

Eastern Interconnection Reliability Assessment Group (ERAG)

Strategic Plan



...to further augment the reliability of the bulk-power system...

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Introduction

Overview

This document provides a strategy for accomplishing the scope of work that the Eastern Interconnection Reliability Assessment Group (ERAG) plans to undertake in the next three years and beyond. A part of which is included and stated in Section 2 of the revised ERAG agreement executed in July 2023. Additional information on the group can be found on the [ERAG website](#).

The ERAG major area of focus is on conducting and enhancing ERAG reliability assessments. The primary driver for this plan is to formulate the strategic objectives for ERAG to achieve its effort by independently assessing the Eastern Interconnection as a whole and identify any emerging reliability risks. ERAG strives to be the voice of reliability for the bulk power system for the Eastern Interconnection of North America.

The primary objective for this plan is to align the four Regional Entities in the Eastern Interconnection (EI) for a unified reliability assessment strategy for the near future. This plan serves as a framework for determining the assessment studies and analyses to be conducted and for identifying measures of effectiveness in support of NERC's and the Regional Entity's long-term strategic plans and corporate goals. The work of ERAG may include stakeholder participation in certain efforts.

This strategic plan is designed to provide guidance for ERAG's work plan. The work plan is a three (3) year plan and will serve as a major driver to establish annual work plans and as a determinant of specific goals and contributing activities. In doing so, the core focus will always be on the Mission (see below). The strategic plan also emphasizes the commitment to maintaining and enhancing the levels of consistency through the development of the system models, and alignment with NERC and the ERO as we continue to mature and evolve.

While we express tremendous confidence in this strategic plan as a driver and guide, we are also cognizant and respectful of the tremendous level of change that can occur in a short period of time. We commit to revisiting this plan at least once every year to ensure we are adapting our efforts, as needed, to the changing environment.

Mission

To preserve and enhance the bulk power system reliability within the Eastern Interconnection. In doing so, we are committed to supporting the efforts of and serving as an extension of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) in its mission as the Electric Reliability Organization (ERO). As part of that support a part of our role is to assess and ensure the reliability of the bulk power system within the Eastern Interconnection is preserved.

Vision

To be recognized as the trusted and credible technical resource that leads the independent analysis, assessment, and enhancement of bulk power system reliability for the Eastern Interconnection.



...to further augment the reliability of the bulk-power system...

ERAG Governance

The ERAG governance is covered under the [ERAG agreement](#). Section 3 of the Agreement covers the governance, including structure of the Group, representatives, meetings, quorum and voting, and attendance. Section 4 of the Agreement covers officers of the Group.



Goal 1 – Eastern Interconnection Reliability Assessment Group (ERAG) Reliability Assessments

Goal Description

ERAG will conduct its own assessments to identify key reliability issues and the risks and uncertainties affecting adequacy and security of the Bulk Power System in the Eastern Interconnection.

Contributing Activities

- Include the scope(s) of analyses, studies, and/or assessments in the three (3) year Work Plan. Specifically, the Plan will include a list of assessments for ERAG to consider.
- Participate with the ERO-RAPA-SG in the identification and review of reliability assessments conducted independently by ERAG in the Joint Area, including evaluation of special and/or emerging issue studies, contingency selection, study results and conduct other studies as necessary.
- Conduct EI assessments as identified by the ERAG to comprehensively assess reliability in the Eastern Interconnection or applicable sub areas of the Eastern Interconnection.
- Facilitate communications to coordinate ERAG activities with PCs and the ERO-RAPA-SG.
- Establish subgroups as necessary to perform the work, which may include representatives from Planning Coordinators and other Registered Entities.
- Provide funding as needed for analysis performed by third-party contracts.

Goal 2 –Special Reliability Assessments

Goal Description

ERAG will review, assess, coordinate and or perform their own periodic and additional reliability assessments to identify key reliability issues and the risks and uncertainties affecting adequacy and security of the Bulk Power System (BPS) in the Eastern Interconnection. To ensure a comprehensive assessment of the reliability of the EI, ERAG will as needed review analysis performed by Planning Coordinators or other entities (i.e., NREL, EIPC, EPRI, etc.).

Contributing Activities

- Items included in three (3) year Work Plan.
- Oversee and evaluate the Planning Coordinators' process to ensure common methods and assumptions are used for all reliability assessments prepared by Planning Coordinators in the Joint Area; such that the interconnection seams are aligned.
- Review the results of the Planning Coordinators' methods and assumptions used to appraise the performance of the system and establish expectations and requirements for the assessments prepared by Planning Coordinators in the Joint Area; such that the interconnection seams are aligned.
- Establish subgroups as necessary to perform the work, which may include representatives from Planning Coordinators and other Registered Entities.
- Review and when needed comment on assessments prepared by entities other than the Planning Coordinators (e.g., DOE National Labs, independent contractors, etc.) that are applicable to the EI.
- Perform or coordinate all EI reliability assessments.
- Facilitate communications to coordinate ERAG activities with PCs and the ERO-RAPA-SG.
- Provide funding as needed for analysis performed by third-party contracts.

Goal 3 – Oversee Multiregional Modeling Working Group (MMWG)

Goal Description

Oversee the development of Eastern Interconnection-wide planning cases through the work of the Multiregional Modeling Working Group (MMWG), such as power-flow, dynamics, and collection of short circuit data as required.

Contributing Activities

- Review all process changes made by the MMWG to ensure they are consistent with the requirements in the ERO Enterprise Designation process document.
- Ensure alignment between NERC and the AMWG.
- Ensure that all the Planning Coordinator models are included.
- Direct the MMWG on modeling specific case development (i.e., power flow and dynamics, etc.) and special projects (i.e., collection of short circuit modeling data, etc.) for the Eastern Interconnection
- Monitor the progress of the case assembly process to ensure it remains on schedule.
- Review, approve, and execute all contracts with third party vendors for necessary work to complete all cases.
- Provide funding as needed for case creation performed by third-party contracts.
- Regional staff to serve as a liaison representative to the MMWG. Liaisons or designee are expected to attend all regularly scheduled MMWG meetings.

Goal 4 – Oversee Acceptable Model Working Group (AMWG)

Goal Description

Oversee the process of reviewing, developing, and validating acceptable system models for use in reliability assessments. The AMWG was established to ensure dynamic models are reviewed and validated and that this information is shared publicly.

Contributing Activities

- Review all process changes made by the AMWG to ensure they are consistent.
- Ensure that all the Planning Coordinator models are properly reviewed by including validation and verification steps to ensure data accuracy and acceptable models are being used.
- Ensure alignment between NERC and the AMWG.
- Monitor and maintain the AMWG acceptable model list.
- Review, approve, and execute all contracts with third party vendors for necessary work.

Version History

Version	Date	Action
0	December 15, 2016	Approved by ERAG
1	November 15, 2023	Approved by ERAG