
Project QC-2020-03

PER-003-2 – Operating Personnel Credentials

1. OVERVIEW OF THE STANDARDS

1.1. Applicability

The PER-003-2 standard applies to the following functions:

- Balancing Authority (BA)
- Reliability Coordinator (RC)
- Transmission Operator (TOP)

1.2. Purpose of the Reliability Standard

The purpose of the PER-003-2 standard is to ensure that system operators performing reliability-related tasks of the RC, BA and TOP are certified through the NERC System Operator Certification program when filing a Real-Time operating position responsible for control of the Main Transmission System (RTP).

1.3. Regulatory Context

The PER-003-1 standard was adopted by the Régie de l'énergie (hereinafter "the Régie") in Decision D-2015-198¹ and has been in effect since April 1, 2016. Adopted by the NERC Board of Trustees on May 10, 2018 and subsequently approved by FERC on November 21, 2018² the PER-003-2 standard came into effect in the United States on July 1st, 2019.

The North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) submitted a "Notice of Filing of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation of Proposed Reliability Standards PER-003-2 and retirement of PER-004-2"³ on September 27, 2018.

1.4. Specific Provisions for Québec

In the application of this standard, all reference to the terms "Bulk Electric System" or "BES" shall be replaced by the terms "Main Transmission System" or "RTP" respectively.

1.5. Proposed Effective Dates

The NERC Implementation Plan⁴ allowed for a period of 6 months between regulatory approval and the implementation of the standard. In Québec, the standard applies only to Hydro-Québec TransÉnergie who is already complying with this standard on a voluntary basis since its effective date in the United States. The Reliability Coordinator proposes an effective date on the first day of the first calendar quarter that is

¹ Régie de l'énergie, Decision D-2015-198, consulted online on July 9, 2020, at: http://publicsde.regie-energie.qc.ca/projets/283/DocPri/R-3906-2014-A-0006-Dec-Dec-2015_12_09.pdf

² FERC, Docket No. RD18-9-000, consulted online on July 9, 2020, at: https://www.nerc.com/FilingsOrders/us/FERCOrdersRules/Letter%20Order%20Approving%20PER-003-2_RD18-9.pdf

³ NERC Notice of Filing of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation of Proposed Reliability Standards PER-003-2 and retirement of PER-004-2, consulted online on July 9, 2020, <https://www.nerc.com/FilingsOrders/ca/Canadian%20Filings%20and%20Orders%20DL/Quebec%20PER-003-2%20Filing.pdf>

⁴ NERC Implementation Plan, consulted online on July 9, 2020, at: https://www.nerc.com/pa/Stand/201702_Modifications_to_PER_Standards_DL/2017-02_Mod_to_PER_Standards_Implementation_Plan_0403018.pdf

60 days after the adoption date of the PER-003-2 standard and its associated violation risk factors and violation severity levels by the Régie.

1.6. Standards or Requirements to Retire

Standards PER-003-1 and PER-004-2 are to be retired when PER-003-2 comes into effect. However, the PER-004-2 standard cannot be retired until the IRO-018-1(i) standard, adopted in D-2020-068 in the filing R-4116-2019, comes in effect on January 1st, 2022.

The PER-004-2 standard contains two requirements that are redundant with other FERC approved standards. Specifically, PER-004-2 requirements are duplicated in the following standards⁵, all of which, are approved by the Régie:

Mapping to other standard	Régie Decision
PER-003-1, R1	D-2015-198 ⁶
PER-005-2, R2 and R3	D-2016-195 ⁷
IRO-002-4, R3 and R4 IRO-008-2, R1, R2 and R4 IRO-009-2, R1 through R4 IRO-010-2, R1 through R3 IRO-014-3, generally	D-2017-061 ⁸
EOP-004-2, R2	D-2017-110 ⁹
IRO-018-1(i) R1 through R3	D-2020-068 ¹⁰

1.7. Modifications to the Glossary

None.

2. ASSESSMENT OF RELEVANCE

Subsequent to NERC's "Project 2016-EPR-01 – Enhanced Periodic Review of Personnel Performance, Training and Qualifications Standards", the standard drafting team recommended that a clarifying footnote be added to the PER-003-1 standard to ensure that entities understand (1) the connection between the standard and the NERC System Operator Certification Program Manual and (2) that the certifications referenced under PER-003-1 are those under the NERC System Operator Certification Program. These modifications improve on the currently effective standards and are as relevant in Québec as to the rest of North America.

⁵ NERC Project 2016-EPR-01 Standards Authorization Request:

https://www.nerc.com/pa/Stand/201702_Modifications_to_PER_Standards_DL/Project_2016-EPR-01_PER_SAR_Clean_06212017.pdf

⁶ Régie de l'énergie Decision D-2015-198, Consulted online on July 9, 2020, at: http://publicsde.regie-energie.qc.ca/projets/283/DocPrj/R-3906-2014-A-0006-Dec-Dec-2015_12_09.pdf

⁷ Régie de l'énergie Decision D-2016-195, Consulted online on July 9, 2020, at: http://publicsde.regie-energie.qc.ca/projets/332/DocPrj/R-3944-2015-A-0062-Dec-Dec-2016_12_22.pdf

⁸ Régie de l'énergie Decision D-2017-061, Consulted online on July 9, 2020, at: http://publicsde.regie-energie.qc.ca/projets/404/DocPrj/R-4001-2017-A-0005-Dec-Dec-2017_06_16.pdf

⁹ Régie de l'énergie Decision D-2017-110, Consulted online on July 9, 2020, at: http://publicsde.regie-energie.qc.ca/projets/332/DocPrj/R-3944-2015-A-0083-Dec-Dec-2017_09_27.pdf

¹⁰ Régie de l'énergie Decision D-2020-068, consulted online on July 9, 2020 at : http://publicsde.regie-energie.qc.ca/projets/535/DocPrj/R-4116-2020-A-0007-Dec-Dec-2020_06_09.pdf

In accordance with the agreement made in 2009 between the Régie, NERC and the NPCC and with the authorization of the Québec government,¹¹ this standard was developed and approved by external agencies for North America, including Québec. In the opinion of the Reliability Coordinator, this standard is relevant for system reliability in Québec and the standard contributes to harmonization with neighboring systems.

3. PRELIMINARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

This section presents the Reliability Coordinator's preliminary impact assessment.

PER-003-2	Low	Moderate	High
Implementation of the standard	X		
Enforcement of the standard	X		
Compliance monitoring	X		

Legend:

Low: Normal industry practice that only requires minor adjustments to existing processes or practices.

Moderate: Change that requires allocation of some physical, human or financial resources to implement the proposed standard, maintain it or monitor its compliance.

High: Change that requires allocation of significant physical, human or financial resources to plan and implement the proposed standard, maintain it or monitor its compliance.

4. FINAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

This section shall be completed upon receipt of the impact assessment forms and at the conclusion of the consultation process prior to filing of reliability standards with the Régie de l'énergie.

¹¹ Agreement entered into in accordance with Order-in-Council 443-21009 dated April 8, 2019.