

## COVID-19 Responses Extended Through Q1 2021

October 28, 2020

**SAINT PAUL, MINN.** Today, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) issued a 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 until the end of Q1 2021. For information on regulatory discretion related to coronavirus, see MRO's March, 20, 2020 Hot Topic available [here](#).

In addition, on-site portions of compliance activities will continue to be postponed at least through the end of Q1 2021, unless there is a need due to a high risk determination (as determined by MRO). For more information, please see NERC's press release [here](#).

MRO has also extended its restrictions related to the pandemic. The health and safety of MRO's staff, members and other stakeholders remains our highest priority. MRO's Emergency Response Team (ERT) continues to meet regularly to monitor the situation and is sharing information and coordinating response efforts with the ERO Enterprise. Given the continued rise in confirmed COVID-19 cases in our communities, along with state and federal guidance, MRO has extended work from home through at least Q1 2021. Employee business travel is also restricted through this same time period.

All MRO in-person events will be held virtually through this same time period and MRO's website [meeting calendar](#) is up to date.

This situation remains 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.*