UNITED STATES OF AMERICA BEFORE THE FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

North American Electric Reliability)	Docket No. RM20-17-000
Corporation		
•)	

NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL OF THE NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY CORPORATION FOR PROPOSED RELIABILITY STANDARD CIP-002-6

Pursuant to Rule 216¹ of the Rules of Practice and Procedure of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("FERC" or the "Commission"), the North American Electric Reliability Corporation ("NERC") hereby submits this notice of withdrawal for proposed Reliability Standard CIP-002-6.

I. <u>Background</u>

On June 12, 2020, NERC submitted a petition for approval of proposed Reliability Standard CIP-002-6 in the above-captioned docket.² In the petition, NERC also sought the retirement of currently effective Reliability Standard CIP-002-5.1a. The Commission has not taken action on this filing as of the date of this notice.

II. <u>Support for Withdrawal</u>

At its February 4, 2021 meeting, the NERC Board of Trustees approved a resolution to withdraw proposed Reliability Standard CIP-002-6.³ NERC therefore asks the Commission to permit withdrawal of NERC's June 12, 2020 petition seeking approval of proposed Reliability Standard CIP-002-6 and the retirement of currently effective Reliability Standard CIP-002-5.1a.

¹ 18 C.F.R. § 385.216 (2020).

² *Petition of NERC for Approval of Proposed Reliability Standard CIP-002-6*, Docket No. RM20-17-000 (June 12, 2020).

³ See NERC Board of Trustees February 4, 2021 Agenda Package Item 7.b, available at https://www.nerc.com/gov/bot/Agenda%20highlights%20and%20Mintues%202013/Board_Open_Meeting_Agenda -Feb-4-2021_PUBLIC_ONLY.pdf.

In light of recent cybersecurity events and the evolving threat landscape, NERC asserts that additional caution is warranted regarding any criteria that may permit more entities to categorize Bulk Electric System ("BES") Cyber Systems as low impact, such as the revisions proposed in CIP-002-6, and recommends further study. As a result, NERC withdraws proposed Reliability Standard CIP-002-6 until NERC has had the opportunity to reevaluate the criterion based on additional data and studies.

III. Conclusion

NERC requests that the Commission permit withdrawal of NERC's June 12, 2020 petition seeking approval of proposed Reliability Standard CIP-002-6 and retirement of Reliability Standard CIP-002-5.1a, either by order or expiration of the 15-day period in Rule 216.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Marisa Hecht

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Counsel for the North American Electric Reliability Corporation

February 5, 2021

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have served a copy of this submittal upon all parties listed on the

official service lists compiled by the Secretary in this proceeding.

Dated at Washington, D.C. this 5th day of February, 2021.

/s/ Marisa Hecht

Marisa Hecht Counsel for the North American Electric Reliability Corporation