

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20426

OFFICE OF ELECTRIC RELIABILITY

North American Electric Reliability Corporation  
Docket No. RD16-5-000

June 23, 2016

North American Electric Reliability Corporation  
1325 G Street N.W., Suite 600  
Washington, D.C. 20005

Attention: Shamai Elstein  
Senior Counsel for North American Electric Reliability Corporation

Reference: Petition of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation for  
Approval of the Revised Definition of Special Protection System

Dear Mr. Elstein:

On May 11, 2016, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) filed a petition for Commission approval, pursuant to section 215(d)(1) of the Federal Power Act (FPA)<sup>1</sup> and Section 39.5 of the Commission's regulations<sup>2</sup> of proposed revised definition of "Special Protection System" (SPS) in the *Glossary of Terms Used in NERC Reliability Standards* (Glossary). NERC also seeks approval of the proposed implementation plan and the retirement of the currently-effective SPS definition.

In its petition, NERC states that the NERC Glossary definition for Remedial Action Scheme (RAS) is a cross-reference to the definition of the term "Special Protection System" and reads: "See 'Special Protection System.'"<sup>3</sup> In Project 2010-05.2, NERC revised the definition of RAS which was approved by the Commission in Order

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<sup>1</sup> 16 U.S.C. § 824o (2012).

<sup>2</sup> 18 C.F.R. § 39.5 (2015).

<sup>3</sup> NERC Petition at 7.

No. 818.<sup>4</sup> The revised definition of RAS “adds clarity and granularity that will allow for proper identification of Remedial Action Schemes and a more consistent application of related Reliability Standards.”<sup>5</sup>

In its petition, NERC explains that given Commission approval of the revised definition of RAS and the continued, inconsistent usage the terms “Remedial Action Scheme” and “Special Protection System,” it has revised the definition of SPS to refer to the Commission-approved revised definition for RAS. This proposed definition, which states “See Remedial Action Scheme,” will ensure that any reference to either SPS or RAS refers to the revised definition of RAS approved by the Commission on November 19, 2015.<sup>6</sup>

NERC also explains that, per its implementation plan, the proposed effective date is “on the later of the effective date of the applicable governmental authority’s order approving the revised definition of Special Protection System or the effective date of the revised definition of Remedial Action Scheme approved by the Commission on November 19, 2015.” The proposed effective date ensures that all references to either term in NERC or Regional Entity documents invoke the revised definition of RAS approved by the Commission on November 19, 2015.<sup>7</sup>

NERC’s filing was noticed on May 11, 2016, with interventions, comments and protests due on or before June 10, 2016. No interventions, comments or protests were received.

NERC’s uncontested petition is hereby approved pursuant to the relevant authority delegated to the Director, Office of Electric Reliability under 18 C.F.R. § 375.303 (2015), effective as of the date of this order.

This action shall not be construed as approving any other application, including proposed revisions of Electric Reliability Organization or Regional Entity rules or procedures pursuant to 18 C.F.R. § 375.303(a)(2)(i). Such action shall not be deemed as recognition of any claimed right or obligation associated therewith and such action is without prejudice to any findings or orders that have been or may hereafter be made by

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<sup>4</sup> *Revisions to Emergency Operations Reliability Standards; Revisions to Undervoltage Load Shedding Reliability Standards; Revisions to the Definition of “Remedial Action Scheme” and Related Reliability Standards*, Order No. 818, 153 FERC ¶ 61,228 (2015).

<sup>5</sup> *Id.* P 23.

<sup>6</sup> NERC Petition at 11.

<sup>7</sup> *Id.*

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the Commission in any proceeding now pending or hereafter instituted by or against the Electric Reliability Organization or any Regional Entity.

This order constitutes final agency action. Requests for rehearing by the Commission may be filed within 30 days of the date of issuance of this order, pursuant to 18 C.F.R. § 385.713 (2015).

Sincerely,

Michael Bardee, Director  
Office of Electric Reliability

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