LLAP
Large Loads Action Plan

# Large Loads Action Plan Q2 2026 Update

**Past, Current, and Future Actions to Address an Emerging Risk**
**July 2026**


***Watch the Video on NERC's Large Loads Action Plan***

## Second Quarter Actions

### Level 3 Essential Action Alert Issued

On May 4, NERC released a Level 3 Essential Action Alert, Computational Load Modeling, Studies, Instrumentation, Commissioning, Operations, Protection, and Control, which outlined seven actions registered entities must implement to address immediate risks posed by computational loads interfacing with the BPS. The Level 3 alert was issued as NERC observed customer-initiated large load reductions and significant oscillations that occur in seconds, leaving little or no room for real-time responses and posing a threat to BPS reliability. The deadline for registered entities to submit their responses is **August 3, 2026.**

An informational webinar is scheduled on July 8 to share frequently asked questions and answer inquiries.

### Reliability Guideline Published

On May 1, NERC published a Reliability Guideline: Risk Mitigation for Emerging Large Loads, recommending actions for traditional utilities and grid operators, and the companies behind these emerging large loads including equipment manufacturers. The goal is to ensure that as more industrial-scale consumers connect to the grid, they actively participate in practices that protect grid stability. These steps highlight that proactive planning and participation can enable even more of these facilities to come online reliably and quickly. Although non-binding, NERC strongly urges all relevant entities to adopt the recommended risk mitigation strategies outlined in the Reliability Guideline.

### Registration Criteria for Computational Loads

NERC will define which entities, based on specific physical and electrical criteria, would be required to register with NERC and comply with its Reliability Standards to address risks associated with large computational loads. To achieve this, NERC is revising its Rules of Procedure, Appendix 5B Statement of Compliance Registry Criteria, to account for Computational Load Entities. An initial draft was posted for a stakeholder 45-day comment period on April 1, 2026, on the Proposed Changes to Rules of Procedure web page. The initial comments on the proposed revisions included meaningful insights that NERC will review and incorporate into the next comment period, anticipated in August 2026.

An informational webinar is scheduled on July 13 to provide updates on the progress of this development effort and share information about the registration process for entities that may fall under these new criteria.

### Reliability Standards

NERC will revise and adopt new Reliability Standards to define computational loads and establish measurable requirements for newly registered entities. NERC posted a Standard Authorization Request (SAR) for comment in April that included new definitions for use in standards for computational loads and a foundational standard. Initial comments were reviewed, and the Standards Committee approved a final SAR and authorized the drafting of a Reliability Standard in May. The proposed Reliability Standards will be issued in August for a 45-day comment period, with an additional comment period to follow in the fourth quarter. The Reliability Standard is targeted for final Board approval and adoption in December.

## Actions Taken by NERC to Address Large Loads on the Grid

### Q2 2026

- Posted a draft registry criteria for comments (April)
- Posted a Standards Authorization Request for comments (April)
- Published a Reliability Guideline: Risk Mitigation for Large Loads (May)
- Issued a Level 3 Alert for Essential Actions (May)
- Initiated a standards drafting (May)

### Q1 2026

- Published Incident Review: Voltage-Sensitive Crypto Load Reductions (January)
- Hosted Emerging Large Loads Technical Conference (February)
- Published Assessment of Gaps in Existing Practices, Requirements, and Reliability Standards for Emerging Large Loads (March)
- Published Aggregated Report on NERC Level 2 Alert (March)
- Appointed Standards Drafting Team (March)
- Hosted a webinar on the Large Load Action Plan (March)
- Submitted a supplemental letter to FERC detailing an accelerated action plan (March)

### 2025

- Published an Incident Review: Considering Simultaneous Voltage-Sensitive Load Reductions (January)
- Hosted two workshops on mitigating risks from emerging large loads (June/July)
- Published Characteristics and Risks of Emerging Loads (July)
- Hosted a Large Loads panel at NERC's Technical Session (August)
- Published a Level 2 NERC Alert urging industry participants to take specific actions. (September)
- Hosted a Load Modeling Workshop (October)
- Published a draft Reliability Guideline for comments (November)
- Submitted comments to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANOPR) addressing the reliable interconnection of large loads (November).

# Upcoming Engagement Opportunities

## Large Loads Working Group

The Large Loads Working Group (LLWG) focuses on understanding the reliability impacts associated with emerging large loads. This includes identifying gaps in existing processes and recommending enhancements to planning and operations. The group will meet on July 16 and October 1. To join the LLWG, please contact Evan Mickelson.

## Load Modeling Working Group

The Load Modeling Working Group (LMWG) actively engages stakeholders through technical presentations and discussions focused on modeling loads. The next LMWG meeting is scheduled for July 14 and the agenda includes approval for the Data Center Load Modeling Technical Reference, and the endorsement of the PERC2 model specification. Additionally, a two-day workshop is scheduled for September 15–16. To join the working group, please fill this form.

# Background: Addressing Large Loads on the Grid

An increasing number of large commercial and industrial loads are rapidly connecting to the BPS. Computational loads, such as data centers (including cryptocurrency and artificial intelligence), present unique challenges in forecasting and planning for increased demand. To begin understanding large loads and identifying effective pathways for their integration, NERC established the Large Loads Task Force in August 2024, now the Large Loads Working Group (LLWG), and developed a work plan. Through extensive analysis, report development, and engagement conducted to date, NERC has determined that it must act now to mitigate the risks associated with large computational loads.


**Large Loads Resources**

RELIABILITY | RESILIENCE | SECURITY