



**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
FACT SHEET
FACILITIES DESIGN, CONNECTIONS AND
MAINTENANCE RELIABILITY STANDARDS
Docket No. RM07-3-000**

Introduction and Background

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is proposing to approve three Reliability Standards developed by the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) as the ERO (Electric Reliability Organization).

The three new Reliability Standards establish requirements to assure that transmission operators across the country will use consistent methodologies to determine operating limits of the Bulk Power System for planning and operations purposes. They also acknowledge regional differences in WECC that are intended to provide higher levels of reliability than the proposed national Reliability Standard.

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPAct 2005) added a new section 215 to the Federal Power Act directing the Commission to certify an ERO and requiring the ERO to develop mandatory and enforceable Reliability Standards, subject to Commission review and approval. The Reliability Standards apply to users, owners and operators of the Bulk-Power System.

Proposals

The three new Reliability Standards are:

- System operating limits methodology for the planning horizon.
- System operating limits for the operations horizon.
- Establish and communicate system operating limits.

According to NERC, the proposed requirements ensure that system operating limits and interconnection reliability operating limits are developed using consistent methods.

The Commission proposes to accept the three Standards but is seeking comment on the first two regarding items such as how consistent they are with open access transmission tariffs, curtailment of load or firm transactions after a first contingency, and proposed regional differences related to the Western Interconnection.

The Commission proposed to approve most, but not all, of the Violation Risk Factors NERC assigned to the three Standards. “[I]t is important to ensure that critical areas identified as causes of the August 2003 and other previous major blackouts are appropriately assigned as potential risks to the reliability of the Bulk-Power System,” the Commission said.

Comments on the proposals are due 30 days after the NOPR’s publication in the Federal Register.