

Summary of Changes to NPCC Regional Reliability Reference Directory #4: Bulk Power System Protection Criteria

Details of Standard(s) Development

Reliability Standards Authority: NPCC

Directory	Directory #4: Bulk Power System Protection Criteria
Purpose	To provide the protection criteria for protection of the Bulk Power System in NPCC Inc. member Areas. It is not a design specification.
Change Type:	Revisions
Affected Functional Entities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Transmission Owners (TOs)• Generator Owners (GOs)• Distribution Providers (DPs)
Ballot Results:	Approved by NPCC voting members
Ontario Participant Support:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• IESO voted Affirmative on approving the revisions
Impact Within Ontario	Not Assessed.

Standard Development Milestones

Date	Action
December 4, 2025	• NPCC Revisions Date
December 23, 2025	• IESO Posting Date
April 22, 2026	• End of OEB Review Period

Summary

The Task Force on System Protection (TFSP) completed a comprehensive review of Directory #4. This review considered the impact of evolving ERO Standards on the Criteria, emerging industry technologies, and recommendations from the Strategic Review of NPCC Criteria.

Key Updates from the Triennial Review:

- Clarification of "in kind" replacement.
- Evaluated the recommendations identified in the NPCC IEEE-2800 whitepaper for incorporation into the criteria.
- Revisions to Requirement 5.12 Environment.
- Revisions to Requirement 5.15 Breaker Failure Protection Criteria (clarification on non-redundant communication channel and teleprotection equipment).
- Revisions to Appendix A. Section 2.5.6 Protection systems installed in IBR facilities.
- Revisions to Appendix A. Section 2.9.3 Annunciation of DC ground faults.
- Revisions to Appendix A. Section 2.12.4 Communication path diversity.

Cost Effectiveness:

In line with the Strategic Review of the NPCC Criteria, the TFSP solicited feedback from the Membership regarding the cost effectiveness and contribution to system resilience of the individual criteria attributes in Directory #4. The results of this evaluation have been documented in the permanent review record.

The revised document may be found at:

<https://www.npcc.org/standards/regional-criteria>