

September 17, 2020

To: Alberta Utilities Commission (“AUC” or “Commission”)

Re: Forwarding Notice –Alberta Reliability Standard PRC-005-AB1-6, *Protection System, Automatic Reclosing and Sudden Pressure Relaying Maintenance* (“PRC-005-AB1-6”) and rename as PRC-005-AB2-6, *Protection System, Automatic Reclosing and Sudden Pressure Relaying Maintenance* (“PRC-005-AB2-6”)

The Alberta Electric System Operator (“AESO”) recommends that the Commission approve the proposed amended PRC-005-AB2-6, pursuant to Section 19 of the *Transmission Regulation*.

Background

The purpose of this reliability standard is to document and implement programs for the maintenance of all protection systems, automatic reclosing, and sudden pressure relaying affecting the reliability of the transmission system to ensure the reliability of the interconnected electric system.

While reviewing PRC-005-AB1-6 to provide clarification to a stakeholder, the AESO discovered that amendments were required to ensure that the language is consistent with the intention of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (“NERC”) as described in its *Supplementary Reference and FAQ PRC-005-6 Protection System, Automatic Reclosing, and Sudden Pressure Relaying Maintenance and Testing* dated October 2015 (the “NERC Guidance”). The revision to proposed amended PRC-005-AB2-6 will clarify that existing PRC-005-AB1-6 applies only to the sub-set of automatic reclosers enumerated in subsection 2.2(g) and not to all automatic reclosers installed on the transmission system.

Section 2.4.1 of the NERC Guidance states that “automatic reclosing includes reclosing relays and the associated dc control circuitry” and that section 4.2.7 of NERC PRC-005 “specifically limits the applicable reclosing relays to the enumerated list in the section.”

The NERC Guidance provides the following rationale regarding the applicability of the standard to automatic reclosers:

“The Applicability as detailed above was recommended by the NERC System Analysis and Modeling Subcommittee (SAMS) after a lengthy review of the use of reclosing within the BES. SAMS concluded that automatic reclosing is largely implemented throughout the BES as an operating convenience, and that automatic reclosing mal-performance affects BES reliability only when the reclosing is part of a Remedial Action Scheme, or when premature auto reclosing has the potential to cause generating unit or plant instability. A technical report, “Considerations for Maintenance and Testing of Auto reclosing Schemes — November 2012”, is referenced in NERC PRC-005-3 and provides a more detailed discussion of these concerns.”

Summary of Proposed Changes

Upon review of existing PRC-005-AB1-6, the AESO made the following amendments:

Alberta variances:

- Section 2.2(g) of the "Applicability" section has been revised to provide clarity and certainty that this reliability standard applies only to those automatic reclosers enumerated in section 2.2(g).

Administrative amendments:

- Existing reliability standard PRC-005-AB1-6 is being renamed PRC-005-AB2-6.

The implementation plan was revised to make a general reference to PRC-005-AB due to the number of versions of the reliability standard that have gone into effect since it was first approved by the Commission. In addition, administrative changes, such as formatting and grammatical corrections have also been made in the final proposed amended PRC-006-AB2-6.

Summary of AESO Consultation

On June 9, 2020, the AESO posted a Consultation Letter on its website requesting written comments from market participants and other interested parties ("Stakeholders") with respect to the proposed amended PRC-005-AB2-6 and notified Stakeholders in the AESO Stakeholder Newsletter.

No comments were received from Stakeholders with respect to the proposed amended PRC-005-AB2-6. Therefore, no additional changes have been made to the final proposed amended PRC-005-AB2-6.

Attachments to Forwarding Notice

The following documents are attached to this Forwarding Notice:

1. [June 9, 2020 Consultation Letter](#);
2. [Blackline](#) and [clean](#) copies of proposed amended PRC-005-AB2-6.

Proposed Effective Date

The AESO recommends that the Commission approve the final proposed amended PRC-005-AB2-6 to become effective upon approval by the Commission.

The AESO submits that the final proposed amended PRC-005-AB2-6 complies with the requirements of the *Transmission Regulation*, is not technically deficient, and is in the public interest.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,

"Melissa Mitchell-Moisson"

Melissa Mitchell-Moisson
Regulatory Administrator
Email: ars_comments@aes0.ca

Attachments