

NERC

NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC
RELIABILITY CORPORATION

Technical Talk with RF

Level 3 Essential Actions Alert

Cold Weather Preparations for Extreme Weather Events III

July 17, 2023
Darrell Moore

Agenda

- Alert Background
- Essential Actions
- FAQ Document
- Alert Timeline
- Q&A

Level 3 Alert Review Team

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Industry Cold Weather Preparations

- Several notable events have occurred demonstrating substantial impacts that extreme cold weather conditions can have on the reliability of the Bulk Power System. Most recent being 2022 winter storm Elliott, 2021 winter storm Uri and the 2018, South Central United States Cold Weather Event.
- In light of these events, and the recently expedited FERC approval of Cold Weather Reliability Standards. And the recent recommendations and advisory cold weather alerts, that NERC published from 2021-2023, it is necessary to understand how entities are taking steps to mitigate this risk.
- Given the continuing impacts on reliability, the ERO Enterprise has determined the highest level NERC Alert: A Level 3 Essential Actions alert to Industry is required for the 2023-2024 winter season and beyond.



- Essential Actions:
 - Essential Actions are specific actions that NERC has determined to be essential for certain segments of owners, operators, or users of the BPS to undertake to ensure the Reliable operation of the BPS.
 - There are 8 essential actions.
- Under the ROP Board approval is required prior to issuance of a Level 3 Essential Actions alert to industry.
- This was the first Level 3 Essential Actions alert issued by NERC.
- During the May 10-11 NERC Board meeting NERC Management received Board Approval to issue this Level 3 Essential Actions alert to Industry Cold Weather Preparations for Extreme Weather Events III.

1. Each GO should calculate the Extreme Cold Weather Temperature (ECWT) for each plant location prior to the next winter season.
2. Each GO should identify, in the cold weather preparedness plan, the Generator Cold Weather Critical Components and freeze protection measures implemented on those components prior to the next winter season.
3. Each GO should identify which units are capable of operating at the ECWT as currently built, and which units require additional freeze protection measures to operate at that temperature.
4. Each GO should identify which units experienced a Generator Cold Weather Reliability Event in the 2022–2023 winter season.

5. Each TOP should update their operating plan(s) prior to the next winter season, to include provisions to minimize the overlap of circuits that are designated for manual load shed and circuits that are utilized for under frequency load shed (UFLS) or under voltage load shed (UVLS).
6. Each BA should update their operating plan(s) prior to the 2023–2024 winter season, to include provisions for TOPs to implement operator controlled manual load shed; and manage generating resources in its BA Area.
7. Each GO should provide its RC, BA, and TOP the ECWT for its location prior to the next winter season and whether Generator Cold Weather Critical Component freeze protection measures will not be implemented on components prior to the next winter season.
8. Each GO should share their responses with their respective BAs and TOPs to allow for updates to any operating plans before the next winter seasons.

- Initial Distribution of the Level 3 alert May 15, 2023
- Acknowledgement was Required by Midnight Eastern on May 22, 2023
- Reporting Required by Midnight Eastern on October 6, 2023
- FERC Report: Due November 3, 2023
- FAQ document published with alert.
- A Data submission worksheet was published with the alert
- Distribution:
 - Balancing Authorities
 - Generator Owners
 - Transmission Operators



Questions and Answers