

MIDAS Section 1600 Minor Revisions

The fields **TADS Elements** and **GADS Elements** are being revised to **Count of Transmission Lines Removed From Service, Count of Transformers Removed From Service, and Count of Generator Plants Removed from Service**. NERC views these as minor changes because the information required for the revised fields is already being collected as free-form text. The intent of the revision is to improve accuracy of data reported, collect the data in a more analyzable format, and reduce resource use for intercompany communications.

NERC's Rules of Procedure (Section 1602.5) permits NERC to make minor changes to an approved Section 1600 Data Request:

"NERC may make minor changes to an authorized request for data or information without Board approval. However, if a Reporting Entity objects to NERC in writing to such changes within 21 days of issuance of the modified request, such changes shall require Board approval before they are implemented."

Background

The current TADS and GADS Elements fields are conditionally required free-text fields that allow users to enter unstructured information. While the definitions for these fields indicate the necessary formatting and information that should be included, a sizeable percentage of the data reported in these fields does not align with its GADS and TADS counterparts. This misalignment is also inconsistent, with errors including; simple typos, abbreviation differences, naming schema variations, and other forms of invalid data. As a result, these fields have very limited use for analysis.

Discussions with industry subject matter experts participating in NERC's MIDAS User Group indicate that, even for diligent reporters, this could be due to a number of complications regarding the collection of this information. These complications primarily arise because the individual or group that handles protection systems and/or MIDAS reporting is usually different from the person who reports GADS/TADS data. Often this is within the same company, but it is not uncommon that the GADS/TADS information is reported by an entirely different company. This can require extensive resource commitment and processes to correctly populate the fields. As a result, NERC does not believe that simply offering additional training or communication will adequately resolve the issue.

Altering these fields to record the counts of elements or units will increase the analytical value these fields provide. This change will simplify what needs to be reported and likely reduce resource commitments as well as inter-company coordination to complete the reporting requirements.

Existing MIDAS Fields for Revision

NERC is proposing revisions to the following fields in MIDAS.

TADS Elements [Free Text/Varchar]– The Element IDs of the TADS Elements that were outaged due to the Misoperation in a comma separated list.

GADS Elements [Free Text/Varchar] – The concatenated Utility Code and Unit Code for the GADS Element(s) that were outaged due to the Misoperation.

Proposed Changes

NERC proposes that the existing fields above be replaced with the following fields.

Count of Transmission Lines Removed from Service [Integer] – The number of AC and DC Circuits with a voltage > 100 kV removed from service because of the Misoperation.

Count of Transformers Removed from Service [Integer] – The number of transformers with a low-side voltage >100 kV removed from service because of the Misoperation.

Count of Generator Plants Removed from Service [Integer] – The number of qualifying generator plants removed from service because of the Misoperation. A qualifying generator plant is a plant that fulfills one or more of the following criteria as defined in the [GADS Section 1600 Data Request](#):

- The plant contains at least one non-inverter-based generator with a nameplate rating >20 MW.
- The plant contains solar inverter-based generation with a total nameplate rating >20 MW.
- The plant contains wind turbines with a total nameplate rating >75 MW.

Effective Date

The change above will become effective for Misoperations that occur on or after 1/1/2024, with the first applicable reporting deadline being 5/30/2024.

An updated version of the MIDAS Reporting Template will be made available prior to 1/1/2024 and the reporting application will be updated between the end of the 2023 reporting period, 3/1/2024, and the 2024 Q1 reporting deadline, 5/30/2024.

Historical Misoperations that occurred prior to 1/1/2024 will **not** require updating and should be maintained based on the current criteria.

Why isn't the field simply being removed?

While the information this field is being populated with has limited analytical value, its intention represents a valuable data point.

Why is this being considered a minor change when it is altering the fields collected?

The fields being collected are being revised and the information that is required to populate those fields is functionally the same. In both instances, reporters are required to identify which transmission and

generation elements were removed from service as a result of the Misoperation. The proposed fields remove the requirement to identify those elements in a completely different system, which is rarely handled by the same group.