



Commissioner-Led Reliability Technical Conference

Docket Nos. AD15-7-000 and RR15-2-000

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

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

are there any obstacles that exist to reducing this number? What is the status of NERC's AC Substation Equipment Task Force² and what 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:

Gerry W. Cauley, North American Electric Reliability Corporation

Tom Burgess, North American Electric Reliability Corporation

Vice Chairman Asim Haque, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio

Peter Fraser, Ontario Energy Board

Prof. Massoud Amin, Chairman, Board of Directors, Texas Reliability Entity

Prof. Ian Dobson, Iowa State University

Allen Mosher, American Public Power Association

David Boguslawski, Eversource Energy on behalf of the Edison Electric Institute

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

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)

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:

Mark Lauby, North American Electric Reliability Corporation

John Moura, North American Electric Reliability Corporation

Peter Brandien, ISO New England

Thomas J. Galloway, North American Transmission Forum

Prof. Anjan Bose, Washington State University

David T. Zwergel, Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc.

Mark Rothleder, California Independent System Operation Corporation

Warren Lasher, Electric Reliability Council of Texas

John E. Shelk, Electric Power Supply Association

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:

Gerry W. Cauley, North American Electric Reliability Corporation

Sonia Mendonca, North American Electric Reliability Corporation

Dr. David Ortiz, U.S. Department of Energy

Scott Henry, SERC Reliability Corporation

Angela Sheffield, Georgia Transmission Corp.

Sylvain Clermont, Hydro-Québec TransÉnergie, on behalf of the Canadian
Electricity Association

Steve Wright, Chelan Public Utility District, on behalf of the Large Public
Power Council

William J. Gallagher, The Transmission Access Policy Study Group

Jeffery Gust, MidAmerican Energy on behalf of Berkshire Hathaway Energy

3:45 p.m. Commissioners' Closing Remarks