

Retirement of Monitoring and Situational Awareness Tools Risk Factor

June 3, 2021

SAINT PAUL, MINN. The ERO Enterprise continuously reviews the effectiveness of the risk factors and other data points used to assess registered entities' overall risk to reliability and security of the North American bulk power system. During a recent review, ERO Enterprise staff determined the [Monitoring and Situational Awareness Tools risk factor](#) is no longer providing useful inherent risk information, and has retired this risk factor effective March 19, 2021.

Risk Factors		Criteria for Assessment		
Risk Factor	N/A	Low Risk	Medium Risk	High Risk
Monitoring and Situational Awareness Tools	Entity does not meet any of the identified criteria	Entity does not have monitoring and situational awareness tools and operates 10 or more lines over 100 kV	Entity does not have monitoring and situational awareness tools and operates 10 or more lines over 200 kV	Entity does not have monitoring and situational awareness tools and operates 20 or more lines over 200 kV

The Monitoring and Situational Awareness Tools risk factor was developed prior to the recent versions of mandatory NERC Reliability Standards IRO-010 and TOP-001 that require entities to perform a Real-time Assessment (RTA) once every 30 minutes to identify elevated risks related to not having in-house or third-party access to advanced EMS applications for use in maintenance, monitoring, and situational awareness.

With the introduction of the mandatory requirement to perform a RTA once every 30 minutes, the ERO Enterprise found that application of this risk factor during the Inherent Risk Assessment process was producing a result of “not applicable” and was no longer impacting the inherent risk associated with the related requirements. As such, the retirement of this risk factor will not affect registered entities' Inherent Risk Assessments, Compliance Oversight Plans, or other compliance monitoring activities.

Registered entities for which this risk factor applies will continue to see it in their Compliance Oversight Plans as “Not Applicable” until the risk factor is removed from the ERO Enterprise Guide for Compliance Monitoring in late 2021 as part of other updates. Once removed, it will no longer be referenced in Compliance Oversight Plans or other documentation.

For questions, please contact Kendra Buesgens at Kendra.buesgens@mro.net.

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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.



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