

Status **Active** PolicyStat ID **16515801**

Process for Obtaining an Exemption from a WECC Regional Criterion Requirement

1. Introduction and Background

The purpose of this policy is to set forth a process for obtaining an exemption from one or more Requirements of a Regional Criterion.

This process applies only to Regional Criterion Requirements not referenced in an approved Reliability Standard. Exemptions to a Requirement in a Regional Criterion referenced in an approved Reliability Standard shall not be granted.

Where the Requirements for a Regional Criterion have been developed through the Reliability Standards Development Procedures, or its successor, there is a rebuttable presumption that each Requirement should continue to be applicable to each functional entity specified in the Regional Criterion. If an entity to which the Requirement applies seeks an exemption from a Requirement, the requesting entity carries the burden of proof as to the need for that exemption.

An exemption may be sought either because of a conflict of law or as necessary to promote the reliability of the Western Interconnection.

2. Definitions

Term or Acronym	Definition
Regional Criteria	Shall have the definition set forth in the NERC Rules of Procedure, as may be amended from time to time.

3. Process for Obtaining an Exemption

3.1. Step 1- Standard Authorization Request (SAR) Submittal and Validation

- The exemption process shall be initiated by the filing of a SAR. The SAR shall include a description as to why the exemption is needed. SAR submittal, completion, and validation shall be the same as that specified in the Reliability Standard Development Procedures. The requester may modify the scope of their request for an exemption at any time.
- If the need for exemption is deemed by the requester to be temporary in nature, the requester shall provide with the SAR a plan and schedule for achieving adherence.

3.2. Step 2 - Recommendation

- The WECC Standards Committee (WSC) shall convene a Drafting Team to address the request for exemption. The WSC will either directly assign a Drafting Team or solicit team members from the industry. To the extent possible, members of the original Drafting Team that drafted the Requirement(s) in question should be assigned. The WSC shall also consider assigning to the Drafting Team persons from entities that are neighboring or adjacent to the entity seeking the exemption.
- If the request for exemption relates to a conflict of law or other regulatory document or directive, other than a NERC Reliability Standard, the Drafting Team shall include at least one WECC attorney.
- No later than 60 days following the WSC approval of the Drafting Team roster, the Drafting Team shall meet to begin drafting its recommendation.
- No later than 60 days following the first Drafting Team meeting, the Drafting Team shall provide its recommendation to the WSC, unless otherwise extended by the WSC. The WSC may remand the recommendation for further development.

3.3. Step 3 - WSC Approves or Rejects Drafting Team Recommendation

- Subject to notice as required under the WSC Charter, the WSC shall approve or reject the Drafting Team's recommendation/the request for exemption at its next regularly scheduled meeting. The WSC's decision and rationale supporting that decision shall be published using the Standards Email List.
- The decision of the WSC with regards to the recommendation cannot be appealed. The WSC's decision does not prohibit the filing of an iterative SAR based on new or additional information.

4. Duration

An exemption shall not be effective until approved by the WSC. All exemptions shall remain in place until the reason for the exemption no longer exists, as determined by the WSC. At any time after an exemption

is granted, Members or the Director of Standards may challenge whether an existing exemption shall be maintained. The challenge procedure shall be the same as the procedure for requesting an exemption.

This policy supersedes and revokes all past policies and practices, oral and written representations, or statements regarding terms and conditions of employment concerning the subject matter covered herein. WECC reserves the right to add to, delete, change, or revoke this policy at any time, with or without notice. This policy does not create a contract between WECC and any employee or contractor, nor does it create any entitlement to employment or any benefit provided by WECC to its employees or contractors.

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