



NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC
RELIABILITY CORPORATION

Standards Announcement

Project 2010-17 BES Definition

Two Ballot Pool Windows Open August 26 – September 26, 2011

Two Formal Comment Periods Open August 26 – October 10, 2011

Two Ballot Windows Open September 30 – October 10, 2011

Available tomorrow at: <https://standards.nerc.net/BallotPool.aspx>

The Definition of Bulk Electric System Standard Drafting Team (DBES SDT) has posted a second draft of the Definition of Bulk Electric System (BES) and associated implementation plan for a formal 45-day comment period, through **8 p.m. Eastern on Monday, October 10, 2011**.

The Definition of Bulk Electric System Standard Drafting Team (DBES SDT) has also posted a draft application form titled *Detailed Information to Support an Exception Request* referenced in the Rules of Procedure Exception Process for a formal 45-day comment period, through **8 p.m. Eastern on Monday, October 10, 2011**. (Note that the information contained in this draft form includes revisions made to the *Technical Principles for Supporting BES Exceptions* that was posted for comment in May and June 2011.)

A separate team is working with NERC to draft a new Appendix 5C to NERC's Rules of Procedure to address the process for requesting BES exceptions. This team will be posting the Rules of Procedure changes for stakeholder comment in September. The comment period for the Rules of Procedure changes will overlap the comment period for the definition and application form, to provide an opportunity for stakeholders to review all three documents to understand how they will work together.

Clean and redline versions of the definition and associated implementation plan, along with a technical justification for the Local Network exclusion and a clean version of the application form titled *Detailed Information to Support an Exception Request* have been posted on the project page at: http://www.nerc.com/filez/standards/Project2010-17_BES.html. The format of the application form titled *Detailed Information to Support an Exception Request* has changed substantially since the first posting, making a redline impractical, so none has been provided.

The Standards Committee and NERC Board of Trustees have recommended that the drafting team address issues such as generation thresholds in a second phase of this project. This approach will ensure that the drafting team has sufficient time to adequately consider and develop a sound technical basis for an approach, and will allow the drafting team to meet the regulatory deadline in FERC Orders 743 and 743a (filing by January 25, 2012). The drafting team has posted a **draft** Supplemental Standards Authorization Request (SAR) for information purposes only; the SAR will be posted for comment at a future time.

Ballot Pools Forming

During the first 30 days of the comment period, two separate ballot pools will be formed: one for balloting the Definition of Bulk Electric System, and a second for balloting the application form titled *Detailed Information to Support an Exception Request*. The ballot pool windows will be open from **Friday, August 26 through 8 a.m. Eastern on Monday, September 26, 2011**.

During the final 10 days of the comment period, two separate initial ballots will be conducted, one for the Definition of the Bulk Electric System, and a second for the application form titled *Detailed Information to Support an Exception Request*. The ballot windows will begin on Friday, September 30th and end at 8 p.m. Eastern on Monday, October 10, 2011.

Instructions for Joining Ballot Pools

Registered Ballot Body members must join each of the ballot pools to be eligible to vote in the upcoming ballots at the following page: <https://standards.nerc.net/BallotPool.aspx>

During the pre-ballot window, members of each ballot pool may communicate with one another by using their “ballot pool list server.” (Once the balloting begins, ballot pool members are prohibited from using the ballot pool list servers.) The list servers for this project are:

- Definition of BES ballot:
bp-2010-17_BES_Def_in@nerc.com
- *Detailed Information to Support an Exception Request* form:
bp-2010-17_TechInfo_BES_in@nerc.com

Instructions for Submitting Comments

Please use this [electronic comment form](#) to submit comments on the Definition of Bulk Electric System. Please use this separate [electronic comment form](#) to submit comments on the draft form application form titled *Detailed Information to Support an Exception Request*.

If you experience any difficulties in using either of these electronic forms, please contact Monica Benson at monica.benson@nerc.net. An off-line, unofficial copy of each comment form is posted on the project page:

Background

On November 18, 2010 FERC issued [Order 743 \(amended by Order 743A\)](#) 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 Rules of Procedure. The work of the BES Definition Exception Process has been publicly posted at: http://www.nerc.com/filez/standards/Rules_of_Procedure-RF.html. The Rules of Procedure team expects to post the next draft of its proposed addition to the Rules of Procedure (Appendix 5C – BES Exception Process) in September.

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