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## From the Desk of the CEO

The Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has drastically altered day-to-day life for all of us over the course of the last six weeks. The seriousness of the issue hit home for many of us in Texas when major events such as South by Southwest and the Houston Rodeo were canceled. Now, communities across the state are adjusting to social distancing guidelines and shelter-in-place directives as we collectively fight the spread of this disease.

In response to COVID-19 concerns and to protect our employees, Texas RE instituted mandatory work-from-home beginning March 18 and canceled all non-essential travel. We hoped to have our offices re-opened by April 6 but have since extended our remote working status to May 4. All meetings and workshops through the end of April have either been postponed, canceled, or (wherever possible) moved to an online format. Given the seriousness of the virus and recent guidance from President Trump to extend social distancing through April 30, it is likely we'll be operating remotely for a while to come.

Our "new normal" presents many logistic, economic, and social challenges that each of us is grappling with individually and within our organizations. But as Wall Street Journal columnist Peggy Noonan recently wrote, "Everything works—and will continue to work—as long as we have electricity. It's what keeps the lights on, the oxygen flowing, the information going. Everything is the grid, the grid, the grid."

I strongly agree with Ms. Noonan's statement and can assure all of our stakeholders that Texas RE is



unwavering in its commitment to ensuring that the BPS continues to function efficiently and reliably. I've been in direct communication with many of our members and am encouraged by the dedication and determination to maintain as much normalcy as possible for Texas families. For Texas RE and our stakeholders, that means making sure lights, appliances, and yes, even televisions all continue to work without a hitch. Without power, much of our capability to respond effectively to the current crisis would be compromised.

From a compliance perspective, our industry recognizes that altered workforce situations will require greater flexibility in the months ahead. NERC and FERC announced in a [joint statement](#) that certain NERC Reliability Standards obligations can be temporarily deferred. Texas RE (under guidance from NERC) is also adjusting procedures that normally include face-to-face activity with registered entities. We will schedule online meetings whenever possible and/or maintain flexibility for scheduling and deliverable timelines. All on-site audits, certifications and other in-person activities are postponed until at least until July 31.

Continued on next page...

## From the Desk of the CEO, cont.

We've created a [COVID-19 Resources and Updates](#) document that is on our website's homepage. It is continually being updated and has links to many useful resources, such as guidelines from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) and [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#) on how the Coronavirus spreads, how individuals and families can protect themselves, travel advice, common myths, and more. We are also posting important updates from numerous organizations including FERC, NERC, the [Electricity Subsector Coordinating Council \(ESCC\)](#), [Department of Energy](#), and more, so please check it regularly.

This is a difficult time for all of us, but I've been encouraged to see the resiliency of people in our industry. There is a shared sense of purpose to ensure the BPS continues to operate reliably while also keeping our people safe. I'm also very thankful for all of the medical professionals that are on the front lines battling this illness and working to keep all of us healthy. We know we have a good stretch of time in front of us where we're maintaining social distancing guidelines, so I think the best thing we can all do is focus on protecting our families and showing diligence in our work to keep the grid secure.

If you have any questions, please send them to [information@texasre.org](mailto:information@texasre.org).

Regards,

### Texas RE Board of Directors

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### Extranet Update

Effective April 24, 2020, at 5:00 p.m., Texas RE will implement changes to its Extranet to further enhance security and maintain proper user access. User passwords will now be set to automatically expire every 180 days. Additionally, Extranet user accounts that are inactive for 45 consecutive days will be automatically disabled. Two-factor authentication will be extended to allow the use of Time-based One Time Password (TOTP) smartphone apps, such as Google Authenticator and Microsoft Authenticator, providing a more secure platform. Please contact [CMEPAnalysts@texasre.org](mailto:CMEPAnalysts@texasre.org) if your account is disabled due to inactivity or if you need other assistance.

## Align and Evidence Locker Updates

On March 23, 2020, NERC provided the Edison Electric Institute (EEI) an update on Align and the Secure Evidence Locker (SEL) to go over the functionality of the SEL for Release 1. The presentation is available [here](#).

NERC posted [1-Align - Registered Entity SEL Functional Requirements](#) to address feedback from registered entities on the SEL. It also provides key functional requirements to registered entities for establishing their own SEL. NERC anticipates posting a final version of the document by the end of April. Goals for the initial deployment of Release 1 include:

- Planning for stakeholder engagement to participate in user acceptance testing for the go-live pilot Regions (Texas RE and MRO)
- Validating data elements in Align
- Training materials (currently under development)
- Identify dates for the training schedule

Check the [Align FAQs](#) for regular updates. For additional Align information, please visit the [Align page](#). If you have any questions or concerns, please contact [AskAlign@nerc.net](mailto:AskAlign@nerc.net) or Texas RE's Align Project Change Agent Rochelle Brown at [Rochelle.Brown@texasre.org](mailto:Rochelle.Brown@texasre.org).

## Upcoming Texas RE Events

### [Spring Standards and Compliance Workshop](#) – April 8, 2020

Due to concerns regarding the Coronavirus, the Spring Standards and Compliance Workshop will not be held in person, but will be conducted via webinar only on April 8. The amended agenda is available [here](#).

[WebEx Registration](#)

### [Upcoming Talk with Texas RE Schedule](#)

- [April 23 - CORES & the ERO Portal](#)
- [May 7 - Align. Are We There Yet?](#)
- [May 14 - The Midas Touch](#)
- [May 21 - PRC-027](#)



As of March 2020, the Centralized Organization Registration ERO System (CORES) has been released to all registered entities in the Texas RE region. Registered entities may start reviewing and validating the registration information in CORES for accuracy and completeness. Texas RE also requests entities provide new information, such as the upstream holding company and NERC registered affiliates (if any). This will help us to gain a better understanding of each registered entity's complete registration.

There are several steps that must be taken during this process and they are outlined in the Texas RE [CORES Validation Instruction Guide](#). Please use this guide when you begin the validation and review process. Texas RE is also providing two additional resource documents to assist you with the validation process. The [CORES Validation Worksheet](#) can be utilized by each registered entity to document any findings. The [CORES Introductory Training](#) document provides an overview of the CORES functionality.

Access rights to CORES have been granted to all appropriate contacts (i.e., PCC, ACC, and PCO). Be sure to review each role and validate that the contacts have been granted the appropriate permissions. Remember, you must have an active [ERO Portal](#) account before you can access your data in CORES.

**DEADLINE:** Please complete your data review and data entry by **June 1, 2020**.

If you have any questions about CORES, please contact Abby Fellingner at 512-583-4927 or email [Texas RE Registration](#).



## Texas RE COVID-19 Response

Texas RE continues to closely monitor the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) situation and is following recommendations from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) and the [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#) in addition to direction from federal, state, and Austin-area government officials. All Texas RE employees started working from home beginning Wednesday, March 18; non-essential travel has been canceled; and all meetings have either been canceled or moved to an online format. We recommend stakeholders consider implementing similar protocols to protect employees, their families, and the community. Everyone's health and safety is our primary concern at this time.

Texas RE (under guidance from NERC) is also adjusting procedures that normally include on-site activity with registered entities. Texas RE understands the challenges presented by current circumstances and will implement online meetings whenever possible and/or maintain flexibility for scheduling and deliverable timelines. Please make Texas RE aware of any newly implemented company policies that could impact compliance monitoring, reliability services, or enforcement processes. If a staffing limitation will impact your ability to efficiently facilitate any Texas RE process, we will collaborate with you to determine appropriate next steps.

This situation is unprecedented for all of us. The safety and security of the bulk power system is more vital than ever and Texas RE appreciates your dedication to maintaining reliability.

Texas RE has compiled a [COVID-19 Resources Page](#) with regularly updated information and NERC also created a [COVID-19 FAQ](#). Please contact [information@texasre.org](mailto:information@texasre.org) with any questions.

## NERC Files Motion to Defer Implementation of Seven Reliability Standards Due to COVID-19

NERC [filed a motion](#) with FERC to defer the implementation of several Reliability Standards that have effective dates or phased-in implementation dates in the second half of 2020. This action is a measure to help assure grid reliability amid the impacts posed by the coronavirus outbreak.

CIP-005-6 – Cyber Security – Electronic Security Perimeter(s), by three months;

CIP-010-3 – Cyber Security – Configuration Change Management and Vulnerability Assessments, by three months;

CIP-013-1 – Cyber Security – Supply Chain Risk Management, by three months;

PER-006-1 – Specific Training for Personnel, by six months;

PRC-002-2 – Disturbance Monitoring and Reporting Requirements (phased-in implementation for Requirements R2-R4 and R6-R11), by six months;

PRC-025-2 – Generator Relay Loadability (phased-in implementation for Requirement R1, Attachment 1, Table 1 Relay Loadability Evaluation Criteria Options 5b, 14b, 15b, 16b), by six months; and

PRC-027-1 – Coordination of Protection Systems for Performance During Faults, by six months.

While this motion addresses only those Reliability Standards scheduled to become effective during the remainder of 2020, NERC recognizes that there are significant uncertainties regarding the duration of the outbreak and the subsequent recovery. NERC will continue to evaluate the circumstances to determine whether additional implementation delays may be warranted.

### **COVID-19 Exceptions Tracker Spreadsheet**

NERC and FERC recently provided [guidance](#) for registered entities during the COVID-19 public health emergency to enable them to maintain focus on the safe and reliable operation of the bulk electric system. There are several instances where the guidance suggested notification to Regional Entities. The [COVID-19 Exceptions Tracker Spreadsheet](#) has been developed to streamline this process and facilitate consistency among the registered entities. The submittal form provides examples for reference; please send the completed form to [compliance@texasre.org](mailto:compliance@texasre.org) as initial notification. Texas RE will review and contact you if more information is required.

## Talk with Texas REcap

CIP requirements for supply chain risk management are coming up. CIP-013-1, CIP-005-6, and CIP-010-3 will become effective later this year.\* On March 18, 2020, Texas RE's Manager of CIP Compliance, Kenath Carver, gave a Talk with Texas RE to address common questions and scenarios pertaining to these requirements. The presentation is available [here](#).

**\*Please Note:** Effective dates of some standards are currently under review in response to the Coronavirus outbreak. Please refer to page 4 of this newsletter for more details.

## GridSecCon 2020 Canceled

NERC's Electricity Information Sharing and Analysis Center (E-ISAC) and Texas Reliability Entity have canceled GridSecCon 2020. The conference, originally planned for October 20–23 in Houston, Texas, will resume in October 2021.

E-ISAC members and partners can still find training, unique insights, analysis, and timely information sharing on the [E-ISAC website](#). Please contact E-ISAC's [Member Services](#) with suggested ideas for content, training, and products to meet the security needs of the North American electric industry.

Stay tuned to the [E-ISAC Portal](#) and [NERC.com](#) for more information.

## Electric Power Human Performance Improvement Symposium Postponed

The inaugural Electric Power Human Performance Improvement Symposium (EPHPIS), a continent-wide collaboration between the ERO Enterprise and the North American Transmission Forum (NATF), was scheduled to take place on September 29–October 1, 2020, in Denver, Colorado. In response to coronavirus (COVID-19) developments, the EPHPIS has been postponed until March/April 2021.

For those who have already registered for the EPHPIS, refunds will be issued through EventBrite. Please cancel reserved hotel rooms individually through the hotel – [Hyatt Regency Denver Tech Center](#).



## Section 1600 Data Applications Q1 Reporting Deadline Modifications

New Q1 Reporting Deadline of **June 29, 2020** – In response to the recent coronavirus (COVID -19) developments, NERC leadership is extending the Q1 reporting deadline for all Section 1600 applications to June 29, 2020, as shown in the table below:

Application	Revised Q1 Reporting Deadline	Q2 Reporting Deadline (no change)
Demand Response Availability Data System (DADS)	June 29, 2020	n/a
Generating Availability Data System (GADS Conventional)	June 29, 2020	August 15, 2020
Generating Availability Data System (GADS Wind)	June 29, 2020	August 15, 2020
Misoperation Information Data Analysis System (MIDAS)	June 29, 2020	August 31, 2020
Transmission Availability Data System (TADS)	June 29, 2020	August 15, 2020

**All entity users will be notified through the application’s specific notification process:**

- For OATI applications (DADS, GADS, and TADS), an email will be sent to the users automatically when the reporting deadline date is changed in the system.
- For MIDAS, a custom notification email will be sent from XRM.
- For GADS Wind, an email announcement will be sent.

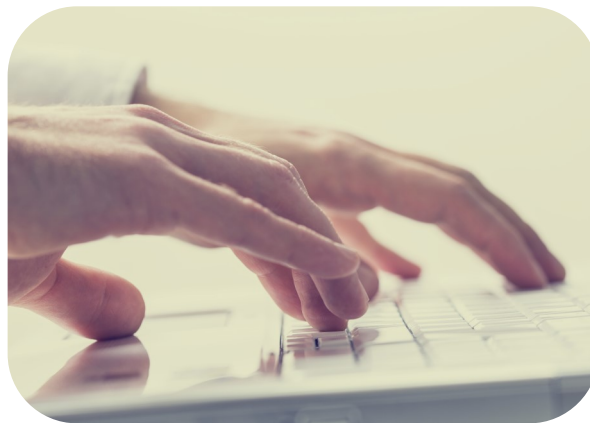
This extension allows industry extra time to enter data without causing any major disturbances to future reporting and analysis. We will continue to report the Q1 completion status and indicate that the Q1 reporting deadline has been delayed to the end of Q2. All Section 1600 data application users will be notified of the updated reporting deadline.

## Risks and Mitigations for Losing EMS Functions Reference Document Webinar

On March 3, 2020, the NERC Operating Committee (OC) approved the revised Risks and Mitigations for Losing EMS Functions Reference Document developed by the NERC Energy Management System Working Group (EMSWG). The EMSWG has scheduled an industry webinar on April 29, 2020, from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. Central to review the latest changes and revisions to the Reference Document and to answer questions.

The revised Reference Document has been posted on the [Reference Documents](#) page of the NERC website.

[Webinar Registration](#)



## Standards Update

### Comment and Ballot Periods

Project Name	Open through 8:00 p.m. ET on date listed
Technical Rationale for Reliability Standards <a href="#">Initial Ballot and Comments</a>	April 20, 2020
Project 2020-01— <a href="#">Modifications to MOD-032-1</a>	April 24, 2020
Project 2020-02— <a href="#">Transmission-connected Resources</a>	April 29, 2020
Project 2020-03— <a href="#">Supply Chain Low Impact Revisions</a>	May 6, 2020
<a href="#">SER Phase 2</a> —Operational Data Exchange Simplification SAR	May 27, 2020

### NERC Actions

On March 2, 2020, NERC filed a [Motion to Intervene and Comment](#) in response to a complaint filed regarding CIP-014.

- NERC requests leave to intervene and comment in response to the Complainant's assertions and recommendations, and request the Commission dismiss the complaint.

On March 11, 2020, NERC and Texas RE filed a joint [Petition for Approval](#) of Proposed Regional Standard BAL-001-TRE-2.

On March 17, 2020, NERC filed a [Supplement](#) to its Petition for Approval of Proposed Regional Standard BAL-001-TRE-2.

- This supplemental filing includes information regarding NERC's posting of Regional Standard BAL-001-TRE-2, which was inadvertently omitted from NERC's March 11, 2020, filing.

On March 19, 2020, NERC filed an [informational filing](#) regarding CIP Standards Projects.

- This is in response to FERC's February 20, 2020, Order.

On March 20, 2020, NERC filed a [Petition](#) for Approval of Proposed Reliability Standard PRC-024-3.

On March 30, 2020, NERC filed its [2020 Standards Report, Status, and Timetable for Addressing Regulatory Directives](#).

- This report is pursuant to Section 321.6 of the Rules of Procedure.

On April 6, 2020, NERC filed NOPR [comments](#) Regarding SER Retirements.

- These comments are in response to the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking FERC issued on January 23, 2020.

### Frequency Bias Settings and L10 Values

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the ERO is delaying implementation of the 2020 Frequency Bias Settings from April 1, 2020 to May 5, 2020. During this period, the ERO directs the Balancing Authorities to continue to use their 2019 Frequency Bias Setting, L10 Value, and method (fixed or variable).

### FERC Actions

On March 19, 2020, FERC issued a [Letter Order](#) approving TPL-007-4.

- [Reliability Standard TPL-007-4](#)
- Effective Date: 10/1/2020. Please see the [Implementation Plan](#) for phased-in compliance dates.
- Retires: TPL-007-3

## Upcoming Enforceable Standards (as of April 7, 2020)

<u>Non-CIP Standard/Requirement</u>	<u>Enforcement Date</u>
MOD-026-1 R2	50% by 7/1/2020
MOD-027-1 R2	50% by 7/1/2020
PRC-002-2 R2-R4, R6-R11	50% by 7/1/2020
PER-006-1	10/1/2020
PRC-027-1	10/1/2020
PRC-012-2	1/1/2021
TPL-007-3 R11, R12	7/1/2021
TPL-007-3 R6, R10	1/1/2022
PRC-002-2 R2-R4, R6-R11	100% by 7/1/2022
PRC-002-2 R2-R4, R6-R11: Entities owning only one BES bus, BES Element, or generating unit shall be fully compliant within 6 years	7/1/2022
TPL-007-3 R3, R4, R8	1/1/2023
TPL-007-3 R7	1/1/2024
MOD-026-1 R2	100% by 7/1/2024
MOD-027-1 R2	100% by 7/1/2024

<u>CIP Standards/Requirements</u>	<u>Enforcement Date</u>
CIP-005-6 R1 – R2	7/1/2020
CIP-010-3 R1 – R4	7/1/2020
CIP-013-1 R1 – R3	7/1/2020
CIP-008-6 R1 – R4	1/1/2021
CIP-012-1 (All Requirements)	7/1/2022

PRC-005 – See the [Implementation Plan](#)

- Implementation Plan – [Calendar View](#)
- Implementation Plan – [Requirements View](#)

PRC-025 – See the [Implementation Plan](#)

**Want to participate in a ballot for a Regional Standard?**

**Entities must be in the Registered Ballot Body (RBB) before joining a registered ballot pool.**

**To join, please fill out the [RBB Application](#) form and email it [here](#).**



## Contact Information for Texas RE Management

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**Website:** [www.texasre.org](http://www.texasre.org)

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## Texas Reliability Entity, Inc.

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To assure effective and efficient reduction of risks to the reliability and security of the bulk power system within the ERCOT Interconnection. Texas Reliability Entity, Inc. monitors and enforces compliance with Reliability Standards for the North American Electric Reliability Corporation; develops regional standards; and monitors and reports on compliance with the ERCOT Protocols.

## Upcoming Important Dates at Texas RE

[April 8](#) – Spring Standards and Compliance Workshop – 9:00 a.m.

[April 15](#) – Board of Directors Conference Call – 2:00 p.m.

[April 21](#) – MRC Conference Call – 2:00 p.m.

[April 23](#) – Talk with Texas RE: CORES & the ERO Portal – 1:30 p.m.

[May 7](#) – Talk with Texas RE: Align, Are we there yet? – 1:30 p.m.

[May 14](#) – Talk with Texas RE: The Midas Touch – 1:30 p.m.

[May 21](#) – Talk with Texas RE: PRC-027 – 1:30 p.m.

[May 27](#) – MRC Meeting – 9:00 a.m.

[May 27](#) – Audit, Governance & Finance Committee Meeting – 12:00 p.m.

[May 27](#) – Board of Directors Meeting – 1:30 p.m.

[May 28](#) – NSRF Meeting – 9:30 a.m.  
(Webinar)

### April 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

### May 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						