Reliability Coordinator (RC) Certification Process for New RCs in the West

March 30, 2018
WECC Update to WIRAB
March 30, 2018
Agenda

• Reliability Coordinator (RC) role
• RC history
• Certification process
  – Focus on planning, on-site visit, and reporting
• Additional information
• Current WECC efforts
RC Role

Steve Rueckert
Director of Standards
What is an RC?

• The entity that is the highest level of authority who is responsible for the Reliable Operation of the Bulk Electric System, and has the:
  
  – Wide Area view of the Bulk Electric System.
  
  – Operating tools, processes and procedures, to prevent or mitigate emergency operating situations in both next-day analysis and Real-time operations.
  
  – Purview that is broad enough to enable the calculation Interconnection Reliability Operating Limits (IROL).
  
  – Authority to direct actions by others.
What does an RC do?

• Monitor reliability-related parameters.
• Identify, communicate, and direct actions to relieve reliability threats and limit violations.
• Develop IROLs.
• Assist in determining reliability-related services requirements.
• Perform reliability analysis.
• Direct implementation of emergency procedures.
What does an RC do?

- Direct revisions to transmission and maintenance plans.
- Direct and coordinate system restoration.
- Curtail confirmed interchange that adversely impacts reliability.

NERC Reliability Functional Model

NERC Reliability Functional Model Technical Document
RC History

Steve Ashbaker
Reliability Initiatives Director
## RC History in the Western Interconnection

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>NERC Policy established Security Centers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>2 Major system events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997-98</td>
<td>WSCC established 4 Security Coordinator Centers</td>
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<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>WSCC consolidated DSW and RM Security Centers</td>
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<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>9/11 Security Coordinators changed to Reliability Coordinators</td>
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<tr>
<td>2005-07</td>
<td>Reliability Center Strategic Initiative</td>
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<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Mandatory Standards</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>3 RCs to One</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>SW Outage</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>WECC Bifurcated PEAK RC</td>
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Current RC
Electric Reliability Organization (ERO) Certification Process

Tim Reynolds
Sr. Reliability Engineer
Certification Purpose

• Defined in the NERC Rules of Procedure (ROP)
  – Section 500
  – Appendix 5a

• Requires entity to demonstrate ability to meet the Reliability Standards
  – Tools
  – Processes
  – Training
  – Procedures

• Entity must be certified before going operational

• Applicable to only RCs, BAs and TOPs
### Process Overview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pre-Certification</th>
<th>Planning</th>
<th>On-Site Visit</th>
<th>Reporting</th>
<th>Data Retention</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Application</td>
<td>• Establish Certification Team</td>
<td>• Opening presentations</td>
<td>• Create action list of Bucket Item</td>
<td>• Documentation retained for six (6) years</td>
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<tr>
<td>• WECC reviews application for completeness and applicability</td>
<td>• Certification scope</td>
<td>• Review documentation</td>
<td>• Draft Final Report</td>
<td>• Final Reports posted on NERC’s website</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• WECC notifies NERC of application</td>
<td>• Establish online portal to share documentation</td>
<td>• Interview management and operators</td>
<td>• Approval from Regional and NERC Management</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Develop and send Certification Packet</td>
<td>• Tour the facilities</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Bucket items</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>• Exit presentation</td>
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Planning: Certification Team

- RC Certification Team
  - An existing RC, a BA and a TOP in the proposed RC area, each affected RE, and NERC
  - Observers: roles and expected conduct

- Each Team Member Must
  - Complete Training Record form
  - Sign Conflict of Interest and Business Ethics forms
  - Confidentiality Agreement
Planning: Certification Packet

- Documents to help the Certification Team
- Contains
  - Questions about logistical information
  - Tentative schedules
  - Master matrix
  - Information about Certification Teams
  - Requests for additional information about the entity

*All confidential documents must be shared via an Enhanced File Transfer (EFT) site*
On-Site Visit

• At a minimum, the team will:
  – Review documents and data with the entity
  – Review any documentation that is only available onsite
  – Interview the operations and management personnel
  – Inspect the facilities and equipment
  – Request demonstration of tools
  – Review any additional documentation resulting from inquiries arising during the site-visit.
On-Site Visit: Bucket Items

Bucket #1
• Show stopper – Items that must be closed. Will lead to additional site visits.

Bucket #2
• Items that must be closed prior to going operational and within 180 days of close of on-site visit (will be included in the Final Report).

Bucket #3
• Suggestions for enhancement (will not be included in the Final Report).
Reporting: The Final Steps

• All Bucket 2 items must be completed
• Final Report submitted for management approval
  – Approval letter from WECC
  – Confirmation of Certification letter from NERC
• Registration process can be completed
Additional Information

• NERC Presentation on Certification (Link)
• NERC Rules of Procedure (Link)
• Certification Program Website (Link)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization Certification</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>▪ (1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>▪ Approved Certification Final Reports (48)</td>
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<tr>
<td>▪ Certification Process Documents (38)</td>
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Current WECC efforts

• Monitor multiple RC Initiatives (WECC/NERC staff)
• WECC/NERC meetings with MWTG/SPP, CAISO and Peak Reliability
• Routine check in with key contacts at Peak, CAISO, and SPP
• Collaborate with entities; Develop Certification Plans (timelines & resources).
Questions?

Spring 2018 Joint CREPC-WIRAB Meeting
Vancouver B.C.
April 18-20, 2018

https://westernenergyboard.org/category/webinars/