

RELIABILITY MATTERS

Transmission Services Reliability Program Quarterly Update



Volume 1, Issue 1

October 2011

A Message from the Reliability Program Manager—Lorissa Jones

Welcome to the first edition of *Reliability Matters*!



Lorissa Jones -

Transmission Reliability Program Manager

Greetings! I would like to personally welcome you to the first edition of the Transmission Reliability Program's *Reliability Matters* Quarterly Update. We are excited to offer this new communication to you and have included topics that we believe will be of interest to everyone.

Many of you have expressed that you would like to see BPA (through the Transmission Reliability Program) be more engaged with you relative to the WECC/NERC reliability standards and requirements. This is a priority for us and the quarterly update is one of the ways in which we will reach out to you moving forward.

Please take a moment to visit our website (<http://www.bpa.gov/corporate/business/reliability/>) where you'll have access to additional reliability

compliance resources as well as be able to easily submit questions and comments to our Transmission Reliability Team.

The world of reliability compliance is always changing and doesn't appear to be slowing down anytime soon. Due to this, the Transmission Reliability Program at BPA has changed dramatically over the last few years as new reliability "matters" have been introduced into the industry; most recently NERC Alerts that require reporting, etc.

In order to help maneuver through these changes, we invite your questions and comments which are very important to BPA. Please don't hesitate to contact us; note that we will always do our best to help, but ultimately, determining compliance and interpreting the standards is the sole province of WECC and NERC.

My staff and I are excited to continue to work with you!

~ Lorissa

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What's Happening This Quarter?

- ◆ **Workshops—November 22, 2011 at BPA Headquarters, 911 NE 11th Ave. 2nd Floor, Room 223 Portland, OR 97232.** Stay tuned to the TxRP website for details including the agenda.
 - **9:00am-12:00pm**—Operations and Maintenance Agreement Workshop
 - **1:00pm-5:00pm**—Transmission Reliability Program Customer Workshop
- ◆ Annual System Review letter process will begin mid-October to be completed by early 2012.

Now Available
Customer Question/Request
Form Online

Link to Form: <http://www.bpa.gov/corporate/business/reliability/CommentForm.cfm>



Our Mission

- What does BPA's Transmission Reliability Program do for you? -

"BPA understands that the world of Reliability Standards is very demanding and dynamic. The Transmission Reliability Program strives to help our customers adjust to the standards as they impact our relationship. We will continue to try and improve our outreach and welcome any suggestions on ways to improve." —Lorissa Jones

The Transmission Reliability Program's (TxRP's) first priority is to uphold and support BPA's transmission reliability. This translates to increased reliability for the bulk electric system and BPA's customers.

TxRP also provides BPA's overall coordination of standards, representing many organizations within BPA as well as external customers with dedicated staff who work to perform this key function.

Additionally, TxRP has dedicated resources in place to answer your questions and provide

needed reliability documentation for audits, self-certification, etc. Processes are in place to ensure that your requests are tracked, assigned, and completed in a timely manner.

Reliability compliance is still relatively new and something that is very daunting to many entities in the electrical industry. BPA is continually working to improve internal processes to provide increased support and awareness and, ultimately, the best value to the region.

2011 Annual System Review Letters

- Third annual ASR letters coming your way in October -

As we embark on year three of Annual System Review (ASR) letters, the letter has not only evolved to include other registration types, but also has been improved to increase clarity, provide more detail, and is laid out in a more functional format. Because these letters are recognized by WECC as a formal document that can be referenced in an audit, it is more important than ever to ensure there is consistency throughout the letters as well as a more formalized process for developing them.

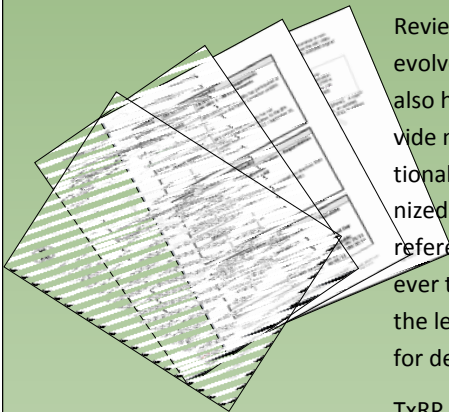
TxRP has provided a more comprehensive letter to our customers registered with NERC for registration types ranging from one to multiple (types included are DP, LSE, PSE, TOp, TO, GOp, and GO). Some key improvements include:

- ◆ A more detailed analysis was conducted where over 600 requirements were analyzed with subject matter experts to validate language and documentation.
- ◆ The letter template was updated to include more detail such as the title of the standard, the version of the standard, and either specifically state which requirements are cov-

ered or state "all requirements." In some cases, there are 3 versions of a standard effective for calendar year 2011.

- ◆ The date gap process for event-driven requirements has been updated. They will be addressed with an updated, initialed, and signed copy of the original letter signed by TxRP Manager to cover the period between October 1st and December 31st. The customers will be provided a copy to replace the earlier version by February 1, 2012.

These changes streamlined the letter development process, provides easier navigation for the customer, and should not require additional BPA research by the customer during self certification. In addition, explanations will be provided as to why some standards/requirements were not included in the ASR letter. We welcome comments and/or suggestions about the ASR letter and process. Your BPA Customer Service Engineer is also happy to assist with any questions that you may have.





Transmission Reliability Program Staff Spotlight

- Meet one of our staff members who is ready to help -

Matt Donald has been with TxRP since May of 2010 and with BPA since March of 2009. His primary role is to support the TxRP Program Manager with external outreach and functions.

Matt's interests outside of work include: sports and outdoor activities of all kinds, gardening, spending time with family, and operating a pumpkin patch in the Fall. Matt is married to his wife, Kim, of ten years, and they have two children, BrookLynn (age 6) and Philip (age 3).

At BPA, he enjoys the challenges that the TxRP offers as he is continually learning new things. He also enjoys working for a program that touches many parts of BPA as well as external customers. He states, "There is never a dull moment in the office. Everyday there is a new challenge that requires our attention."

Matt looks forward to working with you. While you've got him on the phone, be sure to ask him how the pumpkins are doing!



**Matt Donald—
Transmission Reliability
Program Support
Specialist**

External Website

- Check out our recently updated website -

If you are looking for more information about TxRP at BPA, be sure to visit our website. You'll have access to background information, additional contact information, BPA/customer reliability processes, standards coordination and development information as well as other links. To access the site, go to:

<http://www.bpa.gov/corporate/business/reliability/>

Additionally, please feel free to provide any comments and/or suggestions on ways that we can improve this tool for you.

Questions

Refer to the Transmission Reliability Program Website:

<http://www.bpa.gov/corporate/business/reliability/>

Feel free to submit your questions/comments via the new web form:

<http://www.bpa.gov/corporate/business/reliability/CommentForm.cfm>

OR send an email to TxReliabilityProgram@bpa.gov.

Did you know?

- ◆ TxRP COORDINATES AN AVERAGE OF OVER 20 STANDARDS ACTIVITIES PER MONTH.
- ◆ FY11 STATS (248 ITEMS):
 - REQUESTS FOR COMMENTS: 157
 - NOMINATIONS: 15
 - INFORMATIONALS: 31
 - BALLOTS: 36
 - ADVISORIES: 6
 - SURVEYS: 6

FY11 Standards Coordination by Org

