

**RELIABILITY FIRST**

Aug. 4, 2026

To: ReliabilityFirst Compliance Contacts
Subject: RF Compliance Program Update Letter – August 2026

**REMINDER! Registration is open for RF Fall Reliability & Security Summit**

Join RF at our annual Fall Reliability & Security Summit, hosted this year at the **Ohioan Hotel & Event Center** just outside of Columbus.

This year's event begins Monday, Sept. 14, with closed meetings of the Compliance User Group (CUG) and Critical Infrastructure Protection Committee (CIPC) as well as an optional tour of a nearby data center.

Then our General Session on Tuesday, Sept. 15, features a full day of insightful presentations, panel discussions, networking, on-site breakfast and lunch, and an awards reception to close the day. The day's agenda includes:

- Fireside chat featuring the Indiana state secretary of energy focused on Regional Transmission Organizations (RTOs)
- Panel discussion on data centers, featuring speakers from Amazon Web Services, AEP, Talen Energy, and the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
- Grid security presentation featuring a speaker from the FBI

- Presentation exploring the interdependence of the natural gas and electric grid industries
- Deep dive into data analytics related to inverter-based resources
- Overview of RF's top regional risks identified in our soon-to-be released 2026 Regional Risk Assessment

Half-day programming follows on Wednesday, Sept. 16, with guests choosing from one of three breakout sessions, focusing either on energy policy, critical infrastructure protection, or data submittals.

Stay tuned for full agenda details to be posted to our [website](#). [Click here](#) to register. Please note: The cutoff date for hotel room block reservations is Monday, Aug. 17.

NEW! RF Hosts Electric Grid Bootcamp: "Policymaker primer on Reliability and Emerging System Risks"

This policymakers' forum, **to be held August 17 (optional tour) and August 18**, at ReliabilityFirst, is designed to provide a practical, technical foundation in electric grid reliability and oversight. Participants will gain an overview of the respective roles of NERC, ReliabilityFirst, utilities, and regional transmission organizations, and how reliability standards are developed, monitored, and enforced. Discussion topics will include engineering assessments, system monitoring, major disturbance events, and emerging reliability risks such as: large load growth, system complexity, and resource transitions. The agenda equips policymakers and staff with a clearer understanding of how decisions made at the state and federal level intersect with real-world grid operations. The day concludes with an interactive exercise that highlights the tradeoffs inherent in energy policy choices and their implications for reliability and security.

This event is intended for state policymakers and leaders engaged in energy oversight and decision-making, including public utility commissioners, state legislators, trade organizations, state energy office leadership, governors' offices, and their staff. The event provides a practical forum to strengthen understanding of reliability, resilience, and emerging grid challenges affecting state policy and regulatory priorities.

For the full agenda and registration details (**both in-person and virtual options**), please visit: <https://www.rfirst.org/event/electric-grid-bootcamp-2026/>.

REMINDER! RF Hosts Virtual Protection Workshop this Week (Aug. 5)

ReliabilityFirst is hosting a virtual Protection Workshop on Aug. 5, 2026, focused on the practical challenges and emerging trends shaping protection and control of the Bulk Electric System.

This interactive session brings together industry experts to share real-world insights, lessons learned, and applied approaches that participants can leverage in their day-to-day work. Topics include

transformer protection challenges, advanced line differential schemes, impacts of inverter-based resources, recent international blackout events, and high-speed system monitoring techniques.

Designed for both early-career and experienced professionals, the workshop provides a valuable opportunity to strengthen core protection fundamentals, explore evolving system conditions, and connect with peers across the industry.

For the full agenda and registration details, please visit: <https://www.rfirst.org/event/protection-system-workshop-2026/>.

REMINDER! RF Hosts Virtual Planning Workshop this Week (Aug. 6)

ReliabilityFirst is hosting a Planning Workshop on August 6, 2026, designed specifically for transmission planning engineers. This engaging session will cover a range of topics relevant to today's planning environment, supporting the continued development of both foundational and advanced skillsets.

The workshop will feature a mix of content tailored to both early-career and experienced professionals, offering practical insights into planning methodologies, analytical approaches, and effective use of industry tools. Attendees will gain valuable tips, techniques, and real-world perspectives to enhance their ability to perform a variety of transmission planning analyses.

Whether you are looking to strengthen core capabilities or refine advanced techniques, this workshop provides a valuable opportunity to expand your expertise and connect with peers across the profession.

For the full agenda and registration details, please visit: <https://www.rfirst.org/event/planning-workshop/>.

NEW! NERC Posts RSAWs for Revised CIP Reliability Standards

The ERO Enterprise (collectively NERC and Regional Entities) is pleased to announce that updated Reliability Standard Audit Worksheets (RSAWs) supporting the revised CIP Reliability Standards related to virtualization are now available. These have been posted on the [RSAW webpage](#) under "Current RSAWs for Use." The 11 revised standards will become effective July 1, 2028. Entities may choose early adoption, in alignment with the Standards Drafting Project 2016-02 Implementation Plan.

NEW! NERC Posts Second Quarter Update on Large Loads Action Plan

The [second quarter update](#) on the Large Loads Action Plan is part of an ongoing effort to inform, educate, and collaborate with stakeholders on this emerging issue. This update outlines actions taken by NERC to address this rapidly evolving issue, including the issuance of a Level 3 alert, revisions to the registry criteria, and development of new Reliability Standards. The update also identifies opportunities for stakeholder involvement as we collectively work to ensure a reliable and secure grid.

An increasing number of large commercial and industrial loads are rapidly connecting to the bulk power system. Computational loads, such as data centers (including cryptocurrency and artificial intelligence), present unique challenges in forecasting and planning for increased demand. More information about NERC's efforts on large loads can be found on the [Large Loads Action Plan page](#).

NEW! NERC Posts CMEP Practice Guide on Implementation of Frequency and Voltage Ride-through Requirements for Inverter-Based Resources (IBRs)

On July 15, 2026, the ERO Enterprise (collectively NERC and Regional Entities) introduced the upcoming Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program ([CMEP Practice Guide](#): Implementation of Frequency and Voltage Ride-through Requirements for Inverter-Based Resources (IBRs). The [webinar](#) reviewed the Practice Guide's common approach for assessing compliance with the requirements contained in Reliability Standard PRC-029-1 and the compliance and reliability challenges associated with upcoming implementation.

The guide also recognizes significant implementation challenges resulting from industry-wide vendor resource constraints. Specifically, Generator Owners are encountering limited availability of qualified IBR original equipment manufacturers (OEMs), or contractors, needed to support required equipment setting modifications. Multiple entities have confirmed that implementation activities often require direct OEM involvement, and current vendor backlogs have created a bottleneck that makes full implementation prior to the compliance deadlines increasingly challenging. The webinar provided an information session on the CMEP Practice Guide and the approach that will be used when assessing compliance with these requirements. Any questions received during the webinar are in review with ERO Enterprise staff and answers will be posted soon.



IMPORTANT REMINDER – UPDATE COMPLIANCE CONTACT INFORMATION in CORES

Registered entities are expected to review and update their compliance contacts information as changes occur. Updating compliance contact information is critical to ensure that our contact data remains fresh, accurate and is current always. **Please verify and update as necessary the names, addresses, phone numbers (cell) and email addresses for your Compliance Contacts (PCC/ACC/PCO) in the ERO Portal/CORES system.**



NEW! Monthly Technical Talk with RF Call

August 2026 Technical Talk with RF

ReliabilityFirst (RF) offers a regularly scheduled monthly call to provide entities and stakeholders with a forum for addressing topics and questions relevant to reliability, resilience and security.

While RF Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) will provide presentations and updates, they will not address entity-specific questions and issues. These types of questions can be handled offline by using the RF [Assist Visit program](#). If you have any questions, please reach out to Mike Hughes, Entity Engagement Manager, 216-503-0617.

Event Information

August 2026 Technical Talk with RF
Monday, Aug. 17, 2026, 2:00 p.m. ET

Join link:

<https://reliabilityfirst.webex.com/reliabilityfirst/j.php?MTID=m4944152b40fdf042ee8cc7752841b9e2>

Meeting number: 2317 174 9131

Meeting password: 0123456 (0123456 when dialing from a phone or video system)

Join by phone: 1-650-479-3207 Call-in toll number (US/Canada)

Access code: 231 717 49131

Please join us on Slido.com using #TechTalkRF as the event code

Agenda

Non-in-kind generation equipment replacements

Yuriy Grytsulyak, Senior Lead Engineer, Generator Modeling & Dynamic Studies, PJM Interconnection

Yuriy Grytsulyak will highlight tariff and configuration management issues and discuss how an integrated approach that aligns both NERC and PJM tariff requirements can help support a robust configuration management and control framework and improve grid reliability.

Generation and storage facility screening process for reliability, security, and compliance impacts

Toney Ross, ENS NERC Supervisor, DTE

Toney Ross will share DTE's NERC change checklist, which aids in maintaining compliance through changes by screening power plant changes for reliability, security, and compliance impacts. Toney will share their journey leading up to the creation of this checklist tool, providing lessons learned and insights, and show specific examples from the checklist and how it is maintained.

Assessing compliance implications associated with generator updates

Mike Hattery, Senior Counsel, Enforcement, ReliabilityFirst

Mike Hattery will discuss the compliance considerations entities should assess in preparation for completion of a generator update or modification.

IMPORTANT! NERC Registration and Certification Information

Notification of Additional Changes in Registration Status

Section 501.1.3.5 of NERC's Rules of Procedure requires the **registered entity to notify NERC through its corresponding Regional Entity of any changes in registration, ownership, corporate structure, or similar matters that affect the entity's responsibilities with respect to the Reliability Standards.** Failure to notify NERC through its corresponding Regional

Entity will not relieve the registered entity from any responsibility to comply with the Reliability Standards or liability for any penalties or sanctions associated with failing to comply with such standards. **RF requests that registered entities provide RF Registration with 30-60 days advance notice of any such changes impacting NERC Registration.** Contact Beth Smail, Senior Analyst, Registration and Entity Services, with any questions at beth.smail@rfirst.org.

IMPORTANT! NERC Alert System Registration

NERC's Alert System is the tool used to disseminate information that is critical to ensuring the reliability of the BPS in North America. NERC distributes alerts broadly to owners, operators, and users of the BPS utilizing the listing of the NCR. Entities registered with NERC are required to provide and maintain up-to-date compliance and cyber security contacts.

As a separate part of the NERC registration process and inclusion on the NCR, please contact NERC via email at NERC.Alert@nerc.net to register or revise your listing for the NERC Alert System. Alternatively, you may call the NERC Alerts Hotline at 404.446.9797 to speak with someone. Each registered entity identified in the NCR is required to notify NERC Alert of any corrections, revisions, deletions, changes in ownership, corporate structure, or similar matters that affect the registered entity's responsibilities with respect to the Reliability Standards.

Remember to always keep your NERC Alert Contacts current and up-to-date at all times.

E-ISAC Membership Registration

It is important, and expected, that qualified registered entities will join the Electricity Information Sharing and Analysis Center (E-ISAC).¹ E-ISAC membership is available to qualified North American asset owners and operators (AOOs) and select partner organizations, and there is no cost to join. The E-ISAC encourages individuals with cyber, physical, or operational technology security responsibilities to apply for membership on behalf of your organization. This individual will serve as a point of contact for E-ISAC security-related communications and will have access to emerging threat information and analysis.

Please complete the E-ISAC Membership application here: <https://www.eisac.com/portal>. You may also contact the E-ISAC at memberservices@eisac.com with any questions.

^[1] Created in 1999 and located in Washington, D.C., the E-ISAC is operated by NERC. The E-ISAC acts as the primary communications channel for industry members and partners to voluntarily exchange cyber and physical security threat information. E-ISAC security experts analyze this information to identify patterns and trends, providing industry with a

detailed view of the threat landscape and advice on how to navigate it. Both NERC and the E-ISAC adhere to a strict [code of conduct](#) that reinforces the E-ISAC's organizational isolation from NERC's enforcement activities.



Align Training Resources

The [NERC Align Project page](#) and FAQ document contain helpful information for registered entities. Self-service training resources provided for registered entity staff, including training videos and user guides, are available on the [NERC Training Site](#).

NERC's training site provides training and materials on a variety of topics for Align and other tools used by NERC, Regional Entity, and registered entity staff. Your Primary Compliance Contact is the designated Access Approver for Align for your company. Remember to check out NERC's Align project page or reach out to AskAlign@NERC.net for additional information.

Align Violations Reporting

As a reminder, any new violation of a Reliability Standard identified by a registered entity should be immediately self-reported to RF via the ERO Align system. Contact [Shirley Ortiz](#), Senior Paralegal, at (216) 503-0674 with any questions concerning self-reports.

Align support – ERO Help Desk Ticketing System

If users encounter any access or system problems with Align, CORES or any of the other NERC applications, first and foremost, try to resolve the issues yourself by using any one of the many self-service resources, guides and videos NERC has made available to you at training.nerc.net.

If you are unable to resolve the issue on your own, place a ticket using the NERC Helpdesk Ticket Submission System: support.nerc.net. The ERO Help Desk Ticketing System (Footprints) is available to registered entity users 24/7 and is monitored by the regions and NERC. We will do our best to address your questions, issues, and tickets as promptly as possible during normal business hours.

Upcoming Standards Subject to Future Enforcement

TOP-003-7	Transmission Operator and Balancing Authority Data and Information Specification and Collection	Oct. 1, 2026
PRC-024-4	Frequency and Voltage Protection Settings for Synchronous Generators, Type 1 and Type 2 Wind Resources, and Synchronous Condensers	Oct. 1, 2026
PRC-029-1	Frequency and Voltage Ride-through Requirements for Inverter-Based Resources	Oct. 1, 2026
PRC-030-1	Unexpected Inverter-Based Resource Event Mitigation	Oct. 1, 2026
BAL-007-1.1	Near-term Energy Reliability Assessments	April 1, 2027
MOD-032-2	Data for Power System Modeling and Analysis	April 1, 2028
CIP-002-8	Cyber Security - BES Cyber System Categorization	July 1, 2028
CIP-003-10	Cyber Security – Security Management Controls	July 1, 2028
CIP-004-8	Cyber Security — Personnel & Training	July 1, 2028
CIP-005-8	Cyber Security — Electronic Security Perimeter(s)	July 1, 2028
CIP-006-7.1	Cyber Security — Physical Security of BES Cyber Systems	July 1, 2028
CIP-007-7.1	Cyber Security — System Security Management	July 1, 2028
CIP-008-7.1	Cyber Security — Incident Reporting and Response Planning	July 1, 2028
CIP-009-7.1	Cyber Security — Recovery Plans for BES Cyber Systems	July 1, 2028
CIP-010-5	Cyber Security — Configuration Change Management and Vulnerability Assessments	July 1, 2028
CIP-011-4.1	Cyber Security — Information Protection	July 1, 2028
CIP-013-3	Cyber Security - Supply Chain Risk Management	July 1, 2028
CIP-015-1	Cyber Security – Internal Network Security Monitoring	Oct. 1, 2028

IRO-010-6	Reliability Coordinator Data and Information Specification and Collection	April 1, 2029
TOP-003-8	Transmission Operator and Balancing Authority Data and Information Specification and Collection	April 1, 2029
CIP-003-11	Cyber Security – Security Management Controls	July 1, 2029

Please refer to the [U.S. Effective Dates](#) page on the NERC website for additional detail.

Periodic Data Submittals Due in August 2026

08/29/2026	PRC-004	GO, TO, DP	Protection System Misoperations – Section 1600 data request for Q2-2026 (April 1 – June 30). Submit in MIDAS portal.
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Periodic Data Submittals Due in September 2026 - NONE