

# Meeting Minutes

## Reliability and Security Technical Committee

December 15-16, 2020

Webinar

A regular meeting of the NERC Reliability and Security Technical Committee (RSTC) was held on December 15-16, 2020, via webinar. The meeting presentations are posted in a separate file at RSTC presentations.

RSTC Chair Greg Ford convened the meeting at 1:00 p.m. Eastern on Tuesday, December 15, 2020 and led introductions of RSTC members, Observers and NERC Staff.

Chair Ford called the meeting to order, and thanked everyone for attending. Tina Buzzard, NERC Staff, reviewed the procedures for the meeting, read the Antitrust Compliance Guidelines and Public meeting notice, and confirmed quorum for the RSTC.

### Introductions and Chair's Remarks

Chair Ford provided an overview of the agenda noting that due to the number of action items before the Committee it may be necessary to defer some non-action topics to the next meeting.

Chair Ford called on Nina Johnston to review the meeting governance guidelines which were included in the advance materials package.

Tina Buzzard reviewed the procedures for the meeting, reviewed the Antitrust Compliance Guidelines, and confirmed quorum, as well as provided an overview of the polling actions to be used for Committee actions during the meeting.

### Consent Agenda

Chair Ford reviewed the Consent Agenda and asked RSTC members if they concurred with the items on it. Venona Greaff made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Committee approved the Consent Agenda.

### Meeting Highlights

1. The RSTC was presented information on the NERC/IRC Whitepaper on Ensuring Energy Adequacy. Volunteers are being sought to form a task force to address the issues raised in the whitepaper.
2. The committee accepted six Reliability Guidelines and Reference Documents to be posted for a 45-day comment period.
3. The RSTC approved scope documents for:
  - a. Reliability Assessments Subcommittee (RAS)
  - b. Probabilistic Assessments Working Group (PAWG)
  - c. EMP Working Group (EMPWG)
  - d. Supply Chain Working Group (SCWG) Scope
  - e. Real Time Operating Subcommittee (RTOS)
  - f. Inverter-based Resources Performance Working Group (IRPWG)
  - g. Security Integration and Technology Enablement Subcommittee (SITES)
4. The RSTC endorsed the *Framework to Address Known and Emerging Reliability and Security Risk*.
5. The RSTC approved a scope revision of the Facility Ratings Task Force to form it as a joint CCC/RSTC task force and expand its membership to include RSTC members.

## **Regular Agenda**

### **Remarks and Reports**

Chair Ford provided opening remarks noting highlights from the November MRC and Board meetings, and that the Subcommittee reports and RSTC Work Plan were included in the advance materials package. In addition, Chair Ford stated the Executive Committee received a raised concern regarding the number of documents to be posted for comments simultaneously, assuming the RSTC accepts all for posting. The Executive Committee agreed that they would review and prioritize the postings to mitigate the impact to the reviewers.

### **Reliability Guideline: Gas and Electrical Operational Coordination Considerations**

Motion to accept posting the *Reliability Guideline: Gas and Electrical Operational Coordination Considerations* for a 45-day public comment period was made by Todd Lucas. Chair Pulong reminded the RSTC that the document was revised by the Real Time Operating Subcommittee and they coordinated with the Electric Gas Working Group which did not provide any comments. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Committee accepted posting for a 45-day public comment period.

### **Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) and Hybrid Power Plant Modeling and Performance Guideline**

Motion to accept posting the Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) and Hybrid Power Plant Modeling and Performance Guideline for a 45-day public comment period was made by Jody Green. Vice Chair Billo presented information on the document background and creation.

A concern was raised that the guideline referenced equipment not under NERC jurisdiction given there is no set registration requirement for BESS equipment. It was noted that the NERC Rules of Procedure are pretty clear in that we address BPS reliability issues, not just BES. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Committee accepted posting for a 45-day public comment period.

### **Security Guideline for the Electricity Sector: Assessing and Reducing Risk**

Motion to accept posting the *Security Guideline for the Electricity Sector: Assessing and Reducing Risk* for a 45-day public comment period was made by Venona Greaff.

Chair Sessions discussed the purpose of this Guideline is to help organizations determine their current security and compliance posture and develop an improvement plan for addressing any gaps that are identified. The tool for that analysis maps requirements of the CIP Reliability Standards to the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Cybersecurity Framework (hereafter referred to as “the framework”), and it can help a responsible entity identify areas that may require further action.

A suggestion was made to put language back in the Guideline template relating that guidelines are “non-binding norms” to be sure this isn’t viewed as a standard or something compliance related.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Committee accepted posting for a 45-day public comment period.

### **Resources Subcommittee (RS) Documents**

Motion to accept posting the three documents to for a 45-day public comment period was made by Todd Lucas. Chair Greg Park reviewed the Reliability Guideline: ACE Diversity Interchange, the Reliability

Guideline: Operating Reserve Management, and the Balancing and Frequency Control Reference Document noting all three are a three-year review of an existing, posted document and that redlines were included in the advanced material package. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Committee accepted posting for a 45-day public comment period.

### **Reliability Guideline: Generating Unit Winter Weather Readiness – Current Industry Practices – Version 3**

Chair Gupta presented that the Event Analysis Subcommittee updated the Reliability Guideline and posted it for a 45-day comment period. The Subcommittee responded to the comments received and presented the final document to the RSTC for review and consideration. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Committee accepted posting for a 45-day public comment period.

In advance of the review and consideration of the scope documents presented to the RSTC, Mr. Crutchfield reviewed the redline changes proposed by NERC Legal Staff. Mr. Crutchfield noted the two suggested additions for each scope document: 1) reference that the subgroup will develop or review reliability/security guidelines as assigned by the RSTC and also 2) a statement that the membership will consist “of members that bring an expertise to the group and the work being completed.”

### **Reliability Assessments Subcommittee (RAS) Scope and Probabilistic Assessments Working Group (PAWG) Scope**

Chair De La Rosa presented the Reliability Assessments Subcommittee (RAS) Scope and Probabilistic Assessments Working Group (PAWG) Scope as presented in the advance materials package. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Committee approved the RAS and PAWG scopes.

### **Supply Chain Working Group (SCWG) Guideline and Scope**

Chair Eddleman presented the Supply Chain Working Group (SCWG) Guideline and Scope The Guideline for the Electricity Sector: Supply Chain Procurement Language was posted for a 45-day industry comment period and conforming revisions were made. The responses to comments received was included in the advance materials package. The Supply Chain Working Group Scope Document was revised as part of the RSTC transition planning activities. A redline was included in the advance materials package. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Committee approved the guideline and scope as presented.

### **EMP Task Force (EMPTF) Scope and Work Plan**

Chair Shaw presented the EMP Working Group (EMPWG) Scope and Work Plan. Mr. Brian Evans-Mongeon noted that the NERC Board approved the 15 recommendations of the EMP Initiative and the work scope/duration would likely exceed that of the definition of a task force, and recommended that it be created as a working group instead. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Committee approved the scope and work plan as amended to a working group.

### **Real Time Operating Subcommittee (RTOS) Scope**

Chair Pilon presented the Real Time Operating Subcommittee (RTOS) scope. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Committee approved the scope.

### **GMD Data Collection Program Update**

Ms. Donna Pratt presented on the GMD Data Collection Program noting that FERC Order No. 830 directed NERC to collect GMD data to “improve our collective understanding” of GMD risk. In response, NERC developed the GMD Data Request with GMD Task Force (GMDTF) and technical committee input and in August 2018, NERC Board approved Rules of Procedure Section 1600 data request for collecting GMD data. Ms. Pratt noted there are three types of data to be reported: GMD monitoring equipment (GIC Monitor, Magnetometer), GIC measurement data for designated GMD events, and Geomagnetic field measurement data for designated GMD events. Concluding, Ms. Pratt provided an implementation update noting data reporting training sessions were held in October and that as of mid-November, 125 registered entities have indicated that they meet the reporting criteria for GMD. In addition, there will be a system user training to be conducted in mid-2021.

### **Chair’s Closing Remarks and Adjournment**

Chair Ford noted that he believed with the new governance and voting polls the day seemed more orderly and efficient. In addition, he provided an overview of the next day’s agenda which would encompass additional scope document reviews and a request from CCC for technical collaboration on the Facility Ratings Task Force.

**The meeting was adjourned at 3:51 Eastern.**

### **Wednesday, December 16, 2020**

Chair Ford provided an overview of the agenda noting that due to the number of action items before the Committee it may be necessary to defer some non-action topics to the next meeting.

Chair Ford called on Nina Johnston to review the meeting governance guidelines which were included in the advance materials package.

Tina Buzzard reviewed the procedures for the meeting, reviewed the Antitrust Compliance Guidelines, and confirmed quorum, as well as provided an overview of the polling actions to be used for Committee actions during the meeting.

### **Inverter-based Resources Performance Working Group (IRPWG) Scope and Work Plan**

Mr. Allen Schriver presented IRPWG scope and work plan. Mr. Schriver outlined the proposed changes to the scope and updates to the anticipated work products. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Committee approved the scope.

### **Security Integration and Technology Enablement Subcommittee (SITES) Scope and Draft Work Plan\* - Approve – David Zwergel, Chair SITES**

Chair Zwergel presented the SITES scope and draft work plan outlining the process for updating the scope developing a preliminary work plan. The Committee agreed with the preliminary work plan and upon motion duly made and seconded, the Committee approved the scope.

### **Facility Ratings Collaboration: Compliance and Certification Committee (CCC) and Reliability and Security Technical Committee (RSTC)**

Chair Flandermeyer presented on behalf of the CCC the recommendation that the Facility Ratings Task Force (FRTF) be expanded into a Joint Task Force to include members of both the CCC and the RSTC. It

was noted that the RSTC members would identify technical participants to provide technical expertise to address facility ratings concerns to support the goals of the FRTF. Chair Ford requested RSTC members submit technical participants recommendations to Stephen Crutchfield, as well as those wishing to serve on the task force should submit an email to Chair Ford and Vice Chair Zwergel. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Committee approved expanding the FRTF into a Joint Task Force to include members of the CCC and the RSTC.

### **Framework to Address Known and Emerging Reliability and Security Risk – Endorse – Mark Lauby, Chief Engineer and Senior VP**

Mr. Mark Lauby presented the Framework to Address Known and Emerging Reliability and Security Risk reviewing the process development with the RISC, and the RISC's acceptance of the Framework at their December meeting. In addition, Mr. Lauby reviewed the anticipated interaction between the RISC and the RSTC going forward to identify, prioritize and mitigate risk to the reliability, resilience and security of the grid. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Committee endorsed the framework as presented.

### **Forum and Group Reports**

#### **NAGF**

Mr. Schriver referenced the written report in the advance materials package and provided an update on recent and on-going NAGF activities.

#### **NATF**

Mr. Roman Carter referenced the written report in the advance materials package and provided an update on recent and on-going NATF activities.

### **Energy Storage System: Lessons Learned Defining Design**

Mr. Anthony Natale presented on the lessons learned associated with the McMicken failure. Mr. Natale noted this incident drove many changes in design concepts that focused on managing the primary risk which is an explosion. To ensure success, utilities must work with their local fire departments to develop a response policy. This policy will serve as the training platform for the hazards and response tactics training associated with ESS emergencies. This coupled with semi-annual familiarization tours for the fire services sets the stage for success in managing these low frequency high hazard events.

### **NERC/IRC Whitepaper on Ensuring Energy Adequacy**

Mr. Lauby and Mr. Peter Brandien briefed the RSTC on the NERC/IRC Whitepaper on Ensuring Energy Adequacy and the issues that were identified concerning energy adequacy in the operating, operations planning and mid-to-long term planning timeframes. Mr. Lauby stated they are seeking volunteers to work with them on where the identified work should be assigned within RSTC structure (e.g., IRPWG, SPIDERWG, etc.) and come back with a proposal in March. Chair Ford requested those wishing to volunteer should send an e-mail to Stephen Crutchfield.

### **RSTC 2020 Calendar Review**

Stephen Crutchfield reviewed the calendar noting that the March meeting is confirmed virtual and would be from 1:00-4:00 p.m. Eastern on March 2 and 3. Mr. Crutchfield noted the remaining meeting dates will be determined based on the restrictions and guidance associated with the pandemic.

### **Chair's Closing Remarks and Other Matters**

Chair Ford thanked everyone for their participation and mentioned the Reliability Leadership Summit on January 26-27, 2021.

Chair Ford asked if there were any other matters to be brought before the Committee and a question was raised concerning subgroup reports in Agenda item 3 going forward. Chair Ford stated that the written reports will always be in the agenda package and that the Executive Committee, during their review of the package in advance of the meetings, will determine if any items within the reports should be identified on the Regular Agenda.

Chair Ford wished everyone safe and happy holidays and there being no further business before the RSTC, Chair Ford adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m. Eastern.

***Stephen Crutchfield***

Stephen Crutchfield  
Secretary

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