

Procedure for Submitting the Regional Reliability Standards to NERC

Purpose

This document summarizes the procedure for submitting an ERCOT- specific Regional Reliability Standard or Regional Variance to NERC.

The NERC Board of Trustees (BOT) shall consider adopting an ERCOT-specific Regional Reliability Standard that has been approved by the ERCOT Board of Directors (BOD). Once the NERC BOT adopts a regional reliability standard as a reliability standard, NERC will file the standard with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to propose the standard be made mandatory and enforceable. No regional reliability standard shall be effective unless filed by NERC with FERC and approved by FERC.

An ERCOT-specific regional reliability standard when approved by FERC, shall be made part of the body of NERC reliability standards and shall be enforced upon all applicable bulk power system owners, operators, and users within the ERCOT region, regardless of membership in the region.

Sequence of Events:

The Texas Regional Entity (Texas RE) is responsible for submitting proposed ERCOT-specific Regional Reliability (RR) Standards or a Regional Variances (RV) to NERC for approval, revision, or withdrawal. The Texas RE is responsible for responding to comments and deciding when a proposed Regional Reliability Standard or Regional Variance is forwarded to the NERC BOT for adoption.

The following describes the steps to be taken for submitting a request for approval, revision or withdrawal of RR Standards. These steps and events are in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure and NERC Regional Reliability Standards Evaluation Procedures.

Step 1 – Request

Texas RE may submit a request to NERC to approve, revise, or withdraw a RR Standard at any time in the Texas RE's standard development process.

Texas RE's Reliability Standards Manager (RSM) shall submit the request to NERC's Manager of Regional Standards. The Manager of Regional Standards will electronically acknowledge receipt of the request to RSM.

Such requests to NERC shall be in electronic form and be sent to:

North American Electric Reliability Corporation
Attn: Manager of Regional Standards
E-mail: RegionalStandards@nerc.net

The request shall be submitted using the NERC Regional Reliability Standards Submittal Request Form.

The request shall include:

1. A concise statement of the basis and purpose (scope) of the standard action (deletion, revision, or development)
2. A concise statement of the justification for the regional reliability standard.

** The justification for a regional reliability standard should identify how the proposed regional reliability standard is more stringent than the continent-wide reliability standard, including a regional reliability standard that addresses matters that the continent-wide reliability standard does not or a regional reliability standard that is necessitated by a physical difference in the bulk power system.

Texas RE shall be permitted to present to the applicable NERC groups the technical aspects of the regional standard and the justification for the regional entity's request for such action.

3. MS Word format of the draft or the ERCOT Board of Directors (BOD) approved regional reliability standard consistent with the NERC template for reliability standards.
4. An implementation plan in accordance with NERC Regional Reliability Standards Evaluation Procedures
5. A complete list of the names and affiliations of the committees and teams who have approved the submittal of the standard which include the following roster:
 - Reliability Standards Committee
 - Standards Drafting Team
 - Standards Ballot Pool
6. The final ballot results, including a list of significant minority issues that were not resolved.
7. For each public comment period, a copy of each comment submitted and its associated response along with the associated changes made to the standard.

Texas RE may submit a request for approval, revision, or withdrawal of a regional reliability standard prior to the completion of the public comment period and balloting of the standard. In that case, items 3 through 7 in **Step 1** must be submitted before **Step 3** (below) will be considered complete.

NERC will review the standard for completeness by using a Checklist and will inform the Texas RE if the request is accepted as complete or requires additional information. This review shall occur within a 30-day period of the submittal of the proposed standard. Once NERC has completed this review and the request has been determined to be complete the proposed standard will be posted for public comment (**Step 2**).

Step 2 – Solicit Public Comments on Draft Regional Reliability Standard

The RSM shall notify the NERC Manager of Regional Standards of the RSC approval of the draft standards package (Standards draft, implementation plan and the supporting documents) and the posting of the documents for the 30 day Comment Posting Period (As indicated in Step 4 of [Texas RE Standards Development Procedure](#)).

Once NERC has verified that the Texas RE has submitted a complete request for approval, revision, or withdrawal of a regional reliability standard, NERC will set the posting start and end dates for the purpose of soliciting public comments. The NERC will have a 45-day period for soliciting comments on the proposed regional standard. This NERC step however can not begin sooner than Texas RE's posting for comment, but can be performed concurrently.

Since the need for the regional reliability standard is established at the regional level, comments at this stage in the evaluation of a regional reliability standard will be permitted only on whether the proposed regional reliability standard meets the criteria as indicated in Step 2 of [NERC Regional Reliability Standards Evaluation Procedures](#). (Page 9/29)

Step 3 – Analysis of Comments

Within 10 days of the end of the public comment period, NERC will assemble the comments and supply them to Texas RE.

Texas RE shall give prompt consideration to the assembled comments in an effort to resolve all expressed objections.

Texas RE shall provide NERC reply comments responding to every comment contained in the assembled comments and identify any refinements made to the proposed regional reliability standard as a result of the comments received.

The Texas RE will summarize comments that were rejected and identify the reason(s) that the comments were rejected, in part or whole.

Texas RE will supply the reply comments to NERC electronically within thirty (30) days of receiving the assembled comments.

Texas RE reply comments will be posted on NERC's website within 14 days of receipt by NERC.

Based on comments received, the Texas RE may determine if there is an opportunity to improve the standard. In this case, the Texas RE may either withdraw the request entirely or revise the proposed standard and request another posting. Although there is no predetermined limit on the number of times a proposed regional reliability standard may be revised and posted, Texas RE should ensure the potential benefits of another posting outweigh the burden on the ERCOT Region and its stakeholders.

What to Expect Next

Once NERC staff has completed their evaluation and received comments from the applicable NERC committees, subcommittees, working groups, and task forces, NERC will document the evaluation, recommendation, and actions in a report for ***Adoption of the Reliability Standard by NERC Board of Trustees (BOT)***. NERC shall also post this report for public viewing and provide an electronic copy of the report to the Texas RE.

The NERC BOT shall consider the Texas RE's request, NERC staff's recommendation for action on the regional reliability standard, any stakeholder comments, and the Texas RE consideration of comments in determining whether to adopt the regional reliability standard as a NERC reliability standard. The board shall adopt or reject a proposed regional reliability standard, but may not modify a proposed regional reliability standard. If the board chooses not to adopt a regional reliability standard, it shall provide its reasons for not doing so.

Once the NERC Board of Trustees has adopted a regional reliability standard or the revision or retirement of a regional reliability standard, the NERC Board of Trustees will direct the standard to be filed with Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for approval. NERC may request Texas RE assistance in any governmental filing process.

Once the regional reliability standard is approved by FERC, all bulk power system owners, operators, and users within the ERCOT region are required to comply with the standard in accordance with applicable statutes, regulations and agreements. The NERC staff will notify the Texas RE of the FERC decisions. If accepted for filing the regional reliability standard will be forwarded to the Texas RE/NERC compliance programs within 10 business days for entrance into the ERO's compliance monitoring and enforcement program in accordance with the schedule included in the standard's associated implementation plan.