ANNOUNCEMENT OF PANELISTS FOR TECHNICAL CONFERENCE

(November 10, 2010)

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) issued a notice on October 1, 2010 that it will hold a Commissioner-led Technical Conference on November 18, 2010 in the above-referenced proceeding to explore issues associated with reliability monitoring, enforcement and compliance. The Commission announced the conference in its September 16, 2010 order that accepted the North American Electric Reliability Corporation’s initial assessment in Docket No. RR09-7-000 of its performance as the nation’s Electric Reliability Organization (ERO), and performance by the Regional Entities, under their delegation agreements with the ERO.  

This Technical Conference will be held in the Commission Meeting Room (2C) at Commission Headquarters, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426, from 1 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. EST. On November 2, 2010, the Commission issued a notice with the agenda for the conference. The Commission is now announcing the panelists for the conference.

The conference will be transcribed and Webcast. Transcripts of the conference will be immediately available for a fee from Ace-Federal Reporters, Inc. (202-347-3700 or 1-800-336-6646). A free webcast of the conference 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 its webcast. The Capitol Connection provides technical support for the 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.

---

Docket No. AD11-1-000

All those that are interested are invited and there is no registration list or registration fee to attend this technical conference.

For further information, contact Gregory Campbell by e-mail at gregory.campbell@ferc.gov or by phone at 202-502-6465 (after November 11, 2010).

Kimberly D. Bose,
Secretary.

Attachment: Panelists and Agenda for the Technical Conference
November 18, 2010

PANELISTS and AGENDA FOR THE TECHNICAL CONFERENCE

I. Opening Statements (1 – 1:15 pm)

II. Panel 1: Reliability Standards Compliance and its Monitoring by Regional Entities and NERC (1:15 – 2:45)

Panelists:
Thomas Galloway, Senior Vice President and Chief Reliability Officer, NERC
Daniel Skaar, President, Midwest Reliability Organization
Steven Goodwill, General Counsel, Western Electricity Coordinating Council
Douglas Curry, General Counsel, Lincoln Electric System
Chris Hajovsky, Director, Regulatory Affairs and NERC Reliability Standards, RRI Energy, Inc.

Topics
- Status of compliance: what are the current trends in possible violations and levels of compliance, including the numbers of audits, possible violations, self-reports and penalties
  
  Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP) and non-CIP Violations
  
  “Documentation” Violations and “Performance” Violations
  
- Are Regional Entities and NERC conducting compliance audits and other compliance processes consistently across the country? How does NERC test for consistency?
  
  Are there inconsistencies in audit processes and audit results? If so, what kinds and why? What are current specific examples?
  
  How do NERC and the Regional Entities set priorities of what to audit, and are they doing a good job setting priorities?
  
  Do audits focus too much on documentation? Would alternative auditing methods also demonstrate compliance and improve reliability?
  
  Possible improvements or solutions
• Event Analysis and Compliance

Focus on the potential tension between event analysis/lessons learned and NERC/RE compliance and enforcement activities

• How can the Commission, NERC and the Regional Entities help create a culture of compliance?

III. Break (2:45 – 3:00)

IV. Panel 2: Violation Processing and Penalties (3:00 – 4:30)

Panelists:
Gerry W. Cauley, President and Chief Executive Officer, NERC
Stacy Dochoda, General Manager, SPP Regional Entity
Al Fohrer, Chief Executive Officer, Southern California Edison Company
David Mohre, Executive Director, Energy and Power Division, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association
John DiStasio, Chief Executive Officer, Sacramento Municipal Utility District
Stephen T. Naumann, Vice President for Wholesale Market Development, Exelon Corporation

Topics
• Streamlining processes to reduce compliance violation backlogs and minimize future backlogs

Regional Entity and NERC levels of review

Appropriate Notice of Penalty records

Development of “traffic tickets,” “parking tickets” and “warning tickets”

• How effective are the NERC Sanction Guidelines, and are they applied consistently? What changes may be warranted to improve effectiveness and/or consistency of the Sanction Guidelines?

• Do current enforcement and compliance processes provide proactive approaches and improve reliability by reducing future reliability standard violations and system disturbances?
What metrics are currently utilized for compliance-based reliability improvement? What do these metrics show?

How can the Commission, NERC and the Regional Entities promote transparency of results and dissemination of lessons learned?

V. Questions from the Audience (4:30 – 4:50)

VI. Closing Statement

****************************************************