

NERC

NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC
RELIABILITY CORPORATION

ALIGN

Registered Entity Newsletter

November 2019

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LET'S GET ALIGNED: KEY TAKEAWAYS

Release 1 Deployment Update

NERC's management team decided to delay Release 1, originally planned for the last quarter of 2019, and NERC's Board accepted the schedule change at its August Board meeting. The primary drivers for the delay are related to ensuring data security in light of the change of ownership of our software provider, refining and harmonizing compliance audit and investigation business processes across the Regional Entities, and addressing stakeholder concerns regarding evidence collection. These are important issues to be addressed and we are committed to addressing them fully and in a timely manner. While these issues are being addressed, the project team continues with its other scheduled activities, with the goal of launching Release 1 in 2020.

One of those issues involves the collection and securing of data and evidence. The Align project team met with Regions and stakeholders on October 15th in Atlanta to listen to stakeholders about their concerns. There was a follow-up meeting on November 4th with the Align Steering Committee to review the concerns and determine next steps ensure that data collection is consistent, and that any data collected is secured within Align and other systems. The outcome of these meetings will be communicated in the coming weeks.

The Align project team is still determining the exact Align Release 1 training schedule, which will include the addition of a separate, secure repository for evidence. When the final schedule is published, the Align project team will ensure that there is ample time to register for training.

For more information on the Align Release 1 deployment approach, please review our [Align Release 1 FAQs](#).

Accessing Align: Act Now!

Even though Align Release 1 has been delayed, you should not delay the setup or verification of your ERO Portal Account. It is **mandatory** that you have an ERO Portal Account to access Align. Prior to the Release 1 Go-live, all primary compliance contacts (PCCs) with an ERO Portal Account will be automatically granted permissions in the Align tool. **If you do not have an account prior to the Release 1 Go-live, you will not be able to access Align or provision any registered entity users. Act now to verify your existing account or to set up your new account!**

Additionally, PCCs are responsible for ensuring that anyone in their entity who requires Align access has a valid ERO Portal Account. Please identify and document anyone in your entity who will require Align access. We will share instructions on the next steps of how to request access to Align via the ERO portal in future communications. Moving forward, PCCs will be responsible for managing their entity's Align users.

To set-up an ERO Portal Account:

1. Navigate to <https://eroportal.nerc.net>.
2. Select “Register” in the upper left-hand corner.
3. Complete the registration form and click “Submit.”

To verify an ERO Portal Account:

1. Navigate to <https://eroportal.nerc.net>.
2. Select “Sign In” in the upper left-hand corner.
3. Enter your credentials to confirm access to ERO Portal.

If you cannot remember your username/password, select the “Forgot Password/Username” to reset your password. If you have questions or problems concerning your ERO Portal Account, please submit a support ticket [here](#).

What Will Happen To Our Existing CMEP Tools?

Align will replace all existing CMEP tools (i.e., webCDMS, CITS, and CRATS) once all planned Releases are completed. Prior to training delivery, the Align project team will share detailed START/STOP/CONTINUE guides that clearly outline what activities will be completed in Align and what activities will be completed in your legacy systems. These will be updated after each major Release until the legacy systems are fully decommissioned.

ABOUT THE ALIGN NEWSLETTER

This newsletter compiles a list of important Align project updates with actionable deadlines, as well as upcoming events, recently posted resources, and other relevant news and information. Please email CMEP@nerc.net with feedback on this newsletter. Current and future newsletters and additional project resources, including the regularly updated [Align FAQs](#), can be found on the newly updated [Align Project Site](#).