

A. Introduction

1. **Title: Operations Planning**
2. **Number: TOP-002-5**
3. **Purpose:** To ensure that Transmission Operators and Balancing Authorities have plans for operating within specified limits.
4. **Applicability:**
 - 4.1. Transmission Operator
 - 4.2. Balancing Authority
5. **Effective Date:**

See Implementation Plan.
6. **Background:**

See Project 2021-07 [project page](#).

B. Requirements and Measures

- R1.** Each Transmission Operator shall have an Operational Planning Analysis that will allow it to assess whether its planned operations for the next day within its Transmission Operator Area will exceed any of its System Operating Limits (SOLs). *[Violation Risk Factor: Medium] [Time Horizon: Operations Planning]*
- M1.** Each Transmission Operator shall have evidence of a completed Operational Planning Analysis. Such evidence could include, but is not limited to dated power flow study results.
- R2.** Each Transmission Operator shall have an Operating Plan(s) for next-day operations to address potential System Operating Limit (SOL) exceedances identified as a result of its Operational Planning Analysis as required in Requirement R1. *[Violation Risk Factor: Medium] [Time Horizon: Operations Planning]*
- M2.** Each Transmission Operator shall have evidence that it has an Operating Plan to address potential System Operating Limits (SOLs) exceedances identified as a result of the Operational Planning Analysis performed in Requirement R1. Such evidence could include, but it is not limited to plans for precluding operating in excess of each SOL that was identified as a result of the Operational Planning Analysis.
- R3.** Each Transmission Operator shall notify entities identified in the Operating Plan(s) cited in Requirement R2 as to their role in those plan(s). *[Violation Risk Factor: Medium] [Time Horizon: Operations Planning]*
- M3.** Each Transmission Operator shall have evidence that it notified entities identified in the Operating Plan(s) cited in Requirement R2 as to their role in the plan(s). Such evidence could include, but is not limited to dated operator logs, or email records.

- R4.** Each Balancing Authority shall have an Operating Plan(s) for the next day that addresses: *[Violation Risk Factor: Medium] [Time Horizon: Operations Planning]*
- 4.1** Expected generation resource commitment and dispatch;
 - 4.2** Interchange scheduling;
 - 4.3** Demand patterns; and
 - 4.4** Capacity and energy reserve requirements, including deliverability capability.
- M4.** Each Balancing Authority shall have evidence that it has developed a plan to operate within the criteria identified. Such evidence could include, but is not limited to dated operator logs or email records.
- R5.** Each Balancing Authority shall notify entities identified in the Operating Plan(s) cited in Requirement R4 as to their role in those plan(s). *[Violation Risk Factor: Medium] [Time Horizon: Operations Planning]*
- M5.** Each Balancing Authority shall have evidence that it notified entities identified in the plan(s) cited in Requirement R4 as to their role in the plan(s). Such evidence could include, but is not limited to dated operator logs or email records.
- R6.** Each Transmission Operator shall provide its Operating Plan(s) for next day operations identified in Requirement R2 to its Reliability Coordinator. *[Violation Risk Factor: Medium] [Time Horizon: Operations Planning]*
- M6.** Each Transmission Operator shall have evidence that it provided its Operating Plan(s) for next day operations identified in Requirement R2 to its Reliability Coordinator. Such evidence could include, but is not limited to dated operator logs or email records.
- R7.** Each Balancing Authority shall provide its Operating Plan(s) for next day operations identified in Requirement R4 to its Reliability Coordinator. *[Violation Risk Factor: Medium] [Time Horizon: Operations Planning]*
- M7.** Each Balancing Authority shall have evidence that it provided its Operating Plan(s) for next day operations identified in Requirement R4 to its Reliability Coordinator. Such evidence could include, but is not limited to dated operator logs or email records.
- R8.** Each Balancing Authority shall have an extreme cold weather Operating Process for its Balancing Authority Area, addressing preparations for and operations during extreme cold weather periods. The extreme cold weather Operating Process shall include, but is not limited to: *[Violation Risk Factor: Medium] [Time Horizon: Operations Planning]*
- 8.1** A methodology for identifying an extreme cold weather period within each Balancing Authority Area;
 - 8.2** A methodology to determine an adequate reserve margin during the extreme cold weather period considering the generating unit(s) operating limitations in previous extreme cold weather periods that includes, but is not limited to:
 - 8.2.1** Capability and availability;

- 8.2.2** Fuel supply and inventory concerns;
 - 8.2.3** Start-up issues;
 - 8.2.4** Fuel switching capabilities; and
 - 8.2.5** Environmental constraints.
 - 8.3** A methodology to determine a five-day hourly forecast during the identified extreme cold weather periods that includes, but is not limited to:
 - 8.3.1** Expected generation resource commitment and dispatch;
 - 8.3.2** Demand patterns;
 - 8.3.3** Capacity and energy reserve requirements, including deliverability capability; and
 - 8.3.4** Weather forecast.
- M8.** Each Balancing Authority shall have evidence that it has developed an extreme cold weather Operating Process in accordance with Requirement R8.

C. Compliance

1. Compliance Monitoring Process

1.1. Compliance Enforcement Authority: “Compliance Enforcement Authority” means NERC or the Regional Entity, or any entity as otherwise designated by an Applicable Governmental Authority, in their respective roles of monitoring and/or enforcing compliance with mandatory and enforceable Reliability Standards in their respective jurisdictions.

1.2. Evidence Retention: The following evidence retention period(s) identify the period of time an entity is required to retain specific evidence to demonstrate compliance. For instances where the evidence retention period specified below is shorter than the time since the last audit, the Compliance Enforcement Authority may ask an entity to provide other evidence to show that it was compliant for the full-time period since the last audit.

The applicable entity shall keep data or evidence to show compliance as identified below unless directed by its CEA to retain specific evidence for a longer period of time as part of an investigation.

- Each Transmission Operator and Balancing Authority shall keep data or evidence to show compliance for each applicable Requirement for a rolling 90-calendar days period for analyses, the most recent 90-calendar days for voice recordings, and 12 months for operating logs and e-mail records unless directed by its Compliance Enforcement Authority to retain specific evidence for a longer period of time as part of an investigation.
- The Balancing Authority shall retain the current Operating Process(s), evidence of review or revision history plus each version issued since the last audit and evidence of compliance since the last audit for Requirement R8.

1.3. Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program: As defined in the NERC Rules of Procedure, “Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program” refers to the identification of the processes that will be used to evaluate data or information for the purpose of assessing performance or outcomes with the associated Reliability Standard.

Violation Severity Levels

R #	Violation Severity Levels			
	Lower VSL	Moderate VSL	High VSL	Severe VSL
R1	N/A	N/A	N/A	The Transmission Operator did not have an Operational Planning Analysis allowing it to assess whether its planned operations for the next day within its Transmission Operator Area exceeded any of its System Operating Limits (SOLs).
R2	N/A	N/A	N/A	The Transmission Operator did not have an Operating Plan to address potential System Operating Limit (SOL) exceedances identified as a result of the Operational Planning Analysis performed in Requirement R1.
R3	The Transmission Operator did not notify one impacted entity or 5% or less of the entities, whichever is greater identified in the	The Transmission Operator did not notify two entities or more than 5% and less than or equal to 10% of the impacted entities, whichever is greater, identified in the	The Transmission Operator did not notify three impacted entities or more than 10% and less than or equal to 15% of the entities, whichever is greater, identified in the	The Transmission Operator did not notify four or more entities or more than 15% of the impacted NERC identified in the Operating Plan(s) as to their role in the plan(s).

R #	Violation Severity Levels			
	Lower VSL	Moderate VSL	High VSL	Severe VSL
	Operating Plan(s) as to their role in the plan(s).	Operating Plan(s) as to their role in the plan(s).	Operating Plan(s) as to their role in the plan(s).	
R4	The Balancing Authority has an Operating Plan, but it does not address one of the criteria in Requirement R4.	The Balancing Authority has an Operating Plan, but it does not address two of the criteria in Requirement R4.	The Balancing Authority has an Operating Plan, but it does not address three of the criteria in Requirement R4.	The Balancing Authority did not have an Operating Plan.
R5	The Balancing Authority did not notify one impacted entity or 5% or less of the entities, whichever is greater, identified in the Operating Plan(s) as to their role in the plan(s).	The Balancing Authority did not notify two entities or more than 5% and less than or equal to 10% of the impacted entities, whichever is greater, identified in the Operating Plan(s) as to their role in the plan(s).	The Balancing Authority did not notify three impacted entities or more than 10% and less than or equal to 15% of the entities, whichever is greater, identified in the Operating Plan(s) as to their role in the plan(s).	The Balancing Authority did not notify four or more entities or more than 15% of the impacted entities identified in the Operating Plan(s) as to their role in the plan(s).
R6	N/A	N/A	N/A	The Transmission Operator did not provide its Operating Plan(s) for next day operations as identified in Requirement R2 to its Reliability Coordinator.
R7	N/A	N/A	N/A	The Balancing Authority did not provide its Operating Plan(s) for next day operations as

R #	Violation Severity Levels			
	Lower VSL	Moderate VSL	High VSL	Severe VSL
				identified in Requirement R4 to its Reliability Coordinator.
R8	N/A	The Balancing Authority had an extreme cold weather Operating Process addressing preparations for and operations during extreme cold weather periods, but it did not address one of the Requirements or sub-Requirements of R8 Parts 8.1 through 8.3.	The Balancing Authority had an extreme cold weather Operating Process addressing preparations for and operations during extreme cold weather periods, but it did not address two of the Requirements or sub-Requirements of R8 Parts 8.1 through 8.3.	The Balancing Authority did not have an extreme cold weather Operating Process addressing preparations for and operations during extreme cold weather periods.

D. Regional Variances

None.

E. Interpretations

None.

F. Associated Documents

Extreme Cold Weather Preparedness Technical Rationale and Justification for TOP-002-5

Version History

Version	Date	Action	Change Tracking
0	April 1, 2005	Effective Date	New
0	August 8, 2005	Removed "Proposed" from Effective Date	Errata
1	August 2, 2006	Adopted by Board of Trustees	Revised
2	November 1, 2006	Adopted by Board of Trustees	Revised
2	June 14, 2007	Fixed typo in R11., (subject to ...)	Errata
2a	February 10, 2009	Added Appendix 1 – Interpretation of R11 approved by BOT on February 10, 2009	Interpretation
2a	December 2, 2009	Interpretation of R11 approved by FERC on December 2, 2009	Same Interpretation
2b	November 4, 2010	Added Appendix 2 – Interpretation of R10 adopted by the Board of Trustees	
2b	October 20, 2011	FERC Order issued approving the Interpretation of R10 (FERC's Order became effective on October 20, 2011)	
2.1b	March 8, 2012	Errata adopted by Standards Committee; (Removed unnecessary language from the Effective Date section. Deleted retired sub-requirements from Requirement R14)	Errata

Version	Date	Action	Change Tracking
2.1b	April 11, 2012	Additional errata adopted by Standards Committee; (Deleted language from retired sub-requirement from Measure M7)	Errata
2.1b	September 13, 2012	FERC approved	Errata
3	May 6, 2012	Revisions under Project 2007-03	Revised
3	May 9, 2012	Adopted by Board of Trustees	Revised
4	April 2014	Revisions under Project 2014-03	Revised
4	November 13, 2014	Adopted by NERC Board of Trustees	Revisions under Project 2014-03
4	November 19, 2015	FERC approved TOP-002-4. Docket No. RM15-16-000. Order No. 817.	
5	October 23, 2023	Revisions under Project 2021-07	Revised
5	February 15, 2024	Adopted by Board of Trustees	Revisions under Project 2021-07
5	February 16, 2024	FERC approved TOP-002-5. Docket No. RD24-1-000.	
5	October 1, 2025	Effective Date	