

Implementation Plan

Project 2024-03 Revisions to EOP-012-2 Reliability Standard EOP-012-3

Applicable Standard(s)

- EOP-012-3 Extreme Cold Weather Preparedness and Operations

Requested Retirement(s)

- EOP-012-2 Extreme Cold Weather Preparedness and Operations

Applicable Entities

- Generator Owner
- Generator Operator

Background

The purpose of this project is to address the directives identified by FERC in its June 27, 2024 order approving Reliability Standard EOP-012-2 and directing further modifications. *N. Am. Elec. Reliability Corp.*, 187 FERC ¶ 61,204 (2024) (June 2024 Order), available [here](#). In that order, FERC found that further improvements needed to address ambiguous language and other reliability gaps/implementation issues in the standard and related definitions to fully address issues first raised in the Commission's February 2023 Order approving EOP-012-1. FERC directed that NERC submit the modifications within nine months of the date of the order, or by March 27, 2025.

Project 2024-03

Project 2024-03 is a project to address FERC directives in the June 2024 Order approving EOP-012-2.

Proposed Reliability Standard EOP-012-3 revises the EOP-012-2 standard by providing and clarifying further improvements needed to be made to address ambiguous language and address other reliability gaps/implementation issues in the standard and related definitions to fully address issues first raised in the Commission's [February 2023 Order](#) approving EOP-012-1. See *N. Am. Elec. Reliability Corp.*, 182 FERC ¶ 61,094, PP 3-11 (2023) (February 2023 Order); *reh'g denied*, 183 FERC ¶ 62,034, *order on reh'g*, 183 FERC ¶ 61,222 (2023). In the June 2024 Order approving EOP-012-2, FERC directed that NERC submit the directed modifications within nine months of the date of the order, or by March 27, 2025.

Proposed EOP-012-3 Requirement R1 is an existing EOP-012-2 requirement that consolidated and clarified requirements for each Generator Owner to calculate the Extreme Cold Weather Temperature for its generating unit location(s) and identify generating unit cold weather data, and

to review these calculations and data every five years. Proposed EOP-012-3 Requirement R4 and R5 continue the current requirements under EOP-012-2 (with minimal clarifications in Requirement R4), that all Generator Owners develop cold weather preparedness plans and that all Generator Owners or Generator Operators (as appropriate) conduct annual training on those plans. Proposed EOP-012-3 clarifies which generating unit(s) are subject to the winter operations capability requirements of the standard (Requirements R2 and R3). Proposed EOP-012-3 Requirement R6 provides clarification regarding responses to a Generator Cold Weather Reliability Event that may require Corrective Action Plans (CAP). Proposed EOP-012-3 Requirement R7 specifies timelines for the completion of Corrective Action Plans, consistent with the February 2023 Order and FERC directives in the June 2024 FERC Order. The drafting team crafted language to meet the concern of Generator Owners regarding timelines for units under consideration or development. The language reflects FERC's concern regarding applicability of Corrective Action Plans to the correct Generator Owner. Proposed EOP-012-3 Requirement R8 requires Generator Owners to review declarations at least every 24 calendar months, or as needed, when a change of status occurs and ensures operating limitations caused by the constraints are clearly identified. The revised *Glossary* term for Generator Cold Weather Constraint, and new Attachment 1, provides clarity to the circumstances under which Generator Owners may declare Generator Cold Weather Constraints and thus further clarifies the requirements of the standard.

For additional information on the FERC Order directives addressed in proposed Reliability Standard EOP-012-3, see the Consideration of Directives, available on the Project 2024-03 project page.

General Considerations

This implementation plan reflects past consideration that entities needed time to develop, implement, and maintain cold weather plans, identify Generator Cold Weather Critical Components, and identify freeze protection measures. The implementation plan also considers the FERC directives regarding the need for an accelerated effective date of directed changes and abbreviated implementation periods for generator winterization measures. FERC has repeatedly expressed an urgency in completing cold weather Reliability Standards and having them implemented in a timely manner to address the risks presented by cold weather events on the reliability of the Bulk-Power System. FERC noted the five core directives to NERC in the June 2024 Order are not new issues, but rather targeted modifications necessary to fully address issues identified in FERC's prior February 2023 Order. See June 2024 Order at P 30.

In consideration of these factors, and to ensure entities have sufficient notice of their revised obligations under Reliability Standard EOP-012-3, the proposed implementation plan provides that the standard shall become effective on the later of October 1, 2025, which is the date Reliability Standard EOP-012-2 will be fully enforceable in the United States, or three months following regulatory approval.

The drafting team determined that later phased-in compliance dates were not necessary for the revised requirements in EOP-012-3, as the practical impact of implementing the proposed changes, in light of the regulatory history described above, is not expected to be significant:

- For revised Requirement R2, units further into design or construction have separate requirements from those units in the early phases of design: the units further in the design/construction phase are allowed to develop Corrective Action Plans to meet the more rigorous requirements for new generating units, whereas units in the early stages of design are expected to meet the more rigorous requirements unless a Generator Cold Weather Constraint applies. Additional time is not needed to implement this change.
- For revised Requirement R6, relating to Generator Cold Weather Reliability Events, the language reflects the FERC directives regarding Corrective Action Plans, Corrective Action Plan extensions, and consideration of applicability of Corrective Action Plan corrective actions across a fleet for Generation Owners that had a generating unit(s) that experienced a Generator Cold Weather Reliability Event. Additional time to implement these changes is not needed, given the conditions in which a Corrective Action Plan may be needed for a Generator Cold Weather Reliability Event.
- For revised Requirement R7, the drafting team clarified the applicability of Corrective Action Plan requirements and implemented a Corrective Action Plan extension process similar to that found in Reliability Standard TPL-007-4 to address the June 2024 Order. Additional guidance is provided below.

Additional guidance is provided to aid in the orderly implementation of the standard as entities transition from compliance with Reliability Standard EOP-012-2 to Reliability Standard EOP-012-3.

Effective Date

The effective dates for the proposed Reliability Standards are provided below. Where the drafting team identified or recognized the need for a longer implementation period for compliance with a particular section of a proposed Reliability Standard (i.e., an entire Requirement or a portion thereof), the additional time for compliance with that section is specified below. The phased-in compliance date for those particular sections represents the date that entities must be compliant with that particular section of the Reliability Standard, even where the Reliability Standard goes into effect at an earlier date.

EOP-012-3 and Definitions

Where approval by an applicable governmental authority is required, the standard and associated definitions shall become effective on the later of: (1) October 1, 2025; or (2) the first day of the first calendar quarter that is three (3) months after the effective date of the applicable governmental authority's order approving the standard, or as otherwise provided for by the applicable governmental authority.

Where approval by an applicable governmental authority is not required, the standard shall become effective on the first day of the first calendar quarter that is three (3) months after the date the standard is adopted by the NERC Board of Trustees, or as otherwise provided for in that jurisdiction.

Effective Date and Phased-In Compliance Dates

Compliance Date for EOP-012-3 Requirement R1

Entities were required to become compliant with Requirement R1 by the effective date of EOP-012-2 in accordance with that implementation plan. Entities shall perform their first periodic review under Reliability Standard EOP-012-3 Requirement R1 by no more than 60 months after the effective date of EOP-012-2.

Compliance Date for EOP-012-3 Requirement R2 – New Generating Units

Entities shall become compliant with Requirement R2 no later than the commercial operations date for the applicable unit. Any Generator Cold Weather Constraint shall be submitted in accordance with the timeline provided in Requirement R8.

Compliance Date for EOP-012-3 Requirement R3 – New Generating Units

Entities beginning commercial operation after the effective date of EOP-012-3 shall become compliant with Requirement R3 no later than the commercial operations date for the applicable unit.

Compliance Date for EOP-012-3 Requirement R6

Entities shall comply with Requirement R6 within the timeframes listed within the requirement if a Generator Cold Weather Reliability Event has occurred.

Compliance Date for EOP-012-3 Requirement R7

Entities shall comply with Requirement R7 within the timeframes listed within the requirement if a Corrective Action Plan is required.

Compliance Date for EOP-012-3 Requirement R8

Each entity shall review all Generator Cold Weather Constraints previously declared under Reliability Standard EOP-012-2 for compliance with Reliability Standard EOP-012-3 Attachment 1 by the effective date. The entity shall submit any previously declared Generator Cold Weather Constraints no later than 45 days following the effective date of Reliability Standard EOP-012-3. Newly declared Generator Cold Weather Constraints shall be submitted in accordance with the timelines specified in Requirement R8.

Retirement Date of EOP-012-2

Reliability Standard EOP-012-2 shall be retired immediately prior to the effective date of Reliability Standard EOP-012-3 in the particular jurisdiction in which the revised standard is becoming effective.