

NEW YORK STATE RELIABILITY COUNCIL
MEETING 225: January 11, 2018

Summary of the NERC 2017 Long-Term Reliability Assessment

The next NPCC Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for January 31, 2018. The following is a summary of the NERC 2017 Long-Term Reliability Assessment.

a. Summary

The electricity sector is undergoing significant and rapid change that presents new challenges for reliability. With appropriate insight, careful planning, and continued support, the electricity sector will continue to navigate the associated challenges in a manner that maintains reliability and resilience. As NERC has identified in recent assessments, retirements of conventional generation and the rapid addition of variable resources (e.g., wind and solar) are altering the operating characteristics of the grid. A significant influx of natural gas generation raises unique considerations regarding risks related to fuel assurance. While related risks and corresponding mitigations are unique to each area, industry stakeholders and policymakers should continue to respond with policies and plans to address fuel availability.

b. Key Findings

- i. Recent retirement announcements in Texas RE-ERCOT and the canceled nuclear plant expansion in SERC-E result in projected margin shortfalls for both assessment areas.
- ii. Amid slower demand growth, conventional generation continues to retire with rapid additions of natural gas, wind, and solar resources.
- iii. The changing composition of the North American resource mix calls for more robust planning approaches to ensure adequate essential reliability services and fuel assurance.
- iv. A total of 6,200 miles of transmission additions are planned to maintain reliability and meet policy objectives.

c. Recommendations

- i. Policy Makers and Regulators
 - i. Support essential reliability services
 - ii. Recognize time needed to maintain reliability
 - iii. Consider industry study recommendations when reviewing infrastructure requirements
 - iv. Focus on reliability and resilience attributes to limit exposure to risk
- ii. Industry
 - i. Support technologies that contribute to essential reliability services
 - ii. Integrate DERs with increased visibility
 - iii. Report on expected reliability concerns
- iii. NERC
 - i. Conduct comprehensive evaluation of Reliability Standards
 - ii. Monitor reserve margin short falls