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		Revision Number: 3 Revision Date: December 4, 2009
Contact: ISO Director, Operations		Approved by: M/LCC Heads
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Master/Local Control Center Procedure No. 13

(M/LCC 13)


Communications Between the ISO and Local Control Centers

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1. References

NERC Reliability Standard COM-001 - Telecommunications

NERC Reliability Standard COM-002 - Communications and Coordination

SOP-RTMKTS.0120.0010 - Implement Operations During Abnormal Conditions

SOP-RTMKTS.0120.0020 Implement Capacity Remedial Action

SOP-RTMKTS.0125.0020 - Communicate With Internal and External Parties

Master/Local Control Center Procedure No.1 - Nuclear Plant Transmission Operations (M/LCC 1)

Master Local Control Center Procedure No. 2 - Abnormal Conditions Alert (M/LCC 2)

Master/Local Control Center Procedure No. 4 - Emergency Load Reduction Plans for Mitigating IROL Violations (M/LCC 4)

Master/Local Control Center Procedure No. 12 - Coordination of Responsibilities to Comply With NERC Standards for Transmission Operations (M/LCC 12)

ISO New England Operating Procedure No. 4 - Action During a Capacity Deficiency (OP-4)

ISO New England Operating Procedure No. 7 - Action in an Emergency (OP-7)


ISO New England Operating Procedure No. 10 - Emergency Incident and Disturbance Notifications (OP-10)

ISO New England Operating Procedure No. 20 - Analysis and Reporting of Power System Emergencies (OP-20)

2. Background


The intent of Master/Local Control Center No. 13 - Communications Between ISO and the Local Control Centers (M/LCC 13) is to establish common protocols for communication between ISO New England (ISO) and each of the Local Control Centers (LCCs) to ensure effective communications by operating personnel. NERC Reliability Standard COM-001 - Telecommunications and NERC Reliability Standard COM-002 - Communications and Coordination set requirements for effective communications.

ISO and each LCCs have internal communication procedures already established (e.g., for ISO, SOP-RTMKTS.0125.0020 - Communicate With Internal and External Parties), however M/LCC 13 is intended to supplement those procedures and provide specific guidance for communications between the ISO and LCC System Operators.

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3. Responsibilities

1. ISO and the LCCs are responsible for precise, accurate, and professional communications involving the collaborative efforts to meet Transmission Operator requirements as set forth in Master/Local Control Center Procedure No. 12 - Coordination of Responsibilities to Comply With NERC Standards for Transmission Operations (M/LCC 12).
2. ISO and the LCCs are responsible for gathering and providing complete and accurate information during operational communications.
3. ISO and the LCCs are responsible for performing 3-part communications to further the goal of maintaining operating directives that are performed accurately and efficiently.

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4. Procedure

4.1 Basic Protocol for All Operational Communications


NOTE

NERC Reliability Standard COM-001 - Telecommunications requires that English be spoken for all communications unless agreed to otherwise.

The Basic Protocols referred to in this section apply to communications between ISO, the LCCs and external recipients of directives for system operations.

1. Verbal communication is extremely important and the primary method by which the ISO and LCC System Operators provide and receive information. The ISO and LCC System Operators verbal communications shall make use of the following standard practices:
 - A. Communications should always be precise, accurate, and professional.
 - B. Be proactive rather than reactive in communications. Doing so will ensure up to date information for both the LCC and ISO.
 - C. Whenever possible, limit all unnecessary distractions that could hamper good communications.
 - D. Communication must be free of ambiguity. Avoid the use of slang terms and words that have a similar sound. Use correct nomenclature for any devices mentioned.
 - E. Be direct. Use simple, straightforward language. Avoid technical terms and acronyms. Be aware that technical terms, jargon, and acronyms may be confusing and meaningless to people with backgrounds and experience different from your own.
 - F. Make every effort to ensure communications and intentions are understood completely. Listen for cues from listeners to gauge their interest in your comments. If they sound confused or distracted, stop speaking and make sure the conversation is on track. If there is a concern of misunderstanding or confusion, stop the evolution and resolve the concerns.
 - G. Communications with team members should be concise and prioritized such that the meaning of urgent or high consequence data is conveyed with minimum distraction and delay.
 - H. When communicating, identify yourself, including your name and location.
 - I. If a request for information is received, obtain the information and promptly communicate it back to the party or provide them with a knowledgeable contact.


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2. After an exchange of general operational information, the discussion should be summarized and acknowledged by the recipient by repeating back enough information in summary to ensure that the sender knows his message was received correctly.
3. All operating instructions which require a discrete action of the receiving party shall be given as a directive using 3-part communications, described as:
 - A. Issue directives in a clear, concise, and definitive manner.
 - B. Ensure the recipient of the directive repeats the information back correctly.
 - C. Acknowledge the response as correct or repeat the original statement to resolve any misunderstandings.

NOTE

During contingency situations, communications between the ISO Control Room and the LCCs should be performed under the guidance set forth in Attachment A - Contingency Actions and Communications Protocol.


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4.2 ISO and LCC Communications Involving Normal Operations

NOTE

Routine Generator/DARD dispatches by the ISO are not communicated to LCCs verbally and do not require any special communications protocols.

1. For each of the following conditions, the ISO Generation Operator or ISO Loader Operator shall immediately make specified notification(s) :
 - If a Generator greater than 400 MW trips, notify all LCCs
 - If a Generator greater than 100 MW trips and is in close proximity to a neighboring LCC, notify respective LCCs involved
 - If significant tie line changes occur, notify affected LCCs
 - If significant Generator/DARD Redeclarations occur, notify affected LCCs
 - If a Generator Automatic Voltage Regulator (AVR) or Power System Stabilizer (PSS) device is inoperable, notify respective LCCs involved
2. The ISO Senior System Operator shall communicate Time Error Correction (TEC) to all LCCs.
3. The ISO Security System Operator shall communicate system security issues that suddenly emerge to all affected LCCs.
4. The ISO Security System Operator shall maintain close communication with the LCCs in tight operating reserve situations.
5. If ISO is operating close to any security operating limit or if there is any security doubt or concern, the Security Operator shall notify the LCCs of any status changes in Generators/DARDs that may affect the security operating limit in question.
6. The ISO System Operator shall provide agreement to the LCC prior to changing the state of a Type I or Type II SPS.
7. The LCC shall notify and obtain agreement from the ISO System Operator prior to changing the state of a Type I or Type II SPS.
8. The LCC shall communicate system security issues, transmission outages, and voltage/reactive control problems to the ISO System Operators, as they become aware of them.

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4.3 ISO and LCC Emergency Communications

NOTE

ISO New England Operating Procedure No. 4 - Action During a Capacity Deficiency (OP-4) provides the specific messages that are to be used when communicating OP-4 Steps.

ISO New England Operating Procedure No. 7 - Action in an Emergency (OP-7) provides the specific messages to be used when communicating OP-7 Steps.


Master/Local Control Center Procedure #1 - Nuclear Plant Transmission Operations (M/LCC 1) and the applicable following M/LCC 1 attachment(s) provides specific guidance for communications between ISO, LCCs and nuclear power stations that are required to keep the nuclear power stations operating within their design limits:

- Attachment A - Pilgrim Nuclear Station
- Attachment B - Vermont Yankee Nuclear Station
- Attachment C - Millstone Nuclear Power Station
- Attachment D - Seabrook Nuclear Power Station


Master/Local Control Center Procedure No. 4 - Emergency Load Reduction Plans For Mitigating IROL Violations (M/LCC 4) provides specific messages to be used when communicating verbal instructions for load shed to alleviate an IROL contingency to the LCC.

1. If ISO or any LCC evacuates to their Backup Control Center (BCC), ISO shall ensure that all LCCs and adjoining Control Areas / Balancing Authorities (CAs/BAs) are made aware of the situation.
2. When ISO declares M/LCC 2, ISO shall immediately perform M/LCC 2 notifications to the LCCs as directed in SOP - RTMKTS.0120.0010 - Implement Operations During Abnormal Conditions.
3. When ISO declares OP-4, ISO shall immediately perform OP-4 notifications to the LCCs as directed in SOP - RTMKTS.0120.0020 - Implement Capacity Remedial Action.
4. When ISO declares OP-7, ISO shall immediately notify the LCCs.
5. If load shedding is required due to an IROL violation referenced in M/LCC 4, ISO shall immediately notify the LCCs.
6. If ISO and any LCC are unable to monitor system reliability (i.e., ISO EMS and the LCC EMS systems are not operable at the same time), the ISO Senior System Operator shall notify the affected nuclear Generators to take all appropriate needed action.
7. When any LCC declares M/LCC 2 or OP-4, ISO shall immediately notify the remaining LCCs.

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8. If ISO and any LCC are required to perform emergency reporting / communications, they shall refer to OP-10 and OP-20 as appropriate.
9. When ISO and LCC emergency reporting / communications are required:
 - A. ISO shall perform the applicable actions of SOP-RTMKTS.0125.0020 - Communicate with Internal and External Parties.
 - B. Each LCC shall perform actions prescribed in their internal procedures for emergency reporting / communications.

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5. Revision History

Rev. No.	Date	Reason
0	09/14/07	Original Procedure
1	01/15/09	Added NOTE prior to Step 4.2; Added new Attachment A
2	03/12/09	Biennial review completed; Header Review Due Date: changed from calendar date to 24 months from the Effective Date;; Added NERC Reliability Standard COM-001 – Telecommunication to References Section, Background Section and Section 4.1 NOTE; minor grammar changes were made in Step 4.1.D Global used Generator/DARD in place of Resource, LCC in place of Local Control Center, ISO in place of the ISO. Moved NOTE from the end to the beginning of Step 4.3; Editorial and grammatical changes to steps 4.3.2, 4.3.3, 4.3.4, 4.3.6, 4.3.7, 4.3.8, & 4.3.9;
3	12/04/09	Global: minor editorial and grammatical changes Section 4.1.1 1 st Added M/LCC 1 to References section; NOTE, Step 4.1.1.F & I, Step 4.1.3, Section final NOTE, Step 4.2.1 & bullet, Section 2 & 3 provided full title for referenced procedures, defined ISO as acronym; After step 4.2.5 added 2 new steps (4.2.6 & 4.2.7) Grammar changes to: former Step 4.2.6, Step 4.3.1, Step 4.3.2, 3, 4, 5, 6 Replaced “as soon as possible” with “immediately” in Steps 4.3.2, 3, 4, 5 & 6; Step 4.3 modified former NOTES items and added new NOTES items for M/LCC 1 and M/LCC 4; Reversed the order of 4.3.6 & 4.3.7 Grammar & format changes (sub-steps) to Step 4.3.7, 4.3.8, & 4.3.9

6. Attachments

Attachment A – Contingency Actions and Communications Protocol

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