

processes. For public inquiries and assistance with making filings such as interventions, comments, or requests for rehearing, the public is encouraged to contact OPP at (202)502-6595 or *OPP@ferc.gov*.

Dated: June 26, 2024.

**Debbie-Anne A. Reese,**  
*Acting Secretary.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. AD24-9-000]

#### Innovations and Efficiencies in Generator Interconnection; Supplemental Notice of Staff-Led Workshop

As first announced in the Notice of Staff-Led Workshop issued in this proceeding on May 13, 2024, pursuant to 18 CFR 2.1(a), the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) will convene a staff-led workshop in the above-referenced proceeding at Commission headquarters, 888 First Street NE, Washington, DC 20426 on Tuesday, September 10, 2024 and Wednesday, September 11, 2024 from approximately 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Eastern time. This supplemental notice provides additional detail as to the planned content of the workshop and the self-nomination process for interested panelists.

The conference will be held in-person. The tentative topics and panels for the workshop appear below. A detailed agenda with the final list of topics and panels, selected speakers, presentation dates, and times for the selected speakers will be published on the Commission's website<sup>1</sup> and in eLibrary at a later date.

This conference will bring together experts from diverse backgrounds including project developers, transmission owners and providers, government, research centers, and academia. The conference will bring these experts together for the purposes of identifying and discussing potential innovations and efficiencies related to generator interconnection.

Broadly, such topics fall into the following categories, which may be subject to change:

The Day 1 Innovations Panels will discuss enhancements to current

generator interconnection processes that may build upon the reforms in Order No. 2023.<sup>2</sup>

(Inn.1) Innovations Panel 1, integrated transmission planning and generator interconnection, will explore the extent to which transmission planning and generator interconnection processes may be further integrated beyond the reforms adopted in Order No. 1920.<sup>3</sup> This panel will explore ideas to more efficiently and proactively plan for and interconnect new generation with increased cost certainty.

(Inn.2) Innovations Panel 2, further changes, will examine the viability and utility of different approaches to organizing, processing, and studying generator interconnection requests, such as an ERIS-focused (or "connect and manage") process, the use of competitive mechanisms (e.g., an auction process to allocate scarce capacity or to resolve competition for the same point of interconnection), or other potential approaches.

(Inn.3) Innovations Panel 3, prioritizing generator interconnection requests, will examine whether proposed generating facilities may be prioritized in the interconnection queue beyond the use of first-ready, first-served cluster window deadlines and readiness milestones as adopted by Order No. 2023 without undue discrimination.

The Day 2 Efficiencies Panels will discuss incremental changes to current generator interconnection processes that may build upon the reforms in Order No. 2023.

(Eff.1) Efficiencies Panel 1, the generator interconnection process, will evaluate the potential for increased efficiency throughout the generator interconnection process (excluding topics covered in Efficiencies Panels 2 and 3), such as, for example, providing additional pre-application data to interconnection customers or establishing fast-tracking processes for interconnection requests at points of interconnection with fewer system constraints.

(Eff.2) Efficiencies Panel 2, automation, will assess opportunities for greater efficiency in the processing and study of interconnection requests by automating different steps in the process and using advanced computing

<sup>2</sup> *Improvements to Generator Interconnection Procs. & Agreements*, Order No. 2023, 184 FERC ¶ 61,054, *order on reh'g*, 185 FERC ¶ 61,063 (2023), *order on reh'g*, Order No. 2023-A, 186 FERC ¶ 61,199 (2024).

<sup>3</sup> *Building for the Future Through Electric Regional Transmission Planning and Cost Allocation*, Order No. 1920, 187 FERC ¶ 61,068 (2024).

technologies such as artificial intelligence to shorten the timeline from interconnection request to interconnection agreement.<sup>4</sup>

(Eff.3) Efficiencies Panel 3, post-generator interconnection agreement construction phase, will discuss opportunities for greater efficiency, transparency, and accountability in the design, construction, and operation of interconnection facilities and network upgrades.

Individuals interested in participating as panelists should submit a self-nomination email no later than 5:00 p.m. Eastern time on July 12, 2024, to *Panelist\_InterconnectionWorkshop@ferc.gov*. The self-nominations should have "Panelist Self-Nomination" in the subject line and include the panelist's name, contact information, organizational affiliation, one-paragraph biography, the panel the self-nominated panelist proposes to speak on, and a description of what they would like to discuss. Speakers are encouraged to build on existing developments in generator interconnection. Presentations that center on pending contested proceedings or pending requests for variations submitted in compliance with Order No. 2023 are discouraged.

The workshop will be open to the public to attend virtually or in person and there is no fee for attendance. A supplemental notice will be issued with further details regarding the workshop agenda, as well as any changes in timing or logistics. Information will also be posted on the Calendar of Events on the Commission's website, *www.ferc.gov*, prior to the event. To stay apprised of issuances in this docket, there is an "eSubscription" link on the Commission's website that enables subscribers to receive email notification when a document is added to a subscribed docket(s). For assistance with any FERC Online service, please email *FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov*, or call (866) 208-3676 (toll free). For TTY, call (202) 502-8659.

The workshop will be transcribed and webcast. Transcripts will be available for a fee from Ace Reporting (202-347-3700). A link to the webcast of this event will be available in the Commission Calendar of Events at *www.ferc.gov*. The Commission provides technical support for the free webcasts. Please call 202-502-8680 or email *customer@ferc.gov* if you have any questions.

<sup>4</sup> Artificial intelligence (AI) is a broad term for a spectrum of tools ranging from data validation on the simple side, to machine learning and statistical modeling in the middle, to deep learning and generative AI on the complex side of the spectrum.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ferc.gov/news-events/events/innovations-and-efficiencies-generator-interconnection-workshop-docket-no-ad24-9>.

FERC conferences are accessible under section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. For accessibility accommodations please send an email to [accessibility@ferc.gov](mailto:accessibility@ferc.gov) or call toll free (866) 208-3372 (voice) or (202) 502-8659 (TTY), or send a fax to (202) 208-2106 with the required accommodations.

For further information about this workshop, please contact:

Michael G. Henry (Technical Information), Office of Energy Policy and Innovation, 202-502-8583, [Michael.Henry@ferc.gov](mailto:Michael.Henry@ferc.gov)  
Lewis Taylor (Legal Information), Office of General Counsel, 202-502-8624, [Lewis.Taylor@ferc.gov](mailto:Lewis.Taylor@ferc.gov)

Dated: June 27, 2024.

**Debbie-Anne A. Reese,**

*Acting Secretary.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket Nos. RD24-5-000; RD24-1-000]

#### North American Electric Reliability Corporation; Order Approving Extreme Cold Weather Reliability Standard EOP-012-2 and Directing Modification

1. On February 16, 2024, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), the Commission-certified Electric Reliability Organization (ERO), submitted a petition seeking approval of proposed Reliability Standard EOP-012-2 (Extreme Cold Weather Preparedness and Operations). As discussed in this order, we approve proposed Reliability Standard EOP-012-2, its associated violation risk factors and violation severity levels, NERC's proposed implementation plan, the newly defined terms Fixed Fuel Supply Component and Generator Cold Weather Constraint, the revised defined terms Generator Cold Weather Critical Component and Generator Cold Weather Reliability Event, and the retirement of Reliability Standard EOP-012-1 immediately prior to the effective date of proposed Reliability Standard EOP-012-2.<sup>1</sup> We also approve NERC's proposed implementation date for Reliability Standard EOP-011-4 and the proposed retirement of Reliability Standards EOP-011-2 and EOP-011-3 immediately prior to the effective date

of proposed Reliability Standard EOP-012-2.<sup>2</sup>

2. It is essential to the reliable operation of the Bulk-Power System to “ensure enough generating units will be available during the next cold weather event.”<sup>3</sup> When extreme cold weather events such as Winter Storms Uri or Elliott occur, the Bulk-Power System cannot operate reliably without adequate generation. Proposed Reliability Standard EOP-012-2 improves upon the approved, but not yet effective, Reliability Standard EOP-012-1 by clarifying the requirements for generator cold weather preparedness and by making other improvements consistent with the Commission's directives in its February 2023 Order to help ensure that more generation is available during extreme cold weather.<sup>4</sup> Accordingly, we find that proposed Reliability Standard EOP-012-2 is just, reasonable, not unduly discriminatory or preferential, and in the public interest.

3. Nevertheless, we find that proposed Reliability Standard EOP-012-2 requires improvement to address certain concerns, as discussed further below. Therefore, pursuant to section 215(d)(5) of the Federal Power Act (FPA),<sup>5</sup> we direct NERC to:

(1) develop and submit modifications to proposed Reliability Standard EOP-012-2 to address concerns related to the ambiguity of the newly defined term Generator Cold Weather Constraint to ensure that the Generator Cold Weather Constraint declaration criteria included within the proposed Standard are objective and sufficiently detailed so that applicable entities understand what is required of them and to remove all references to “reasonable cost,” “unreasonable cost,” “cost,” and “good business practices” and replace them with objective, unambiguous, and auditable terms;

(2) develop and submit modifications to proposed Reliability Standard EOP-012-2 for NERC to receive, review, evaluate, and confirm the validity of each Generator Cold Weather Constraint invoked by a generator owner, in a timely fashion, to ensure that such declaration cannot be used to avoid

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

<sup>3</sup> FERC, NERC, and Regional Entity Staff, *The February 2021 Cold Weather Outages in Texas and the South Central United States*, at 189 (Nov. 16, 2021), <https://www.ferc.gov/media/february-2021-cold-weather-outages-texas-and-south-central-united-states-ferc-nerc-and> (November 2021 Report).

<sup>4</sup> See, e.g., *N. Am. Elec. Reliability Corp.*, 182 FERC ¶ 61,094, PP 3-11 (2023) (February 2023 Order); *reh'g denied*, 183 FERC ¶ 62,034, *order on reh'g*, 183 FERC ¶ 61,222 (2023).

<sup>5</sup> 16 U.S.C. 824o(d)(5).

mandatory compliance with the proposed Reliability Standard or obligations in a corrective action plan;

(3) develop and submit modifications to proposed Reliability Standard EOP-012-2 to shorten and clarify the corrective action plan implementation timelines and deadlines in Requirement R7, as further directed below;

(4) develop and submit modifications to Requirement R7 of proposed Reliability Standard EOP-012-2 to ensure that any extension of a corrective action plan implementation deadline beyond the maximum implementation timeframe required by the Standard is pre-approved by NERC and to ensure that the generator owner informs relevant registered entities of operating limitations in extreme cold weather during the period of the extension; and

(5) develop and submit modifications to Requirement R8, part 8.1 of proposed Reliability Standard EOP-012-2 to implement more frequent reviews of Generator Cold Weather Constraint declarations to verify that the constraint declaration remains valid.

4. The Commission has repeatedly expressed an urgency in completing cold weather Reliability Standards and having them implemented in a timely manner to address the risks presented by cold weather events on the reliability of the Bulk-Power System.<sup>6</sup> Further, we note that NERC submitted the current filing in response to Commission directives to improve the cold weather Reliability Standards, and the five core directives to NERC in this order are not new issues, but rather targeted modifications necessary to fully address issues identified in the Commission's prior February 2023 Order. Accordingly, we direct NERC to make the above modifications and submit the revised Reliability Standard within nine months of the date of issuance of this order.<sup>7</sup>

## I. Background

### A. Section 215 and Mandatory Reliability Standards

5. Section 215 of the FPA provides that the Commission may certify an ERO, the purpose of which is to develop mandatory and enforceable Reliability Standards, subject to Commission review and approval.<sup>8</sup> Reliability

<sup>6</sup> See e.g., *N. Am. Elec. Reliability Corp.*, 183 FERC ¶ 62,034 at P 10 (emphasizing that industry has been aware of and alerted to the need to prepare generating units for cold weather since at least 2011 and that in considering an appropriate implementation period for Reliability Standard EOP-012-1, NERC should consider how much time industry has already had to implement freeze protection measures).

<sup>7</sup> 18 CFR 39.6(g) (2023).

<sup>8</sup> 16 U.S.C. 824o(c).

<sup>1</sup> 16 U.S.C. 824o(d)(2).