
Project QC-2025-04

BAL-007-1 – Near-term Energy Reliability Assessments and TOP-003-7 – Transmission Operator and Balancing Authority Data and Information Specification and Collection

1. OVERVIEW OF THE STANDARDS

1.1. Applicability

The following table lists the functional entities to which BAL-007-1 and TOP-003-7, the Reliability Standards proposed for adoption, apply.

Standard	Functions
BAL-007-1	<i>Balancing Authority (BA)</i>
TOP-003-7	<i>Transmission Operator (TOP)</i> <i>Balancing Authority (BA)</i> <i>Generator Owner (GO)</i> <i>Generator Operator (GOP)</i> <i>Transmission Owner (TO)</i> <i>Distribution Provider (DP)</i>

The Reliability Coordinator in Quebec (hereinafter, the “Coordinator”) emphasizes that there is no change between the applicability of the TOP-003-7 standard and its previous version.

1.2. Purpose of the standards

This section describes the title and purpose of each standard covered by this request.

- **BAL-007-1 – Near-term Energy Reliability Assessments:** To assess, report, and plan to address forecasted Energy Emergencies in the near-term time horizon.
- **TOP-003-7 –Transmission Operator and Balancing Authority Data and Information Specification and Collection:** To ensure that each Transmission Operator and Balancing Authority has the data and information it needs to plan, monitor, and assess the operation of its Transmission Operator Area or Balancing Authority Area.

1.3. Regulatory context

i. NERC Project 2022-03 – Energy Assurance with Energy-Constrained Resources

Pursuant to section 85.6 of the Act Respecting the Régie de l’énergie (hereinafter, the “Act”), the Coordinator submits for adoption by the Régie de l’énergie (hereinafter, the “Régie”) Reliability Standards BAL-007-1 and TOP-003-7 as set forth by the North American Electric Reliability Corporation

(hereinafter, “NERC”) in Project 2022-03¹ (Energy Assurance with Energy-Constrained Resources). This is the only submission for this project. Reliability Standards BAL-007-1 and TOP-003-7 were developed to address specific issues identified in the Ensuring Energy Adequacy with Energy-Constrained Resources Whitepaper² by the NERC Energy Reliability Assessment Task Force. These specific issues are further explained in section 2 of this document.

Reliability Standards BAL-007-1 and TOP-003-7 were adopted by the NERC Board of Trustees on December 10, 2024 and approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on February 26, 2025, through Letter Order No. RD25-5-000³.

ii. Affected Reliability Standard in Québec

This is the first regulatory filing with the Régie to approve Reliability Standard BAL-007-1.

The TOP-003-7 Reliability Standard replaces Standard TOP-003-6.1, adopted by the Régie in Decision D-2024-096⁴. Standard TOP-003-6.1 comes into effect in Québec on April 1st, 2026.

1.4. Specific provisions for Québec

The Coordinator proposes the following specific provisions, carried over from the preceding version of the Reliability Standard TOP-003-6.1 already adopted by the Régie in Decision D-2024-096, while respecting paragraph 285 of decision D-2024-060⁵ in regard to adding this specific provision to the Québec appendix of any future Reliability Standard affected by this specific provision. Consequently, the Coordinator proposes the following specific provision in the “Applicability” section of the TOP-003-7 standard:

“In the application of this standard, all reference to the terms “Bulk Electric System” or BES shall be replaced by the terms “Main Transmission System” or “RTP”, respectively.”

“This standard applies to the facilities of the Main Transmission System (RTP) and, for the requirements R1 and R2, to the facilities designated under this requirement.”

The Coordinator is of the opinion that this specific provision is still applicable to the TOP-003-7, since the scope of application equivalent to the BES for Québec and that is recognized by the Régie is the RTP.

As for the BAL-007-1 Reliability Standard, the Coordinator proposes the following specific provision in the “Applicability” section of the standard.

¹ NERC Project 2022-03, retrieved on July 23, 2025 at <https://www.nerc.com/pa/Stand/Pages/Project2022-03EnergyAssurancewithEnergy-ConstrainedResources.aspx>

² Ensuring Energy Adequacy with Energy Constrained Resources Whitepaper, retrieved on July 23, 2025 at: https://www.nerc.com/comm/RSTC/Documents/Energy_Adequacy_White_Paper.pdf

³ FERC Order Letter No. RD25-5-000, retrieved on July 23, 2025 at https://elibrary.ferc.gov/eLibrary/filelist?accession_num=20250226-3004

⁴ Régie de l'énergie decision D-2024-096, Docket R-4255-2024, retrieved July 23, 2025 at: https://www.regie-energie.qc.ca/fr/participants/dossiers/R-4255-2024/doc/R-4255-2024-A-0013-Dec-Dec-2024_09_13.pdf

⁵ Régie de l'énergie, Docket R-4229-2023, decision D-2024-060, retrieved July 23, 2025 at : https://www.regie-energie.qc.ca/fr/participants/dossiers/R-4229-2023/doc/R-4229-2023-A-0020-Dec-Dec-2024_06_20.pdf

““In the application of this standard, all reference to the terms “Bulk Electric System” or BES shall be replaced by the terms “Main Transmission System” or “RTP”, respectively.”

1.5. Proposed effective dates

The NERC Project 2022-03⁶ Implementation Plan proposes that Reliability Standard BAL-007-1 become effective on the first day of the first calendar quarter that is 24 months after its regulatory approval.

This same implementation plan proposes that the TOP-003-7 Reliability Standard become effective on the first day of the first calendar quarter that is 18 months after its regulatory approval. In the United States, the BAL-007-1 Reliability Standard will come into effect on April 1, 2027 and the TOP-003-7 Reliability Standard will come into effect on October 1, 2026.⁷

The Coordinator considers that NERC’s implementation plan meets the Régie’s requirement that standards come into force on the first day of a calendar quarter⁸ with at least sixty (60)⁹ days between the date of the standard’s adoption and its effective date.

Given the importance of having standardized practices, with effective mandatory standards harmonized with the United States, the Coordinator proposes the same implementation delays in Québec, where the BAL-007-1 standard comes into effect 24 months after its adoption by the Régie and the TOP-003-7 standard comes into effect 18 months after its adoption by the Régie.

1.6. Standard to retire

Reliability Standard TOP-003-6.1 shall be retired as soon as TOP-003-7 takes effect.

1.7. Modifications to the glossary

NERC Project 2022-03 proposes two (2) new definitions associated with the BAL-007-1 and TOP-003-7 Reliability Standards:

Term	Acronym	Definition
Energy Reliability Assessment	ERA	<p>New definition effective 18 months after regulatory approval of the standards in the present filing:</p> <p>Assessment of the resources necessary to reliably supply the Electrical Energy required to serve Demand and to provide Operating Reserves for the Bulk Power System throughout the associated assessment period.</p> <p>(Évaluation de la fiabilité des approvisionnements en énergie)</p>

⁶ NERC Project 2022-03 Implementation Plan, retrieved on July 23, 2025 at https://www.nerc.com/pa/Stand/Project202203EnergyAssurancewithEnergyConstrainedR/2022-03_Final_Ballot_Implementation_Plan_112524.pdf

⁷ Standards subject to a future coming into force on the NERC website, retrieved on July 23, 2025 at <https://www.nerc.com/pa/Stand/Pages/USRelStand.aspx>

⁸ In Decision D-2015-168, the Régie set the effective date of standards as the first day of the calendar quarters following the date of adoption.

⁹ In Decision D-2016-011, the Régie set a minimum of sixty (60) days between the adoption of standards and their effective date.

		Source: Glossary of Terms Used in NERC Reliability Standards
Near-Term Energy Reliability Assessment		<p>New definition effective 18 months after regulatory approval of the standards in the present filing:</p> <p>An Energy Reliability Assessment with an assessment period that begins no later than two days after the operating day and has a minimum duration of five days and a maximum duration of six weeks.</p> <p>(Évaluation de la fiabilité des approvisionnements en énergie à court terme)</p> <p>Source: Glossary of Terms Used in NERC Reliability Standards</p>

The Coordinator proposes that these Glossary modifications come into effect 18 months after the adoption of the Glossary by the Régie.

2. ASSESSMENT OF RELEVANCE

Inconsistent output from variable energy resources, coincident with unassured deliverability of fuel supplies and volatility in load, can result in insufficient amounts of energy available needed to serve electrical Demand, maintain sufficient Operating Reserve, and ensure the reliable operation of the interconnected electrical system. The purpose of the Reliability Standard BAL-007-1 is to identify and minimize the risks of forecasted Energy Emergencies in the operations planning time horizon by analyzing the expected resource mix availability.

The intention behind BAL-007-1 is to provide the BA with the tools necessary to successfully navigate a system that has both variable load and resources. While the BAL-007-1 standard has similarities to other standards, especially TOP-001, TOP-002 and EOP-011, the BAL-007-1 standard addresses reliability risks due to gaps in the existing reliability standards by focusing on different time horizons than current standards and energy risks which were not clearly addressed in the existing standards. In many cases, the language is intentionally similar to language in those requirements but applicable to different time horizons. The BAL-007-1 standard looks at a near-term time horizon which is longer than other operations planning assessment requirements. In terms of addressing energy risks, BAL-007-1 more clearly outlines the assessment requirements to look at energy over an assessment period rather than capacity assessments generally used to comply with current standards.

The BAL-007-1 Reliability Standard can be separated into three (3) basic activities:

- Requirements 1 through 3 require the BA to develop and document an ERA process, scenarios or a method for creating them and Operating Plans.
- Requirement 4 requires that the BA perform the ERA as documented.
- Requirement 5 requires the BA to compare to forecasted Energy Emergency conditions and, if identified, implementing Operating Plans in response to energy reliability risks.

While BAL-007-1 does not require entities to provide necessary data, the modifications to TOP-003 provides the BA with the authority to collect the data necessary to perform Near-Term ERAs by requiring the TOP, GO, GOP, TP and DP to provide the data as per the data and information specification.

Further details on NERC’s rationale regarding these standards can be found in the Technical Rationale¹⁰ for the project 2022-03.

In the United States, this project addresses reliability issues, particularly the supply time of fuels such as natural gas, which is one of the factors that led to the establishment of the time horizon used in the Near-term ERA. The context is different in Quebec because an energy reliability analysis and power balances are carried out over several time horizons, including the horizon defined in the Near-term ERA.

NERC is of opinion that the BAL-007-1 and TOP-003-7 standards are just, reasonable, not unduly discriminatory and are in the public interest. FERC approved the reasons presented by NERC in its Order Letter No. RD-25-5-000¹¹.

In addition, the New Brunswick Energy and Utilities Board adopted BAL-007-1 and TOP-003-7 on July 17, 2025 in project no. ER-003-2025¹². In Ontario, the project was approved by the Ontario Energy Commission¹³.

Considering the information outlined above regarding the BAL-007-1 and TOP-003-7 standards, and considering that these standards were developed by recognized organizations in North America, including in Québec and neighboring jurisdictions, in accordance with the 2009 agreement between the Régie, NERC and NPCC with the authorization of the Québec government¹⁴, the Coordinator is of the opinion that Reliability Standards BAL-007-1 and TOP-003-7 contribute to the reliability of the Québec System and harmonization with neighboring systems.

3. PRELIMINARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

This section provides the Coordinator’s preliminary assessment of the impact on all Québec entities.

Since the energy reliability analysis and power balances that are already being carried out meet the Near-term horizon defined in the ERA, the Coordinator is of the opinion that the impact of the BAL-007-1 and TOP-003-7 standards in Quebec is low and is limited to minor adjustments to the documentation supporting the practices already in place.

The table below shows preliminary assessments of the impact on all Québec entities.

Standard	Impact		
	Implementation	Enforcement	Monitoring
BAL-007-1	Low	Low	Low
TOP-003-7	Low	Low	Low

¹⁰ NERC Project 2022-03 Technical Rationale, retrieved on July 23, 2025 at:

https://www.nerc.com/pa/Stand/Project202203EnergyAssurancewithEnergyConstrainedR/2022-03_Technical_Rationale_112524.pdf

¹¹ FERC Order Letter No. RD25-5-000, retrieved on July 23, 2025 at : https://elibrary.ferc.gov/eLibrary/filelist?accession_num=20250226-3004

¹² New Brunswick Project no. ER-003-2025, retrieved on July 23, 2025 at <https://filemaker.nbeub.ca/fmi/webd/NBEUB%20ToolKit13>

¹³ Ontario Energy Board review process, retrieved on July 23, 2025 at <https://www.ieso.ca/en/Sector-Participants/System-Reliability/OEB-Review-Process>

¹⁴ Agreement entered into pursuant to Decree No. 443-2009 issued on April 8, 2009 (in French only) at https://www.regie-energie.qc.ca/fr/participants/dossiers/R-3996-2016/doc/R-3996-2016-B-0106-Audi-Piece-2018_10_26.pdf

Legend:

Low: Normal industry practice or standard that only requires minor adjustments to existing processes or practices.

Moderate: Change that requires the mobilization of some physical, human or financial resources to implement the proposed standard, enforce it or monitor compliance.

High: Change that requires provision and mobilization of significant physical, human or financial resources to plan and implement the proposed standard, enforce it or monitor compliance.

4. FINAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

This section will be completed upon receipt of the impact assessment forms and at the conclusion of the consultation process prior to filing of the standards with the Régie.