

Proposed Definition of “System Voltage Limit”

Term: “System Voltage Limit”

Definition:

The maximum and minimum steady-state voltage limits (both normal and emergency) that provide for acceptable System performance.

Rationale

As noted above, the Project 2015-09 standard drafting team (SDT) also proposes to add the term System Voltage Limit to the NERC Glossary with the following definition:

The maximum and minimum steady-state voltage limits (both normal and emergency) that provide for acceptable System performance.

The SDT identified a need to develop a NERC Glossary definition for the term System Voltage Limit to address confusion within industry as to what constitutes a system voltage limit. As part of its informal comment period on initial drafts of FAC-011-4 and FAC-014-3 (July 14- August 12, 2016), the SDT requested industry comment on whether there is a need to clarify what constitutes system voltage limits through a defined term in the NERC Glossary. The SDT proposed the following definition: “The maximum and minimum steady-state voltages (both Normal and Emergency) that provide for reliable system operations.”

The vast majority of commenters indicated support for developing a definition for System Voltage Limits but noted a few concerns with the proposed definition. In response to those comments, the SDT made the following revisions:

- The word “limits” was added to clarify that it is a numeric value.
- The terms “Normal” and “Emergency” were changed to lower case as “Normal” is not defined in the NERC Glossary, and the SDT concluded that the NERC defined term “Emergency” was not appropriate.
- The phrase “reliable system operations” was replaced with “acceptable System performance” because the SDT determined that this language was more reflective of the desired intent behind the definition.
- The SDT used the NERC Glossary term “System” as the definition implies that System Voltage Limits should result in acceptable performance (from a voltage perspective) of the overall System.

The proposed System Voltage Limit definition does not specify whether the Transmission Operator would be required to provide a “System Voltage Limit” for each bus on its system, or if the Transmission Operator would need to provide a single high and low limit that is applicable to its entire system. The SDT intends for

the Reliability Coordinator’s System Operating Limits (SOL) Methodology to dictate the manner in which System Voltage Limits should be established. The proposed definition allows Reliability Coordinators to have such flexibility, provided the requirements in proposed FAC-011-4 are met.

Additionally, the System Voltage Limit definition allows for differing time components that may be associated with short term or dynamic ratings. The SDT’s intent is to allow the flexibility to establish System Voltage Limits consistent with the Reliability Coordinator’s SOL Methodology, provided the requirements in proposed FAC-011-4 are met. The proposed definition specifies that System Voltage Limits must include normal and emergency maximum and minimum limits, and that these limits provide for acceptable System performance (in the context of voltage performance). According to the definition, it is acceptable for a Reliability Coordinator’s SOL Methodology to allow for System Voltage Limits to include a normal limit and multiple emergency limits, which may have associated time values similar to the way emergency Facility Ratings are associated with time values. As discussed below, this concept is supported by the proposed definition of SOL Exceedance which states, in relevant part: “Bus voltage is outside the highest or lowest emergency System Voltage Limit, or outside a System Voltage Limit for which there is not sufficient time to bring the bus voltage to defined levels should the Contingency occur

Lastly, the proposed definition of System Voltage Limit does not explicitly distinguish between a voltage limit and a voltage rating. That is because proposed FAC-011-4 requires that System Voltage Limits respect equipment voltage ratings.

Potential Standards for Use of New Term: “System Voltage Limit”

These standard(s) were identified as potential areas that may benefit from the use of the new term. The SDT is in the process of evaluating these standards with respect to incorporating the definition.

- FAC-003-4 Transmission Vegetation Management
- MOD-001-2 Available Transmission System Capability
- PRC-012-2 Remedial Action Schemes
- TPL-001-4 Transmission System Planning Performance Requirements
- TPL-007-1 Transmission System Planned Performance for Geomagnetic Disturbance Events
- VAR-001-4.1 Voltage and Reactive Control