



AESO Reliability Standards Monthly Report

June 2009

CIP-002-1 to 009-1 – Cyber Security Violation Severity Limits and Risk Factors

Purpose:

Pre-ballot review of the VSLs and VRFs.

Current Standard:

The current cyber standards have "Levels of Non-Compliance".

Proposed Standards:

The FERC, In Order 706 (Mandatory Reliability Standards for Critical Infrastructure Protection) (Issued January 18, 2008) approved eight Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP) Reliability Standards directs NERC to develop modifications to the CIP Reliability Standards to address specific concerns. The Order also states that NERC should file Violation Severity Levels before the auditable compliant stage.

Since the CIP Standards have been approved and are enforceable, the "Levels of Non-Compliance" must be replaced with "Violation Severity Levels". This is in accordance with the Order on Compliance Filing dated June 7, 2007 (Docket #RR06-1-007), which directed NERC to replace the 'Levels of Non-compliance' (in the 83 standards it approved) with 'Violation Severity Levels.' It also requires development of Violation Severity Levels of new or revised standards.

This project will meet the FERC directives regarding the development of Violation Severity Levels (VSL) for the cyber group of standards: CIP-002-1 – Critical Cyber Asset Identification, CIP-003-1 – Security Management Controls, CIP-004-1 – Personnel and Training, CIP-005-1 – Electronic Security Perimeter(s), CIP-006-1 – Physical Security of Critical Cyber Assets, CIP-007-1 – Systems Security Management, CIP-008-1 – Incident Reporting & Response Planning, CIP-009-1 – Recovery Plans for Critical Cyber Assets.

Applicability:

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

Current Status:

The CIP VSLs were posted for ballot until June 24, 2009. The AESO cast an "Abstain" ballot as the NERC VSLs are not applicable in Alberta. The standard was approved by the ballot body, however there were negative votes with comments. This results in a recirculation ballot after the NERC drafting team responds to the comments.

NERC Link:

[Cyber Security Violation Severity Levels](#)