NPCC Glossary of Terms

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1. NPCC Glossary of Terms Used by Directories

Term	Acronym	Definition	Directories that use this term
Note: Terms highlighted in blue are defined differently in the NERC Glossary of Terms			
Actual Interchange		Metered electric power that flows from one entity to another.	D5
Annual		Where the term "annual" is not defined, establish implementation of annual requirements within one of two parameters: a) Within a calendar year, beginning on January 1 and ending on December 31: An activity or event should then be conducted at least once every calendar year. A best practice is that activities or events should not be conducted too far apart. There should be no more than 15 months between activities or events required by a Reliability Standard. b) Rolling 12 months: The activity or event is conducted at least once within the last 12-month period.	D1 D5 D8
Applicable Emergency Limits		These limits depend on the duration of the occurrence, and on the policy of the various member systems of NPCC regarding loss of life to equipment, voltage limitations, etc.	D1 D7

Term	Acronym	Definition	Directories that use this term
Note: Terms highlighted in blue are defined differently in the NERC Glossary of Terms			
		Emergency limits are those which can be utilized for the time required to take corrective action, but in no case less than five minutes. The limiting condition for voltages should recognize that voltages should not drop below that required for suitable system **stability** performance, and should not adversely affect the operation of the **bulk power system**. The limiting condition for equipment loadings should be such that cascading outages will not occur due to operation of protective devices upon the failure of facilities. (Various definitions of equipment **ratings** are found elsewhere in this glossary.)	
Area		An **Area** (when capitalized) refers to one of the following: New England, New York, Ontario, Quebec or the Maritimes (New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island); or, as the situation requires, area (lower case) may mean a part of a system or more than a single system. Within NPCC, Areas (capitalized) operate as **control areas** as defined by the North American Electric Reliability Council (NERC) (the definition of **control area** can be found in the **NPCC Glossary of Terms Not Used by Any Directories** section of this NPCC Glossary of Terms.)	D1 D7 D8

Term	Acronym	Definition	Directories that use this term
Note: Terms highlighted in blue are defined differently in the NERC Glossary of Terms			
Area Control Error	**ACE**	The instantaneous difference between a Balancing Authority's net actual and scheduled interchange, taking into account the effects of Frequency Bias and correction for meter error. (Source: NERC Glossary of Terms)	D2 D5 D8
Automatic Generation Control	**AGC**	Equipment that automatically adjusts generation in a Balancing Authority Area from a central location to maintain the Balancing Authority's interchange schedule plus Frequency Bias. AGC may also accommodate automatic inadvertent payback and time error correction. (Source: NERC Glossary of Terms)	D2 D5 D8
Apparent Power		The product of the volts and amperes. It comprises both **Real Power** and **Reactive Power**, usually expressed in kilovolt-amperes (kVA) or megavolt-amperes (MVA).	
Backup Power Supply		An electrical energy source, such as batteries, generator, or other sources that can supply the electrical load of a facility when the input power source or main power fails.	D8

Term	Acronym	Definition	Directories that use this term
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Basic Minimum Power System		Consists of one or more generating stations, transmission lines, and substations operating in the form of an island for the purpose of initiating the restoration process. The Reliability Coordinator shall identify, in conjunction with all affected parties or entities, its **Area**'s **basic minimum power system**(s) within its system restoration plan.	D8
Bipolar		Operation of HVDC with two **poles** of opposite polarity with negligible ground current.	D1
Blackstart Capability		The ability of a generating unit or station to go from a shutdown condition to an operating condition and start delivering **power** without assistance from the electric system.	D8
Blackstart Resource(s)		A generating unit(s) and its associated set of equipment which has the ability to be started without support from the System or is designed to remain energized without connection to the remainder of the System, with the ability to energize a bus, meeting the Transmission Operator's restoration plan needs for Real and Reactive Power capability, frequency and voltage control, and that has been included in the Transmission Operator's restoration plan. (Source: NERC Glossary of Terms)	D8

Term	Acronym	Definition	Directories that use this term
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Bulk Power System	**BPS**	The interconnected electrical systems within northeastern North America comprised of system **elements** on which **faults** or **disturbances** can have a **significant adverse impact** outside of the **local area.**	D1 D2 D4 D7
Cable		An underground or underwater circuit.	D4 D5 D7 D8
Calendar Months		Periodicity with which an activity or event is required to take place requires completion of activity or event by the last calendar day of the calendar month X months from previous activity or event.	D5 D7 D8
Calendar Year		Year, beginning on January 1 and ending on December 31.	D7 D8
Capacity		The rated continuous load-carrying ability, expressed in megawatts (MW) or megavolt-amperes (MVA) of **generation**, transmission, or other electrical equipment.	D1 D2 D5 D8
Commutation Failure		A fault in a thyristor valve group where the current transfer from one valve to the next is interrupted.	D4
Component		Refers to components of equipment or protection systems rather than **elements** of a **power** system. See **Element**.	D1 D7

Term	Acronym	Definition	Directories that use this term
Note: Terms highlighted in blue are defined differently in the NERC Glossary of Terms			
Contingency		An event, usually involving the loss of one or more **elements**, which affects the power system at least momentarily.	D1 D2 D5 D7
Converter		An operative unit comprised of either a rectifier or inverter bridge connected to an ac system through transformers and switching devices with the associated control equipment.	D4
Converter Transformer		A **power** transformer which transfers the energy from the thyristor valves to the connected ac system and vice-versa.	D4
Critical Components		Equipment required for continued and proper operation of a **key facility** in the event of a total loss of grid supply and for performing **load restoration**. **Critical components** include but are not limited to the following: • Generating units with **blackstart capability** • Backup power supplies • Battery Chargers • Control center and telecommunication center computer systems and computer room HVAC • **Cable** pressurization units • Synchronizing systems	D8

Term	Acronym	Definition	Directories that use this term
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Current Time Zero		The time of the final current zero on the last phase to interrupt.	D11
DC Circuit		A set of **protection** and/or control equipment connected by wire under a common DC circuit breaker or fuse. This DC circuit breaker or fuse is the most immediate device to isolate the aforementioned set of **protection** and/or control equipment connected by wire from the DC power supply that does not also remove the DC power supply from other equipment.	D4
Delayed Fault Clearing		Fault clearing consistent with correct operation of a breaker failure protection system and its associated breakers, or of a backup protection system with an intentional time delay. (Source: NERC Glossary of Terms)	D1
Demand		1. The rate at which electric energy is delivered to or by a system or part of a system, generally expressed in kilowatts or megawatts, at a given instant or averaged over any designated interval of time. 2. The rate at which energy is being used by the customer. (Source: NERC Glossary of Terms)	D1 D5

Term	Acronym	Definition	Directories that use this term
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Disturbance		Severe oscillations or severe step changes of current, voltage and/or frequency usually caused by **faults**.	D1 D2 D4 D5 D7
Disturbance Monitoring Equipment	**DME**	Devices capable of monitoring and recording system data pertaining to a Disturbance. Such devices include the following categories of recorders: • Sequence of event recorders which record equipment response to the event; • Fault recorders, which record actual waveform data replicating the system primary voltages and currents. This may include protective relays; • Dynamic Disturbance Recorders (DDRs), which record incidents that portray power system behavior during dynamic events such as low-frequency (0.1 Hz – 3 Hz) oscillations and abnormal frequency or voltage excursions. (Source: NERC Glossary of Terms)	D4
Economic Dispatch		The allocation of demand to individual generating units on line to effect the most economical production of electricity. (Source: NERC Glossary of Terms)	D2

Term	Acronym	Definition	Directories that use this term
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Element		Any electrical device with terminals that may be connected to other electrical devices such as a generator, transformer, circuit breaker, bus section, or transmission line. An element may be comprised of one or more components. (Source: NERC Glossary of Terms)	D1 D2 D4 D5 D7
Emergency		Any abnormal system condition that requires automatic or manual action to prevent or limit loss of transmission facilities or **generation** supply that could adversely affect the **reliability** of the electric system. NPCC Specific Definition: **Emergency** — An **Emergency** is considered to exist in an Area if **firm load** may have to be shed.	D1 D2 D4 D5 D7
Emergency Transfer Capability		The amount of **power** transfer allowed between **Areas** or within an **Area** when operating to meet NPCC **emergency** criteria contingencies [as defined in Directory #1].	D2
Energize		To make a piece of equipment or circuit alive.	D4
Energy Management System	**EMS**	System used to provide situational awareness to the System Operators and allow remote control of devices to provide	D8

Term	Acronym	Definition	Directories that use this term
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		secure and reliable operation of the BES. Situational awareness includes, but is not limited to, the following: • The ability to monitor/control the frequency within the System Operator's area • The ability to monitor/control the status (open or closed) of switching devices, plus real and reactive power flows on generators, BES tie-lines and transmission facilities within the system operator's areas • The ability to monitor/control voltage and reactive resources The ability to monitor the status of applicable EMS applications such as Real-Time Contingency Analysis (RTCA) and/or alarm management.	
Fault		An electrical **short circuit**.	D1 D4 D7
Firm Capacity		Capacity that is as firm as the seller's native **load** unless modified by contract. Associated energy may or may not be taken at option of purchaser. Supporting **reserve** is carried by the seller.	D1

Term	Acronym	Definition	Directories that use this term
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Firm Load		That portion of the Demand that a power supplier is obligated to provide except when system reliability is threatened or during emergency conditions. (Source: Firm Demand defined in NERC Glossary of Terms)	D1 D2
Forced Outage		1. The removal from service availability of a generating unit, transmission line, or other facility for emergency reasons. 2. The condition in which the equipment is unavailable due to unanticipated failure. (Source: NERC Glossary of Terms)	D1
Galvanic Isolation		The separation of two or more items or components such that no electrical current can traverse between them under normal operating conditions. The **components** may be discrete devices such as: **relays**; wire/cables; **relay** panels, etc. or the separation can be on a single device such as that between traces on a circuit board. The electrical separation of components that prevents current flow between these components is, in essence, electrical **(galvanic) isolation**.	D4

Term	Acronym	Definition	Directories that use this term
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Generation (Electricity)		The process of producing electrical energy from other forms of energy; also, the amount of electric energy produced, usually expressed in kilowatt hours (kWh) or megawatt hours (MWh). Gross Generation — The electrical output at the terminals of the generator, usually expressed in megawatts (MW). Net Generation — Gross generation minus station service or unit service **power** requirements, usually expressed in megawatts (MW).	D1 D2 D4 (Appendix A) D5 D7 (Appendices)
Generation Facility		Generating units, which are modeled as a single entity by the Transmission Operator.	D8
Generation Rejection		The process of deliberately removing preselected **generation** from a **power** system, or initiating HVDC power runback, in response to a **contingency** or an abnormal condition in order to maintain the integrity of the system. Synonym: Generator Dropping	D1 D7
Good Utility Practice		Any of the practices, methods and acts engaged in or approved by a significant portion of the electric utility industry during the relevant time period, or any of the practices, methods and acts which, in the exercise of	D8

Term	Acronym	Definition	Directories that use this term
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		reasonable judgment in light of the facts known at the time the decision was made, could have been expected to accomplish the desired result at a reasonable cost consistent with good business practices, reliability, safety and expedition. Good Utility Practice is not intended to be limited to the optimum practice, method, or act to the exclusion of all others, but rather to be acceptable practices, methods, or acts generally accepted in the region, including those practices required by Federal Power Act section 215(a)(4).	
Grounded		Connected to earth or some extended conducting body that serves instead of the earth, whether the connection is intentional or accidental.	D4 D7
Harmonic		A sinusoidal component of a periodic wave or quantity having a frequency that is an integral multiple of the fundamental frequency. Note: For example, a component, the frequency of which is twice the fundamental frequency, is called a second harmonic.	D4

Term	Acronym	Definition	Directories that use this term
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HVDC Link		A high Voltage direct current connection between two **power** systems often used to interconnect two asynchronous **power** systems.	D4
IED (Intelligent Electronic Device)		A microprocessor-based device equipped with digital communication abilities, some examples are **protective relays**, RTUs, SERs, DFRs, PLCs, data concentrators, telecommunications equipment, **merging units**, remote I/O units, and general monitoring equipment.	D4
Inadvertent Interchange		The difference between the Balancing Authority's Net Actual Interchange and Net Scheduled Interchange. (IA – IS) (Source: NERC Glossary of Terms)	D5
Interconnection		When capitalized, any one of the five major electric system networks in North America: Eastern, Western, ERCOT, Québec, and Alaska. When not capitalized, the facilities that connect two systems or **Control Areas**. Additionally, an interconnection refers to the facilities that connect a nonutility generator to a **Control Area** or system.	D1 D2 D5 D8
Interchange		Energy transfers that cross Balancing Authority boundaries.	D1 (Appendix B) D2 D5

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		(Source: NERC Glossary of Terms)	
Interchange Schedule		An agreed-upon Interchange Transaction size (megawatts), start and end time, beginning and ending ramp times and rate, and type required for delivery and receipt of power and energy between the Source and Sink Balancing Authorities involved in the transaction. (Source: NERC Glossary of Terms)	D1 D5
Interface		The specific set of transmission **elements** between two areas or between two areas comprising one or more electrical systems.	D1 (Appendices)
Interruptible Load		Demand that the end-use customer makes available to its Load-Serving Entity via contract or agreement for curtailment. (Source: NERC Glossary of Terms)	D1 (Appendix D) D5
Island		A portion of a **power** system or several power systems that is electrically separated from the interconnection due to the disconnection of transmission system **elements.**	D1 D8
Key Facilities		Facilities required to establish a **basic minimum power system** following a system blackout. These facilities are	D8

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		essential to the restoration plan of the Reliability Coordinator **Area** and include generating stations having blackstart units and other selected generating stations, transmission **elements** which are part of the **basic minimum power system,** control centers, telecommunication centers and telecommunication facilities. Such facilities are necessary to support **Special Protection Systems**, **protection** and control systems, voice and data between and within control centers and voice and data between control centers and key generating / transmission stations. **Key Facilities** include but are not limited to the following: • Generating stations having **Blackstart Capability**; • Transmission facilities and generating stations; • Control and telecommunication centers; • Telecommunication facilities.	
Load		An end-use device or customer that receives power from the electric system. (Source: NERC Glossary of Terms)	D1 D2 D4 D5 D7 (Appendices) D8

Term	Acronym	Definition	Directories that use this term
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Load Relief		**Load** reduction accomplished by **voltage reduction** and/or **load shedding**.	D1
Load Shedding		The process of deliberately removing (either manually or automatically) preselected customers' **load** from a power system in response to an abnormal condition to maintain the integrity of the system and minimize overall customer outages.	D2 D4
Local area		An electrically confined or radial portion of the system. The geographic size and number of system elements contained will vary based on system characteristics. A local area may be relatively large geographically with relatively few buses in a sparse system, or be relatively small geographically with a relatively large number of buses in a densely networked system.	D1 D4
Maintenance Outage		The removal of equipment from service **availability** to perform work on specific **elements** that can be deferred, but requires the equipment be removed from service before the next planned outage. Typically, a Maintenance Outage may occur anytime during the year, have a flexible start date, and may or may not have a predetermined duration.	D1
Merging Unit		An **intelligent electronic device** (**IED**) that collects multichannel signals output by current transformers and	D4

Term	Acronym	Definition	Directories that use this term
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		voltage transformers synchronously, along with device status, control, then exchanges these signals with the protocol of IEC 61850 to protective devices and measure-control devices.	
Net Capacity		The maximum capacity (or effective **rating**), modified for ambient limitations, that a generating unit, **power** plant, or electric system can sustain over a specified period, less the capacity used to supply the **demand** of station service or auxiliary needs.	D1
Normal Fault Clearing		Fault clearing consistent with correct operation of the **protection system** and with the correct operation of all circuit breakers or other automatic switching devices intended to operate in conjunction with that **protection system.**	D1
Normal (Precontingency) Operating Procedures		Operating procedures that are normally invoked by the **system operator** to alleviate potential facility overloads or other potential system problems in anticipation of a **contingency**.	D1 (Appendix F)
Normal Transfer Capability		The amount of **power** transfer allowed between **Areas** or within an **Area** when operating to meet NPCC normal criteria contingencies [as defined in Directory #1].	D1 D2

Term	Acronym	Definition	Directories that use this term
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Operating Limit		The maximum value of the most critical system operation parameter(s) which meet(s): (a) pre-**contingency** criteria as determined by equipment loading capability and acceptable voltage conditions; (b) **stability** criteria; (c) post-**contingency** loading and voltage criteria.	D1 (Appendix C) D2 D5
Operating Procedures		A set of policies, practices, or system adjustments that may be automatically or manually implemented by the **system operator** within a specified time frame to maintain the operational integrity of the interconnected electric systems.	D1 D5 D7
Operating Reserve		The sum of **ten-minute** and **thirty-minute reserve**.	D1 D2
Phase Shifting Transformer		A transformer that advances or retards the phase angle relationship of one circuit with respect to another to control **power** flow. Synonyms: Phase angle regulator, phase shifter.	D1 D2 D4
Pilot Protection		A form of line protection that uses a communication channel as a means to compare electrical conditions at the terminals of a line.	D4

Term	Acronym	Definition	Directories that use this term
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Planned Outage		Removing the equipment from service **availability** for inspection and/or general overhaul of one or more major equipment groups. This outage usually is scheduled well in advance.	D1
Pole (HVDC term)		A rectifier and an inverter, with associated filter banks and control equipment, tied together by a transmission line or bus.	D1
Power		See definitions for Real Power, Reactive Power and Apparent Power.	D8
Power Swing		A transient change in the **power** flows on a system, usually of an oscillatory nature.	D1 D4 (Appendix A)
Process Bus		IEC 61850 addresses this need through the definition of Sampled Measured Values services and the implementation of a **Process Bus**. The Process layer of the substation is related to gathering information, such as voltage, current, and status information, from the transformers and transducers connected to the primary power system.	D4
Protected element		The power system **element** protected by the subject **protection system**. Examples: Line, bus, transformer, generator.	D4

Term	Acronym	Definition	Directories that use this term
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Protection		The provisions for detecting power system **faults** or abnormal conditions and taking appropriate automatic corrective action.	D1 D2 D4 D7
Protection group		A fully integrated assembly of **protective relays** and associated equipment that is designed to perform the specified protective functions for a power system **element**, independent of other groups. Notes: a) Variously identified as Main Protection, Primary Protection, Breaker Failure Protection, Back-Up Protection, Alternate Protection, Secondary Protection, A Protection, B Protection, Group A, Group B, System 1 or System 2. b) Pilot protection is considered to be one protection group.	D1 D4 D7
Protection System		Element Basis One or more protection groups; including all equipment such as instrument transformers, station wiring, circuit breakers and associated trip/close modules, and communication facilities; installed at all terminals of a power system **element** to provide the complete protection of that **element**.	D1 D4 D7

Term	Acronym	Definition	Directories that use this term
Note: Terms highlighted in blue are defined differently in the NERC Glossary of Terms			
		Terminal Basis One or more protection groups, as above, installed at one terminal of a power system **element**, typically a transmission line.	
Protective relay		A **relay** that detects a power system **fault** or abnormal condition and initiates appropriate control system action.	D4
RAS Group		A fully independent integrated set of components that is designed to perform an automatic sequence of corrective actions, to mitigate a predetermined set of system conditions. Note: When it is necessary to meet redundancy requirements a **RAS** will consist of at least two **RAS Groups**. (Variously identified as Main/Alternate, Primary/Back-Up/Secondary, Group A/Group B, System 1/System 2.)	D7
Remedial Action Scheme	**RAS**	A scheme designed to detect predetermined System conditions and automatically take corrective actions that may include, but are not limited to, adjusting or tripping generation (MW and Mvar), tripping load, or reconfiguring a System(s). RAS accomplish objectives such as: • Meet requirements identified in the NERC Reliability	D7

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		Standards; • Maintain Bulk Electric System (BES) stability; • Maintain acceptable BES voltages; • Maintain acceptable BES power flows; • Limit the impact of Cascading or extreme events. The following do not individually constitute a RAS: a) Protection Systems installed for the purpose of detecting Faults on BES Elements and isolating the faulted Elements b) Schemes for automatic underfrequency load shedding (UFLS) and automatic undervoltage load shedding (UVLS) comprised of only distributed relays c) Out-of-step tripping and power swing blocking d) Automatic reclosing schemes e) Schemes applied on an Element for non-Fault conditions, such as, but not limited to, generator loss-of-field, transformer top-oil temperature, overvoltage, or overload to protect the Element against damage by removing it from service f) Controllers that switch or regulate one or more of the following: series or shunt reactive devices, flexible alternating current transmission system (FACTS) devices, phase-shifting transformers, variable-	

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		frequency transformers, or tap-changing transformers; and, that are located at and monitor quantities solely at the same station as the Element being switched or regulated g) FACTS controllers that remotely switch static shunt reactive devices located at other stations to regulate the output of a single FACTS device h) Schemes or controllers that remotely switch shunt reactors and shunt capacitors for voltage regulation that would otherwise be manually switched i) Schemes that automatically de-energize a line for a non-Fault operation when one end of the line is open j) Schemes that provide anti-islanding protection (e.g., protect load from effects of being isolated with generation that may not be capable of maintaining acceptable frequency and voltage) k) Automatic sequences that proceed when manually initiated solely by a System Operator l) Modulation of HVDC or FACTS via supplementary controls, such as angle damping or frequency damping applied to damp local or inter-area oscillations m) Sub-synchronous resonance (SSR) protection	

Term	Acronym	Definition	Directories that use this term
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		schemes that directly detect sub-synchronous quantities (e.g., currents or torsional oscillations) n) Generator controls such as, but not limited to, automatic generation control (AGC), generation excitation [e.g. automatic voltage regulation (AVR) and power system stabilizers (PSS)], fast valving, and speed governing (Source: NERC Glossary of Terms)	
Rating		The operational limits of an electric system, facility, or **element** under a set of specified conditions.	D1 D5
Reactive Power		The portion of electricity that establishes and sustains the electric and magnetic fields of alternating-current equipment. Reactive power must be supplied to most types of magnetic equipment, such as motors and transformers. It also must supply the reactive losses on transmission facilities. Reactive power is provided by generators, **synchronous condensers**, or electrostatic equipment such as capacitors. Reactive power directly influences electric system voltage. It is usually expressed in kilo vars (kVAr) or mega vars (MVAr).	D1 D2

Term	Acronym	Definition	Directories that use this term
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Real Power		The rate of producing, transferring, or using electrical energy, usually expressed in kilowatts (kW) or megawatts (MW).	D1 D2
Recallable Energy		Recallable energy (or non –firm energy) is actual energy being delivered that is not backed by capacity as it can be recalled at anytime.	D5
Reclosing		Auto reclosing — The automatic closing of a circuit breaker in order to restore an **element** to service following automatic tripping of the circuit breaker. Auto reclosing does not include automatic closing of capacitor or reactor circuit breakers. High-speed auto reclosing — The auto reclosing of a circuit breaker after a necessary time delay (less than one second) to permit **fault** arc deionization with due regard to coordination with all **relay** protective systems. This type of auto reclosing is generally not supervised by voltage magnitude or phase angle. Manual Reclosing — The closing of a circuit breaker by operator action after it has been tripped by **protective relays**. Operator initiated closing commands may originate from local control or from remote (supervisory) control. Either local or remote close commands may be supervised or unsupervised.	D1

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		Supervision — A closing command is said to be supervised if closing is permitted to occur only if certain prerequisite conditions are met (e.g., **synchronism-check**). Synchronism-check — refers to the determination that acceptable voltages exist on the two sides of the breaker and the phase angle between them is within a specified limit for a specified time.	
Relay		An electrical device designed to respond to input conditions in a prescribed manner and after specified conditions are met to cause contact operation or similar abrupt change in associated electric control circuits. (Also: see **protective relay**).	D1 D4 D7
Reliability		The degree of performance of the bulk electric system that results in electricity being delivered to customers within accepted standards and in the amount desired. Reliability may be measured by the frequency, duration, and magnitude of adverse effects on the electric supply. Electric system reliability can be addressed by considering two basic and functional aspects of the electric system — Adequacy and **Security.** Adequacy — The ability of the electric system to supply	D1 D2 D5

Term	Acronym	Definition	Directories that use this term
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		the aggregate electrical **demand** and energy requirements of the customers at all times, taking into account scheduled and reasonably expected unscheduled outages of system **elements**. Security — The ability of the electric system to withstand **disturbances** such as electric **short circuits** or unanticipated loss of system **elements.**	
Reliable Operation		Operating the elements of the [Bulk-Power System] within equipment and electric system thermal, voltage, and stability limits so that instability, uncontrolled separation, or cascading failures of such system will not occur as a result of a sudden disturbance, including a cybersecurity incident, or unanticipated failure of system elements. (Source: NERC Glossary of Terms)	D8
Reportable Events		NPCC **Reportable Events** are consistent with the NERC definition of Reportable Balancing Contingency Events, with the exception that the threshold for a NPCC Reportable Event is 500MWs and capped at 80% of the MSSC.	D5

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		(Source: NERC Glossary of Terms for Reportable Balancing Contingency Events)	
Reserve		In normal usage, reserve is the amount of capacity available in excess of the demand.	D1 D2 D5
Reserve Sharing Group	**RSG**	A group whose members consist of two or more Balancing Authorities that collectively maintain, allocate, and supply operating reserves required for each Balancing Authority's use in recovering from contingencies within the group. Scheduling energy from an Adjacent Balancing Authority to aid recovery need not constitute reserve sharing provided the transaction is ramped in over a period the supplying party could reasonably be expected to load generation in (e.g., ten minutes). If the transaction is ramped in quicker (e.g., between zero and ten minutes) then, for the purposes of disturbance control performance, the areas become a **Reserve Sharing Group.** (Source: NERC Glossary of Terms)	D5 D6
Reserve Sharing Group Agreement		An Agreement between members of a **Reserve Sharing Group** that meets the requirements of Directory #6 – **Reserve Sharing Groups**.	D6

Term	Acronym	Definition	Directories that use this term
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Reserve Sharing Group Coordinator		A Balancing Authority that accepted the role of **RSG Coordinator** in accordance with an approved **RSG Agreement**.	D6
Reserve Sharing Group Energy		Energy delivered to a contingent Balancing Authority from assisting Balancing Authorities that are part of the same **Reserve Sharing Group.**	D6
Resource		Resource refers to the total contributions provided by supply-side and **demand**-side facilities and/or actions. Supply-side facilities include utility and non-utility **generation** and purchases from neighboring systems. **Demand**-side facilities include measures for reducing **load**, such as conservation, **demand** management, and **interruptible load.**	D1 D2 D5 D8
Scheduled Interchange		The algebraic sum of all Interchange Schedules across a given path or between Balancing Authorities for a given period or instant in time. (Source: Net Scheduled Interchange defined in NERC Glossary of Terms)	D5
Second Most Severe Single Contingency	**SMSSC**	The next largest Most Severe Single Contingency (MSSC) after allowing for the MSSC.	D5

Term	Acronym	Definition	Directories that use this term
Note: Terms highlighted in blue are defined differently in the NERC Glossary of Terms			
		(Source: NERC Glossary of Terms for "Most Severe Single Contingency")	
Short Circuit		An abnormal connection (including an arc) of relatively low impedance, whether made accidentally or intentionally, between two points of different potential. *Note*: The term **fault** or short-circuit **fault** is used to describe a short circuit.	D4 D7
Short Time Emergency Rating	**STE**	The maximum loading of electrical equipment which can be sustained for 15 minutes based on nominal ambient conditions and recognizing preloading conditions.	D1 (Appendix C)
Significant Adverse Impact		With due regard for the maximum operating capability of the affected systems, one or more of the following conditions arising from **faults** or **disturbances**, shall be deemed as having **significant adverse impact**: a) instability; • any instability that cannot be demonstrably contained to a well- defined **local area** • any loss of generators, including inverter-based, that cannot be demonstrably contained to a well-defined **local area** b) unacceptable system dynamic response	D1 (Appendix E) D5

Term	Acronym	Definition	Directories that use this term
Note: Terms highlighted in blue are defined differently in the NERC Glossary of Terms			
		• an oscillatory response to a **contingency** that is not demonstrated to be clearly positively damped within 30 seconds of the initiating event c) unacceptable equipment tripping • tripping of an un-faulted **bulk power system** element (element that has already been classified as **bulk power system**) under planned system configuration due to operation of a **protection system** in response to a stable **power swing** • operation of a Type I or Type II **Remedial Action Scheme** in response to a condition for which its operation is not required d) voltage levels in violation of applicable **emergency** limits e) loadings on transmission facilities in violation of applicable **emergency** limits	
Single Contingency		A single event, which may result in the loss of one or more **elements.**	D5
Special Protection System	**SPS**	See NERC Remedial Action Scheme	D1 D4 (Appendix A) D7

Term	Acronym	Definition	Directories that use this term
Note: Terms highlighted in blue are defined differently in the NERC Glossary of Terms			
Stability		The ability of an electric system to maintain a state of equilibrium during normal and abnormal conditions or disturbances. (Source: NERC Glossary of Tems)	D1 D4
Static Var Compensator	**SVC**	A combination of controlled shunt reactors and switched capacitor banks, used to affect the **reactive power** flow of the system or to regulate the system voltage.	D1 (Appendix G) D2 D4
Synchronize		The process of connecting two previously separated alternating current apparatuses or systems after matching frequency, voltage, phase angles, etc. (e.g., paralleling a generator to the electric system).	D8
Synchronized Reserve		The unused portion of generating capacity which is synchronized to the system and ready to pick up **load** to claimed capacity and/or capacity which can be made available by load curtailment and/or unused capacity on an inverter-based resource that does not rely on a generator start-up.	D5
Synchronous Condenser		A synchronous machine which operates without mechanical load to supply or absorb **reactive power** for voltage control purposes.	D2

Term	Acronym	Definition	Directories that use this term
Note: Terms highlighted in blue are defined differently in the NERC Glossary of Terms			
System Disturbance		An event characterized by one or more of the following phenomena: the loss of **power** system **stability**; cascading outages of circuits; oscillations; abnormal ranges of frequency or voltage or both.	D1 D2 D4 D5 D7
System Operator		An individual at a control center (Balancing Authority, Transmission Operator, Generator Operator, Reliability Coordinator) whose responsibility it is to monitor and control that electric system in real time. (Source: NERC Glossary of Terms)	D2 D8
Teleprotection		A form of **protection** that uses a communication channel.	D4 D7
Ten-Minute Reserve		The sum of **synchronized** and non-**synchronized reserve** that is fully available in ten minutes.	D1 D5
Thirty-Minute Reserve		The sum of **synchronized** and non-**synchronized reserve** that can be utilized in thirty minutes, excluding capacity assigned to **ten-minute reserve**.	D5
Tie Line		A circuit connecting two Balancing Authority Areas.	D1 D2 (Appendix B) D5
Tie Line Bias		A mode of operation under automatic **generation** control in which the **area control error** is determined by the actual	D2

Term	Acronym	Definition	Directories that use this term
Note: Terms highlighted in blue are defined differently in the NERC Glossary of Terms			
		net **interchange** minus the biased scheduled net **interchange.**	
Total Transfer Capability	**TTC**	The amount of electric **power** that can be transferred over the interconnected transmission network in a *reliable* manner based on *all* of the following conditions: 1. For the existing or planned system configuration, and with **normal** (**pre-contingency**) **operating procedures** in effect, all facility loadings are within normal **ratings** and all voltages are within normal limits. 2. The electric systems are capable of absorbing the dynamic **power swings**, and remaining stable, following a **disturbance** that results in the loss of any single electric system **element**, such as a transmission line, transformer, or generating unit. 3. After the dynamic **power swings** subside following a **disturbance** that results in the loss of any single electric system **element** as described in 2 above, and after the operation of any automatic operating systems, but before any post-**contingency** operator-initiated system adjustments are implemented, all transmission facility loadings are within **emergency**	D5

Term	Acronym	Definition	Directories that use this term
Note: Terms highlighted in blue are defined differently in the NERC Glossary of Terms			
		ratings and all voltages are within **emergency** limits 4. With reference to condition 1 above, in the case where pre-contingency facility loadings reach normal thermal **ratings** at a transfer level below that at which any first **contingency** transfer limits are reached, the transfer capability is defined as that transfer level at which such normal **ratings** are reached. 5. In some cases, individual system, **power pool,** subregional, or Regional planning criteria or guides may require consideration of specified multiple contingencies, such as the outage of transmission circuits using common towers or rights-of-way, in the determination of transfer capability limits. If the resulting transfer limits for these multiple **contingencies** are more restrictive than the single contingency considerations described above, the more restrictive **reliability** criteria or guides must be observed.	
Transfer Capability		The measure of the ability of interconnected electric systems to move or transfer power in a reliable manner from one area to another over all transmission lines (or paths) between those areas under specified system conditions. The units of transfer capability are in terms of	D1 D2 D5

Term	Acronym	Definition	Directories that use this term
Note: Terms highlighted in blue are defined differently in the NERC Glossary of Terms			
		electric power, generally expressed in megawatts (MW). The transfer capability from "Area A" to "Area B" is not generally equal to the transfer capability from "Area B" to "Area A." (Source: NERC Glossary of Terms)	
Transient Stability		The ability of an electric system to maintain synchronism between its parts when subjected to a **disturbance** and to regain a state of equilibrium following that disturbance.	D1
Voltage Reduction		A means to reduce the **demand** by lowering the customer's voltage.	D1 D2 (Appendix B) D5 (Appendix 3)
Voltage Regulating Transformer		A transformer that increases or decreases the voltage magnitude relationship of one circuit with respect to another, most often used to control voltage but also to control **reactive power** flow.	D1
With Due Regard To Reclosing		This phrase means that before any manual system adjustments, recognition will be given to the type of **reclosing** (i.e., manual or automatic) and the kind of **protection.**	D1

2. NPCC Glossary of Terms Not Used by Any Directories

Term	Acronym	Definition
Note: Terms highlighted in blue are defined differently in the NERC Glossary of Terms		
Automatic Operating Systems		**Special protection systems**, remedial action schemes, or other operating systems installed on the electric systems that require *no intervention* on the part of **system operators.**
Auto-reclosing		The automatic closing of a circuit breaker in order to restore an **element** to service following automatic tripping of the circuit breaker. Auto-reclosing does not include automatic closing of capacitor or reactor circuit breakers.
Available Transfer Capability	**ATC**	A measure of the transfer capability remaining in the physical transmission network for further commercial activity over and above already committed uses. ATC is defined as the Total Transfer Capability (TTC), less the **Transmission Reliability Margin (TRM)**, less the sum of existing transmission commitments (which includes retail customer service) and the **Capacity Benefit Margin (CBM)**.
Availability		A measure of time a generating unit, transmission line, or other facility is capable of providing service, whether or not it actually is in service. Typically, this measure is expressed as a percent available for the period under consideration.

Term	Acronym	Definition
Note: Terms highlighted in blue are defined differently in the NERC Glossary of Terms		
Average Demand		The electric energy delivered over any interval of time as determined by dividing the total energy by the units of time in the interval.
Base load Capacity		Capacity used to serve an essentially constant level of customer **demand**. Base load generating units typically operate whenever they are available.
Billing Demand		The demand upon which customer billing is based as specified in a rate schedule or contract. It may be based on the contract year, a contract minimum, or a previous maximum and, therefore, does not necessarily coincide with the actual measured demand of the billing period.
Bottled Energy/Power/Capacity		Energy/Power/Capacity which is available at the source but which cannot be delivered to the point of use because of restrictions in the transmission system. Also referred to as Locked-In Energy/Power/Capacity.
Capacity Benefit Margin	**CBM**	CBM is defined as that amount of transmission transfer capability reserved by load serving entities to ensure access to generation from interconnected systems to meet generation reliability requirements.
Coincident Demand		The sum of two or more demands that occur in the same demand interval.
Contingency Reserve Adjustment Factor		A factor used in determining the additional **ten-minute reserve** that each **Area**, not meeting the DCS requirement for a given quarter, must carry. It is calculated using the following formula: $CRA_{quarter} = 2 -$ {the average percentage DCS (expressed as a decimal) for the quarter of measurement}

Term	Acronym	Definition
Note: Terms highlighted in blue are defined differently in the NERC Glossary of Terms		
Continuous Rating		The rating – as defined by the equipment owner – that specifies the level of electrical loading, usually expressed in megawatts (MW) or other appropriate units that a system, facility, or **element** can support or withstand indefinitely without loss of equipment life. (Normally not used in NPCC)
Contract Demand		The amount of **capacity** that a supplier agrees to make available for delivery to a particular entity and which the entity agrees to purchase.
Control Area		An electric system or systems, bounded by interconnection metering and telemetry, capable of controlling **generation** to maintain its net **interchange schedule** with other Control Areas and contributing to frequency regulation of the **Interconnection**.
Demand Interval		The time period during which electric energy is measured, usually in 15-, 30-, or 60-minute increments.
Double Element Contingency		A **contingency** involving the loss of two **elements**.
Emergency Rating		The rating – as defined by the equipment owner – that specifies the level of electrical loading, usually expressed in megawatts (MW) or other appropriate units, that a system, facility, or element can support or withstand for a finite period. The rating assumes acceptable loss of equipment life or other physical or safety limitations for the equipment involved.
Firm Demand		That portion of the Contract Demand that a **power** supplier is obligated to provide except when system **reliability** is threatened or during **emergency** conditions.

Term	Acronym	Definition
Note: Terms highlighted in blue are defined differently in the NERC Glossary of Terms		
First Contingency Incremental Transfer Capability	**FCITC**	The amount of **power**, incremental above normal base **power** transfers, that can be transferred over the transmission network in a reliable manner based on the following conditions: 1. For the existing or planned system configuration, and with normal (pre-**contingency) operating procedures** in effect, all facility loadings are within normal **ratings** and all voltages are within normal limits. 2. The electric systems are capable of absorbing the dynamic **power swings**, and remaining stable, following a **disturbance** that results in the loss of any single electric **element**, such as a transmission line, transformer, or generating unit. After the dynamic **power swings** subside following a **disturbance** that results in the loss of any single electric system **element** as described in 2 above, and after the operation of automatic operating systems, but before any post-**contingency** operator-initiated system adjustments are implemented, all transmission facility loadings are within **emergency ratings** and all voltages are within **emergency** limits.
First Contingency Total Transfer Capability	**FCTTC**	The algebraic sums of the FCITC values and the appropriate total interregional transfers assumed in the base load flow model used for the FCITC calculations.
Forced Outage Rate		The hours a generating unit, transmission line, or other facility is forced out of service, divided by the sum of the hours it is removed from service, plus the total number of hours the facility was connected to the electricity system expressed

Term	Acronym	Definition
Note: Terms highlighted in blue are defined differently in the NERC Glossary of Terms		
		as a percent.
Harmonic Current		A periodic component of current having a frequency that is an integral multiple of that currents fundamental frequency. Harmonic currents are normally measured in amperes or in percent of the fundamental frequency current, generally at specific frequencies, such as second and third harmonics. Harmonic currents can, for example, be generated by HVDC converters, **Static Var Compensators** (SVC) and geomagnetically induced currents (GIC).
High Speed Fault Clearing		Fault clearing consistent with correct operation of high-speed relays and the associated circuit breakers without intentional time delay. *Notes*: The specified time for high-speed relays in present practice is 50 milliseconds (three cycles on a 60Hz basis) or less. [IEEE C37.100-1981]. For planning purposes, a total clearing time of six cycles or less is considered high speed.
High-Speed Auto reclosing		The auto reclosing of a circuit breaker after a necessary time delay (less than one second) to permit **fault** arc deionization with due regard to coordination with all **relay** protective systems. This type of auto reclosing is generally not supervised by voltage magnitude or phase angle.
Integrated Demand		The average of the instantaneous demands over the demand interval.
Interchange Scheduling		The actions taken by scheduling entities to arrange transfer of electric **power**. The schedule consists of an agreement on the amount, start and end times, ramp rate, and degree of firmness.

Term	Acronym	Definition
Note: Terms highlighted in blue are defined differently in the NERC Glossary of Terms		
Instantaneous Demand		The rate of energy delivered at a given instant.
Limiting Contingency		The **contingency** which establishes the **transfer capability**.
Load Cycle		The normal pattern of **demand** over a specified time period associated with a device or circuit.
Long Time Emergency Rating	**LTE**	The maximum rating of electrical equipment based on nominal ambient conditions and recognizing the nominal **load cycle** for a long period such as 24 hours.
Manual Reclosing		The closing of a circuit breaker by operator action after it has been tripped by **protective relays**. Operator initiated closing commands may originate from local control or from remote (supervisory) control. Either local or remote close commands may be supervised or unsupervised.
Negative Shared Activation Reserve Energy		Energy received by an assisting **Area** from a contingent **Area** for an eligible **resource** loss having a concurrent effective loss of demand that exceeds the loss of energy from the **resource** loss, and is implemented at a zero time ramp rate immediately following allocation notification, maintained until the Contingent **Area** requests a return to normal but not longer than thirty minutes, and ramped out at a ten-minute ramp rate following communications initiated by the Contingent **Area** which have resulted in mutually established **interchange schedules.**
Non coincident Demand		The sum of two or more demands that occur in different demand intervals.

Term	Acronym	Definition
Note: Terms highlighted in blue are defined differently in the NERC Glossary of Terms		
Non recallable Available Transfer Capability	**NATC**	Total Transmission Capability less the **Transmission Reliability Margin**, less non recallable reserved transmission service (including the **Capacity Benefit Margin**).
Non-Synchronized Reserve		That portion of **operating capacity**, which is available for synchronizing to the network and that capacity which can be made available by applying load management techniques such as curtailing **interruptible loads** or implementing **voltage reductions**.
Normal Incremental Transfer Capability	**NITC**	The amount of electric **power**, incremental above normal base power transfers, that can be transferred between two areas of the interconnected transmission systems under conditions where pre-**contingency** loadings reach the normal thermal **rating** of a facility prior to any first **contingency** transfer limits being reached. When this occurs, NITC replaces FCITC as the most limiting transfer capability.
Normal Rating		The rating – as defined by the equipment owner – that specifies the level of electrical loading, usually expressed in megawatts (MW) or other appropriate units that a system, facility, or **element** can support or withstand through the daily **demand** cycles without loss of equipment life.
NPCC Emergency Criteria Contingencies		The set of contingencies to be observed when operating the **bulk power system** under **emergency** conditions.
NPCC Normal Criteria Contingencies		The set of contingencies to be observed when operating the **bulk power system** under normal conditions.

Term	Acronym	Definition
Note: Terms highlighted in blue are defined differently in the NERC Glossary of Terms		
Peak Demand		The highest electric **power** requirement occurring in a given period (e.g., an hour, a day, month, season, or year). For an electric system, it is equal to the sum of the metered net outputs of all generators within a system and the metered line flows into the system, less the metered line flows out of the system.
Peaking Capacity		Capacity used to serve **peak demand**. Peaking generating units operate a limited number of hours per year, and their capacity factor is normally less than 20%.
Permanent Fault		A fault which prevents the affected **element** from being returned to service until physical actions are taken to effect repairs or to remove the cause of the fault.
Pole (of an ac switching device)		That portion of the device associated exclusively with one electrically separated conducting path of the main circuit of the device.
Post contingency Operating Procedures		Operating procedures that may be invoked by the **system operator** to mitigate or alleviate system problems after a **contingency** has occurred.
Power		Apparent Power — The product of the volts and amperes. It comprises both *real* and *reactive* power, usually expressed in kilovolt-amperes (kVA) or megavolt-amperes (MVA).
Power Pool		Two or more interconnected electric systems operated and/or planned to supply power for their combined demand requirements.

Term	Acronym	Definition
Note: Terms highlighted in blue are defined differently in the NERC Glossary of Terms		
Recallable Available Transmission Capability	**RATC**	Total Transmission Capability less the **Transmission Reliability Margin**, less recallable transmission service, less non-recallable transmission service (including the **Capacity Benefit Margin**).
Regional Reserve Sharing		Procedure that allows participating **Areas** to reduce the requirement for **reserve** within its **Area** due to the availability and deliverability of **reserve** from other **Areas**.
Regional Reserve Sharing Energy		Energy delivered to a contingent **Area** from assisting **Areas** that is converted from delivered **Shared Activation Reserve Energy** after the **Shared Activation Reserve Energy** has been delivered for 30 minutes; maintained until the Contingent **Area** requests a return to normal but not longer than sixty minutes, and ramped out at a ten-minute ramp rate following communications initiated by the Contingent **Area** which have resulted in mutually established **interchange schedules**.
Shared Activation Reserve Energy		Energy delivered from an assisting **Area** to a contingent **Area** that is implemented at a zero time ramp rate immediately following allocation notification, maintained until the Contingent **Area** requests a return to normal but not longer than thirty minutes, and ramped out at a ten-minute ramp rate following communications initiated by the Contingent **Area** which have resulted in mutually established **interchange schedules.**
Single Element Contingency		A **contingency** involving the loss of one **element**.
Small-Signal Stability		The ability of the electric system to withstand small changes or **disturbances**

Term	Acronym	Definition
Note: Terms highlighted in blue are defined differently in the NERC Glossary of Terms		
		without the loss of synchronism among the synchronous machines in the system.
Stability Limit		The maximum power flow possible through some particular point in the system while maintaining stability in the entire system or the part of the system to which the stability limit refers (Source: NERC Glossary of Terms)
Supervision		A closing command is said to be supervised if closing is permitted to occur only if certain prerequisite conditions are met (e.g., **synchronism-check**).
Supervisory Control		A form of remote control comprising an arrangement for the selective control of remotely located facilities by an electrical means over one or more communications media.
Surge		A transient variation of current, voltage, or power flow in an electric circuit or across an electric system. (Source: NERC Glossary of Terms)
Synchronism-check		Refers to the determination that acceptable voltages exist on the two sides of the breaker and the phase angle between them is within a specified limit for a specified time.

Term	Acronym	Definition
Note: Terms highlighted in blue are defined differently in the NERC Glossary of Terms		
Synchronism-check Relay		A verification **relay** whose function is to operate when two input voltages satisfy predetermined operating parameters.
Transient Fault		A fault which occurs for a short or limited time, or which disappears when the faulted **element** is separated from all electrical sources and which does not require repairs to be made before the **element** can be returned to service either manually or automatically.
Transmission Reliability Margin	**TRM**	TRM is defined as that amount of transmission transfer capability necessary to ensure that the interconnected transmission network is secure under a reasonable range of uncertainties in system conditions.
Wheeling		The contracted use of electrical facilities of one or more entities to transmit electricity for another entity.

3. Revision History

Version	Date	Action	Change Tracking (New, Errata or Revisions)
0	10/26/2011	NPCC Glossary of Terms Established; Retired A7.	
1	1/18/2012	TFSP revised definition: *Special Protection System*	Revisions
2	10/1/2015	TFSP established five (5) D#4 Glossary Terms: *DC Circuit* *Galvanic Isolation* *Merging Unit* *Intelligent Electronic Device (IED) Process Bus (IEC 6185)*	New
3	10/6/2017	TFCO revised three (3) D# 8 Glossary Terms: *Basic Minimum Power System* *Key Facilities* *Critical Components*	Revisions
4	8/5/2019	TFCO retired seven (7) D#9 and D#10 Glossary Terms.	Retired
5	9/27/2019	TFCO retired six (6) D#5 Glossary Terms: *Emergency Regional Reserve Redispatch* *Emergency Regional Reserve Dispatch* *Energy Operating Capacity* *Regional Reserve Deficiency* *Reserve on Automatic Generation Control (AGC))* *Reserve Requirement*	Retired
		TFCO established D#5 Glossary Term: *Recallable Energy*	New
		TFCO revised two (2) D#5 Glossary Terms: *Reportable Events Synchronized Reserve*	Revised
		TFCO established four (4) D#6 Glossary Terms:	New

Version	Date	Action	Change Tracking (New, Errata or Revisions)
		Reserve Sharing Group *Reserve Sharing Group Agreement* *Reserve Sharing Group Coordinator* *Reserve Sharing Group Energy*	
6	12/22/2020	TFCP revised D#7 Glossary Term: *Special Protection Systems*	Revised
		TFSP established new D#7 Glossary Term: *RAS Group*	New
7	2/12/2021	Inserted NERC Glossary term for Remedial Action Scheme (RAS)	New
8	8/10/2021	Transferred *Current Time Zero* to Glossary	Update
9	2/02/2023	TFCO established seven (7) D#8 Glossary Terms: *Blackstart Resource* *Energy Management System* *Good Utility Practice* *Reliable Operation* *Annual* *Calendar Months* *Calendar Year*	New
10	7/2/2024	TFCP/TFCO revised D#1 Glossary Term: *Significant Adverse Impact*	Revised
11	10/15/2025	TFCO established one (1) D#5 Glossary Term: *Second Most Severe Single Contingency (SMSSC)*	New
		TFCO revised one (1) D#5 Glossary Term: *Reportable Events*	Revised
		TFCO retired two (2) D#5 Glossary Terms: *First Contingency Loss* *Second Contingency Loss*	Retired
		Removed references to retired Directories	Revised

Version	Date	Action	Change Tracking (New, Errata or Revisions)
12	10/07/2026	TFCO established one (1) D#8 Glossary Term: *Backup Power Supply*	New
		TFCO revised one (1) D#8 Glossary Term: *Critical Components*	Revised

NPCC is dedicated to the continued reliability of the Bulk Power System in Northeastern North America.

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