



RELIABILITY MATTERS

Transmission Services Reliability Program Quarterly Update

Volume 2, Issue 4

November 2012

A Message from the Transmission Reliability Program

It's the season for warm fires, large servings and family bonding! Just like the season, the industry is bustling with activity. NERC continues its busy pace in 2012 with no signs of letting up.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, BPA supported the national emergency response by sending over 70 pieces of large equipment ranging from utility trucks to power generators and backhoes and over 100 BPA employees and contractors. BPA personnel were asked to stay past the original release dates because of BPA's excellent work during the initial storm response.

The Transmission Reliability Program website has been modified to better represent the Transmission Reliability Program and we are hopeful that you will find it easier to navigate. We welcome your feedback as we continually look to make improvements to better serve you.



To access the site visit <http://transmission.bpa.gov/operations/reliability>

Wishing you all a safe and happy holidays!



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NERC Compliance on the Customer Portal

- Check out NERC Compliance announcements, documents and standards!

It has arrived! The NERC Compliance tab is now available on the Customer Portal. Upon selecting this tab, a user has instant access to an array of information broken into three main sections including a Library, Documentation, and Standards.

All NERC compliance documents will have a 6 year rolling life cycle in the Customer Por-

tal. The Standards listed are applicable to individual customers by NERC registration and NERC compliance documentation.

Additional Information will be provided soon. In the meantime, if you have questions please contact the Transmission

Reliability team @ TxReliabilityProgram@bpa.gov.



customerportal.bpa.gov

Access the 2013 WECC Self-Certification schedule at the link below

http://www.wecc.biz/compliance/United_States/Monitoring/Pages/Self-Certifications.aspx

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Industry Activity Update

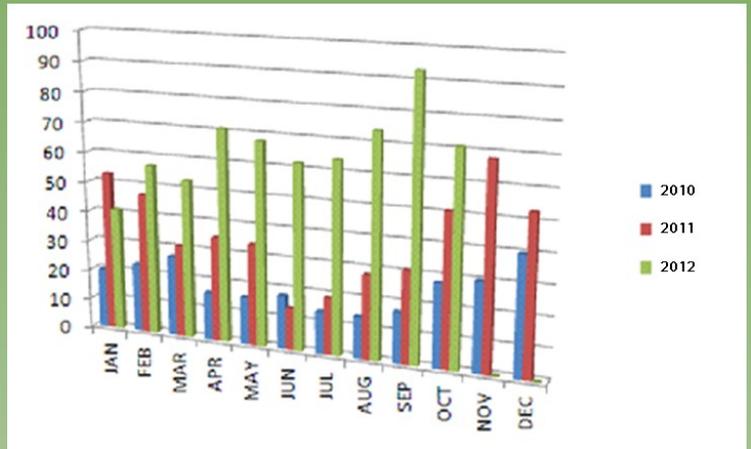
- *Activity has continued to increase over the last three years*

BPA has recognized a dramatic spike in WECC, NERC, and FERC activity just over the past two months including large projects such as Project 2008-06 – CIP V5 standards (in which all standards passed industry approval), revisions to Outstanding Risk Factors (VRFs) and Violation Severity Levels (VSLs), and Project 2007-09 – Generator Verification.

Recently, TxRP coordinated with BPA’s internal Subject Matter Experts (SME’s) on Project 2007-17, PRC-005-2; Protection System Maintenance & Testing. The ballot received an 80.51% industry approval and it will now be presented to the NERC Board of Trustees for adoption. BPA continues to sup-

port the standard recognizing its great benefit to the industry.

The activity chart below provides a graphical representation of how the activity has increased over the previous two years. The TxRP program continues to capture and coordinate 100% of all the WECC/NERC/FERC activities received.



WECC/NERC/FERC Activity (Combined)

Reliability Standards and Compliance Workshop Recap

- *NERC proposes two plans involving internal controls*

NERC hosted their bi-annual Standards and Compliance Workshop in Atlanta, GA in October. The industry was well represented with individuals from rural entities all the way up to multi-national corporations. The direction of the workshop was heavily angled towards encouraging the use of internal controls and NERC proposed two plans to address this.

The first plan involves NERC changing their compliance audit procedures to include the analysis of an entity’s internal controls; the better the controls, the smaller the sample that the auditor tests. Additionally, any deficiencies identified and resolved by the entity would not count as a violation, with the exception of frequently recurring errors that would denote a potential deeper problem within the entity.

The second plan is to incorporate internal

control focused language into new standards being developed. Examples of this include CIP-006-5 and COM-003-1, both of which have language to the effect of “the entity will implement processes to identify, assess, and correct deficiencies...” This approach would require entities to establish internal controls, with the possibility of being found non-compliant if they do not.

The hope of NERC is that by implementing these two plans, they will eliminate the need for the Find, Fix, and Track (FFT) program currently in place to limit minor violations and fines.

If these two plans are implemented it is NERC’s desire that with the fear of violation scaled back, entities will be more willing to share information with each other which will lead to a more knowledgeable and reliable electric system for everyone.

Important Announcement!

BPA NERC reliability standards documents have been moved to:

http://transmission.bpa.gov/operations/nerc_compliance/default.cfm

BPA’s bulk electric system facilities rating methodology (STD-D-000011); facility ratings methodology (FAC-009) and the process for requesting BPA’s system electrical data (MOD-010) are on this page.



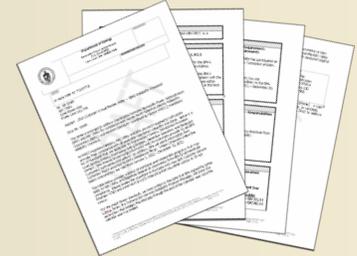
2012 ANNUAL SYSTEM REVIEW (ASR) LETTER NEXT STEPS:

DECEMBER 2012:

- SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS WILL COMPLETE STANDARD AND REQUIREMENT VALIDATIONS
- TXRP WILL CREATE CUSTOMER DRAFT LETTERS AND PROVIDE TO BPA CUSTOMER SERVICE ENGINEERS FOR REVIEW WITH CUSTOMERS

DECEMBER 2012-MARCH 2013:

- LETTERS ARE EXECUTED—TRANSMISSION OWNERS ARE FIRST PRIORITY



Our fourth year of offering this service to you!

Transmission Reliability Program Staff Spotlight

- Meet one of our staff members who is ready to help

Jamison Dye started with BPA in May of this year. His background includes five years of private sector experience, where he honed his technical writing, organizational and administrative skills. His knowledge of government and private sector relationships makes Jamison a great fit for his new role at BPA.

Jamison works as the administrator for the Transmission Reliability Program Crawler, a system that integrates multiple sources of data related to reliability into a single location, such as customer facilities, meter

points, reliability documents and standards. He is also heavily involved in the internal standards development process within BPA, working with Subject Matter Experts to respond to every request received from WECC, NERC, or FERC.

In his free time, he is very involved at his church and enjoys spending time with his family going hiking, camping, and everything else that makes the Pacific Northwest the unique place it is.

We are excited to have him on the team!

-Jamison Dye-
Reliability Program
Support Specialist



What's Happening this Quarter?

- ◆ 2012 Annual System Review Letters will be available for review and execution in December
- ◆ NERC Compliance page is live on Customer Portal
- ◆ BPA will be sending out a communication in December regarding the Planning Coordinator and Transmission Planner functions - A customer meeting has been scheduled for March 28, 2013
- ◆ 2012 Maintenance and Ownership (M&O) customer attestation packets will be sent out in early 2013

Did you know?

AT THE HEIGHT OF HURRICANE SANDY'S DESTRUCTION 8.5 MILLION IN 21 STATES WERE WITHOUT POWER!

Questions or Comments

TxRP Website: <http://transmission.bpa.gov/operations/reliability/>

Questions, comments, or topic suggestions can be submitted via the online form at <http://transmission.bpa.gov/operations/reliability/CommentForm.cfm>

OR send an email to TxReliabilityProgram@bpa.gov



TxRP Mission:

"Providing reliability coordination for our customers, while maintaining a strategic approach for standards development."