



COVID-19 Responses Extended

August 13, 2020

SAINT PAUL, MINN. Today, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) issued a third coronavirus update describing date extensions for regulatory discretion and onsite compliance activities. Due to the evolving nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, regulatory discretion will continue to be available for COVID-19 potential noncompliance when COVID-19 contributes materially or completely to the root cause of the issue. Regulatory discretion for COVID-19 related issues is now available beginning March 1, 2020, through the end of 2020.

In addition, on-site portions of compliance activities will continue to be postponed at least through the end of 2020, unless there is a need due to a high risk determination (as determined by MRO).

Midwest Reliability Organization (MRO) has also extended its restrictions related to the pandemic. Like many other organizations, MRO staff made a seamless transition to working from home in March due to the pandemic. MRO's Emergency Response Plan—which includes procedures for responding to a pandemic—was implemented immediately, and MRO's Emergency Response Team (ERT) continues to meet regularly to monitor the situation. The health and safety of MRO staff and stakeholders remains the highest priority for the ERT as it contemplates when and how the organization will return to more normal operations.

Given the continued rise in confirmed COVID-19 cases in our communities, along with state and federal guidance, MRO's has extended work from home through December 31, 2020. Employee business travel is also restricted through this same time period.

All MRO in-person events will be held virtually through the end of the year, and MRO's website [meeting calendar](#) is up to date.

This situation is very fluid, and these restrictions will be reassessed as the pandemic evolves.

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Midwest Reliability Organization (MRO) is a non-profit organization dedicated to ensuring the reliability and security of the bulk power system in the central region of North America, including parts of both the United States and Canada. MRO is one of six regional entities in North America operating under authority from regulators in the United States through a delegation agreement with the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) and in Canada under similar arrangements. The primary focus of MRO is developing and ensuring compliance with reliability standards and assessing the grid's ability to meet the demands for electricity.