

Rationales for FAC-014-3

~~September 2017~~

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Requirement R1

Each Reliability Coordinator shall establish Interconnection Reliability Operating Limits (IROLs) for its Reliability Coordinator Area in accordance with its System Operating Limit methodology (SOL Methodology).

Rationale R1

Reliability Standard FAC-014-2 Requirement R1 requires that the Reliability Coordinator (RC) ensure that System Operating Limits (SOLs), including ~~Interconnection Reliability Operating Limits (IROLs)~~, IROLs, for its RC Area are established and that the SOLs (including IROLs) are consistent with its SOL Methodology.

Furthermore, Requirement R2 of FAC-014-2 requires the Transmission Operator (TOP) to establish SOLs consistent with its RC's SOL Methodology.

Under this structure the RC is responsible for ensuring that SOLs established by the TOP, per Requirement R2, are consistent with the RC's SOL Methodology. This creates a situation where the RC is responsible for "ensuring" the actions of the TOP.

Accordingly, if the TOP does not establish SOLs per its RC's SOL Methodology, then 1) the TOP is in violation of Requirement R2, and 2) the RC by default is in violation of Requirement R1 because the RC did not ensure that the TOP's SOL was consistent with its SOL Methodology.

The proposed revision addresses this issue and clarifies the appropriate responsibilities of the respective functional entities. Additionally, this requirement carries forward the obligation of the RC to establish IROLs for its RC Area. The RC maintains primary responsibility for establishment of IROLs because these limits have the potential to impact a ~~Wide~~ Wide-area.

Requirement R2

Each Transmission Operator shall establish System Operating Limits (SOL) for its portion of the Reliability Coordinator Area in accordance with its Reliability Coordinator's SOL Methodology.

Rationale R2

Requirement R2 preserves the intent of Requirement R2 of FAC-014-2.

The standard drafting team (SDT) removed language from the existing FAC-014-2 Requirement R2 that states the TOP "shall establish SOLs (as directed by its Reliability Coordinator)" because it causes confusion and may be incorrectly understood to mean that the TOPs are only required to establish SOLs if they have been "directed to by their RC." This is not the intended meaning of the requirement, thus, the SDT has removed the unnecessary and potentially confusing language. The proposed language makes

clear that the TOP is the entity responsible for establishing SOLs for its portion of the Reliability Coordinator Area, and that these SOLs must be established in accordance with the RC's SOL Methodology.

Requirement R3

The Transmission Operator shall provide its SOLs to its Reliability Coordinator in accordance with its Reliability Coordinator's SOL Methodology.

Rationale R3

Requirement R3 requires TOPs to provide the SOLs it established (under ~~requirement~~Requirement R2) to the RC in accordance with the RC's SOL Methodology. This requirement is a companion requirement to FAC-011-4 Requirement R7, which states: "Each Reliability Coordinator shall include in its SOL Methodology the method for Transmission Operators to communicate SOLs it established to its RC(s). The method shall address the periodicity of SOL communication." These two requirements work together to ensure that SOLs established by the TOP in accordance with the RC's SOL Methodology are communicated to the RC in a timely manner.

The SDT recognizes that the provision of SOL information from the TOP to the RC may also be addressed via IRO-010-2, but the proposed requirement may also be utilized for SOL information other than what is utilized for Operational Planning Analysis (OPA)/ Real-time Assessment (RTA)/ Real-time monitoring. In such instances, the timing requirements should be coordinated between the RC's SOL ~~methodology~~Methodology and the data specification document.

Requirement R4

Each Reliability Coordinator shall establish stability limits to be used in operations when the limit impacts more than one Transmission Operator in its Reliability Coordinator Area in accordance with its SOL Methodology.

Rationale R4

Requirement R4 requires that the RC establish stability limits to be used in operations when the limit impacts more than one TOP in its RC Area. This ensures that the RC, who has wide-area responsibility, will ~~identify~~establish such stability limits and prevent any gaps in identification and monitoring of stability limits that impacts more than one TOP in its RC Area. TOPs are still required to ~~identify~~establish stability limits that are within its TOP area (including Generator Operator areas interconnected to its TOP area). The requirement establishes the end condition, which is the RC being responsible for establishing a stability limit that impacts more than one TOP regardless of whether that stability limit was originally calculated by the RC or one of the impacted TOPs.

Requirement R5

Each Reliability Coordinator shall provide:

- 5.1. Each Planning Coordinator within its Reliability Coordinator Area, SOLs for its Reliability Coordinator Area (including the subset of SOLs that are IROLs) at least once every twelve calendar months.

- 5.2. Each impacted Planning Coordinator within its Reliability Coordinator Area, the following information for each established stability limit and each established IROL at least once every twelve calendar months:
 - 5.2.1. The value of the stability limit or IROL;
 - 5.2.2. Identification of the Facilities that are critical to the derivation of the stability limit or IROL;
 - 5.2.3. The associated IROL T_v for any IROL;
 - 5.2.4. The associated Contingency(ies); ~~and~~,
 - ~~5.2.5.~~ 5.2.5. A description of the associated system conditions; and
 - 5.2.6. The type of limitation represented by the stability limit or IROL (e.g., voltage collapse, angular stability).
- 5.3. Each impacted Transmission Operator within its Reliability Coordinator Area, the value of the stability limits established pursuant to Requirement R4 and each IROL established pursuant to Requirement R1, in an agreed upon time frame necessary for inclusion in the Transmission Operator’s Operational Planning Analysis, Real-time monitoring, and Real-time Assessments.
- 5.4. Each impacted Transmission Operator within its Reliability Coordinator Area, the information identified in Requirement R5 Parts 5.2.2 – 5.2.5 for each established stability limit or each IROL, and any updates to that information within an agreed upon time frame necessary for inclusion in the Transmission Operator’s Operational Planning Analyses.
- 5.5. Each requesting Transmission Operator within its Reliability Coordinator Area, requested SOL information for its Reliability Coordinator Area, on a mutually agreed upon schedule.

Rationale R5

Requirement R5 requires the RC to provide SOLs (including the subset that are IROLs) and any updates to those SOLs to Planning Coordinators (PCs) and Transmission Operators (~~TOPs~~; TOPs). This is an improvement over Requirement R5 in FAC-014-2 because it provides additional clarity on when the RC is responsible for performing these tasks. FAC-014-2 Requirement R5 includes the triggering clause ~~for RCs~~ to provide SOLs when entities “provide a written request that includes a schedule for delivery of those limits”, while Requirement R5 of FAC-014-3 clearly identifies the RC’s responsibilities with or without a request. This also removes confusion associated with FAC-010 in terms of SOLs existing in the planning horizon. All requirements ~~in~~ pertaining to SOLs in the planning horizon have thus been removed.

The requirement addresses varying needs in terms of both the content and the frequency at which the information is provided. This requirement also complements existing NERC requirements that provide a construct for communication of SOLs and SOL-related information (e.g. TOP-003-3, IRO-010-2, IRO-014-3) to prevent redundancies in requirements. TOP-to-TOP SOL information communication is addressed in

TOP-003-3. RC-to-RC SOL information communication is addressed in IRO-014-3. TOP-to-RC information communication is addressed in Requirement R3 and may be addressed in IRO-010-2.

Requirement R5 Part 5.1 requires the RC to provide the PCs in its RC Area all SOLs and relevant SOL information at least once every 12 calendar months. This provides the PC the relevant information necessary for its assessments and its Transmission Planner's (TP's) assessments. MOD-032-1 and FAC-015-1 requirements provides the mechanism for SOLs limits and criteria to be communicated between the PCs and its TPs. It is expected that PCs do not need more frequent updates as most of their assessments are performed on an annual cycle. Transmission Service Providers were not retained as an entity that would have a reliability related need for stability limit and IROL related information. Nothing prohibits an RC from sharing such information outside of a NERC Reliability Standard for other non-reliability related purposes.

Requirement R5 Part 5.2 requires the RC to provide the impacted PCs additional specific information (consistent with FAC-014-2 R5.1.1 - R5.1.4) for stability limits and IROLs at least once every 12 calendar months. It is expected that PCs do not need more frequent updates as most of their assessments (and their respective TPs assessments) are performed on an annual cycle. In addition, it requires the RC to provide the impacted PCs the system conditions associated with the Stability Limit or IROL, for example: "summer peak", "winter peak", "high import" and etc.

Requirement R5 Part 5.3 requires the RC to provide the impacted TOPs within its RC Area the value of the stability limits established in Requirement R4 and IROLs established in Requirement R1 in the Real-time Operations time horizon. This recognizes that the actual numerical "limit" (whether a new limit or modification of an existing one) may change based on varying system topology and thus those limit values must be provided in a timeframe time frame designed to meet the impacted TOP's needs for their OPA, Real-time monitoring, and RTA.

Requirement R5 Part 5.4 requires the RC to provide the impacted TOPs additional specific information (consistent with FAC-014-2 R5.1.1-5.1.4) for stability limits and IROLs within Same-day or Operations Planning time horizon. This additional information is essential for the TOP's OPA; however, it can be communicated within a longer-term agreed upon time frame outside the Real-time Operations time horizon.

Additionally, Requirement R5 Part 5.5 requires that if a TOP requests any SOL information beyond what impacts that TOP, the RC must provide this SOL information as well. Both Requirement R5 Parts 5.4 and 3 through 5.5 require that the related information be provided in a mutually agreed upon schedule to ensure the TOP's needs are met (e.g. OPA, RTA, etc.) and the RC's ability to meet those needs are taken into consideration.

Requirement R6

~~Each Reliability Coordinator that is impacted by an IROL shall provide Transmission Owners and Generation Owners within its Reliability Coordinator Area a list of Facilities owned by that entity that are critical to the derivation of the IROL.~~

Each TOP and RC shall use the BES performance criteria specified in the RC’s SOL Methodology when performing OPAs, RTAs, and Real-time monitoring to determine SOL exceedances.

Rationale R6

Requirement R6 addresses FERC Order No. 777 directive for the communication of IROL information to Transmission Owners (TOs) (P6 and P41). FERC Order No. 777 states:

“As discussed below, we also direct NERC to develop a means to assure that IROLs are communicated to transmission owners.” (P 6) “NERC should establish a clearly defined communication structure to assure that IROLs and changes to IROL status are timely communicated to transmission owners...One way to achieve this objective...is to modify FAC 014 to require the provision of IROLs to transmission owners. However, we leave it to NERC to determine the most appropriate means for communicating IROL status to transmission owners.” (P 41)

Requirement R5 Parts 5.2.1 through 5.2.5 requires that IROL information—including the Facilities critical to the derivation of the IROL—be communicated to the TOPs. SDT determined that while TOs and Generator Owners (GOs) need to be made aware of their Facilities that are critical to the derivation of the IROL, the TOs and GOs do not need to know the other IROL information specified in Requirement R5 Part 5.2.1 and Parts 5.2.3 through 5.2.5. These items may contain operationally sensitive information that should be limited to the TOPs that operate the equipment. Therefore, the SDT separated the communication to the TOs and GOs into a stand-alone Requirement R6.

The language “Each Reliability Coordinator that is impacted by an IROL” was used to cover scenarios where an IROL in one Reliability Coordinator Area contains Facilities that reside in a neighboring Reliability Coordinator’s Area that are critical to the derivation of the IROL. Therefore, any Facilities that are critical to the derivation of an IROL will be communicated from the responsible RC to the appropriate TOs and GOs.

The performance criteria specified in the RC’s SOL methodology is discussed in more detail in the FAC-011-4 rationale document. It brings into the standard an updated version of the System performance criteria found in FAC-011-3 Requirement R2 by articulating the minimum expectations for System performance for the pre- and post-Contingency operating states. This, in essence, provides clarity for determining SOL exceedance when performing OPAs, RTAs and Real-Time monitoring in accordance with TOP and IRO standards.

FAC-014-3 Requirement R7 corresponds to FAC-011-4 Requirement R6, which requires each RC to include in its SOL Methodology, at a minimum, the BES performance criteria described in the subparts of Requirement R6. When TOPs and RCs implement FAC-014-3 Requirement R7, TOPs and RCs are by default using the minimum BES performance criteria stipulated in FAC-011-4 Requirement R6 and subparts when performing OPAs, RTAs, and Real-time monitoring.