

Minutes of the Meeting

Q1 2026 RSSC: Meeting #67

Meeting date: 2026-03-12

Chair/Sponsor: Pirouz Honarmand /Devon Huber

Scribe: Pirouz Honarmand

Meeting location: MS Teams/Hybrid

Meeting time: 09:30 a.m.

Invitees	Representing	Attendance Status
Abbas Munir	Bruce Power	IESO - Adelaide
Adam Burlock	Transalta	Teleconference – MS Teams
Aditya Menon	Hydro One	IESO - Adelaide
Ahmad Khan	Atura Power	Teleconference – MS Teams
Alex Zbarcea	Hydro One	IESO - Adelaide
Amanda Cabaj	Enbridge	Teleconference – MS Teams
Andrea Lemhenyi	Hydro One	Teleconference – MS Teams
Andrew Huang	Hydro One	Teleconference – MS Teams
Andrew Rawson	IESO	Teleconference – MS Teams
Anne Freer	IESO	Teleconference – MS Teams
Aqsa Jafri	IESO	IESO - Adelaide
Ashley Scheelar	Transalta	Teleconference – MS Teams
Charlie Recoskie	NAES Canada	Teleconference – MS Teams
Chris Moir	Hydro One	Teleconference – MS Teams
Clark McClocklin	Northland power	IESO - Adelaide
Constantin Chitescu	OPG	IESO - Adelaide
Cristian Dragnea	IESO	Teleconference – MS Teams
Dan Bamber	ATCO	Teleconference – MS Teams
Dan Kathir	IESO	IESO - Adelaide
Devon Huber	IESO	IESO - Adelaide
Desderius Ngunangwa	Bruce Power	IESO - Adelaide

Diane Shields	ATCO	Teleconference – MS Teams
Doug Preston	OPG	Teleconference – MS Teams
Ed Lauman	Capital Power	Teleconference – MS Teams
Harout Manougian	OEB	IESO - Adelaide
Hassan Vahed Kalankesh	Hydro One	Teleconference – MS Teams
Hassib El Murdea	OPG	Teleconference – MS Teams
Ijad Dewan	Hydro One	Teleconference – MS Teams
Jacinda Belisle	Evolugen	Teleconference – MS Teams
James Locke	NAES Canada	Teleconference – MS Teams
Jean-Michel Blais	Boralex	Teleconference – MS Teams
Jesse Rocca	IESO	Teleconference – MS Teams
Jialin Zhao	Northland power	IESO - Adelaide
Jo Duque	IESO	Teleconference – MS Teams
Joel Charlebois	AESI-INC	Teleconference – MS Teams
Joshua Acosta	IESO	Teleconference – MS Teams
Josstina Beshay	IESO	Teleconference – MS Teams
Keven Van Velzen	BBA	Teleconference – MS Teams
Kevin Samuel	FPL	Teleconference – MS Teams
Kia Barkhordari	Hydro One	Teleconference – MS Teams
Lidija Efremova	Hydro One	Teleconference – MS Teams
Mark Townsend	Hydro One	Teleconference – MS Teams
Monica Adam	IESO	Teleconference – MS Teams
Nicola Presutti	IESO	Teleconference – MS Teams
Oshara Narangoda	Hydro One	Teleconference – MS Teams
Paul Barrette	NAES Canada	Teleconference – MS Teams
Pirouz Honarmand	IESO	IESO - Adelaide
Prithvi (Shawn) Nandy	Transalta	Teleconference – MS Teams
Kurtis Chong	IESO	IESO - Adelaide

Ranime Cheikh-Salem	Boralex	Teleconference – MS Teams
Sarraa Garada	IESO	Teleconference – MS Teams
Scott Berry	IESO	IESO - Adelaide
Steve Shute	Bruce Power	Teleconference – MS Teams
Steven Pichette	NAES Canada	Teleconference – MS Teams
Tabasum Bandey	Bruce Power	Teleconference – MS Teams
Tobi Ajayi	OPG	Teleconference – MS Teams
Viknesh Venkatesan	OPG	Teleconference – MS Teams
Wagner Ciarelli	Hydro One	IESO - Adelaide

Agenda Item 1: Welcome Remarks

Pirouz Honarmand chaired and opened the 67th RSSC meeting at 9:30 a.m. and welcomed participants attending both in-person and virtually. A round of introductions was conducted. As part of the safety moment, Pirouz highlighted seasonal thaw conditions and the risks associated with black ice forming on walkways and parking areas. Participants were reminded to exercise caution and remain mindful of slip hazards.

Agenda Item 2: Administrative Items

The meeting agenda was presented, and no additional items were proposed. A motion to approve the agenda was moved and seconded, and the agenda was adopted as presented.

The minutes of the previous meeting were not reviewed in detail, as they had been circulated in advance. No corrections were identified, and a motion to approve the minutes was carried.

Agenda Item 3: CIP standards Development Update

Refer to the meeting materials package for details.

Dan Kathir delivered the CIP standards update and referred participants to the meeting materials package for additional detail. He highlighted the upcoming enforcement of CIP-003-9 on July 1, 2026, including enhancements related to Vendor Electronic Remote Access (VERA) controls for Low Impact BES Cyber Systems.

During the discussion, Pirouz Honarmand asked for clarification on the distinction between Low, Medium, and High Impact BES Cyber Systems and how entities should determine classification. Dan Kathir responded that classification criteria are defined under CIP-002 and remain the responsibility of each entity, with reliability coordinators providing input where applicable.

Dan also provided an overview of CIP-015-1 on Internal Network Security Monitoring. During this portion, Kurtis Chong asked how entities should define baseline network activity and whether thresholds or tolerances are expected to trigger anomaly detection. Dan Kathir clarified that the

standard does not prescribe a specific definition of anomalous activity and that entities are expected to establish baselines and thresholds appropriate to their environment.

Dan further reviewed CIP-012-2 requirements related to Control Center communications and provided updates on emerging cloud and virtualization initiatives.

Agenda Item 4: MACD Update

Monica Adam delivered the MACD update and provided an overview of the 2026 Compliance Monitoring Program, including O&P and CIP self-certifications issued in February and due at the end of March, with potential additional activities later in the year.

During the discussion, Aditiya Menon asked whether planned FAC-008 and PRC-005 site walkdowns would be tied to self-certification activities. Monica Adam clarified that walkdowns may be conducted for selected participants that received self-certifications and are subject to approval.

Aditiya Menon also asked about the relative scope of audits compared to self-certifications. Monica responded that audits typically cover a broader set of requirements, while self-certifications are more targeted.

Pirouz Honarmand asked about audit frequency and timing. Monica indicated that CIP audits generally occur on a three-year cycle and O&P audits on a six-year cycle.

Agenda Item 5: Emergency Preparedness Update

Jo Duque provided the following updates on behalf of Saad Ansari from IESO Emergency Preparedness:

Since the RSSC Q4 meeting held on November 12, 2025, the Ontario Power System Restoration Plan (OPSRP) has undergone two revisions and is now issued as PLN-927 (formerly Market Manual 7.8). Market Manual 7.8 remains posted on the IESO public website for prospective restoration participants and will be renamed and condensed to include only information relevant to that audience.

- PLN-927 v1.0 was issued effective January 16, 2026 as part of the annual review. This update included administrative revisions, removal of the requirement to verbally report to the IESO the test details identified in the testing requirements section, and the addition of a footnote clarifying that end-of-line voltage verification is not required for lines less than 1 km in length.
- PLN-927 v2.0 was issued February 28, 2026 (current version). This update reflects the removal of blackstart capability at West Windsor Power, removal of Restoration Path SW4, and minor revisions to Restoration Path SW1 and the Basic Minimum Power System (BMPS). Updates to the plan are captured in the Table of Changes within PLN-927. There were no changes to restoration participant roles and responsibilities. Advance copies of updated versions continue to be shared with emergency preparedness plan (EPP) role contacts of restoration participant organizations.

A question was raised regarding whether the removal of the blackstart resource and associated modifications to cranking paths SW4 and SW1 resulted in any changes to the Key Facilities List, including additions or removals of stations, and whether there is any resulting impact to Hydro One. The IESO advised that at this time there is no indication of changes to the Key Facilities List. Should any impacts be identified, market participants would be engaged in a timely manner.

The schedule of Ontario Power System Restoration Workshops being offered in 2026 was finalized and shared via EPP role contacts of restoration participant organizations. The IESO is offering five (5) in-person workshops in 2026. The first workshop was completed on March 11 in Kingston. An overview of the session was provided, noting that the agenda included presentations on key concepts of the OPSRP as well as tabletop exercises to reinforce understanding. Remaining workshops will take place in Niagara (May 21), Collingwood (June 11), Thunder Bay (October 7), and Ajax (November 11). Registration is open for all remaining workshops. There is no cost to attend. RSSC member organizations were invited to reach out should they wish to attend or require additional information.

Agenda Item 6: O&P Standards Development Update

[Refer to the meeting materials package for details.](#)

Pirouz Honarmand delivered the O&P Standards Development update and referred participants to the meeting materials package for further details. He began by highlighting recent FERC Order 901 Milestone 3 approvals, including MOD-026-2, MOD-033-3, MOD-032-2, IRO-010-6, and TOP-003-8, which introduce enhanced requirements for system modeling, validation, and data exchange.

Pirouz also provided updates on ongoing standards development initiatives, including Planning Energy Assurance (Project 2024-02), as well as updates on EMT Modeling project (Project 2022-04) and revisions to EOP-004 for inverter-based resource disturbance reporting.

Additional updates included ongoing work under FERC Order 901 milestones, integration of inverter-based and distributed energy resources into planning and operations, and Canadian-specific revisions to EOP-012-3 addressing extreme cold weather preparedness. Pirouz also noted updates related to NPCC standards and directories, as well as the implementation of Category 2 GO/GOP definitions effective May 15, 2026.

During the discussion, Aditiya Menon asked whether updates to EOP-004 would result in changes to reporting processes for inverter-based resources. Pirouz Honarmand responded that implementation considerations are under review and that any changes will be communicated as the standard progresses.

Agenda Items 7: NERC Standards Implementation Roadmap

Refer to the details in the meeting materials package.

Sarraa Garada presented the Standards Implementation Roadmap and reviewed key enforcement dates and implementation milestones. Participants were reminded to consult implementation plans available on the IESO website for detailed requirements.

Constantin Chitescu asked whether the IESO milestone tracking tools provide a complete view of requirements. Sarraa Garada explained that the tools consolidate high-level information, while detailed implementation plans should be referenced for full requirements. Pirouz Honarmand added that participants should rely on the most recently updated materials when reviewing compliance obligations.

Agenda Items 8: NERC Lessons Learned and NERC Alerts

Refer to the details in the meeting materials package.

Due to time constraints, updates under Agenda Item 8 were not formally presented. Attendees were advised to refer to the meeting materials package for details.

Agenda Item 9: NERC Regional Standard PRC-006-NPCC-3

Constantin Chitescu delivered a presentation on the proposed revisions to PRC-006-NPCC-3. He provided an overview of the standard's current status, noting that it is in the final ballot stage, and highlighted key changes under consideration.

Constantin explained that the proposed revisions include the removal of the upper limit for individual UFLS load shedding stages, as the existing stage requirements already effectively limit total shedding. He noted that the previous limit could create practical challenges for larger systems and may require frequent updates due to changing load configurations. The revisions also introduce explicit timing tolerances, including ± 50 milliseconds for early stages and ± 300 milliseconds for later stages, to better reflect real-world performance of protection systems.

He further noted updates to definitions and requirements to clarify how load shedding performance aligns with planning assumptions and system behavior. Additional changes include recognition of protective functions beyond traditional relays, ensuring that all relevant protection components are captured within the standard scope.

Constantin also briefly discussed future considerations, including the potential impact of large loads and inverter-based resources on UFLS program performance, noting that these may be addressed through future standards development initiatives.

Agenda Item 10: Canadian Variance of EOP-012-03

Constantin Chitescu and Abbas Munir presented an overview of the Canadian variance for EOP-012-3, addressing extreme cold weather preparedness, and referred participants to the meeting materials for additional detail.

The presenters explained that the variance is being developed to reflect Canadian operating conditions, which differ significantly from those in the United States. They noted that Canadian

facilities are designed and operated to withstand prolonged and more severe cold weather conditions, and that the existing standard may not adequately reflect these realities.

The proposed approach focuses on aligning requirements with provincial regulatory frameworks and existing operational practices, while avoiding unnecessary compliance burden. Emphasis is placed on adopting a performance-based approach, rather than prescriptive requirements, and ensuring that only events directly related to extreme cold weather are captured and assessed.

The presenters highlighted that the initiative has broad participation across Canadian jurisdictions and continues to progress through development and review stages.

Agenda Item 9: Closing Remarks

The Chair invited final questions; none were raised. Participants were thanked for their participation.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:30 p.m.

Action Items at Completion of 2026 RSSC Q1 Meeting

ID	Date	Assignee	Action	Status	Comments