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##### Electric Reliability Council of Texas

**Voltage Reduction Task Force**

**January 10, 2013**

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**Voltage Reduction Task Force**

The Voltage Reduction Task Force (VRTF) is a task force reporting to the Reliability and Operations Subcommittee (ROS).

**Background**

The ERCOT Energy Emergency Alert (EEA) procedure currently provides for **distribution system** voltage reduction at level 2, ERCOT Protocol Section 6.5.9.4.2. Current control system technologies, combined with end-of-feeder monitoring through the Advanced Metering Systems (AMS) may allow for more sophisticated approaches to implement voltage reduction. Expanding voltage reduction and increasing its effectiveness can act as a final backstop prior to shedding firm load while staying within the distribution tariff’s voltage limits. Used in this manner, voltage reduction could provide ERCOT additional operational margin prior to firm load shed. Used in this manner, voltage reduction should not alter the scarcity pricing during EEA situations.

**Purpose & Scope**

The purpose of the VRTF is to research the latest distribution system voltage reduction (VR) technologies that utilize advanced meters. These new meters can provide real-time feedback on actual customer voltage levels, thus providing a more accurate way to perform VR than past VR programs. The VRTF’s scope of work includes:

* developing testing methods and coordinating testing across ERCOT to validate the effectiveness of voltage reduction in multiple areas;
* analyzing the findings of the test and comparing them to industry experience;
* providing control system and operational options with the relative costs and benefits of the different options;
* estimating the potential seasonal MW reduction that ERCOT could recognize based on the different operational options;
* preparing a report for ROS.

**Membership**

VRTF membership consists of representatives from Transmission and/or Distribution Service Providers (TDSPs), Qualified Scheduling Entities (QSEs), Resource Entities, and ERCOT.

**Chair and Vice-Chair**

The Chair and Vice-Chair positions shall be selected by the VRTF to a term not to exceed 12 months, on a one year, rolling basis.

The Chair shall represent the VTF, should a report to any official entity become necessary. The Vice-Chair shall act as Chair in the absence of the Chair.

**Meetings**

The VRTF shall meet as often as necessary to perform their duties and functions.

All VRTF meetings shall be called by the Chair and/or Vice-Chair and all such meeting notices shall be sent, and posted to the ERCOT website at least one week prior to the meeting.

The Chair shall preside at all meetings and is responsible for preparation of agendas for such meetings which will be posted to the ERCOT website in advance of the meeting. In the absence of the Chair and the Vice-Chair, the group shall select another VRTF member to preside at the meeting. The Chair, or the presiding member, shall be guided by input from the membership in the conduct of the meetings.

Notes of VRTF meetings shall be recorded and distributed, along with other communications to all members of the VRTF. Additionally, such information will be posted on the ERCOT website as authorized by the VRTF and author of document. ERCOT shall maintain a list serve for distribution of VRTF notices and documents.

**Amendment**

These Procedures may be amended upon motion by any member of the VRTF and approval of that motion by the VRTF and ROS, provided such amendment may not be in conflict with the ERCOT Bylaws, Board Procedures, Board Resolutions, Protocols, Operating Guides or NERC Reliability Standards.