
601 13th Street, NW
Suite 1000 South
Washington, DC 20005-3807
TEL 202.661.2200
FAX 202.661.2299
www.ballardspahr.com

May 10, 2010

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

The Honorable Kimberly D. Bose
Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, N.E.
Washington, DC 20426

Re: Revisions to Electric Reliability Organization Definition of Bulk Electric System;
Docket No. RM09-18-000

Dear Secretary Salas:

Transmitted electronically for filing in the referenced docket are the Comments of ISO New England Inc.

If there are any questions concerning this filing, please call me at (202) 661-2212.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Daniel R. Simon

Daniel R. Simon
Counsel for
ISO New England Inc.

Enclosure

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
BEFORE THE
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION**

Revisions to Electric Reliability)	Docket No. RM09-18-000
Organization Definition of)	
Bulk Electric System)	

COMMENTS OF ISO NEW ENGLAND INC.

ISO New England Inc. (“ISO-NE”) hereby submits these comments on the March 18, 2010, Revision to Electric Reliability Organization Definition of Bulk Electric System Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 130 FERC ¶ 61,204 (2010) (“NOPR”).

I. COMMUNICATIONS

All correspondence and communications regarding these Comments should be addressed to the undersigned as follows:

Theodore J. Paradise
Senior Regulatory Counsel
ISO New England, Inc.
One Sullivan Road
Holyoke, Massachusetts 01040
Tel: 413.540.4585
Fax: 413.535.4379
E-mail: tparadise@iso-ne.com

Daniel R. Simon
Ballard Spahr LLP
601 13th Street NW
Suite 1000 South
Washington, D.C. 20005-3807
Tel: (202) 661-2212
Fax: (202) 661-2299
E-mail: simond@ballardspahr.com

II. BACKGROUND

In the NOPR, the Commission proposes: to direct the Electric Reliability Organization (“ERO”) to revise its definition of the term “bulk electric system” to include all electric transmission facilities with a rating of 100 kV or above; to require a Regional Entity to seek ERO and Commission approval before exempting any facility rated at 100 kV or above from

compliance with mandatory Reliability Standards (and seeks comment whether a corresponding revision to the ERO's Rules of Procedure is warranted to accommodate the proposed process); and to allow Regional Entities to develop transition plans that allow a reasonable period of time for affected entities within that region to achieve compliance with respect to facilities that are subject to mandatory Reliability Standards for the first time.

III. COMMENTS

First, the ISO generally supports the Commission's proposal to require the definition for "bulk electric system" ("BES") to include all electric transmission facilities with a rating of 100 kV or above. This bright-line standard is consistent with the ISO's current planning and operational authority over the New England Transmission System. Specifically, the ISO has planning and operational authority over most transmission facilities at 69 kV and greater in its Balancing Area.

Second, the ISO supports the NOPR's proposal to allow Regional Entities to develop transition plans that allow a reasonable period of time for affected entities within that region to achieve compliance with respect to facilities that are subject to mandatory Reliability Standards for the first time. For those companies that need to take actions for newly-categorized BES facilities, a period is warranted to allow for an orderly transition in changed maintenance, planning or operational activities. For those companies that have been maintaining, operating or planning non-BES facilities in a manner consistent with NERC Standards, a transition period is also prudent to ensure that all necessary reviews and documentation have been completed and put in place for demonstrating compliance.

Finally, the ISO supports the Commission's proposal to require a Regional Entity to seek ERO and Commission approval before exempting any facility rated at 100 kV or above from

compliance with mandatory Reliability Standards. The ISO believes that NERC must develop a corresponding revision to its Rules of Procedure to dictate and govern the process a Regional Entity must follow when seeking exemption approval. Furthermore, the Rules of Procedure should require Regional Entities to obtain an advisory opinion from the applicable Regional Coordinator or Planning Coordinator on the appropriateness of each potential exemption, as these two entities have wide-area views and a significant level of responsibility for the reliable operation and planning of the BES.

IV. CONCLUSION

WHEREFORE, the ISO respectfully request that the Commission consider the foregoing comments in its deliberations in this proceeding.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Theodore J. Paradise

Theodore J. Paradise
Senior Regulatory Counsel
ISO New England, Inc.
One Sullivan Road
Holyoke, Massachusetts 01040
Tel: 413.540.4585
Fax: 413.535.4379
E-mail: tparadise@iso-ne.com

/s/ Daniel R. Simon

Daniel R. Simon
Ballard Spahr LLP
601 13th Street NW
Suite 1000 South
Washington, D.C. 20005-3807
Tel: (202) 661-2212
Fax: (202) 661-2299
E-mail: simond@ballardspahr.com

Counsel for ISO New England Inc.

Date: May 10, 2010