

## From the Desk of the CEO

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In Texas, we pride ourselves on our unwavering independence, but also on being a good neighbor. When it comes to electric reliability, being a good neighbor means paying attention to what is happening in your own backyard and beyond, including helping those around you to improve their electric grids. Texas RE is tracking several developments beyond our region that I want to keep you informed about.

Our neighbor to the north, the Southwest Power Pool (SPP), has agreed with the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) to terminate the responsibilities of the SPP RE (Regional Entity). Pending FERC approval, SPP RE's responsibilities will transfer to Midwest Reliability Organization (MRO) and SERC Reliability Corporation (SERC) later this year. While these changes may not directly affect us, we are keeping a close watch on the transition's progress and will keep you informed of developments.

Our neighbor to the south, Mexico, is also undergoing transitions with respect to its electric grid. I've previously told you that Mexico wants to improve reliability and is working with NERC to integrate into the ERO Enterprise. However, some of Mexico's activities pose jurisdictional concerns regarding FERC's oversight of the ERCOT Interconnection. We are closely monitoring these activities and expect to provide regular updates to you at our quarterly Board meetings.

To help our neighbors throughout all of North America, Texas RE continues to participate in committees at the ERO-level. Texas RE staff serve in leadership roles in various ERO committees, and stakeholder representation from this region only



magnifies our region's influence. You will have the opportunity to represent the Texas RE Region on the NERC [Planning Committee](#), [Operating Committee](#), and [Critical Infrastructure Protection Committee](#) when the Member Representatives Committee (MRC) selects regional representatives to these committees in the coming months. Be on the lookout for more information about how to get involved. Additionally, many NERC committees allow stakeholders to observe and participate without being an elected member, so I encourage you to sit in whenever possible.

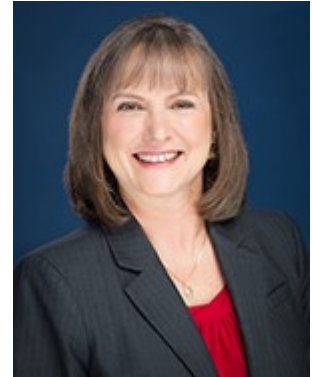
Finally, I would like to congratulate our neighbor to the west, WECC's Jim Robb, in his selection to be the new President and CEO of NERC. Jim and I have worked together on ERO Executive Management committees and I look forward to continuing to work with him in his new role.

By working together with NERC, the other regions, and stakeholders, we can reduce risks to reliability and security in our region and throughout the continent. And when you think about it, that's just what a good neighbor would do.

Regards,  
Lane Lanford

## Texas RE Welcomes DeAnn Walker to the Board

Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT) Chairman DeAnn Walker is joining the Texas RE Board of Directors as an *ex officio* member effective April 3, 2018. She fills the Texas RE Board member position vacated by PUCT Commissioner Brandy Marty Marquez, who recently stepped down from the Commission. Chairman Walker previously served on the Texas RE Board in 2014 as the MRC Vice Chair when she was Associate General Counsel and Director of Regulatory Affairs at CenterPoint Energy.



Chairman Walker was appointed to the PUCT by Governor Greg Abbott on September 20, 2017, for a term set to expire September 1, 2021. Before her appointment, she served as the Senior Policy Advisor to the Governor on matters related to regulated industries. Texas RE welcomes Chairman Walker to the Board.

## NERC Board of Trustees Names James Robb as New President and CEO

On March 16, 2018, the NERC Board of Trustees announced the appointment of James B. Robb as NERC’s new president and CEO. Previously the CEO of the Western Electricity Coordinating Council, Mr. Robb has more than 30 years of experience in the energy sector as an engineer, consultant, and senior executive. Mr. Robb will begin his tenure at NERC on April 9, 2018.

### Texas RE Board of Directors

John T. Coughlin Chair (Independent)	Liz Jones MRC Vice Chair (Affiliated)
Fred N. Day, IV Vice Chair (Independent)	DeAnn Walker Chairman, Public Utility Commission ( <i>Ex officio</i> , non-voting)
Dr. Delores Etter (Independent)	Tonya Baer Public Counsel, Office of Public Utility Counsel ( <i>Ex officio</i> , non-voting)
Milton B. Lee (Independent)	
W. Lane Lanford President and CEO	
Brenda Hampton MRC Chair (Affiliated)	

### Talk with Texas REcap March 22, 2018

At the March *Talk with Texas RE*, Compliance Engineer Michael Dillard presented on the requirements of TOP-010-1(i) and IRO-018-1(i), and discussed how they relate to Real-time monitoring and Real-time Assessments. The full presentation can be found [here](#).

Mr. Dillard noted that Real-time data is critical to accurate Real-time monitoring and Real-time Assessments. Effective monitoring and assessment requires a continuous stream of Real-time data to System Operators and analysis tools with notifications for data stream interruption. Telemetered data is the preferred method of providing Real-time data; TOP-010-1(i) and IRO-018-1(i) address methods by which Reliability Coordinators (RCs), Balancing Authorities (BAs), and Transmission Operators (TOPs) mitigate loss of telemetered data.

If you have any questions, please submit them to [information@texasre.org](mailto:information@texasre.org).

## NERC Lessons Learned

### State Estimator Outages Requiring Tuning/Calibrating EMS Settings

In three separate instances, operators received an energy management system (EMS) alarm during off-hours that the State Estimator (SE) failed to converge. The operators notified the appropriate entities for assistance with monitoring as they began troubleshooting the SE outage. When the operators could not quickly identify the data point (internal or external) that was resulting in the nonconvergence, support personnel were contacted for additional troubleshooting and corrective actions. Following unproductive IT diagnostics and unsuccessful reboots of the SE, vendor support was solicited.

The corrective actions for these three events all included a change to SE settings or parameters. These settings were further tested in both Real-time and on historical cases to ensure that these new settings would result in good-quality solutions. While these changes mitigated the SE nonconvergence, the time to troubleshoot and identify the needed changes resulted in the loss of some situational awareness throughout the events. During the SE outage, the entities relied on their RC for state estimation, including Real-time Assessments from the Real-time Contingency Analysis.

Note: Because these outages happened during off-hours, there were no scheduled switching activities that may have aggravated the problem, but if switching had been underway, a prudent action would have been to halt any topology changes while the SE is not solving. If SE begins solving again before completion of SE issue troubleshooting, carefully track and control topology changes while troubleshooting.

In response to these events, NERC suggests periodic stress tests and reviews of SE settings, possibly including the removal of key data points to simulate an RTU outage. Work with vendors to determine optimal settings, and consider developing an inventory of key EMS settings.

### Breaker Failure Due to Trip Coil Polarity

A temporary phase-phase-ground fault occurred on a 115 kV line. A 115 kV line breaker at one end of the line was slow to operate. Breaker failure protection operated, which caused the remaining two 115 kV breakers of a three-breaker switching station to open. This left the switching station de-energized. The breaker that failed to operate utilized two trip coils. Onsite investigation indicated that both trip coils had been damaged when they were energized to trip the breaker.

The breaker has a common trip coil assembly that had been wired such that the polarity was opposing for each trip coil. When the trip coils were energized simultaneously, cancellation of magnetic flux occurred due to the opposing trip coil polarity, causing the coil armature to remain immobile. Microprocessor relay data indicated that the trip coils were energized by separate primary and secondary relay trip contacts within a time span of less than three minutes. The trip coils were replaced and tested to verify proper operation by applying simultaneous trips to the trip coils.

Simultaneous trip coil energization tests should be conducted on all breakers with multiple trip coils that share a common magnetic path. Care should be observed to simultaneously energize the trip coils for a very short time (tripping time of breaker).

- Common assembly trip coils installed by a vendor need to be verified.
- Field wiring also needs to be verified as it may defeat properly installed trip coils.
- Test breakers with common trip coil assemblies for proper tripping when trip coils are energized simultaneously.

## Upcoming Texas RE Events

### [Standard Drafting Team Conference Call](#)

A Standard Drafting Team (SDT) conference call to discuss the retirement of Regional Standard IRO-006-TRE-1 will be held on April 10, 2018, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Central Time.

#### [Agenda](#)

#### [WebEx Registration](#)

Dial-in: 1-855-797-9485 | Password: 1234

Please contact [rsm@texasre.org](mailto:rsm@texasre.org) with any questions.

### [Spring Standards and Compliance Workshop](#)

There are still two weeks to register for Texas RE's Spring Standards and Compliance workshop. The workshop will include presentations from Texas RE staff and NERC personnel on topics including Internal Controls, Supply Chain, Compliance Near Misses, and others. Texas RE encourages all stakeholders to participate in this event.

The workshop will be held on April 17, 2018, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Texas RE Conference Center, located at 805 Las Cimas Parkway, Suite 200, Austin, Texas 78746. A light lunch will be provided. A listen-only webinar will be available (but not recorded) for those unable to attend in person. Click [here](#) for more information, including the agenda.

#### [In-Person RSVP](#) | [WebEx Registration](#)

Please contact [information@texasre.org](mailto:information@texasre.org) with any questions.

### [Bulk Power System Summer Awareness Webinar](#)

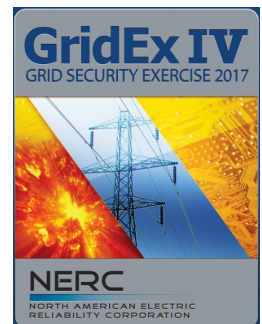
Is your company prepared to meet its electric reliability commitments this summer? Retirements of several power generation facilities, along with other factors, have lowered the expected reserve margins for the ERCOT region since last summer. Join Texas RE for a webinar discussion about bulk power system summer awareness. Topics to be discussed include: the summer weather forecast, expected system capacity, transmission and security issues, what companies can do to prepare for summer operations, and a review of operational notifications.

The webinar will be held on May 3, 2018, from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Central. Click [here](#) for more information. Register via [WebEx](#), or RSVP to [information@texasre.org](mailto:information@texasre.org) to attend in person, or if you have any questions.

## NERC Publishes GridEx IV Report

NERC released its GridEx IV Lessons Learned report on Friday, March 30, 2018, detailing the findings from the continent-wide grid security exercise held in November 2017. The report identified recommendations and lessons learned based on feedback from the more than 45 participating organizations and 6,500 individuals.

The full report can be read [here](#).



## NERC Initiatives and Activities

### Upcoming Webinars

Topic	Date
<a href="#">Inverter-Based Resource Webinar Series</a> : Distributed Energy Resource Impacts— 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Eastern <a href="#">Register</a>	April 5, 2018
<a href="#">Inverter-Based Resource Webinar Series</a> : Inverter-Based Resources Connected to the Bulk Power System— 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Eastern <a href="#">Register</a>	May 2, 2018

### Comment and Ballot Periods

Project Name	Open through 8:00 p.m. ET on date listed
<a href="#">Project 2015-10 — Single Points of Failure</a>   TPL-001-5 and Implementation Plan	April 9, 2018
<a href="#">Project 2016-02 — Modifications to CIP Standards</a>   CIP-002-6 Draft 2	April 30, 2018
<a href="#">Project 2016-02 — Modifications to CIP Standards</a>   Control Center	April 30, 2018
<a href="#">Project 2016-02 — Modifications to CIP Standards</a>   CIP-012-1 Draft 3	April 30, 2018
<a href="#">Project 2017-06 — Modifications to BAL-002-2</a>   BAL-002-3	May 7, 2018

### NERC Actions

On March 15, 2018, NERC filed its [Petition for Approval of Amended Compliance and Certification Committee Charter](#).

On March 16, 2018, NERC filed its [Petition for Approval of Proposed Reliability Standard PRC-025-2](#).

On March 26, 2018, NERC filed [Comments](#) in Response to the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NOPR) for Cyber Security Supply Chain Management.

- These comments are in response to the [January 18, 2018 NOPR](#), which proposes to approve proposed Reliability Standards CIP-013-1, CIP-005-6, and CIP-010-3. The NOPR also contained proposed FERC directives.

On March 30, 2018, NERC filed with FERC:

- An [information filing](#) regarding the implementation of Reliability Standard TPL-001-4 Table 1, Footnote 12 in Docket Nos. RM12-1-000 and RM13-9-000; and
- The [2018 NERC Standards Report](#), status and timetable for addressing regulatory directives in Docket No. RR09-6-003.

### FERC Actions

On March 9, 2018, FERC issued a [Letter Order](#) approving proposed revisions to the Segment Qualification Guidelines in Appendix 3D to the NERC Rules of Procedure.

## Contact Information for Texas RE Management

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**Website:** [www.texasre.org](http://www.texasre.org)

**Twitter:**  [Follow @Texas\\_RE\\_Inc](https://twitter.com/Texas_RE_Inc)

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## Texas Reliability Entity, Inc.

805 Las Cimas Parkway  
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Austin, Texas 78746

Phone: (512) 583-4900  
E-mail: [information@texasre.org](mailto:information@texasre.org)

To assure effective and efficient reduction of risks to the reliability and security of the bulk power system within the ERCOT Interconnection.

Texas Reliability Entity, Inc. monitors and enforces compliance with Reliability Standards for the North American Electric Reliability Corporation; develops regional standards; and monitors and reports on compliance with the ERCOT Protocols.



## Career Opportunities

Check out our [Careers Page](#) for more information on these current openings:

Enforcement Attorney

Protocol Compliance Engineer/Analyst

Compliance Engineer/Analyst (2 Positions Available)

## Upcoming Important Dates at Texas RE

**April 10** – Standard Drafting Team Conference  
Call – 9:00 a.m.

**April 17** – Spring Standards and Compliance Workshop – 9:00 a.m.

**April 18** – NRWG/NSRF Joint Meeting – 9:30 a.m.  
(At Texas RE)

**May 1** – MRC Conference Call – 9:00 a.m.

**May 3** – BPS Summer Awareness Webinar – 1:30 p.m.

**May 15** – NRWG/NSRF Joint Meeting – 9:30 a.m.  
(At ERCOT Met Center)

**May 17** – Talk with Texas RE – 1:30 p.m.

**May 23** – MRC Meeting – 9:00 a.m.

**May 23** – Audit, Governance & Finance Committee Meeting – 12:00 p.m.

**May 23** – Board of Directors Meeting – 1:30 p.m.

**May 28** – Memorial Day – Office Closed

April 2018						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

May 2018						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		