

Comment Form for 2nd Draft of Definition of BES (Project 2010-17)

Please **DO NOT** use this form to submit comments on the 2nd draft of the Definition of the Bulk Electric System (Project 2010-17). Use the [electronic comment form](#) **only** to submit comments. Comments must be submitted by **October 10, 2011**.

If you have questions please contact Ed Dobrowolski at ed.dobrowolski@nerc.net or by telephone at 609-947-3673.

Background Information Definition of the BES (Project 2010-17)

The SDT responded to the comments received for the first posting of the definition for this project by clarifying the core definition, inclusions, and exclusions to meet the concerns of the industry. The SDT has also utilized a variety of other inputs including work that was done by regional entities such as WECC, NPCC, RFC, and FRCC in coming up with the present definition. Another input was FERC Orders No. 743 and 743a which provided several specific directives on clarifying the existing definition. It should be noted that the revised definition does not address functional entity registration or standards requirements applicability. Those are separate issues.

The core definition represents a true bright-line; but, it is clear that by itself, it does not cover all of the known situations and configurations that are needed for a complete definition. Therefore, the SDT developed several specific inclusions and exclusions that will be added to the core definition to complete it. At the present time, the SDT has drafted five specific inclusions and four specific exclusions.

Inclusions represent those items that are included as part of the Bulk Electric System (BES) where they would not have been included as part of the simple core definition. The reasons that the SDT has added these items are as follows:

- I1 – Since transformers have windings operating at different voltages, it was felt that clarification was required so as to more explicitly identify which transformers were to be included in the BES. The SDT believes that the present draft provides this needed clarification.
- I2 – This inclusion represents a merger of the original Inclusion I2 and the original Inclusion I3 concerning generation thresholds.
- I3 – Blackstart units are considered vital to the overall operation of the BES. Consequently, the SDT has included Blackstart Resources. However, due to industry comments, the SDT has deleted the inclusion of Cranking Paths.
- I4 – This item was added in order to accommodate the effects of variable generation on the BES. The intent of this configuration is to include variable generation (e.g., wind and solar resources) with an aggregate rating greater than 75 MVA and was considered different enough from what was proposed in Inclusion I2 as to warrant a separate inclusion statement in order to provide greater clarity in this area.
- I5 – This is a new inclusion brought about by industry comments to clarify the inclusion of Reactive Power devices.

In addition to inclusions, in order to complete the picture, specific exclusions also need to be considered. The SDT has currently drafted four specific exclusions:

- E1 – This item was added to address the basic issue of radial systems. Radial exclusion was part of the existing definition and was supported moving forward in all of the regional work as well as Order No. 743 (and Order No. 743a). The SDT has

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clarified this exclusion in response to industry comments by deleting the automatic interruption device.

- E2 – This item was added to address the situation of behind-the-meter generation. The wording is basically extracted from the ERO Statement of Compliance Registry Criteria.
- E3 – Local networks were added to the exclusion list after considerable discussions among the SDT and various registered entities that have configurations meeting these conditions. The SDT believes that any network that simply supports distribution should be excluded from the BES. The SDT has clarified the language for the exclusion and added a 300 kV upper limit.
- E4 – The SDT has added an exclusion for Reactive Power devices used solely by retail customers for their own use as a result of comments received.

Several commenters objected to simply carrying through the generation and voltage thresholds from the ERO Statement of Compliance Registry Criteria as part of the revised definition. However, no respondents provided technical justifications for changing these values. Furthermore, the scope of this project deals mainly with responding to FERC Orders 743 and 743a which clearly stated that the intent of the order was to maintain the status quo and to only address those urgent issues identified in the order. Hence, the tight schedule that was provided in the order. After consulting with the NERC Board of Trustees and the NERC Standards Committee, the SDT has decided to forgo any attempt at changing generation or voltage thresholds at this time. There simply isn't enough time or resources to do those topics justice with the mandated schedule. Therefore, the focus of the SDT efforts will be to address the directives in Orders 743 and 743a. However, this does not mean that the issues will be dropped. Both the NERC Board of Trustees and the NERC Standards Committee have endorsed the idea that the Project 2010-17 SDT take a phased approach to this project with a new Standards Authorization Request (SAR) to address generation thresholds as well as several other issues that have arisen from SDT deliberations. Issues such as what is necessary for the reliable operation of the BES, whether the BES needs to be a contiguous, possible interconnection difference, who is a user of the BES, and correlation of the definition of BES and the ERO Statement of Compliance Registry Criteria will be addressed with this new SAR. The proposed SAR has been posted for information purposes only concurrent with the second posting of this project. A formal comment period will follow.

In parallel with the definition project, another team has been set up to develop a change to the NERC Rules of Procedure (RoP) to allow for entities to technically justify excluding Elements from the BES that might otherwise be included according to the proposed definition. This same process would be used by Registered Entities to justify including Elements in the BES that might otherwise be excluded according to the proposed definition. This RoP team will develop the process for seeking an exemption from the definition but the DBESSDT will develop the criteria necessary for applying for an exemption through the standards development process. The DBESSDT developed exception criteria is posted separately but simultaneously to the second posting of the definition.

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You do not have to answer all questions. Enter All Comments in Simple Text Format.

Insert a "check" mark in the appropriate boxes by double-clicking the gray areas.

The SDT has asked one specific question for each specific aspect of the definition.

1. The SDT has made clarifying changes to the core definition in response to industry comments. Do you agree with these changes? If you do not support these changes or you agree in general but feel that alternative language would be more appropriate, please provide specific suggestions in your comments.

Yes:

No:

Comments:

2. The SDT has revised the specific inclusions to the core definition in response to industry comments. Do you agree with Inclusion I1 (transformers)? If you do not support this change or you agree in general but feel that alternative language would be more appropriate, please provide specific suggestions in your comments.

Yes:

No:

Comments:

3. The SDT has revised the specific inclusions to the core definition in response to industry comments. Do you agree with Inclusion I2 (generation) including the reference to the ERO Statement of Compliance Registry Criteria? If you do not support this change or you agree in general but feel that alternative language would be more appropriate, please provide specific suggestions in your comments.

Yes:

No:

Comments: Please add the following to the end of I2.

Unless excluded under E2.

4. The SDT has revised the specific inclusions to the core definition in response to industry comments. Do you agree with Inclusion I3 (blackstart)? If you do not support this change or you agree in general but feel that alternative language would be more appropriate, please provide specific suggestions in your comments.

Yes:

No:

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Comments:

5. The SDT has revised the specific inclusions to the core definition in response to industry comments. Do you agree with Inclusion I4 (dispersed power)? If you do not support this change or you agree in general but feel that alternative language would be more appropriate, please provide specific suggestions in your comments.

Yes: x

No:

Comments: NSRF recommends that the language read as follows: I4 – Dispersed power producing resources with aggregate capacity greater than 75 MVA (gross aggregate nameplate rating) utilizing a system designed primarily for aggregating capacity, connected at a common point at a voltage of 100 kV or above starting at the point of aggregation to 75 MVA or more through to the point of interconnection at 100 kV or above."

6. The SDT has added specific inclusions to the core definition in response to industry comments. Do you agree with Inclusion I5 (reactive resources)? If you do not support this change or you agree in general but feel that alternative language would be more appropriate, please provide specific suggestions in your comments.

Yes:

No: x

Comments:

NSRF recommends the following proposed language for I5 to address the concern:

"I5 -Static or dynamic devices which 1) are dedicated to supplying or absorbing Reactive Power that are connected at 100 kV or higher, or through a dedicated transformer with a high-side voltage of 100 kV or higher, or through a transformer that is designated in Inclusion I1 and 2) are pertinent to meeting the NERC Planning Criteria in terms of normal and post-disturbance voltage profiles."

7. The SDT has revised the specific exclusions to the core definition in response to industry comments. Do you agree with Exclusion E1 (radial system)? If you do not support this change or you agree in general but feel that alternative language would be more appropriate, please provide specific suggestions in your comments.

Yes: x

No:

Comments: NSRF suggests that E1b include the qualification of "aggregate capacity of non-retail generation less than or equal to 75 MVA" be added to be consistent with the wording in E1c.

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8. The SDT has revised the specific exclusions to the core definition in response to industry comments. Do you agree with Exclusion E2 (behind-the-meter generation)? If you do not support this change or you agree in general but feel that alternative language would be more appropriate, please provide specific suggestions in your comments.

Yes: X

No:

Comments:

9. The SDT has revised the specific exclusions to the core definition in response to industry comments. Do you agree with Exclusion E3 (local network)? If you do not support this change or you agree in general but feel that alternative language would be more appropriate, please provide specific suggestions in your comments.

Yes:

No: X

Comments: ATC: NSRFs suggest considering a different approach for the power flow criteria in I3b.

I3b: No form Power Transfers are scheduled out of, or thorough, the LN in the operating horizon [for BES designations applicable to the operating horizon] and not Firm Power Transfers are reserved to flow out of , or through, the LN in the planning horizon [for BES designations applicable to the planning horizon].

10. The SDT has added specific exclusions to the core definition in response to industry comments. Do you agree with Exclusion E4 (reactive resources)? If you do not support this change or you agree in general but feel that alternative language would be more appropriate, please provide specific suggestions in your comments.

Yes: x

No:

Comments:

11. Are there any other concerns with this definition that haven't been covered in previous questions and comments remembering that the exception criteria are posted separately for comment?

Yes: x

No:

Comments: NSRF recommends that the following statement be added after I5. If an element is not included based upon the core definition or I1 – I5, the elements is not consider to be a part of the BES.