

North American Transmission Forum External Newsletter

July 2026

NATF IBR Facility Engineering Design Review Practices Document

The industry is facing a growing range of challenges related to the reliable interconnection of inverter-based resources (IBRs) to transmission systems. To support its members in addressing these challenges, the NATF develops and publishes IBR practice documents. In addition to resources available exclusively to members, the NATF has produced several IBR-related practice documents to share with industry. The most recently posted document, *NATF IBR Facility Engineering Design Review Practices*, can be accessed via the NATF public website under the [“Planning and Modeling” section of Documents](#).

NERC Level 3 Alert/Standards Changes

The electric industry welcomes the reliable and secure integration of new large loads yet recognizes that certain activities of these loads could significantly impact the grid. The rapid addition of transmission-connected large load customers providing data services (e.g., data centers, crypto mining, artificial intelligence) is creating new electrical grid challenges related to resource adequacy, planning uncertainty, cost allocation, and operating characteristics.

NERC has responded to this challenge with a level-3 alert—*Essential Action to Industry: Computational Load Modeling, Studies, Instrumentation, Commissioning, Operations, Protection, and Control*—which includes seven essential actions and 33 questions over a range of topics, depending on respondent registrations. The NATF is helping members navigate these changes. On July 13, the NATF held a special webinar for members to discuss available NATF resources and hear insights from members on their responses to the NERC alert. A range of topics were covered, including modeling data and studies. This webinar was well supported by members with over 1,000 total attendees. The NATF Reliable Addition of Large Datacentric Loads (RALDL) project includes development of practice documents to guide members through the lifecycle for reliable integration of these loads to the grid.

NATF Criteria and Questionnaire Version 7.0 Posted for Industry Use

The annual criteria and questionnaire revision process has been recently completed with NATF approval of the documents on May 19, 2026. The [NATF Supply Chain Security Criteria](#) and [Energy Sector Supply Chain Risk Questionnaire](#) version 7.0 documents are posted on the [Supply Chain Industry Coordination](#) page of the NATF public website. The [Version History](#) link on that site also includes prior versions and redlines.

Revisions to the NATF criteria and questionnaire include edits for clarity, completeness, and to update framework mappings for NIST SP 800-171r3 and NIST SP 800-53r5.2.0. A supplier response column has been added to the criteria, and multiple edits have been made to the guidance text in the questionnaire to improve coverage.

These updates were reviewed and accepted by the ERO Enterprise to ensure its continued endorsement of the two NATF CIP-013 Implementation Guidance documents: *NATF CIP-013 Implementation Guidance: Using Independent Assessments of Vendors* and *NATF CIP-013 Implementation Guidance: Supply Chain Risk Management Plans*, which are also available on the Supply Chain Industry Coordination page.

For more information about the NATF, please visit <https://www.natf.net/>.

Open Distribution

Copyright © 2026 North American Transmission Forum (NATF). All rights reserved. Not for sale or commercial use. The NATF makes no and hereby disclaims all representations or warranties (express or implied) relating to the content, including as to the accuracy or completeness of the information. No liability is assumed by the NATF for any damages arising directly or indirectly from the content or by the use or application thereof. Use of the content constitutes agreement to defend, indemnify, and hold the NATF harmless from and against all claims arising from such use.