

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20426

OFFICE OF ELECTRIC RELIABILITY

North American Electric Reliability  
Corporation  
Docket No. RM12-4-001

September 4, 2013

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

Attention: William H. Edwards  
Attorney for North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC)

Reference: NERC Compliance Filing in Response to Order No. 777

Dear Mr. Edwards:

On March 21, 2013, the Commission issued Order No. 777, approving NERC's proposed Reliability Standard FAC-003-2 (Transmission Vegetation Management).<sup>1</sup>

In that Order, the Commission directed NERC to conduct testing to develop empirical data regarding the flashover distances between conductors and vegetation. Accordingly, the Commission directed NERC to submit, within 45 days of the effective date of the Order, an informational filing that includes: (1) a schedule for testing, (2) scope of work, (3) funding solutions, and (4) a deadline for submitting a final report to the Commission on the test results.<sup>2</sup>

The Commission also directed NERC, within 45 days from issuance of the Order, to modify the Violation Risk Factor for Requirement R2 of FAC-003-2 from "medium" to "high,"<sup>3</sup> and post along with NERC Reliability Standard FAC-003-2 certain consolidated reference materials submitted as part of NERC's petition for approval of the standard.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *Revisions to Reliability Standard for Transmission Vegetation Management*, Order No. 777, 78 Fed. Reg. 18,817 (March 28, 2013), 142 FERC ¶ 61,208 (2013).

<sup>2</sup> *Id.* at P 61.

<sup>3</sup> *Id.* at P 77.

<sup>4</sup> *Id.* at P 90.

On July 12, 2013, NERC submitted a compliance filing that: (1) provides a description of NERC's plan to conduct testing to develop empirical data regarding the flashover distances between conductors and vegetation; (2) modifies the Violation Risk Factor for Requirement R2 from medium to high; and (3) confirms that NERC has posted guidance materials for NERC Reliability Standard FAC-003-2 to its website.

The filing was noticed on July 17, 2013, with comments, interventions and protests due on or before August 7, 2013. No comments or protests were filed.

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

Sincerely,

Michael Bardee, Director  
Office of Electric Reliability