

Consideration of Issues and Directives

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Order No. 791

June 2, 2014

Directives from Order 791

Paragraph	Directive Language	Consideration of Issue or Directive
67 and 76	<p>67. For the reasons discussed below, the Commission concludes that the “identify, assess, and correct” language, as currently proposed by NERC, is unclear with respect to the obligations it imposes on responsible entities, how it would be implemented by responsible entities, and how it would be enforced. Accordingly, we direct NERC, pursuant to section 215(d)(5) of the FPA, to develop modifications to the CIP version 5 Standards that address our concerns. Preferably, NERC should remove the “identify, assess, and correct” language from the 17 CIP version 5 requirements, while retaining the substantive provisions of those requirements.¹ Alternatively, NERC may propose equally efficient and effective modifications that address the Commission’s concerns</p>	<p>The Standard Drafting Team (SDT) removed the “identify, assess, and correct” language from the following 17 Requirements in the CIP standards and their related Violation Severity Levels (VSLs): CIP-003-6, Requirements R2 and R4; CIP-004-6, Requirements R2, R3, R4, and R5; CIP-006-6, Requirements R1 and R2; CIP-007-6, Requirements R1, R2, R3, R4, and R5; CIP-009-6, Requirement R2; CIP-010-2, Requirements R1 and R2; and CIP-011-2, Requirement R1.</p>

¹ The 17 requirements are: CIP-003-5, Requirements R2 and R4; CIP-004-5, Requirements R2 through R5; CIP-006-5 Requirements R1 and R2; CIP-007-5, Requirements R1 through R5; CIP-009-5, Requirement R2; CIP-010-1, Requirements R1 and R2; and CIP-011-1, Requirement R1.

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	<p>regarding the “identify, assess, and correct” language.² The Commission directs NERC to submit the modifications to the CIP Reliability Standards within one year from the effective date of this Final Rule.</p> <p>76. Accordingly, the Commission directs NERC, pursuant to section 215(d)(5) of the FPA, to develop modifications to the CIP version 5 Standards that address our concerns. Preferably, NERC should remove the “identify, assess, and correct” language from the 17 CIP version 5 requirements. The Commission directs NERC to submit these modifications for Commission approval within one year from the effective date of this Final Rule. Alternatively, NERC may develop a proposal to enhance the enforcement discretion afforded to itself and the Regional Entities, as discussed above.</p>	
106	Based on the explanations provided by NERC and other commenters, we adopt the NOPR proposal with modifications. As we explain below, while we do not require NERC to develop specific controls for Low Impact	The SDT revised Requirement R2 of CIP-003-6 to include additional specificity regarding the processes that responsible entities must have for low impact facilities. In addition, the SDT developed objective criteria surrounding the controls for

² See *Mandatory Reliability Standards for the Bulk-Power System*, Order No. 693, FERC Stats. & Regs. ¶ 31,242, at P 186, *order on reh’g*, Order No. 693-A, 120 FERC ¶ 61,053 (2007).

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	<p>facilities, we do require NERC to address the lack of objective criteria against which NERC and the Commission can evaluate the sufficiency of an entity’s protections for Low Impact assets. While NERC may address this concern by developing specific controls for Low Impact facilities, it has the flexibility to address it through other means, including those discussed below.</p>	<p>some entities based on asset-type and routability. The SDT determined that the additional specificity and objective criteria address FERC’s concerns while maintaining the flexibility in controls necessary for such a diverse array of assets in the low impact category.</p> <p>The SDT confined these revisions in CIP-003-6, Requirement R2 to the following four technical areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Physical Security Controls: Parts 2.2 and 2.3 and their subparts require controls to restrict physical access to Low Impact BES Cyber Systems and require additional protections for Controls Centers. 2. Electronic Access Controls: Part 2.4 and its subparts address protections around external routable protocol paths and Dial-up Connectivity. 3. Cyber Security Incident Response: Part 2.5 and its subparts outline the criteria required to be in a Cyber Security Incident response plan. 4. Cyber Security Awareness: Part 2.6 requires responsible entities to implement a security awareness program with timeframes to reinforce cyber security practices and Parts 2.2 through 2.5 of Requirement R2. The SDT determined that adding

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		<p>intervals increases the auditability of the requirement part.</p> <p>In addition to the revisions to the four technical areas, the SDT retained the requirement in Part 2.1 to obtain CIP Senior Manager approval of one or more documented policies that address the topics in Parts 2.2 – 2.6.</p>
124	<p>Accordingly, the Commission directs NERC to conduct a survey of Cyber Assets that are included or excluded under the new BES Cyber Asset definition during the CIP version 5 Standards implementation periods. Such data will help provide a better understanding of the BES Cyber Asset definition. Based on the survey data, NERC should explain in an informational filing the following: (1) specific ways in which entities determine which Cyber Assets meet the 15 minute parameter; (2) types or functions of Cyber Assets that are excluded from being designated as BES Cyber Assets and the rationale as to why; (3) common problem areas with entities improperly designating BES Cyber Assets; and (4) feedback from each region participating in the implementation study on lessons learned with the application of the BES Cyber Asset definition. The informational filing should not provide a level of detail</p>	<p>NERC proposes to conduct a survey of Cyber Assets, pursuant to Section 1600 of the NERC <i>Rules of Procedure</i> (ROP), regarding the scope of the term “BES Cyber Asset.” In accordance with Section 1600 of the ROP, NERC may request data or information from Registered Entities that is necessary to meet NERC’s obligations under Section 215 of the Federal Power Act, as authorized by Section 39.2(d) of FERC’s regulations.</p> <p>The purpose of the proposed Data Request is to respond to FERC’s directive from Order No. 791 to conduct a survey regarding the scope of the term “BES Cyber Asset” and submit an informational filing based on the data collected by February 3, 2015.</p>

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	that divulges CEII data. This filing should also help other entities implementing CIP version 5 in identifying BES Cyber Assets.	
132	Based on the explanation provided by NERC and other commenters, we will not direct modifications regarding the 30-day exemption in the definition of BES Cyber Asset. While we are persuaded that it would be unduly burdensome for responsible entities to treat all transient devices as BES Cyber Assets, we remain concerned whether the CIP version 5 Standards provide adequately robust protection from the risks posed by transient devices. Accordingly, as discussed below, we direct NERC to develop either new or modified standards to address the reliability risks posed by connecting transient devices to BES Cyber Assets and Systems.	<p>The threat of connecting transient devices to BES Cyber Systems is addressed in the Reliability Standards through an additional requirement in CIP-010, which includes a set of controls to provide higher assurance against the propagation of malware prior to connecting transient devices.</p> <p>The terms Transient Cyber Asset and Removable Media have been added to the glossary to define transient devices. In addition, the terms BES Cyber Asset and Protected Cyber Asset have been modified to reference the new Transient Cyber Asset definition.</p> <p>The drafting team determined entities manage these transient devices in two fundamentally different ways. Some entities maintain a preauthorized inventory of transient devices while others have a checklist for transient devices prior to connecting them to a BES Cyber System. The drafting team acknowledges both methods are valid and has drafted requirements that permit either form of management.</p>

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		<p>The Commission provides a list of security controls it expects NERC to consider for addressing transient devices, and the consideration of each security element is described as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Device authorization as it relates to users and locations: CIP-010-2 Requirement R4, Part 4.1 requires entities to authorize Transient Cyber Assets and Removable Media by individual(s) and location(s) prior to connecting them to the BES Cyber System. 2. Software authorization: CIP-010-2 Requirement R4, Part 4.1 borrows similar language from CIP-010-2 Requirement R4, Part 1.1 to authorize intentionally installed software on Transient Cyber Assets. 3. Security patch management: CIP-010-2 Requirement R4, Part 4.7 requires entities to install patches on Transient Cyber Assets and Removable Media, at least once every 35 calendar days, or prior to use, in connecting to the BES Cyber System. 4. Malware prevention: CIP-010-2 Requirement R4, Part 4.2 requires entities to have malware protection on the Transient Cyber Asset. Requirement R4, Part 4.3 requires malware protection for Removable Media prior to connection, and Requirement R4, Part 4.5 requires up-to-date malware signatures. 5. Detection controls for unauthorized physical access to a transient device: The drafting team considered this

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		<p>control and determined the Reliability Standards already address the vulnerabilities this control attempts to mitigate, and additional guidance is necessary in CIP-011-2 to ensure entities recognize the importance of safeguarding BES Cyber System Information on transient devices. Specifically, the drafting team determined the two primary objectives in controlling physical access to transient devices are (1) preventing the introduction of malware and (2) preventing the unauthorized release of BES Cyber System Information. The latter objective is sufficiently addressed with the requirements in CIP-011-2 to protect and securely handle BES Cyber System Information. The objective to prevent the introduction of malware is sufficiently addressed through the malware protection requirement proposed for transient devices. Ensuring the physical protection of transient devices outside of the PSP is in some cases more burdensome to the entity than receiving the full protection of the Standard, and has minimal effect to prevent the introduction of malware.</p> <p>6. Processes and procedures for connecting transient devices to systems at different security classification levels (i.e. High, Medium, Low Impact): The drafting team has considered this control and believes the threat of connecting at multiple impact levels is sufficiently</p>

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		<p>addressed through the proposed Reliability Standards. Rigorous security assessment and controls between classification levels have significant importance to secure authorized information flows. However, connections between impact levels do not carry the same threat for BES Cyber Systems. The flow of BES Cyber System Information is addressed sufficiently through CIP-011-2 requirements. The more concerning threat involves transient devices connecting between BES Cyber Systems and external networks, and this threat is addressed in the proposed CIP-010-2 Requirement R4.</p>
150	<p>We direct NERC to create a definition of communication networks and to develop new or modified Reliability Standards to address the reliability gap discussed above. The definition of communications networks should define what equipment and components should be protected, in light of the statutory inclusion of communication networks for the reliable operation of the Bulk-Power System. The new or modified Reliability Standards should require appropriate and reasonable controls to protect the nonprogrammable aspects of communication networks. The Commission directs NERC to submit these modifications for Commission approval within one year from the effective date of</p>	<p>The proposed CIP-006-6 Requirement Part 1.10 requires the physical protection of nonprogrammable components of BES Cyber Systems existing outside of the PSP, and the proposed modifications to CIP-007-6 Requirement Part 1.2 include applicability for non-programmable electronic components to prevent unauthorized use of physical ports. These additional requirements address the gap in protection as discussed in the Order by ensuring the physical security for cabling and non-programmable network components not covered by the definition of Cyber Asset.</p> <p>The drafting team reviewed the directives related to submitting a definition for communication network and determined it could address the gap in protection and adequately provide</p>

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	<p>this final rule. We also direct Commission staff to include this issue in the staff-led technical conference discussed herein.³</p>	<p>guidance on nonprogrammable electronic components without having a definition. Communication networks can and should be defined broadly. For example, NIST Special Publication 800-53 Revision 4 refers to the CNSSI 4009 definition of Network, which is “Information system(s) implemented with a collection of interconnected components.” The requirements modifications as well as the existing requirements have more targeted components. Consequently, there is not a need at this time to submit a definition for the NERC Glossary of Terms used in Reliability Standards.</p>
<p>181 and 184</p>	<p>181. The Commission also supports NERC’s proposal to develop transition guidance documents and a pilot program to assist responsible entities as they move from compliance with the CIP version 3 Standards to the CIP version 5 Standards.⁴ The Commission agrees that a pilot program will assist responsible entities by offering best practices and lessons learned during this transition.</p> <p>184. Consistent with our discussion above, the Commission directs NERC to modify the VRF assignment for CIP-006-5, Requirement R3 from</p>	<p>NERC modified the VRF assignment for CIP-006-5, Requirement R3 from Lower to Medium and filed the revision with FERC on 5/15/2014.</p>

³ See *infra* P 223.

⁴ See NERC Comments at 39-40.

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	Lower to Medium, within 90 days of the effective date of this Final Rule.	
192 and 196	<p>192. The Commission adopts the NOPR proposal and directs NERC to modify the VRF assignment for CIP-004-5, Requirement R4 from Lower to Medium. This modification is necessary to reflect that access to operationally sensitive computer equipment should be strictly limited to employees or contractors who utilize the equipment in performance of their job responsibilities, and to prevent or mitigate disclosure of sensitive information consistent with Recommendations 40 and 44 of the 2003 Blackout Report. In addition, a Medium VRF assignment ensures consistency with the Commission’s VRF guidelines.</p> <p>196. Consistent with the discussion above, we direct NERC to modify the VRF assignment for CIP-004-5, Requirement R4 from Lower to Medium, within 90 days of the effective date of this Final Rule.</p>	NERC modified the VRF assignment for CIP-004-5.1, Requirement R4 from Lower to Medium and filed the revision with FERC on 5/15/2014.
205	Consistent with the NOPR proposal, we direct NERC to develop modifications to the VSLs for certain CIP version 5 Standard requirements to: (1) remove the “identify, assess, and correct” language from the text	In conjunction with the SDT’s response to the directive in PP 67 and 76, the SDT removed the “identify, assess, and correct” language from the following 17 Requirements’ VSLs: CIP-003-6,

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	<p>of the VSLs for the affected requirements; (2) address typographical errors; and (3) clarify certain unexplained elements. For the VSLs that include “identify, assess, and correct” language, we direct NERC to ensure that these VSLs are modified to reflect any revisions to the requirement language in response to our directives. We grant NERC the discretion to decide how best to address these modifications be it through an errata filing to this proceeding or separate filing.</p>	<p>Requirements R2 and R4; CIP-004-6, Requirements R2, R3, R4, and R5; CIP-006-6, Requirements R1 and R2; CIP-007-6, Requirements R1, R2, R3, R4, and R5; CIP-009-6, Requirement R2; CIP-010-2, Requirements R1 and R2; and CIP-011-2, Requirement R1.</p> <p>NERC filed the following revisions with FERC on 5/15/2014:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. VSLs for CIP-003-5, Requirements R1 and R2. This standard addresses security management controls for cyber security. Requirement R1 governs management approval of policies on topics addressed in other CIP standards for medium and high impact BES Cyber Systems. Requirement R2 governs policies for low impact BES Cyber Systems. NERC staff, in consultation with the SDT, revised the VSLs in CIP-003-5, Requirements R1 and R2 to eliminate redundant language. 2. VSLs for CIP-004-5.1, Requirement R4. This standard includes requirements for personnel and training related to cyber security. Requirement R4 governs implementation of access management programs. NERC staff, in

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		<p>consultation with the SDT, revised the VSLs to a percentage-based gradation.</p> <p>3. Severe VSL for CIP-008-5, Requirement R2. This standard addresses incident reporting and response planning for cyber security. Requirement R2 governs implementation of documented Cyber Security Incident response plans. NERC staff revised the Severe VSL to reduce a gap in months between the High VSL and Severe VSL.</p> <p>4. VSLs for CIP-009-5, Requirement R3. This standard addresses recovery plans for BES Cyber Systems. Requirement R3 governs maintenance of the recovery plans. NERC staff revised the timeframe contained in the VSLs from 90-210 days to 90-120 days.</p>