



NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC  
RELIABILITY CORPORATION

## Standards Announcement

Abbreviated Comment Period Open October 18-November 7, 2010

Abbreviated Ballot Pool Window Open October 18-28, 2010

Future: Initial Ballot October 28-November 7, 2010

**Now available at:** [http://www.nerc.com/filez/standards/Standards\\_Processes\\_Manual.html](http://www.nerc.com/filez/standards/Standards_Processes_Manual.html)

A revision to the [Standard Processes Manual](#) has been posted for an abbreviated (21 day) formal comment period through November 7, 2010.

### **Ballot Pool Open through 8 a.m. on October 28, 2010**

A ballot pool is being formed during the first 11 days of this comment period, and an initial ballot will be conducted during the last 10 days of this comment period.

Registered Ballot Body members may join the ballot pool to be eligible to vote in the upcoming ballot at the following page: <https://standards.nerc.net/BallotPool.aspx>

During the pre-ballot window, members of the ballot pool may communicate with one another by using their “ballot pool list server.” (Once the balloting begins, ballot pool members are prohibited from using the ballot pool list servers.) The list server for this ballot pool is: [bp-2010-10\\_SPM\\_in@nerc.com](mailto:bp-2010-10_SPM_in@nerc.com)

### **Formal 21-day Comment Period Open through November 7, 2010**

Please use this [electronic form](#) to submit comments. If you experience any difficulties in using the electronic form, please contact Monica Benson at [Monica.Benson@nerc.net](mailto:Monica.Benson@nerc.net). An off-line, unofficial copy of the comment form is posted on the project page:

[http://www.nerc.com/filez/standards/Standards\\_Processes\\_Manual.html](http://www.nerc.com/filez/standards/Standards_Processes_Manual.html)

### **Background:**

On September 3, 2010, FERC approved NERC’s proposed Standards Processes Manual filed on June 10, 2010, subject to one modification. In the September 3 Order, FERC expressed its concern with NERC’s classification of elements of a Reliability Standard (enforceable elements, informational elements, compliance elements) and whether these distinctions conflicted with previous direction provided in Order No. 693. In Order No. 693, FERC stated that the essential element of a Reliability Standard is its Requirement and that compliance with a standard will be determined by whether an entity complied with the Requirement.

In the September 3 Order, FERC directed NERC to submit a compliance filing within 90 days (by December 1, 2010), addressing FERC’s concerns with the “Elements of a Reliability Standard” section of the Standards Processes Manual. FERC noted that NERC may either revise the “Elements of a Reliability Standard” section or may remove the designation of particular elements of a Reliability Standard as enforceable if these designations are determined to be unnecessary.

A revision has been made to the manual that is responsive to the September 3 Order by rephrasing the sentence that the Commission did not agree with, and rearranging the headings and sequence of the elements that were listed as elements of a reliability standard.

In accordance with the Standard Processes Manual, proposed changes to the Standard Processes Manual must be posted for a 45-day formal comment period and (if the comments do not indicate the need for additional substantive changes) balloted by a ballot pool. The Standards Committee (under the Expedited Process identified in the Standard Processes Manual) has the authority to shorten comment periods and ballot pool windows when needed, such as when necessary to meet a regulatory-imposed deadline, and exercised that authority to meet the December 1, 2010 deadline for filing the revised manual.

### **Next Steps**

An announcement will be made when the ballot window opens on October 28, 2010.

### **Standards Process**

The [Standard Processes Manual](#) contains all the procedures governing the standards development process. The success of the NERC standards development process depends on stakeholder participation. We extend our thanks to all those who participate.

*For more information or assistance, please contact Monica Benson,  
Standards Process Administrator, at [monica.benson@nerc.net](mailto:monica.benson@nerc.net) or at 609.452.8060.*

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