

## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



TO: Generating Asset Owners

DATE: July 26, 2004

**SUBJECT: Release of Generating Availability Data System (GADS) Data to the California Public Utility Commission (CPUC)**

On May 7, 2004, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) adopted Decision No. 04-05-018 "Decision Adopting General Order Implementing and Enforcing Electric Generator General Duty Standards, Maintenance Standards, and CAISO'S Outage Coordination Protocol". This decision also includes General Order (GO) 167. GO 167, Sections 10.0 et seq. requires, among other things, that Generating Asset Owners to submit information to the North American Electric Reliability Council (NERC) and to authorize NERC to release the GADS data to the CPUC. Consistent with GO 167, NERC is collecting GADS data which will be shared with the CPUC. The Consumer Protection and Safety Division (CPSD) of the CPUC is responsible for implementing GO 167. The Decision and the GO can be downloaded from the CPUC website at [http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUBLISHED/FINAL\\_DECISION/36419.htm](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUBLISHED/FINAL_DECISION/36419.htm).

Before data can be released to the CPSD, NERC needs your authorization to do so. Several years ago, the NERC Board of Trustees approved a document regarding the release of GADS data. See the attached document: "North American Electric Reliability Council APPENDIX I - GADS DATA RELEASE GUIDELINES (Updated as of November 15, 2000)." In these Guidelines, it states that, "Unless expressly permitted in the following sections, data by power generator, pool, Region, or specific unit will be provided only with the authorization of the appropriate power generator, pool, or Region. ("Power generators" are any owners or operators of electric generating units owned/operated by investor-owned, independent power project (IPP), municipals, cooperative, federal, state, and every other groups of electric providers.)"

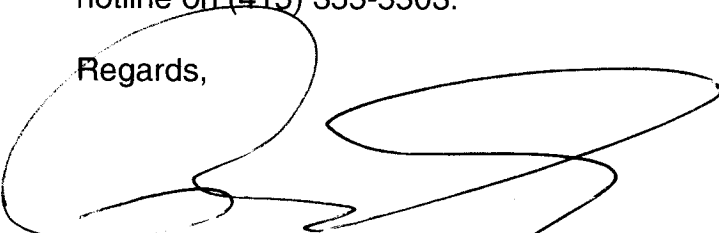
CPUC, GO 167, Section 10.2. Authorization for Release of Information states, "Upon CPSD's request a Generating Asset Owner shall authorize other persons or entities to release and provide directly to CPSD any information in the possession of that person or entity regarding the operation or maintenance of that Generating Asset Owner's Generating Asset . . . ". Section 10.3.2. Submission of Information to NERC states, "Except for Generating Assets for which NERC does not accept data, each Generating Asset Owner shall submit generator design, performance, and event data to NERC for inclusion in GADS." In addition, sections 10.2 and 15.4 of the GO address confidentiality of the data.

NERC and CPSD request that each Generating Asset Owner send generator design, event and performance data within 30 days after the end of each quarter of the calendar year to NERC. NERC will edit and correct the year-to-date event and performance data within 10 days of receiving it. NERC will then return a copy of the error-free data to the reporters and to CPSD. NERC intends to schedule workshops later this year to discuss the GADS data requirements. Please contact NERC for more information regarding the workshops.

Further, CPSD and NERC request that you sign the attached release form so that NERC can release your data to the CPUC. Please mail the original completed release form to NERC, Attention: Mr. G. Mike Curley, Manager - GADS Services, North American Electric Reliability Council, 116-390 Village Boulevard, Princeton, NJ 08540 and mail a copy of the release form to: California Public Utilities Commission, Consumer Protection and Safety Division, Electric Generation Performance Branch, Subject: Release of GADS Data to the CPUC, 505 Van Ness Avenue, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, San Francisco, CA 94105. The release form is attached to this letter. Please submit the release form to NERC and a copy to the CPUC within 10 business days from the date of this letter.

If you have any questions regarding NERC GADS, please contact Mr. G. Michael Curley at (801) 756-0972 or by email at [mcurley@nerc.com](mailto:mcurley@nerc.com). If you have any questions regarding GO 167, please leave a message on the CPSD Power Plant hotline on (415) 355-5503.

Regards,



Richard Clark, Director  
Consumer Protection and Safety Division  
California Public Utilities Commission

Attachments:

Appendix I – GADS Data Release Guidelines  
Authorization to Release Data

## APPENDIX I

### North American Electric Reliability Council GADS DATA RELEASE GUIDELINES (Updated as of November 15, 2000)

#### INTRODUCTION

NERC Generating Availability Data System (GADS) contains information which can be broadly classified into two categories: design data, which is descriptive of equipment physical and operational characteristics, and performance and event data, which constitutes a record of equipment availability over a period of time.

The design data is unrestricted, and available to power generators, manufacturers and equipment suppliers, architect-engineers and consultants, industry organizations (EEI, EPRI, INPO, etc.), federal governmental organizations, and state and local governmental organizations.

To avoid the potential misuse of individual equipment data, the performance and event data are restricted and available only as specified in these guidelines.

#### DATA RELEASE GUIDELINES

Unless expressly permitted in the following sections, data by power generator, pool, Region, or specific unit will be provided only with the authorization of the appropriate power generator, pool, or Region. ("Power generators" are any owners or operators of electric generating units owned/operated by investor-owned, independent power project (IPP), municipals, cooperative, federal, state, and every other groups of electric providers.) Special reports or studies which describe or rank power generators, pools, or Regions by performance or other attributes -- and in which specific units, power generators, pools, or Regions are identifiable either by inclusion or exclusion -- will be provided only with the authorization of the appropriate power generators, pools, or Regions. Obtaining these approvals is the responsibility of the requester.

The "standard publication" mentioned in the following paragraphs is that approved and recognized as such by the NERC Planning Committee. The current publication is the Generating Availability Report 1995-1999 and the GADS Brochure 1982-1999.

#### POWER GENERATOR REPRESENTATIVES

Power generator owners/operators who report GADS data for all units outlined in the GADS Data Reporting Instructions Figure III-1 (shown as "required" for the different unit types) may receive any special data analyses, data analysis-type software products like pc-GAR or standard publication without restriction, except that large amounts of power generator, pool, Region, or specific unit data will be provided only with the permission of the appropriate power generator, pool, or Region. Power generator representatives are understood to refer to employees of the member power generators, power pools, or Regional Reliability Councils.

Power generator owners/operators who do not report any GADS data or only part of the full sets of unit data as outlined in the GADS Data Reporting Instructions Figure III-1 (shown as "required" for the

different unit types) may only receive standard publications but will not receive any special data analyses or data analysis-type software products like pc-GAR.

### **MANUFACTURERS AND EQUIPMENT SUPPLIERS**

Manufacturers and equipment suppliers may receive the standard publication. They may also receive individual analyses and outage records concerning the equipment they supplied, as well as total unit performance statistics. National, regional, or local summary analyses of the manufacturer's or equipment supplier's equipment compared to all others as a group can be provided. These analyses may collectively review all competitors, but will not identify an individual competitor; nor will they rank competitors, power generators, pools, or Regions without their specific authorization.

### **ARCHITECT-ENGINEERS AND CONSULTANTS**

Architect-engineers and consultants may receive the standard publication. They may also receive individual analyses and outage records concerning the equipment they designed or installed, as well as total unit performance statistics for those same units. National, regional, or local grouped units summary analyses on the performance of the architect-engineer's or consultant's units compared to all others as a group can be provided. These analyses may collectively review all competitors but will not identify an individual competitor; nor will they rank competitors, power generators, pools, or Regions without their specific authorization. If an architect-engineer or consultant is under contract to a power generator client, that architect-engineer or consultant may receive any information the power generator may receive, as long as the client power generator is identified and approves.

### **INDUSTRY ORGANIZATIONS (EEI, EPRI, INPO, etc.)**

Industry organizations such as EEI, EPRI, and INPO may receive the standard publication. They may also receive any analyses that do not identify individual units, power generators, pools, or Regions.

### **FEDERAL GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS**

Federal governmental organizations may receive the standard publication. They may also receive any analyses that do not identify individual units, power generators, pools, or Regions.

### **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS**

State and local governmental organizations may receive the standard publication. They may also receive any analyses that do not identify individual units, power generators, pools, or Regions. Responses to requests for unit, power generator, pool, or regional specific data will be coordinated through the appropriate power generator(s), pool(s), or NERC Region(s).

### **NON-INDUSTRY ORGANIZATIONS**

Non-industry organizations may receive the standard publication. They may also receive any analyses that do not identify individual units, power generators, pools, or Regions. Responses to requests for unit, power generator, pool, or regional specific data will be coordinated through the appropriate power generator(s), pool(s), or Region(s).

## **FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS**

Foreign correspondents may receive the standard publication. They may also receive grouped analyses at the discretion of the NERC staff.

## **SUBSEQUENT USE OF DATA**

Publication or re-transmittal by those who have received GADS data, reports, or analyses specific to individual or identifiable units, power generators, pools, or Regions is considered a matter separate and distinct from requesting such data for the internal use of the requester. As such, authorization for publication must be expressly obtained by the requester from the appropriate power generator(s), pool(s), or NERC Region(s), and NERC.

## **RESPONDING TO REQUESTS**

All requests must be submitted in writing and will be answered on a timely basis with special attention given to requests identified as urgent.

**AUTHORIZATION TO RELEASE DATA**

Pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), General Order 167, Sections 10.2 and 10.3.2, the entity identified below authorizes the North American Electric Reliability Council (NERC) to release Generating Availability Data System (GADS) data to the CPUC for the generating assets listed below.

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Name and Title of Authorized Representative

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Name of Company

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Signature of Authorized Representative

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Date

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Names of Generating Asset(s)