



AESO Reliability Standards Monthly Report

September 2010

CIP-002-1 – Critical Cyber Asset Identification

Purpose:

Request for Interpretation by Duke Energy.

Standard:

The standard has an effective date of June 1, 2006.

Request and Interpretation:

Question 1) In R3, is the phrase "Examples at control centers and backup control centers include systems and facilities at master and remote sites that provide monitoring and control, automatic generation control, real-time power system modeling, and real-time inter-utility data exchange" meant to be prescriptive, i.e., that any and all systems and facilities utilized in monitoring and control, automatic generation control, real-time power system modeling, and real-time inter-utility data exchange, must be classified as Critical Cyber Assets, or is this phrase simply meant to provide examples of the types of systems that should be assessed for inclusion in the list of Critical Cyber Assets using an entity's critical cyber asset methodology?

NERC Response 1) The phrase "Examples at control centers and backup control centers include systems and facilities at master and remote sites that provide monitoring and control, automatic generation control, real-time power system modeling, and real-time inter-utility data exchange" is not intended to be prescriptive. It simply provides examples of the types of Cyber Assets that should be considered. It does not imply that the items listed must be classified as Critical Cyber Assets, nor is it intended to be an exhaustive list of Critical Cyber Asset types.

Question 2) What does the phrase, "essential to the operation of the Critical Asset" mean? If an entity has an asset that "may" be used to operate a Critical Asset, but is not "required" for operation of that Critical Asset, is the asset considered "essential to the operation of the Critical Asset"? Remote access to the systems is valuable to operations (see Material Impact Statement below), but operation of the Critical Asset is not literally dependent on these laptops.

NERC Response 2) The phrase "essential to the operation of the Critical Asset" means that the Critical Cyber Asset is used to perform a function essential to the operation of the Critical Asset. For example, in a control center, a human-to-machine interface such as an operator console is used to perform the essential function of operator-assisted remote control. Similarly, any Cyber Asset, when used to perform a function essential to the operation of the Critical Asset, becomes a Critical Cyber Asset.

Applicability:

Reliability Coordinator, Balancing Authority, Interchange Authority, Transmission Service Provider, Transmission Owner, Transmission Operator, Generator Owner, Generator Operator, Load Serving Entity, NERC, RRO

Current Status:

The interpretation is posted for comment until October 8.

NERC Link:

[CIP-002 – 1 RFI](#)