

# PJM Compliance Bulletin

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## *CB014 Definition of Bulk Electric System (BES) – PJM Member Notifications*

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this Compliance Bulletin (CB) is to describe the process PJM members are to use to notify PJM of any change in the status of PJM Member Bulk Electric System (BES) elements as a result of the application of the NERC-approved BES definition effective July 1, 2014. This CB provides guidance on how to make the notifications to PJM when a:

1. Change to the BES status of an element is determined as a result of the application of the revised definition of the BES.
2. PJM member files an exception request to appropriate regulatory entities.
3. PJM member receives a decision on a filed exception request.

### **Background**

On December 20, 2012 the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued Order No. 773<sup>1</sup>, approving Phase 1 modifications to then existing NERC definition of the BES, which were scheduled to become effective July 1, 2014<sup>2</sup>. On December 13, 2013, NERC filed BES Phase 2 modifications for approval, with a requested effective date of July 1, 2014, to correspond with the Phase 1 effective date. On March 20, 2014, FERC approved the phase 2 modifications with a July 1, 2014<sup>3</sup> effective date. The approved BES Definition removes language allowing for regional discretion and establishes a bright-line threshold that includes all Facilities operated at or above 100 kV. The revised BES Definition also identifies specific categories of facilities and configurations as “Inclusions” or “Exclusions” to the BES. Changes in classification of BES Elements due to the revised BES Definition (e.g., newly identified Inclusions or Exclusions) will be processed by NERC and the Regional Entities through the BES Notification and Exceptions Tool (BESnet application), to be made available by NERC by July 1, 2014.

The BES definition including the exception process can be found publicly on the NERC website at: <http://www.nerc.com/pa/RAPA/Pages/BES.aspx>.

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<sup>1</sup> Revisions to Electric Reliability Organization Definition of BES and Rules of Procedure, Order No. 773, 141 FERC ¶ 61,236 (2012); order on reh'g, Order No. 773-A, 143 FERC ¶ 61,053 (2013); order denying reh'g, 144 FERC ¶ 61,174 (2013).

<sup>2</sup> On June 6, 2013, FERC approved an extension of the Phase 1 BES effective date from July 1, 2013 to July 1, 2014.

<sup>3</sup> Order Approving Revised Definition, 146 FERC ¶ 61,199 (2014)

## Notification Process for PJM Members

PJM Manual 3A: Energy Management System (EMS) Model Updates and Quality Assurance (QA) describes the specific processes and procedures for updating and verifying the PJM EMS model that contains all monitored BES facilities within the PJM footprint. This Manual describes member responsibilities with respect to type, quality, and specifications of modeling data that members need to provide PJM to keep the PJM EMS model current. PJM Manual 3A is publicly available on the PJM website at: <http://www.pjm.com/~media/documents/manuals/m03a.ashx>

Manual 3A, Energy Management System (EMS) Model Updates and Quality Assurance (QA), Appendix C: Bulk Electric System (BES) Definition Implementation at PJM contains the definition for a BES facility. PJM Manual 3A Appendix C states:

*“All transmission facilities operated by PJM fall within one of two NERC Regional Entities - **ReliabilityFirst** or **SERC Reliability Corporation**. In 2013, NERC approved a definition of the Bulk Electric System (BES) to be applied uniformly for all Regional Reliability Organizations. The definition focuses on equipment rated 100 kV or higher to establish key elements and equipment in the transmission (Bulk Electric) system. In this definition, radial components of the system are excluded, provided they meet the required criteria. The definition also accommodates the inclusion of equipment rated below 100 kV which may impact through transmission components of the electric system. Transmission Owners are responsible for defining BES elements for their systems, as well as, any exclusions or inclusions. To comply with NERC standards, these key elements must be identified and appropriately monitored. As such, each Transmission Owner should notify PJM if any existing elements have been excluded, or any new elements have been included, in its transmission area. In most, but not all, cases, PJM will model these elements explicitly to determine whether the equipment is in service (status) or that thermal loading or voltage levels deviate from recommended limits.”*

Members should notify PJM by emailing the Data Management Subcommittee Officers Group distribution list [DMS\\_Officers@pjm.com](mailto:DMS_Officers@pjm.com) and [Regional\\_Compliance@pjm.com](mailto:Regional_Compliance@pjm.com) when a:

1. Change to the BES status of an element is determined as a result of the application of the revised definition of the BES.
2. PJM member files an exception request to appropriate regulatory entities.
3. PJM member receives a decision on a filed exception request.

While PJM does not require a specific format for the notification, PJM members can, use the PJM Transmission Providers Facilities List to notify PJM. PJM sends this list annually to applicable members for verification of transmission facilities.

## Conclusion

The BES Definition became effective July 1, 2014. Accordingly, each PJM Member needs to notify PJM of a BES status change of an element as a result of the application of the revised definition of the BES effective July 1, 2014. Additionally, PJM will require all Members to notify PJM of any exception requests that Members file with the appropriate regulatory entities as described above, and the results of those exception requests.

## Development History

Revision: 2	Date: 09/29/2021
SME:	Suzie Fahr, Sr. Analyst II, Power Systems Modeling Eliseo Carrasco, Engineer II, Power Systems Modeling
Author:	Gizella Mali, Sr. Analyst II, NERC Compliance
Reviewers:	Jeff Schmitt, Manager, Power Systems Modeling Tom Foster, Manager, NERC Compliance Reliability Compliance Team
Approver:	Michael Del Viscio, Sr. Director, Compliance & Reliability Standards
Reason for Change:	Regularly scheduled review. Minor errata changes throughout the document

Revision: 1	Date: 01/23/2017
Author:	Srinivas Kappagantula, Senior Analyst, NERC and Regional Coordination Department
Reviewers:	Mark Holman, Manager, NERC and Regional Coordination Department Ron DeLoach, Manager, Model Management Department
Approver:	Rob Eckenrod, Chief Compliance Officer
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Revision: 0	Date: 04/24/2014
Author:	Srinivas Kappagantula, Senior Analyst, NERC and Regional Coordination Department
Reviewers:	Stephanie Monzon, Manager, NERC and Regional Coordination Department Chantal Hendrzak, Executive Director, Operations Support Division Ron DeLoach, Manager, Model Management Department

Approver:	Tom Bowe, Executive Director, Reliability and Compliance Division
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