

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, DC 20426

OFFICE OF ELECTRIC RELIABILITY

North American Electric Reliability Corporation  
Docket No. RD21-6-000

December 7, 2021

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

Attention: Lauren A. Perotti, Senior Counsel  
North American Electric Reliability Corporation

Reference: Petition of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation for  
Approval of Reliability Standards CIP-004-7 and CIP-011-3

Dear. Ms. Perotti:

On September 15, 2021, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) submitted for approval proposed Reliability Standards CIP-004-7 (Cyber Security – Personnel & Training) and CIP-011-3 (Cyber Security – Information Protection), as well as the proposed implementation plan, proposed violation risk factors and violation severity levels, and a request to retire currently-effective Reliability Standards CIP-004-6 and CIP-011-2.

NERC states that proposed Reliability Standards CIP-004-7 and CIP-011-3 improve on the currently-effective version of the Reliability Standards by clarifying the protections required surrounding the use of Bulk Electric System Cyber System Information (BCSI), which is information about BES Cyber Systems that could be used to gain unauthorized access or pose a security threat to BES Cyber Systems. NERC explains that registered entities currently control BCSI by managing access to the “designated storage location” of BCSI, such as an electronic document or physical file room, without addressing third-party cloud computing services, which have become an option for storing BCSI. NERC contends that the revisions in the proposed Reliability Standards allow registered entities to depend less on the physical storage location of BCSI and more on the file-level rights and permissions. The proposed Reliability Standards require an access management program to authorize, verify and revoke provisioned access to BCSI, as well as a documented process regarding BES Cyber Asset

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reuse and disposal.

NERC's filed petition was noticed on September 16, 2021, with interventions, comments and protests due on or before October 6, 2021. No interventions or comments were received.

NERC's uncontested filing is hereby approved pursuant to the relevant authority delegated to the Director, Office of Electric Reliability under 18 C.F.R. § 375.303 (2021), 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 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 (2021).

Sincerely,

**CYNTHIA POINTER**

Digitally signed by CYNTHIA

POINTER

Date: 2021.12.07 13:09:30 -05'00'

Cynthia Pointer, Director, Division of Cyber Security  
Office of Electric Reliability

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