

**RELIABILITY FIRST**

June 2, 2026

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

NEW! Bulk Electric System Definition Reference Document

In November 2013, the NERC Board of Trustees adopted clarifications to the definition of Bulk Electric System (BES) in response to FERC Order Nos. 773 and 773-A. In March 2014, FERC approved the BES definition. During the development of Project 2010-17 Definition of Bulk Electric System and the definition, the standard drafting team developed a reference document explaining how the revised BES definition should be applied. In 2017, the BES Exceptions Process Working Group (BEPWG), consisting of ERO Enterprise staff members, began a comprehensive review and assessment of version two of the [Bulk Electric System Definition Reference Document](#) to update based on the lessons learned from the initial three-year implementation of the definition. As a result of the review, the BEPWG identified several areas for improved clarity and application examples.

The ERO Enterprise has since developed ERO Enterprise Registration References and documents that outline the NERC Organization Registration and Certification Program approach to applying registration criteria and other ERO Enterprise practices. These documents are built on version 2 of the BES Reference Document developed by Project 2010-17.

NERC recently published version three of the [Bulk Electric System Definition Reference Document](#). To help stakeholders review the changes made in version three, please reference the Bulk Electric System Definition Reference Document – [Consideration of Comments document](#) for additional information.

NEW! ERO Enterprise Registration References

NERC recently published reformatted versions of three ERO Enterprise Registration Reference documents, formerly posted as CMEP Practice Guides. No other substantive changes were made to these documents:

- [ERO Enterprise Registration Reference for Distribution Provider directly connected Determinations](#)
- [ERO Enterprise Registration Reference – Application of the Registration Criteria for Category 2 Generator Owner and Generator Operator Inverter-Based Resources](#)
- [Application of the Bulk Electric System Definition to Battery Storage Systems and Hybrid Resources](#)

ERO Enterprise Registration Reference documents address how ERO Enterprise staff apply the Registry Criteria in particular circumstances and are not compliance approaches to comply with Reliability Standards or interpretations of Reliability Standards. They are also not intended to supersede the Rules of Procedure or FERC issuances or precedent. They provide direction to ERO Enterprise Registration staff on consistent application of the NERC Registry Criteria in Appendix 5B of the Rules of Procedure and transparency to stakeholders.

NEW! NERC's 2026 Summer Reliability Assessment Now Available

NERC released the [2026 Summer Reliability Assessment \(SRA\)](#), which found that while record resource additions have strengthened readiness for the summer season, elevated risks remain in some areas.

NERC's 2026 SRA provides an independent outlook on grid reliability conditions across North America and helps industry prepare for the evolving factors shaping the summer reliability landscape. Dive into the [report](#) to get a full picture of the summer reliability landscape or check out NERC's [summer reliability snapshot](#) to get a quick overview of what you need to know. Keep an eye out for the RF Summer Reliability Assessment next week.

NEW! NERC Currently Compliant Podcast – Episode 10 discusses Coordinated Oversight Program

[Episode 10 of NERC's compliance podcast](#), Currently Compliant, takes a closer look at the Coordinated Oversight Program and how it helps reduce complexity and administrative burden for multi-region entities. Hosted by Davis Jelusich of NERC and featuring insights from subject matter experts Cesar Cantu of NPCC and Mike Kuhl of SERC, this episode offers an overview of the program, outlines options for organizations new to the Coordinated Oversight Program, and highlights recent updates along with what's ahead.

NERC, in coordination with the Regional Entity representatives as part of the Coordinated Oversight Task Force, also updated the [ERO Enterprise Guide for the Multi-Region Registered Entity Coordinated Oversight Program](#) that describes the program, its benefit, criteria for participation, and the roles and responsibilities.

NEW! Inverter-Based Resources SGAS Webinar Posted

NERC, in coordination with the Regional Entities, conducted Small Group Advisory Sessions (SGAS) for entities identified and notified through the Inverter-Based Resources Registration Initiative for registration with NERC as a Category 2 Generator Owner (GO 2) and/or Category 2 Generator Operator (GOP 2). The purpose of these sessions was to facilitate understanding of applicable compliance obligations associated with GO 2 and GOP 2 registration. The SGAS included detailed overview and discussion of the eight NERC Reliability Standards with which registered entities are required to comply effective May 15, 2026, the entities' registration effective date. For the webinar recording, [click here](#). For the presentation slides, [click here](#).

REMINDER! Nominate an entity for RF's 2026 Reliability Recognition Awards

ReliabilityFirst is seeking nominations for our 2026 Reliability Recognition Awards.

The purpose of these awards is to recognize entities for excellence in their commitment to maintaining a highly reliable and secure electric grid. To be eligible, the entity must have active registration within the ReliabilityFirst footprint.

[Use this form](#) to submit a nomination. You can nominate your organization, or you are welcome to nominate another entity you see doing great work. For information on last year's award recipients, [click here](#).

Please be sure to be as detailed as possible in describing why you believe the entity deserves recognition for reliability excellence. Please include specific initiatives, projects, or outcomes.

We will review all submissions and consider their merit. Submission of a nomination does not guarantee receipt of an award.

Please submit nominations by Friday, June 12.

REMINDER! NERC Issues Level 3 Alert, Reliability Guideline Focused on Large Load Challenges

NERC released a [Level 3 Essential Action Alert](#), Computational Load Modeling, Studies, Instrumentation, Commissioning, Operations, Protection, and Control, outlining seven actions registered entities must implement to address immediate risks posed by computational loads interfacing with the BPS. The Level 3 Alert was issued as NERC observed customer-initiated large load reductions and significant oscillations that occur in seconds, leaving little or no room for real-

time responses, threatening BPS reliability. **The deadline for registered entities** (Transmission Planners, Planning Coordinators, Transmission Owners, Balancing Authorities, Reliability Coordinators, and Transmission Operators) **to submit their responses is August 3, 2026.**

In another move to address emerging large loads, NERC also released new voluntary guidelines to safeguard grid reliability. The [Reliability Guideline: Risk Mitigation for Emerging Large Loads](#), recommends actions for traditional utilities and grid operators, and the companies behind these emerging large loads including equipment manufacturers. The goal is to ensure that as more industrial-scale consumers connect to the grid, they actively participate in practices that protect grid stability. These steps highlight that proactive planning and participation can enable even more of these facilities to come online reliably and quickly.

REMINDER! ReliabilityFirst Updates Attachment C templates

ReliabilityFirst's Attachment Cs have been updated to reflect the latest versions of the applicable NERC Operations & Planning (O&P) Standards. These updates ensure that population and data sampling requests remain aligned with current requirements and expectations.

The revised Attachment Cs are used at the beginning of compliance engagements to support population identification and sampling, helping establish a clear and consistent foundation for evidence requests throughout the engagement.

The updated templates are [available for download on the ReliabilityFirst website](#). Entities are encouraged to use the most current versions when preparing for upcoming engagements.

If you have questions regarding the updated Attachment Cs or their use during an engagement, please contact your ReliabilityFirst Compliance representative.

REMINDER! Reliability Standard Audit Worksheets (RSAWs)

NERC published new Reliability Standard Audit Worksheets (RSAWs) for new and revised Reliability Standards, MOD-026-2 (**NEW!**), MOD-033-3, PRC-024-4, PRC-029-1, PRC-030-1, and TOP-003-7. The RSAWs are posted to the [RSAW webpage](#) under "Current RSAWs for Use." These Reliability Standards have an effective date of October 1, 2026. RSAWs are a guide provided by the ERO Enterprise (collectively NERC and Regional Entities) that describes types of evidence registered entities may use to demonstrate compliance with a Reliability Standard. RSAWs also include information regarding how the ERO Enterprise may assess that evidence. RSAWs do not require specific evidence to be provided, and they are not intended to require a single, exclusive approach to assessing compliance with a Reliability Standard.

REMINDER! Align Deactivating Inactive Accounts in 2026

Starting in **late June 2026**, the ERO Enterprise will implement a bi-weekly automatic review of inactive user accounts in the Align production environment. In support of access management and security hygiene, if a user account is found to be inactive for five quarters, it will be deactivated in the system. Prior to any user deactivation, Align users with more than 90 days of inactivity in the system will be notified via email on the following schedule:

- After 90 days of inactivity
- After 225 days of inactivity
- After 420 days of inactivity
- After 434 days of inactivity
- After 449 days of inactivity

All Align users are encouraged to regularly log into Align to avoid deactivation when the automatic review begins in late June 2026. When the automatic review happens for the first time, any user accounts that have been inactive for five quarters will be disabled immediately without notification. Any users with inactivity ranging from 90 days to five quarters of inactivity will receive an email with the automatic reviews beginning next year. To avoid this potential impact to your account, please ensure you routinely access the Align system.



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

June 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

June 2026 Technical Talk with RF
Monday, June 22, 2026, 2-3:30 p.m. ET

Join link:

<https://reliabilityfirst.webex.com/reliabilityfirst/j.php?MTID=m4fd92bea4de593565946beca5b707fef>

Meeting number: 2317 561 8953

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: 231 756 18953

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

Agenda

Risk Mitigation for Emerging Large Loads

Evan Mickelson, Power System Engineer, NERC, and Parimal Saraf, Principal Engineer, Engineering & System Performance, RF

NERC's Evan Mickelson and RF's Parimal Saraf will share highlights from the Large Loads Working Group (LLWG) [Reliability Guideline: Risk Mitigation for Emerging Large Loads](#). Learn more about these emerging grid challenges as our speakers share some of the actionable, entity-specific recommendations from the guideline to mitigate risks discussed in the prior LLWG white papers.

Voluntary Physical Security Protection Best Practices at Entity Facilities

Tony Freeman, Principal Analyst, Risk Analysis & Mitigation, RF, and Ron Ross, Principal Reliability Consultant, Entity Engagement, RF

RF's Tony Freeman and Ron Ross will discuss the [Security Guideline: Voluntary Physical Security Protection Best Practices at Entity Facilities](#), providing suggestions to help balance threat, vulnerability, and consequences associated with physical security risks at facilities by enhancing the ability to deter, detect, delay, and respond to physical security threats.

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@first.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

CIP-012-2	Cyber Security – Communications between Control Centers	July 1, 2026
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 June 2026 - None

Periodic Data Submittals Due in July 2026

07/20/2026	FAC-003-5	GO, TO	FAC-003-5 - Transmission Vegetation Management: Q2, 2026 Vegetation Outage Reporting – Align Data Submittal
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