

NERC

NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC
RELIABILITY CORPORATION

RSTC Definitions:

- **Subcommittee, Working Group, Task Force**
- **Reliability Guidelines, Technical Reference Documents, Whitepapers, SARs**

Overview

RELIABILITY | RESILIENCE | SECURITY



- Provide an overview of various groups that report to the RSTC and to Differentiate between the various products and their end use
- Provide an overview of various documents to:
 - Differentiate between the various products and their end use
 - Identify requirements and audiences/users
 - Discuss potential alignment and/or need to maintain separation
 - Approval/Acceptance/Endorsement process and member considerations

Committee Subgroups				
	Scope	Duration	Approvals	Leadership
Subcommittee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oversee broad processes Manage cyclical deliverables 	Long-term	Consensus seeking; vote as specified by its scope	Nominated by subcommittee; Approved by RSTC Leadership
Working Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oversee specific data systems Support specific initiatives with broader interaction with other subgroups/topics Support a cyclical process Support parent subcommittee 	Long-term/ mid-term	Consensus seeking; non-voting	Nominated by working group, parent subcommittee, or direct appointment by the NERC Technical Committees; approved by RSTC Leadership
Task Force	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support a specific initiative Direct, often only one deliverable Support parent subcommittee 	Short-term	Consensus seeking; non-voting	Nominated by task force, parent subcommittee, or direct appointment by the NERC Technical Committees; approved by RSTC Leadership

Reliability & Security Guidelines

- Formulated from best and/or optimal practices
- Suggested approaches or behaviors
- “HOW” certain objectives can be met
- Recommendations for how objectives “could” or “should” be accomplished

Reference Documents, Whitepapers and Technical Reports

- Documented technical concepts
- Definitions of technical terms
- Defined methods or approaches
- Can be used as justification to support “WHY” certain practices are needed

Implementation Guidance

- Provides examples or approaches for “HOW” Registered Entities could demonstrate compliance with Reliability Standard requirements.
- Used in Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement activities

Submitted to ERO

Standard Authorization Request

- Defines scope, reliability benefit, and technical justification for a new or modified Reliability Standard or definition.
- Identifies “WHAT” requirements are needed to ensure the reliable operation of the BPS

Submitted to SC

Reliability Assessment Reports

- Independent and objective evaluations of BPS reliability conducted by the ERO
- Subgroup used to gain industry perspectives, expertise, and validation
- Requires BOT approval

Reliability & Security Guidelines

- **ACCEPT** for public comment
 - Is guidance needed on this topic?
 - Are there major flaws?
- **APPROVE**
 - Has the public and committee comments been sufficiently addressed?
 - Do you agree with the recommended guidance?

Reference Documents, Whitepapers and Technical Reports

- **APPROVE**
 - Does it provide sufficient detail to support technical, security, and engineering SMEs?
 - Has it been peer reviewed and supported by a technical subgroup?
 - Is it foundational and/or conceptual
 - Does it contain specific recommendations?

Implementation Guidance

- **ENDORSE**
 - Does it provide examples or approaches on how to implement a Reliability Standard?
 - Does it meet the expectations identified in the Implementation Guidance Development and Review Aid?

Standard Authorization Request

- **ENDORSE**
 - Is the SAR form complete?
 - Does it contain technical justification?

Reliability Assessment Reports

- **ENDORSE**
 - Is there general agreement with findings and recommendations?
 - Was the process followed?

- **Approve:** The RSTC has reviewed the deliverable and supports the content and development process, including any recommendations.
- **Accept:** The RSTC has reviewed the deliverable and supports the development process used to complete the deliverable.
- **Remand:** The RSTC remands the deliverable to the originating subcommittee, refer it to another group, or direct other action by the RSTC or one of its subcommittees or groups.
- **Endorse:** The RSTC agrees with the content of the document or action, and recommends the deliverable for the approving authority to act on. This includes deliverables that are provided to the RSTC by other NERC committees. RSTC endorsements will be made with recognition that the deliverable is subject to further modifications by NERC Executive Management and/or the NERC Board. Changes made to the deliverable subsequent to RSTC endorsement will be presented to the RSTC in a timely manner. If the RSTC does not agree with the deliverable or its recommendations, it may decline endorsement. It is recognized that this does not prevent an approval authority from further action.

- A Standard Authorization Request (“SAR”) is the form used to document the scope and reliability benefit of a proposed project for one or more new or modified Reliability Standards or definitions or the benefit of retiring one or more approved Reliability Standards.
- Any entity or individual, including NERC committees or subgroups and NERC Staff, may propose the development of a new or modified Reliability Standard
- A SAR proposing a specific project may be submitted to the NERC Reliability Standards Staff at any time.

- Each SAR should be accompanied by a technical justification that includes, as a minimum, a discussion of the reliability-related benefits and costs of developing the new Reliability Standard or definition, and a technical foundation document (e.g., research paper) to guide the development of the Reliability Standard or definition.
- The technical document should address the engineering, planning and operational basis for the proposed Reliability Standard or definition, as well as any alternative approaches considered during SAR development.
- If found to be lacking technical foundation, the Standards Committee (SC) shall solicit assistance from NERC's technical committees, or other industry experts, to provide technical foundation before authorizing development.

- When presented with a SAR, the SC shall determine if the SAR is sufficiently complete to guide Reliability Standard development and whether the SAR is consistent with this manual.
- The SC shall take the following action:
 - Accept the SAR.
 - Remand the SAR back to the requestor or to NERC Reliability Standards Staff for additional work.
 - Reject the SAR. The SC may reject a SAR for good cause. If the SC rejects a SAR, it shall provide a written explanation for rejection to the sponsor
 - Delay action on the SAR pending one of the following:
 - development of a technical justification for the proposed project; or
 - consultation with another NERC Committee to determine if there is another approach to addressing the issue raised in the SAR.

- If the SC accepts a SAR, a Standards Development project shall be added to the list of approved projects. (SAR DEVELOPMENT)
- The SC shall assign a priority to the project.
- Accepted SARs are posted for public comment.
- After public comment period and based on those comments, the SC may then decide to reject the project, or initiate it by forming a Standards Development Team.
- The SC shall appoint a drafting team to work with the NERC Staff coordinator to give prompt consideration of the written views and objections of all participants.

- The drafting team shall address all comments submitted during the public posting period.
- An effort to resolve all expressed objections shall be made, and each objector shall be advised of the disposition of the objection and the reasons therefore.
- If the drafting team concludes that there is not sufficient stakeholder support to continue to refine the SAR, the team may recommend that the SC direct curtailment of work on the SAR.
- If stakeholders indicate support for the project proposed with the SAR, the drafting team shall request that the SC authorize development of the associated Reliability Standard.

- The SDT members are selected to ensure expertise, competencies, and diversity of views necessary to develop the Reliability Standard
- The drafting team members assigned by the SC shall have final authority over the technical details of the Reliability Standard, while the technical writer shall provide assistance to the drafting team in assuring that the final draft of the Reliability Standard meets the quality attributes identified in *NERC's Ten Benchmarks of an Excellent Reliability Standard*.

- Endorsement ensures:
 - Initial vetting of the technical material prior to formal processes
 - Sound technical material has been developed
 - Initial perspectives on industry support
- The RSTC should *not* focus on:
 - Wordsmithing—SDT has ultimate authorship
 - Implementation periods
 - Compliance activities
 - Specific solutions and costs
 - Specific redlines/edits that were not vetted by subgroup