



# MIDWEST RELIABILITY ORGANIZATION

## Background Information

MRO is a non-profit organization based in Minnesota that is dedicated to ensuring the reliability of the bulk electric system (BES) in the north central region of North America. MRO's activities serve the public interest -- benefiting every person and business that uses electricity, as well as owners and operators of the bulk electric system.

MRO's mission is to improve reliability of the bulk electric system.

MRO is one of eight regional entities in North America operating under delegated authority from regulators in the United States and through other arrangements in Canada. MRO's regional responsibilities include: 1) enforcing compliance with Reliability Standards for those that plan, own and/or operate the BES; 2) provide seasonal and long-term assessments of the BES's ability to meet demands for electricity; 3) evaluate disturbances to determine the root causes and communicate lessons learned to prevent reoccurrence; and 4) propose Reliability Standards that will improve overall BES reliability.

The MRO region covers roughly one million square miles and spans the provinces of Saskatchewan and Manitoba, the states of North Dakota, Minnesota, Nebraska, Iowa, the majority of South Dakota and Wisconsin, and a small portion of Montana. The region includes more than 100 organizations that are involved in the production and delivery of electricity to more than 20 million people. These organizations include municipal utilities, cooperatives, investor-owned utilities, a federal power marketing agency, Canadian Crown Corporations, independent power producers, small and large end users, and others who have interests in the reliability of the bulk power system.

MRO is guided by its *Benchmarks of Excellence*:

- **Outcomes to improve reliability.** Effective in delivering what we are designed to do.
- **Practical and timely in our actions.** Outcome focused; collaboratively work with government authorities, NERC and other Regions to assure our actions are effective.
- **Consistent, risk-based, proportionate and transparent.** Analyze first, act on basis of risk, evidence and sound engineering; consider cost and benefits; act openly and transparently and be accountable for our actions to maintain public trust.
- **Continuous learning.** Have systems in place to review risks and adjust to new risks and priorities; learn and act on assessments of our performance; use self-evaluation as a means to improve.
- **Value.** Be efficient; strive to improve every day; be economical and use our funding wisely; develop our people.
- **Change.** Work with others to change the regulatory agenda for the better; work to achieve common goals with the industry and those who depend on the bulk electric system.

### History

MRO was formed in 2002 and began operations in 2005. MRO is organized with a balanced stakeholder board with independent oversight to ensure that the standards developed and enforced by MRO are fair and administered without undue influence from participants. MRO assumed the reliability functions of the Mid-Continent Area Power Pool (MAPP) and Mid-America Interconnected Network (MAIN), both former voluntary regional reliability councils.

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