

# Summary of Proposed Reliability Standard: CIP-015-2

Proposed Reliability Standards CIP-015-2 – Cyber Security – Internal Network Security Monitoring

## Details of Standard(s) Development

Reliability Standards Authority: NERC

Standard(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>CIP-015-2 – Cyber Security – Internal Network Security Monitoring</li></ul>
Purpose	CIP-015-2: To improve the probability of detecting anomalous or unauthorized network activity in order to facilitate improved response and recovery from an attack.
Change Type:	FERC DIRECTIVE
Affected Functional Entities:	CIP-015-2: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Balancing Authority (BA)</li><li>Distribution Provider (DP)</li><li>Generator Operator (GOP)</li><li>Generator Owner (GO)</li><li>Reliability Coordinator (RC)</li><li>Transmission Operator (TOP)</li><li>Transmission Owner (TO)</li></ul>
Ballot Results:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>CIP-015-2: 91.94 % Quorum / 87.33 % Approval</li></ul>
Ontario Participant Support:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>CIP-015-2: There were 251 votes cast by NERC registered entities. 2 OEB rate-regulated entities voted (2/251). One was Negative, and one was Abstain.</li></ul>
Impact Within Ontario	Not Assessed.

## Standards Development Milestones<sup>1</sup>

Date	Action
June 17, 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Adopted by NERC Board of Trustees</li></ul>
July 1, 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>NERC Petition for Approval</li></ul>
July 3, 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>IESO Posting Date</li></ul>
October 31, 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>End of OEB Review Period</li></ul>

## Summary

The proposed Reliability Standard CIP-015-2 was developed in response to FERC Order No. 907, which found that a reliability and security gap remained following the approval of CIP-015-1 because the standard did not require implementation of Internal Network Security Monitoring (INSM) for the entire CIP-networked environment. CIP-015-1, which was developed in response to FERC Order No. 887, established requirements for monitoring network traffic within an Electronic Security Perimeter (ESP). In approving CIP-015-1, FERC found that the standard would improve the detection of anomalous, malicious, or unauthorized network activity and assist responsible entities in responding to cyber attacks within the ESP. FERC further determined that improved detection and response to cyber attacks, together with enhanced visibility into east-west communications, would improve the security posture of the electric industry and strengthen the reliability of the Bulk-Power System. CIP-015-2 would extend INSM requirements to include Electronic Access Control or Monitoring Systems (EACMS) and Physical Access Control Systems (PACS) located outside the ESP, thereby addressing the reliability and security gap identified by FERC and expanding monitoring coverage across the broader CIP-networked environment.

## Other Salient Information

### Stakeholder Consultation

#### NERC Reliability Standards Development Procedure

- NERC develops Reliability Standards in accordance with Section 300 (Reliability Standards Development) of its Rules of Procedure and the NERC Standard Processes Manual;
- NERC's rules provide for reasonable notice and opportunity for public comment, due process, openness, and a balance of interests in developing Reliability Standards;
- The development process is open to any person or entity with a legitimate interest in the reliability of the Bulk Power System. NERC considers the comments of all stakeholders;
- Stakeholders must approve, and the NERC Board of Trustees must adopt, a new or revised Reliability Standard before NERC submits the Reliability Standard to FERC for approval;

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<sup>1</sup> The next steps will be the issuance of the FERC Order followed by determination of the [Ontario Enforcement Date](#).

- NERC provided public notices for comments and balloting as follows:
  - Project Initiation: June 26, 2025
  - Standard Authorization Request Posted: July 17 – August 15, 2025
  - First Posting: December 1, 2025 – January 16, 2026
  - Final Ballot: February 24 – March 5, 2026

### **IESO Reliability Standards Standing Committee**

- The purpose of the Reliability Standards Standing Committee (RSSC) is to assist market participants to develop a more comprehensive understanding of their reliability obligations by:
  - Notifying participants of reliability-related information on new and developing reliability standards;
  - Providing a forum to discuss and develop consensus comments on new and developing reliability standards; and
  - Engaging participants in the standard development process of NERC and NPCC.
- The majority of stakeholder engagement takes place by email communications and is open to any stakeholder wishing to join
- The IESO presented the proposed changes at the following RSSC meetings:
  - March 12, 2026