



NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC
RELIABILITY CORPORATION

Standards Announcement

Project 2010-17 Definition of Bulk Electric System

Two Ballot Windows Now Open September 30 – October 10, 2011

Now available at: <https://standards.nerc.net/CurrentBallots.aspx>

Two ballots windows are now open for Project 2010-17 Definition of Bulk Electric System (BES). The first is for the definition of Bulk Electric System, and the second is for a draft application form titled *Detailed Information to Support an Exception Request* referenced in the Rules of Procedure Exception Process. Both ballots are open through **8 p.m. Eastern on Monday, October 10, 2011.**

The revised definition of Bulk Electric System, draft application form titled *Detailed Information to Support an Exception Request*, associated implementation plan and several informational documents have been posted on the project page at http://www.nerc.com/filez/standards/Project2010-17_BES.html.

Instructions for Balloting Revisions

Members of each of the two ballot pools associated with this project may log in and submit their votes for both the definition and the *Detailed Information to Support an Exception Request* from the following page: <https://standards.nerc.net/CurrentBallots.aspx>.

Special Instructions for Submitting Comments With a Ballot

Comments submitted with ballots are extremely valuable to help the drafting team revise its work. In an effort to reduce the burden on stakeholders providing comments, the drafting team requests that all comments (both those submitted with a ballot and those submitted by stakeholders not balloting) be submitted through the electronic comment forms posted at:

<https://www.nerc.net/nercsurvey/Survey.aspx?s=e82643bb1de1434c9834c69757faa8d0>

<https://www.nerc.net/nercsurvey/Survey.aspx?s=9995ac42ce2644d9aebc87f58dd166ad>

This will ensure that stakeholders only provide a single set of comments, but have an opportunity to notify the drafting team if they have provided comments.

When submitting a ballot with comments, submit the comments through the electronic form and then simply record a “Comments submitted” in the comments field of the ballot to indicate that comments were submitted.

Please note that comments submitted during the formal comment period and the ballot use the same electronic form, and it is NOT necessary for ballot pool members to submit more than one set of comments (one during the comment period and a second with a ballot).

Next Steps

The drafting team will consider all comments received, and decide whether to make additional revisions to the definition and *Detailed Information to Support an Exception Request*. The drafting team is working to meet the regulatory deadline in FERC Orders 743 and 743A (filing by January 25, 2012).

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. Additional information about the project, including a [Fact Sheet](#) and additional informational documents, has been posted on the project webpage at http://www.nerc.com/filez/standards/Project2010-17_BES.html.

Project 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 is being revised through the standard development process and a BES Definition Exception Process is being developed as proposed modifications to the Rules of Procedure. The proposed modifications have been posted for a comment period through October 27, 2011. The work of the BES Definition Exception Process has been publicly posted at: http://www.nerc.com/filez/standards/Rules_of_Procedure-RF.html.

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