
Retirement of BAL-004-0

1. OVERVIEW OF THE STANDARD

1.1. APPLICABILITY

BAL-004-0 covers the functions of Reliability Coordinator (RC) and Balancing Authority (BA). In Québec, this standard applies to the Reliability Coordinator function as indicated in the specific provisions found in the Québec appendix.

1.2. PURPOSE OF THE STANDARD

The purpose of BAL-004-0 is to ensure that Time Error Corrections are done in a way that does not adversely affect Interconnection reliability.

1.3. REGULATORY CONTEXT

The Régie de l'énergie adopted BAL-004-0 in Decision D-2015-168,¹ and it has been in effect since January 1, 2016. NERC has retired standard BAL-004-0, and FERC approved its retirement in a decision of January 18, 2018, found in Docket No. RD17-1-000.²

1.4. SPECIFIC PROVISIONS FOR QUÉBEC

The Québec appendix to this standard specifies that the Reliability Coordinator is the time monitor for the Québec Interconnection.

1.5. PROPOSED RETIREMENT DATE

No delay is needed or advisable. BAL-004-0 can be retired immediately.

1.6. OTHERS NECESSARY MODIFICATIONS

NERC has not modified the other standards or the Glossary in preparation for retirement of this standard. The Reliability Coordinator notes that the term Time Error Correction is apparently not used at present in the other reliability standards effective in Québec. The Coordinator expects, however, that NERC will remove this term at some time, and the Coordinator will then follow up with retirement.

2. ASSESSMENT OF RELEVANCE

NERC justified retirement of BAL-004-0 as follows:

- 1) Time Error Correction (TEC) has become redundant given the frequency maintenance requirement in the other BAL standards.
- 2) In North America, Time Error Corrections are currently done using means superior to those prescribed by BAL-004-0.

¹ Régie de l'énergie, Decision D-2015-168, consulted online on July 11, 2019, at: http://publicsde.regie-energie.qc.ca/projets/332/DocPri/R-3944-2015-A-0062-Dec-Dec-2016_12_22.pdf

² FERC Docket No. RD17-1-000, consulted online on July 11, 2019, at: <https://www.nerc.com/FilingsOrders/us/FERCOOrdersRules/Delegated%20Order%20approving%20retirement%20for%20Reliability%20Standard%20BAL-004-0.pdf>

- 3) Time Error Correction methods specified in BAL-004-0 do not reflect present methods and may be considered potentially adverse to reliability.
- 4) Time Error Correction originates from a commercial practice and should not be part of a reliability standard.

These justifications are as relevant in Québec as elsewhere in North America. Given that TEC takes place continuously through an automated system, manual TECs are neither necessary nor advisable. The Reliability Coordinator recommends retirement of BAL-004-0.

3. FINAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Retirement of this standard has a positive impact for the Registered Entity, i.e., the Reliability Coordinator. Compliance tasks will be reduced as a result.