

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
BEFORE THE
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

North American Electric Reliability
Corporation

Docket No. RD14-2-000

**MOTION TO INTERVENE AND COMMENTS OF
TRANSMISSION ACCESS POLICY STUDY GROUP**

Pursuant to Commission Rules 212 and 214, 18 C.F.R. §§ 385.212 and 385.214, and the Commission’s December 18, 2013 Combined Notice of Filings #1, the Transmission Access Policy Study Group (“TAPS”) moves to intervene in the above-captioned docket and submits these comments in support of expeditious approval of NERC’s proposed revisions to the definition of the Bulk Electric System (“BES”).

I. MOTION TO INTERVENE

TAPS is an association of transmission-dependent utilities (“TDUs”) in more than 35 states, promoting open and non-discriminatory transmission access.¹ As transmission-dependent utilities, TAPS members have long recognized the importance of grid reliability. As TDUs, TAPS members are users of the Bulk-Power System, highly reliant on the reliability of facilities owned and operated by others for the transmission service required to meet TAPS members’ loads. In addition, many TAPS members participate in the development of and are subject to compliance with NERC Reliability Standards. Thus, TAPS is sensitive to both the need for standards to support grid reliability, as well as the need to make the standards clear and cost-effective.

¹ Tom Heller, Missouri River Energy Services, chairs the TAPS Board. Jane Cirrincione, Northern California Power Agency, is the TAPS Vice Chair. John Twitty is the TAPS Executive Director.

Given TAPS direct interests in this proceeding, its participation is in the public interest. No other party can adequately represent TAPS interests. Accordingly, TAPS should be permitted to intervene with full rights as a party.

Communications regarding these proceedings should be directed to:

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II. COMMENTS IN SUPPORT OF NERC'S PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE BES DEFINITION

In this proceeding, NERC has proposed revisions to the definition of the BES. This "Phase II" BES definition builds on the "Phase I" definition approved by the Commission in Order Nos. 773 and 773-A.² Not only do NERC's proposed revisions satisfy the directives in those orders, but they also improve the clarity of the BES definition. NERC's proposed definition is therefore just and reasonable, not unduly discriminatory, and in the public interest. The Commission should therefore approve the revised definition.

In particular, TAPS supports NERC's proposal to revise Exclusion E1 (Radial Systems) to allow radial systems connected by sub-50 kV loops to qualify for the

² Revisions to Electric Reliability Organization Definition of Bulk Electric System and Rules of Procedure, Order No. 773, 78 Fed. Reg. 804 (Jan. 4, 2013), 141 FERC ¶ 61,236 (2012), *clarified on reh'g*, Order No. 773-A, 78 Fed. Reg. 29,210 (May 17, 2013), 143 FERC ¶ 61,053 (2013), *compliance deadline extended*, 143 FERC ¶ 61,231 (2013), *clarified*, 144 FERC ¶ 61,174 (2013).

exclusion. NERC's proposal is an equally effective or superior solution to addressing the Commission's concern that the exclusion could allow elements operating at 100 kV or higher in a configuration that emanates from two or more points of connection to be deemed "radial" even though the configuration remains contiguous through elements that are operated below 100 kV.³ NERC's technical study demonstrates that such configurations, when connected by sub-50 kV loops, will typically not result in power flows from the looped system back to the BES under single contingency conditions.⁴ In other words, such configurations effectively operate as two separate radial systems. It is, therefore, technically justified to exclude such configurations through Exclusion E1 (Radial Systems) rather than resorting to Exclusion E3 (Local Networks) or the exception process, which are more administratively burdensome.

TAPS also supports NERC's request that the Commission approve the proposed revisions in time for the revised definition to take effect on July 1, 2014. Doing so will allow the revised definition to supersede the currently approved BES definition. This will encourage regulatory certainty and avoid the waste associated with implementing the "Phase I" definition for an interim period until the "Phase II" definition is approved. TAPS therefore respectfully urges the Commission to approve NERC's proposal expeditiously.

³ Order No. 773, P 150.

⁴ Petition of the NERC for Approval of Revisions to the Definition of "Bulk Electric System" and Request for Expedited Action, Ex. D at 16, Dec. 13, 2013, Docket No. RD14-2-000, eLibrary No. 20131213-5280.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons set forth above, the Commission should grant TAPS intervention, and approve NERC's proposed revisions to the BES definition to take effect on July 1, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

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January 17, 2014

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this day caused the foregoing document to be served upon each person designated on the official service list compiled by the Secretary in this proceeding.

Dated on this 17th day of January, 2014.

/s/ Latif M. Nurani
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