

Modernization of Standards Processes and Procedures Task Force (MSPPTF)

Frequently Asked Questions
May 2025

Why was the MSPPTF Task Force formed?

Risks to the reliability, security, and resilience of the bulk power system are rapidly emerging during the transformation to a decentralized, digitized, and decarbonized grid. This is outpacing industry's ability to develop, enhance, and implement Reliability Standards under the existing processes and procedures.

At its February 2025 meeting, the NERC Board of Trustees passed a [resolution](#) forming an industry-led Modernization of Standards Processes and Procedures Task Force (MSPPTF) to undertake a strategic review of NERC's Reliability Standards development process. Maintaining a collaborative stakeholder-based process that reflects the balance of interests will be one of the guiding principles of the initiative. The task force will present proposed recommendations to the NERC Board in February 2026.

What are the MSPPTF's objectives?

The purpose of the MSPPTF is to develop recommendations to transform and modernize the current processes and procedures for standards development. These must continue to provide for reasonable notice and opportunity for public comment, due process, openness, and balance of interests in developing reliability standards consistent with Section 215 of the Federal Power Act, while also ensuring that time for Reliability Standards development from risk identification and prioritization can be completed more effectively and efficiently.

What aspects of the standards process are in scope for the Task Force?

All aspects of the standards process, from risk identification to prioritization, are in scope for the task force. This includes matters such as, how risks are identified as needing a standard for mitigation, standard development and drafting, and the balloting process. Full details of the MSPPTF's scope are posted on the MSPPTF page of the NERC website [MSPPTF web page](#).

How were MSPPTF members selected?

The Board appointed two industry co-chairs and two NERC trustees with remaining members selected by NERC management in consultation with the MSPPTF chair and vice chair. The members provide diversity in expertise, geography, and industry representation. NERC executives will participate and provide guidance and NERC staff acts as coordinator(s).

Will MSPPTF meetings and/or materials be open to the public?

MSPPTF meetings will not be open to observers, but the task force will engage stakeholders as part of its scope and provide updates to industry through public announcements and updates at various open meetings including Board, Member Representatives Committee, Compliance and Certification Committee, Reliability and Security Technical Committee, and Standards Committee meetings.

How will stakeholders be involved?

Stakeholder-based involvement remains fundamental to the success of the MSPPTF. The task force will engage stakeholders as part of its scope and provide updates to industry through public announcements and updates at various open meetings. The proposed recommendations will be shared with stakeholders prior to being presented to the NERC Board in February 2026.

Will stakeholders have the opportunity to make formal comments on the MSPPTF's recommendations?

Stakeholder input will be solicited both formally and informally throughout the process.

How will this be different from past standards efficiency efforts?

Reliability Standard development procedures and processes have been periodically reviewed for improvement and efficiency gains. While some enhancements have been made based on recommendations from the Standards Process Improvement Group in 2012 and Standards Process Stakeholder Engagement Group in 2022, the speed at which risks to the grid are emerging during the transformation to a decentralized, digitized, and decarbonized grid, are outpacing industry's ability to develop, enhance, and implement Reliability Standards.

Prior efforts generally focused on incremental changes to the standards development processes and procedures. The MSPPTF will take a clean slate approach and aim to transform the current standards program including processes, balloting, drafting and the roles of team and committee members.

In addition, NERC recently received abeyance capability from FERC for compliance and enforcement that allows us to work through any issues before a standard becomes fully enforceable. Having this capability also allows us to reimagine our standard development process and move faster.

Will Lessons Learned from the Section 321 process be taken into consideration?

The MSPPTF will review prior standard improvement efforts and recent 321 actions for lessons learned.

What is the timeline for completion?

The MSPPTF will present its recommendations for the modernization of standards development processes and procedures to the NERC Board at its February 2026 meeting.



Where can I learn more about the MSPPTF?

NERC has developed an [MSPPTF web page](#) with the latest information on progress, project timeline and stakeholder engagement opportunities. This webpage is accessible under 'initiatives' on the NERC website.

For additional questions, email mspp@nerc.net.