

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Reliability Technical Conference

Docket No. AD15-7-000

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTICE WITH AGENDA

(April 28, 2015)

As announced in the Notice of Technical Conference issued on April 9, 2014, the Commission will hold a technical conference on Thursday, June 4, 2015 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. to discuss policy issues related to the reliability of the Bulk-Power System. The agenda for this conference is attached. Commission members will participate in this conference.

Registration is not required, but is encouraged. Attendees may register at: <https://www.ferc.gov/whats-new/registration/06-04-15-form.asp>.

After the close of the conference, the Commission will accept written comments regarding the matters discussed at the technical conference. Any person or entity wishing to submit written comments regarding the matters discussed at the conference should submit such comments in Docket No. AD15-7-000 on or before July 9, 2014.

Information on this event will be posted on the Calendar of Events on the Commission's web site, www.ferc.gov, prior to the event. The conference will be transcribed. Transcripts will be available for a fee from Ace Reporting Company (202-347-3700). A free webcast of this event is also available through www.ferc.gov. Anyone with Internet access who desires to listen to this event can do so by navigating to www.ferc.gov's Calendar of Events and locating this event in the Calendar. The event will contain a link to the webcast. The Capitol Connection provides technical support for webcasts and offers the option of listening to the meeting via phone-bridge for a fee. If you have any questions, visit www.CapitolConnection.org or call 703-993-3100.

Commission conferences are accessible under section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. For accessibility accommodations, please send an email to accessibility@ferc.gov or call toll free 1-866-208-3372 (voice) or 202-502-8659 (TTY), or send a FAX to 202-208-2106 with the required accommodations.

For more information about this conference, please contact:

Sarah McKinley
Office of External Affairs
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, N.E.
Washington, DC 20426
(202) 502-8368
sarah.mckinley@ferc.gov

Kimberly D. Bose,
Secretary.



Commissioner-Led Reliability Technical Conference

Docket No. AD15-7-000
Thursday, June 4, 2015
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

10:00 a.m. Commissioners' Opening Remarks

10:15 a.m. Introductions:

10:30 a.m. Panel I: 2015 State of Reliability Report

Presentations: The North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) recently released its 2015 State of Reliability report, which highlights reliability performance, current trends and challenges, and recommendations for maintaining and improving the reliability of the bulk power system. Panelists will be asked to address the following issues:

- a. What does the 2015 report show about the effectiveness of NERC's reliability activities and related industry efforts? What progress has been made with respect to the recommendations in the 2014 report and what are the obstacles to continued progress? What priorities have been identified in the 2015 State of Reliability report and how are these different from the 2014 report? Does the 2015 report indicate that more resources should be directed to particular reliability risks or areas?
- b. Protection system misoperation and AC substation equipment failures are again identified as major risk areas that are major contributors to system disturbances. In December 2014, NERC staff released an analysis of system protection misoperations.¹ What were the key findings and what steps, if any, should be taken to decrease the number of misoperations, and are there any obstacles that exist to reducing this number? What is the status of NERC's AC Substation Equipment Task Force² and what

¹ [NERC Staff Analysis of System Protection Misoperations, December 2014](#)

² [http://www.nerc.com/comm/PC/Pages/AC-Substation-Equipment-Task-Force-\(ACSETF\).aspx](http://www.nerc.com/comm/PC/Pages/AC-Substation-Equipment-Task-Force-(ACSETF).aspx)

considerations have been given to reducing AC substation equipment failure?

- c. The report indicates that the number of non-weather-related load loss events and the MW load loss amount for the past three years is significantly less than previous years. What are the key factors in continuing this trend?
- d. Are there other significant issues that require analysis or changes in the planning and operation of the bulk power system during the next 1-5 years?

Panelists: TBD

12:00 a.m. Lunch

1:00 p.m. Panel II: Emerging Issues

Presentations: Significant changes to our Nation's fuel sources and power supply portfolio could result from such factors as the affordability of domestic natural gas, Federal and state policies on renewable and other resources, and new environmental regulations. Panelists will be asked to address the following issues:

- a. What emerging issues are going to challenge NERC and industry? How are these issues being considered in long-term, seasonal and operational planning studies?
- b. What progress has been made by NERC's Essential Reliability Services Task Force in developing new approaches to the "reliability building blocks" (voltage support, ramping capability, and frequency support) needed for reliability and for ensuring their provision as the resource mix changes? Are any changes in reliability standards or other regulatory requirements needed or appropriate?
- c. What approaches are being developed to address recent declines in reserve margins in several regions as described in the 2014 NERC Long Term Reliability Assessment report? What connection, if any, does this trend have with resource mix changes? Should reserve margin targets be altered or rethought as the overall resource mix changes?
- d. Are additional efforts needed to maintain reliability as the growth of natural gas-fired generation continues? What specific additional improvements still need to be made?

- e. In March of this year, the Commission completed a series of conferences on EPA's proposed Clean Power Plan. Since that time, is there new or updated information that warrants consideration on this issue?

Panelists: TBD

2:15 p.m. Break

2:30 p.m. Panel III: ERO Performance and Initiatives

Presentations: As the ERO, NERC identifies various evolving issues that face the bulk power system and develops initiatives to address those issues. Panelists will be asked to address the following issues:

- a. What are the initial results of the risk-based Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program? What specific improvements to reliability performance, reduction to reliability risks, and increased compliance efficiencies are NERC and the industry experiencing as a result of this initiative?
- b. Explain the feedback loop from event analysis and compliance monitoring and enforcement to standards development. What are some examples of how standards were modified or developed as a result of bulk-power system events?
- c. Are the ESCC and ES-ISAC working well in enhancing security? Would you suggest any changes in how they function?
- d. NERC filed its Stage 2 proposal on geomagnetic disturbances early this year. Has any significant new information or analysis been published or issued since then? Similarly, how is work progressing on industry's implementation of the physical security standard and version 5 of the cyber security standards?

Panelists: TBD

3:45 p.m. Commissioners' Closing Remarks