 2026 or 2027 if applicable.

Transition of Guidelines and Technical Basis to Technical Rationale

The SC will continue to review Guidelines and Technical Basis documents for transition to Technical Rationale documents while moving compliance examples to Implementation Guidance.

Revision History	
Comments	Approval Dates
Approved by Standards Committee	12/10/2024
Approved by NERC Board	TBD (anticipated February 2025)