

Summary of Proposed Reliability Standards: EOP-012-3

Proposed Reliability Standard: EOP-012-3 – Extreme Cold Weather Preparedness and Operations

Details of Standard(s) Development

Reliability Standards Authority: NERC

Standard(s)	EOP-012-3 – Extreme Cold Weather Preparedness and Operations¹
Purpose	To address the effects of operating in extreme cold weather by ensuring each Generator Owner has developed and implemented plan(s) to mitigate the reliability impacts of extreme cold weather on its applicable generating units.
Change Type:	FERC DIRECTIVE
Affected Functional Entities:	- Generator Owner (GO) - Generator Operator (GOP)
Ballot Results:	The NERC Board of Trustees approved the proposed Reliability Standard on April 4, 2025, under the longstanding special rule for standards addressing regulatory directives in Section 321.5 of the NERC Rules of Procedure.
Ontario Participant Support:	Please see above.

¹ Please note that on April 4, 2025, EOP-012-3 received NERC Board of Trustees approval under a longstanding special rule for standards addressing regulatory directives in Section 321.5 of the NERC Rules of Procedure. However, the EOP-012-3 standard did not achieve the necessary votes for approval by the ballot body and will therefore not come into effect in Ontario as per the Market Rules. A new version of this standard that will include a Canadian variance is under development and will replace EOP-012-2 which will remain in effect in Ontario until then.

Standards Development Milestones

Date	Action
April 04, 2025	Adopted by NERC Board of Trustees
April 10, 2025	NERC Petition for Approval
November 05, 2025	IESO Posting Date
March 05, 2026	End of OEB Review Period

Summary

The proposed Reliability Standard EOP-012-3 enhances EOP-012-2 by introducing more specific and enforceable requirements for Generator Owners (GOs) to improve reliability during extreme cold weather. Key improvements include:

- Providing clear, objective, and detailed criteria for determining the limited circumstances under which a Generator Owner may declare Generator Cold Weather Constraints that prevent implementing specific corrective actions for freeze protection.
- Requiring timely submission of Generator Cold Weather Constraint declarations to the Compliance Enforcement Authority for validation.
- Mandating more frequent reviews of validated Generator Cold Weather Constraints—at least once every 36 calendar months instead of every five years—to ensure consideration of new technologies and re-evaluation of circumstances.
- Shortening deadlines for implementing Corrective Action Plans following Generator Cold Weather Reliability Events, enabling quicker resolution of known freezing issues.
- Requiring pre-approval from the Compliance Enforcement Authority for any extension of Corrective Action Plan deadlines beyond the standard maximum timeframe.
- Reinforcing the requirement for Generator Owners to update cold weather operating limitations while a Corrective Action Plan is pending.
- Mandating cold weather capability for new Bulk Electric System generating units entering commercial operation on or after October 1, 2027, unless a validated Generator Cold Weather Constraint applies.
- Clarifying Corrective Action Plan timeline applicability, addressing issues identified by the Commission in its June 2024 Order.

Other Salient Information

Stakeholder Consultation

NERC Reliability Standards Development Procedure

- NERC develops Reliability Standards in accordance with Section 300 (Reliability Standards Development) of its Rules of Procedure and the NERC Standard Processes Manual;
- NERC's rules provide for reasonable notice and opportunity for public comment, due process, openness, and a balance of interests in developing Reliability Standards;
- The development process is open to any person or entity with a legitimate interest in the reliability of the Bulk Power System. NERC considers the comments of all stakeholders;
- Stakeholders must approve, and the NERC Board of Trustees must adopt, a new or revised Reliability Standard before NERC submits the Reliability Standard to FERC for approval;
- NERC provided public notices for comments and balloting as follows:
 - Standard Authorization Request approved: July 17, 2024
 - SAR posted for comment: July 18, 2024 – August 16, 2024
 - 20-day formal comment period with initial ballot: October 17, 2024 – November 5, 2024
 - 18-day formal comment period with additional ballot: December 3, 2024 – December 20, 2024
 - 45-day comment period: January 27, 2025 – March 12, 2025
 - Board adoption: April 4, 2025

IESO Reliability Standards Standing Committee

- The purpose of the Reliability Standards Standing Committee (RSSC) is to assist market participants to develop a more comprehensive understanding of their reliability obligations by:
 - Notifying participants of reliability-related information on new and developing reliability standards;
 - Providing a forum to discuss and develop consensus comments on new and developing reliability standards; and
 - Engaging participants in the standard development process of NERC and NPCC.
- The majority of stakeholder engagement takes place by email communications and is open to any stakeholder wishing to join
- The IESO presented the proposed changes at the following RSSC meetings:
 - March 19, 2025