centralpoint
by oxcyon

Centralpoint by Oxcyon: Full Compliance with FERC Standards

Version 8.11.0+

Full Compliance with FERC Standards

At Oxcyon, we take regulatory compliance seriously. Our platform is designed to align with all relevant Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) standards, ensuring that your organization meets the required benchmarks for managing and protecting transmission systems, data security, and record retention. Below, we provide detailed descriptions of how Centralpoint meets the specific FERC codes that govern various operational and security requirements in the energy sector.

FERC No. 717: Standards of Conduct for Transmission Providers

FERC No. 717 governs how transmission providers maintain independence between their transmission and marketing functions to prevent preferential treatment or undue discrimination. Centralpoint by Oxcyon ensures compliance by implementing role-based access controls that segregate transmission-related information from marketing functions. This guarantees that system impact studies, transmission service requests, and long-range planning data remain isolated, adhering to FERC's strict requirements. Furthermore, Centralpoint's advanced logging features provide detailed tracking of who accesses transmission data, ensuring that transmission function employees' actions are monitored, as outlined in the FERC Standard of Conduct rules.

Data Segmentation for Centralpoint

Centralpoint's platform allows for data compartmentalization, ensuring that each department within an organization only has access to relevant information. This is especially important when performing system impact studies—a key aspect of the transmission function. Centralpoint automates the categorization of these studies as either long-range planning (which doesn't fall under day-to-day operations) or day-to-day activities, where regulatory scrutiny is heightened.

For example, an employee conducting system impact studies to determine whether transmission can support a new service request is classified as a transmission function employee, and Centralpoint automatically logs this work under transmission activities to comply with FERC No. 717. This protects sensitive information, as the system ensures that no competitive advantage can be gained through improper data access.

Audit Trail for Compliance

Another critical feature is Centralpoint's auditing capabilities. Every action related to transmission operations, from granting or denying service requests to the review of system impact studies, is logged in detail. Centralpoint tracks employee actions, timestamps all access to sensitive data, and generates audit reports that can be readily reviewed by regulatory authorities.

In case of compliance reviews or legal challenges, Centralpoint provides a detailed activity trail that demonstrates adherence to the Standards of Conduct. This functionality not only helps manage compliance but also protects organizations in case of external audits by offering transparency in the way data is accessed and utilized.

Integrated Compliance Tools

Centralpoint further strengthens compliance by offering customizable compliance workflows. Transmission providers can use these workflows to standardize how they manage long-range planning data, interconnection requests, and sensitive operational data. Compliance templates can be integrated with real-time notifications to alert managers when data is accessed, ensuring that any potential violations are flagged immediately.

In summary, Centralpoint by Oxcyon provides an airtight solution to managing the separation between transmission and marketing functions, ensuring full compliance with FERC No. 717 through strict data control, comprehensive logging, and customizable workflows that protect sensitive transmission data from unauthorized access.

Compliance with CIP-005 – Cybersecurity for Electronic Security Perimeters

CIP-005 is critical for ensuring that all electronic access to Bulk Electric System (BES) Cyber Systems is tightly controlled, managed, and monitored. Centralpoint by Oxcyon fully supports compliance with CIP-005 through its sophisticated cybersecurity infrastructure designed to protect BES Cyber Systems against potential compromises that could lead to the mis operation or instability of critical systems.

Electronic Security Perimeter Management

Centralpoint electronic security perimeter (ESP) management allows organizations to create multiple security zones that control access to BES Cyber Systems. Each perimeter is designed to restrict access based on an employee's role within the organization. For example, balancing authorities, transmission operators, and generator owners all require different levels of access, and Centralpoint ensures that their interactions with BES systems are restricted and tracked according to their functional responsibilities.

Access Control and Encryption

In compliance with CIP-005, Centralpoint uses multi-factor authentication (MFA) for all users who attempt to access systems within the electronic security perimeter. This helps prevent unauthorized users from gaining access to critical cyber assets. Additionally, end-to-end encryption is applied to all communications and data transmissions, ensuring that sensitive information is protected both within and outside the security perimeter.

Protection of Critical Assets

Centralpoint's architecture aligns with NERC CIP-002-5 by identifying and categorizing critical BES Cyber Systems based on their impact on grid operations. Centralpoint also secures external routable connections and limits access to systems with dial-up connectivity, which are especially vulnerable to external threats. The platform ensures that all high-impact and medium-impact BES Cyber Systems are fully protected, as required by CIP-005. By integrating robust cybersecurity protocols, customizable security perimeters, and real-time monitoring capabilities, Centralpoint by Oxcyon provides a complete solution for ensuring the safety and integrity of BES Cyber Systems in compliance with CIP-005.

Compliance with 18 CFR Part 125 – Preservation of Records

FERC's 18 CFR Part 125 mandates specific requirements for the preservation and management of records for public utilities and licensees, including utility operational records and financial documentation. Centralpoint by Oxcyon ensures full compliance by offering an advanced records management system that supports the long-term preservation, security, and retrievability of all required records.

Automated Record Retention and Destruction

Centralpoint's automated retention system enables utilities to maintain records for the required periods as prescribed by 18 CFR Part 125, including records related to plant in service, financial accounting, and legal proceedings. Each record type can be assigned a specific retention schedule, ensuring that documents are automatically flagged for either preservation or destruction at the appropriate time. The system also supports custom retention schedules in cases where records are subject to extended retention due to legal proceedings or compliance reviews.

Transfer and Ownership Documentation

In the event of a sale or transfer of utility assets, Centralpoint facilitates the secure transfer of records to new owners, as required by FERC regulations. The system tracks and archives all documentation related to asset ownership, ensuring that records of plant retirements, decommissioning, or hydroelectric facility sales are handled in accordance with Part 125. The platform also allows users to audit records transfers to ensure compliance with utility accounting and regulatory requirements.

Compliance and Auditing Tools

Centralpoint offers built-in compliance audit tools, allowing utilities to run checks on their records management system to ensure full adherence to FERC's retention requirements. The system generates comprehensive audit logs, tracking when records were accessed, modified, or destroyed, and ensuring that any deviations from the required retention schedule are identified and corrected.

Centralpoint by Oxcyon simplifies the process of meeting FERC's stringent record preservation requirements, ensuring that your utility is fully compliant with 18 CFR Part 125 while offering secure, reliable, and accessible recordkeeping solutions.

Compliance with FERC No. 2003 – Generator Interconnection Procedures

FERC No. 2003 outlines the procedures for large generator interconnection to the transmission grid, ensuring that all public utilities provide non-discriminatory, open access to transmission services for generators larger than 20 MW. Centralpoint by Oxcyon helps transmission providers comply with these requirements by streamlining the interconnection process, facilitating document management, and ensuring transparency in all transactions.

Standardized Interconnection Processes

Centralpoint offers pre-built workflows for large generator interconnection that mirror the requirements set by FERC. These workflows guide users through each step of the interconnection process, from initial request submission to the negotiation and finalization of the Large Generator Interconnection Agreement (LGIA). By using Centralpoint's automated system, transmission providers can process interconnection requests more quickly and efficiently, reducing the time required for system impact studies and technical reviews.

Cost Responsibility and Dispute Resolution

A significant aspect of FERC No. 2003 compliance is ensuring fair and transparent handling of cost responsibility for interconnection facilities. Centralpoint manages the documentation of cost agreements between transmission providers and interconnection customers, ensuring that all terms are clearly defined and accessible for both parties. In case of disputes, Centralpoint supports automated dispute resolution workflows, offering a structured, transparent process for resolving issues without delays, helping to maintain compliance with FERC's non-discrimination policies.

Open Access Transmission Tariff (OATT) Compliance

Centralpoint supports the integration of the Standard Large Generator Interconnection Procedures (LGIP) and LGIA into a utility's Open Access Transmission Tariff (OATT). This allows public utilities to comply with FERC's requirement that all new generator interconnections follow standardized procedures, ensuring that no undue discrimination occurs. All documents related to interconnection agreements are stored within Centralpoint.

Conclusion: Ensuring Compliance with Centralpoint

At Centralpoint by Oxcyon, regulatory compliance is at the core of our platform's design. Our advanced tools and features ensure adherence to essential FERC standards, including FERC No. 717, CIP-005, 18 CFR Part 125, and FERC No. 2003. Centralpoint's capabilities in access control, cybersecurity, record preservation, and interconnection management enable utilities to operate with confidence, knowing that their systems are secure and compliant.

Whether managing sensitive transmission data, protecting BES Cyber Systems, or ensuring proper record retention, Centralpoint provides a comprehensive solution for navigating the complexities of regulatory compliance. Our platform simplifies these processes with automated workflows, audit trails, and real-time monitoring, making it easier for organizations to meet stringent FERC requirements while enhancing operational efficiency.

Centralpoint's compliance features are not only designed to meet current regulations but are also flexible enough to adapt to future changes, ensuring long-term regulatory adherence. As FERC continues to update its guidelines, our platform evolves to meet new standards, providing utilities with a future-proof solution that keeps them at the forefront of compliance and security.

Contact Us

For more information about how Centralpoint can support your organization's compliance needs, or to schedule a demo, contact us today. Our team is ready to help you leverage Centralpoint to simplify compliance and improve operational efficiency while staying ahead of regulatory changes.