



NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC
RELIABILITY CORPORATION

Standards Announcement

Standards Authorization Request (SAR), Draft Definition and Exception
Process Informal Comment Period Open
December 17, 2010-January 21, 2011

Now available at: http://www.nerc.com/filez/standards/Project2010-17_BES.html

Project 2010-17: Definition of Bulk Electric System

A proposed SAR, a proposed revision to the definition of “Bulk Electric System,” and a set of concepts for use in developing a BES Definition Exception Process have been posted for comment until **8 p.m. Eastern on January 21, 2011.**

Instructions

Due to the nature of the comments we are seeking from stakeholders, there are **two different comment forms** and we ask that you complete both.

1. The SAR and BES comment form

Please use the [electronic form](#) to submit comments on the SAR and proposed definition of Bulk Electric System. 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 SAR and BES Definition comment form is posted on the project page: http://www.nerc.com/filez/standards/Project2010-17_BES.html

2. The BES Definition Exception Process comment form

The BES Definition Exception Process comment form is also posted on the project page identified above. Please use the BES Definition Exception Process comment form to submit comments and supporting information relative to the concepts proposed for use in developing a BES Definition Exception Process. The BES Definition Exception Process comment form must be submitted to sarcomm@nerc.com with “BES Definition” in the subject line.

Next Steps

The drafting team will draft and post a summary of the responses to comments received during this period.

Project Background

On November 18, 2010 FERC issued Order 743 and directed NERC to revise the definition of Bulk Electric System so that the definition encompasses all Elements and Facilities necessary for the reliable operation and planning of the interconnected bulk power system. Additional specificity will reduce ambiguity and establish consistency across all Regions in distinguishing between BES and non-BES Elements and Facilities.

In addition, NERC was directed to develop a process for identifying any Elements or Facilities that should be excluded from the BES. NERC is working to address these directives with two activities – the definition of Bulk Electric System (BES) is being revised through the standard development process and a BES Definition Exception Process is being developed as a proposed modification to the NERC Rules of Procedure. Comments received in response to this initial posting will be used by the drafting team working on the revision to the definition and by the group working to develop the BES Definition Exception Process.

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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