

Electric Reliability Update

MARCH 1, 2017



Dates & Events

March 2017

- 21 2017 Reliability Leadership [Summit](#) (Washington D.C)
- 28-29 Sixth Annual Human Performance [Conference and Workshops](#) (Atlanta)

April 2017

- 1 [Enforcement date](#) for 24 NERC Reliability Standards
- 2 [Enforcement date](#) for 2 NERC Reliability Standards
- 10 Comments due on FERC NOPR [PRC-012-2](#)

NERC

NERC Submits Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program Annual Report - February 21 - NERC submitted its annual [Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program](#) (CMEP) filing for 2016 to FERC. Based on the results on its oversight activities, NERC proposes in the report two enhancements to the risk based CMEP: (1) providing minimal risk Compliance Exceptions (CEs) identified through self-logging to FERC non-publicly; and (2) expanding the use of CEs to include certain moderate risk noncompliance currently processed through Find, Fix, Track and Report.

NERC Files Comments Opposing Petition for Rulemaking on Malware - February 17 - [NERC submitted comments](#) in opposition to a Petition for Rulemaking by the Foundation for Resilient Societies to require an enhanced reliability standard to detect, report, mitigate, and remove malware from the bulk-power system. NERC requested that the Commission deny the Petition, because NERC's existing Reliability Standards, current standard development activity, and other cyber security efforts adequately address the threats, vulnerabilities and risks associated with malware detailed in the petition.

NERC Files Comments on Electric Storage Participation in Organized Markets - February 13 - NERC [submitted comments](#) to FERC on its November 17, 2016 notice of proposed rulemaking on electricity storage participation in markets operated by regional transmission organizations and independent system operators. NERC's comments state that NERC's reliability standards and associated glossary do not create barriers to the participation of electric storage resources or other non-synchronous technologies in the organized wholesale electric markets.

Cybersecurity and Grid Security

EPRI Report Finds Electromagnetic Pulse Has Limited Impact on Transformers - February 20 - The Electric Power Research Institute ("EPRI") published a [study](#) on the impacts of a high-altitude nuclear event on bulk-power system transformers in the United States. The study found (i) that while hundreds to thousands of transformers could experience increased geomagnetically-induced current (GIC) flows, only a small number (between 3 to 14, depending upon location) would be vulnerable to thermal damage, and (ii) that damaging levels of tertiary winding heating resulting from the flow of harmonic currents generated by the resulting GIC flows are unlikely to occur.

NIST Releases Cybersecurity Practice Guide - February 16 - The National Cybersecurity Center of Excellence (NCCoE) [released a draft](#) of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Cybersecurity Practice Guide, Special Publication 1800-7: "Situational Awareness for Electric Utilities." The Practice Guide includes a model solution that can be used by electric sector companies to alert their staff to potential or actual cyber attacks.

NERC Balloting & Comment Deadlines

March 2017

- 6 [Initial Ballot and Non-binding Polls and Comments Due](#): Project 2016-03 - Cyber Security Supply Chain Risk Management – CIP-013-1
- 13 [Comments Due](#): Project 2016-02 - Modifications to CIP Standards – Communication Networks
- 13 [Comments Due](#): Project 2016-02 - Modifications to CIP Standards – Address CIP Exceptional Circumstances

April 2017

- 13 [Comments Due](#): Project 2016-EPR-02 – Enhanced Periodic Review of VAR Standards – Template for VAR-001-4.1
- 13 [Comments Due](#): Project 2016-EPR-02 – Enhanced Periodic Review of VAR Standards – Template for VAR-002-4



Selected Regional Compliance / Training Events

March 2017

- 14-16 [WECC Grid Fundamentals Class](#)
- 28-29 [SERC Spring Compliance Seminar](#)
- 28-29 [Spring SPP RE Workshop](#)
- 28-30 [WECC Compliance Workshop](#)

April 2017

- 18 [TRE Spring Standards and Compliance Workshop](#)
- 18 [RFC Reliability Workshop](#)

Other Developments

GAO Publishes Report on Federal Efforts to Enhance Grid Resilience - January 25 - The Government Accountability Office (GAO) issued a [report](#) in which it reviewed 27 different federal government efforts undertaken by the Departments of Energy and Homeland Security, and FERC, since 2013 to enhance the grid’s resilience in response threats and hazards including cyberattacks, physical attacks, and natural disasters. The report found that these efforts were fragmented but not duplicative.

About Us

The Van Ness Feldman Electric Reliability Update is published by [Malcolm McLellan](#), [Suzanne McBride](#), [Van Smith](#), [Gabe Tabak](#), [Darsh Singh](#), [Tyler Elliott](#), and [Michael Weiner](#). [Van Ness Feldman](#) counsels, advises and trains a wide range of clients on reliability matters. Please [email us](#) or call us at 206.829.1814 or 202.298.1800 for additional information. Click [here](#) to sign up for the Reliability Update. Follow us on Twitter [@VANNESSFELDMAN](#)

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