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From the Desk of the CEO

A secure and reliable electric grid is the foundation of a modern society. Every sector of American industry, from manufacturing and information technology, to financial services and transportation, depends upon reliable electricity. Electric reliability is front-and-center as October is both [Energy Awareness Month](#) and [National Cyber Security Awareness Month](#). These awareness campaigns underscore the importance of active participation from all stakeholders to maintain the reliability and security of our grid.

Energy Awareness Month is an initiative by the U.S. Department of Energy designed to recognize the remarkable role that the energy industry plays in our country, with a focus on security and resilience. As the only state with its own interconnection, Texas has a unique responsibility for the safety of our energy grid, and our stakeholders do an outstanding job. Whether it's working with ERCOT to handle summer load, or responding quickly and effectively to natural disasters like the recent Tropical Storm Imelda, entities in Texas work diligently to ensure power is available for emergency response and recovery.

Cyber security is vitally important to maintaining electric reliability and the national awareness campaign works to remind everyone of cyber security best practices and available tools to help companies practice good cyber hygiene. To ensure that our stakeholders are aware of cyber security trends, Texas RE provides training on cyber security at our workshops throughout the year, including the recent CIP Low Impact Workshop in Houston. Cyber security information is prominent on [our website](#), which includes a CIP evidence request guide and answers to common CIP questions.



Possibly the most indispensable resource for cyber security is the Electricity Information Sharing and Analysis Center (E-ISAC), which works to analyze cyber security threats posed to the electric industry and helps entities deliver a coordinated response. All stakeholders from our region are strongly encouraged to join E-ISAC to receive private-level situational awareness on security threats, including alerts; physical security and cyber security bulletins; remediation; task force reviews; events calendars; and other security-specific resources. Additionally, the E-ISAC's [Cybersecurity Risk Information Sharing Program](#) (CRISP) is a platform for energy sector owners and operators to voluntarily share IT system traffic in near-real-time to provide alerts and identify malicious cyber traffic. Participation in CRISP helps to improve the speed and accuracy of data sharing and enhances the ability to detect trends across the sector, identify fast-moving cyber attacks, and deploy effective mitigations before critical systems are affected.

It is appropriate that we conduct our annual membership enrollment and renewal this month when there is a national focus on energy production and cyber security.

Continued on next page...

From the Desk of the CEO, cont.

Texas RE members have the opportunity to provide a voice on key aspects of our organization's governance by voting on Board membership, MRC participation, and Regional Standards. More information about our membership drive is available on page four. We encourage all eligible stakeholders in our region to become a Texas RE member and be an active participant in our activities. As always, we look forward to collaborating with you to safely and reliably keep the lights on.

Regards,
Lane Lanford

Fall Standards and Compliance Workshop

The Fall Standards and Compliance Workshop is fast approaching. Join us on October 24 in the Texas RE Conference Center for presentations from Texas RE, ERCOT, and others. The agenda includes discussions on O&P issues, CIP-008, the 2020 Implementation Plan, and more. Texas RE encourages all stakeholders to participate in this event.

The workshop will be held 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 for those unable to attend in person.

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



Texas RE Board of Directors

Fred N. Day, IV
Chair
(Independent)

Curt D. Brockmann
MRC Vice Chair
(Affiliated)

John T. Coughlin
Vice Chair
(Independent)

DeAnn T. Walker
Chairman,
Public Utility
Commission
(*Ex officio*, non-voting)

Dr. Delores Etter
(Independent)

Milton B. Lee
(Independent)

Lori Cobos
Public Counsel,
Office of Public Utility
Counsel
(*Ex officio*, non-voting)

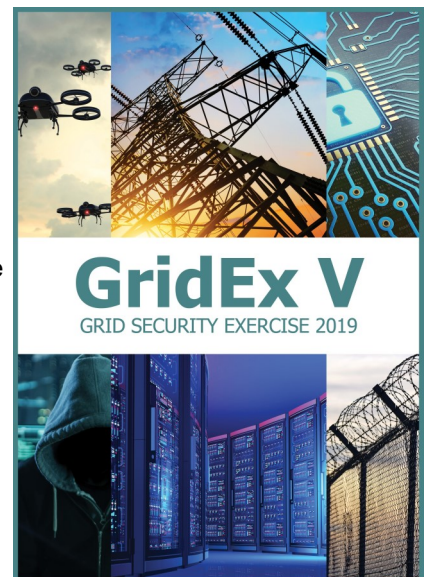
W. Lane Lanford
President and CEO

Liz Jones
MRC Chair
(Affiliated)

GridEx V

GridEx is a biennial exercise designed to simulate a cyber/physical attack on electric and critical infrastructure across North America. This is a continent-wide exercise organized by NERC and designed to test the electric sector's crisis response during a large-scale attack on the grid. This event offers hands-on training with real-time scenarios.

GridEx V will be held November 13-14, 2019. The deadline to register for active participation has passed, but stakeholders are still able to observe the exercise. For more information, contact events@eisac.com.





The Fall Standards and Compliance Workshop on October 24, 2019, will include an update regarding the managed release of the Centralized Organization Registration ERO System (CORES) project.

The managed release includes the following stages:

- As of Mid-July 2019, all new registration and change requests must be submitted using the CORES application.
- In August 2019, all focus group and testing entity participants obtained access to CORES and began the validation process.
- Texas RE will continue the rollout process by providing entities access to CORES and requests that entities validate the registration information within CORES and fill out any unpopulated registration sections.

This managed approach gives stakeholders an opportunity to ask questions while navigating through the various sections in the CORES tool and offers a chance to see what can be done to improve the system in the future. Links to CORES resources can be found on Texas RE's [Registration webpage](#). Please contact Abby Fellingner at 512-583-4927 or registration@texasre.org if you have any questions about the CORES project.



[CORES Technology Project Page](#)

[CORES Training Videos](#)

[ERO Portal](#)

[ERO Portal User Guide](#)

[Multi-Factor Authentication Quick Start Guide](#)

[Multi-Factor Authentication End User Guide](#)

[Texas RE Registration](#)



The Align Project Team continues to conduct user acceptance testing, identify critical enhancements, complete data integration and reporting efforts, and develop training materials. The project has been delayed to ensure data security, refine compliance audit and investigation business processes, and address stakeholder concerns. While the training dates have not been determined, the anticipated timeline is in Q1 or Q2 2020. The focus of Release 1 training will still include self-reports, self-logs, mitigation, and enforcement activities. Texas RE will continue to update registered entities through Texas REview, announcements, workshops, and social media on the status of Align and will allow ample time to register for training.

For additional information on Align, please visit the [Align web page](#) and refer to the [Align FAQ document](#). If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Texas RE's Align Project Change Agent, Rochelle Brown, at Rochelle.Brown@texasre.org.

NERC Lessons Learned

[Risks Posed by Firewall Firmware Vulnerabilities](#)

A vulnerability in the web interface of a vendor's firewall was exploited, allowing an unauthenticated attacker to cause unexpected reboots of some equipment. This resulted in a denial of service (DoS)¹ condition at a low-impact control center and multiple remote low-impact generation sites. These unexpected reboots resulted in brief communications outages (i.e., less than five minutes) between field devices at sites and between the sites and the control center. The full Lessons Learned report is available [here](#).

Questions and Answers about Texas RE Membership

Texas RE's annual membership drive is underway through October 28, 2019. All current Texas RE members and entities interested in becoming a Texas RE member must complete a [Membership Application](#) and send it to information@texasre.org.

Q: How long do membership terms last?

Membership terms are for one year, beginning November 1 and running through October 31 of the following year.

Q: What are the benefits of membership?

Members vote to approve revisions to Texas RE's Bylaws and to elect the four independent directors to the Texas RE Board. Members also select representatives to the Member Representatives Committee (MRC), which provides advice to the Board with respect to annual budgets, business plans and funding mechanisms of Texas RE, matters relevant to the reliability of the BPS, and any other matters pertinent to the purpose and operations of Texas RE. Additionally, members will be able to attend the Texas RE Annual Membership meeting on December 11, 2019. Former PUCT and FERC Chairman Pat Wood is the guest speaker.

Q: What are the requirements to be a member?

New members must submit a completed application form to Texas RE Information. Following review of the application, an entity receives a Membership Agreement for review and signature. Each qualifying entity may be registered in only one sector.

Continued on next page...



Questions and Answers about Texas RE Membership, cont.

Q: Is membership renewal automatic?

Membership renewal is **not automatic**. The primary and alternate contacts of current members received a renewal form with instructions on October 2. Please note that the member contacts are often different from the primary and alternate compliance contacts. If you have any questions about the current status of your company's membership and who the membership contacts are, review the [current membership list](#) on Texas RE's website.

Q: Is it free to become a Texas RE member?

Yes.

Q: Does my company have to be a NERC registered entity to become a member?

If your company qualifies for the Load-Serving and Marketing sector, it does not have to be a NERC registered entity to become a Texas RE member.

Collin Martin with Oncor was selected as the region's representative on the NERC Operating Committee

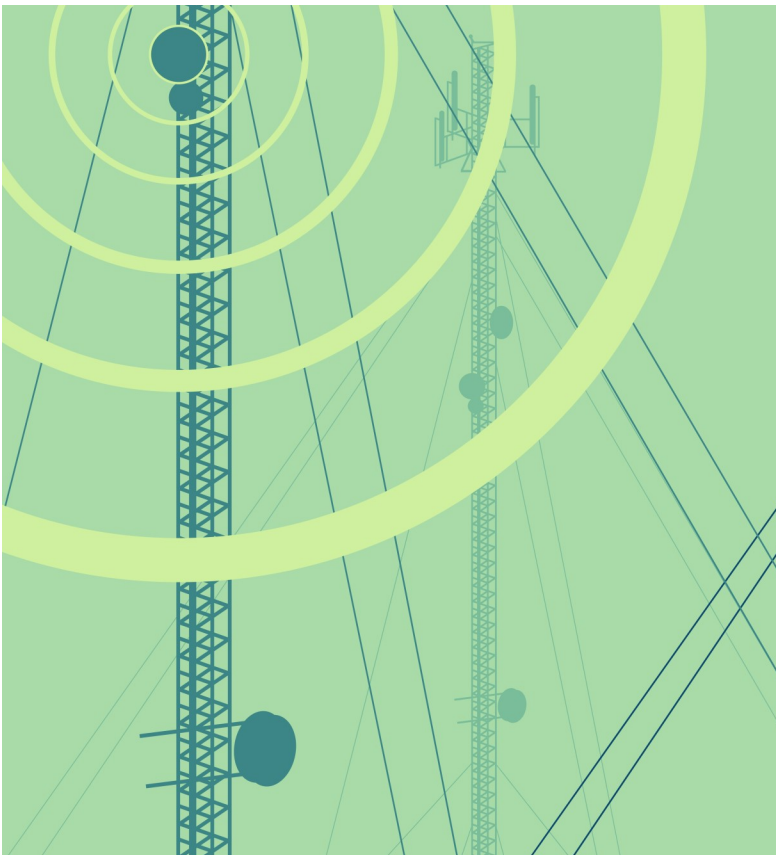
Talk with Texas REcap—Extranet Updates

Effective October 1, 2019, Texas RE's Extranet site has been enhanced with a document submittal structure that will eliminate the need for registered entities to populate and submit the Evidence Index spreadsheet for Audit, Spot Check, and Self-Certification activities. The enhancements will streamline the process, eliminate the manual entry of populating the Evidence Index with document titles and NERC Standards and Requirements, avoid confusion of document naming

conventions, and expedite the transfer of documents for engagement activities. The Extranet structure will not change for Registration, Certification, Risk, and Enforcement activities.

For each engagement activity, Evidence and RSAW subfolders will be present. The Evidence subfolder will contain NERC Standard and Requirement subfolders based on the scope of the engagement. The RSAW subfolder will house all RSAW documents submitted by the registered entity. For additional details on the process, please refer to the [Texas RE Extranet instructions](#), which are located on the [Extranet login](#) and landing pages and on the Texas RE website under Helpful Links at the bottom of webpage.

The full Talk with Texas RE presentation is available [here](#). If you have questions or need assistance, please contact CMEPAnalysts@texasre.org.



ERCOT Operator Training

ERCOT recently held its 35th Annual Operator Training Seminar at its new training facility in Taylor, Texas. The three-day sessions for TDSPs, TOPs, QSEs, and Generation Operators included speakers from key organizations throughout the Texas Interconnection and covered topics such as human performance, emerging technologies, voltage control, congestion management, inertia, and more. Mark Henry, Texas RE's Director of Reliability Services, delivered a presentation on lessons learned from events that impacted the bulk power system in Texas and in other regions.

Vote on Independent Directors

Texas RE members recently had the opportunity to vote on two Independent Directors to serve on Texas RE's Board of Directors. Both current Board member Dr. Delores M. Etter and new Independent Director nominee Crystal Ashby were approved by Texas RE members to serve three-year terms beginning January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2022. Congratulations to both and thank you to our membership for participating in Texas RE's governance.

NERC Initiatives and Activities

Comment and Ballot Periods

Project Name	Open through 8:00 p.m. ET on date listed
Project 2018-04—Modifications to PRC-024-2 PRC-024-3 (Draft 2) Comment Period Additional Ballot and Non-Binding Poll	November 4, 2019

On September 6, 2019, NERC filed a [Petition](#) concerning Regional Reliability Standard BAL-002-WECC-3.

- This is a petition to approve the retirement of Requirement R2 since it is now redundant with Reliability Standard BAL-003-1.1.

On September 26, 2016, NERC filed its [Annual Report](#) on Wide-Area Analysis of Technical Feasibility Exceptions.

- This report is in compliance with paragraphs 220 and 221 of FERC Order No. 706.

Want to participate in a ballot for a Regional Standard?

Entities must be in the Registered Ballot Body (RBB) before joining a registered ballot pool.

To join, please fill out the [RBB Application](#) form and email it [here](#).

Upcoming Enforceable Standards

<u>Non-CIP Standard/Requirement</u>	<u>Enforcement Date</u>
TPL-007-3 R5, R9	1/1/2020
IRO-002-6	1/1/2020
PRC-026-1 R2, R3, R4	1/1/2020
MOD-026-1 R2	50% by 7/1/2020
MOD-027-1 R2	50% by 7/1/2020
PRC-002-2 R2-R4, R6-R11	50% by 7/1/2020
PER-006-1	10/1/2020
PRC-027-1	10/1/2020
PRC-012-2	1/1/2021
TPL-007-3 R11, R12	7/1/2021
TPL-007-3 R6, R10	1/1/2022
PRC-002-2 R2-R4, R6-R11	100% by 7/1/2022
PRC-002-2 R2-R4, R6-R11: Entities owning only one BES bus, BES Element, or generating unit shall be fully compliant within 6 years	7/1/2022
TPL-007-3 R3, R4, R8	1/1/2023
TPL-007-3 R7	1/1/2024
MOD-026-1 R2	100% by 7/1/2024
MOD-027-1 R2	100% by 7/1/2024

<u>CIP Standard/Requirement</u>	<u>Enforcement Date</u>
CIP-003-7 R1 – R4	1/1/2020
CIP-005-6 R1 – R2	7/1/2020
CIP-010-3 R1 – R4	7/1/2020
CIP-013-1 R1 – R3	7/1/2020
CIP-008-6 R1 – R4	1/1/2021

PRC-005 – See the [Implementation Plan](#)

- Implementation Plan – [Calendar View](#)
- Implementation Plan – [Requirements View](#)

PRC-025 – See the [Implementation Plan](#)

Contact Information for Texas RE Management

Main Phone Number: (512) 583-4900

Website: www.texasre.org

Follow Us



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Texas Reliability Entity, Inc.

805 Las Cimas Parkway
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Phone: (512) 583-4900
E-mail: 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:

Compliance Monitoring Coordinator

O&P Compliance Engineer/Analyst

CIP Cyber and Physical Security Analyst

Upcoming Important Dates at Texas RE

[October 10](#) – NSRF Meeting – 9:30 a.m.
(Texas RE Conference Center)

[October 24](#) – Fall Standards and Compliance Workshop – 9:00 a.m.

November 11 – Texas RE Office Closed

[November 19](#) – NSRF Meeting – 9:30 a.m.
(Texas RE Conference Center)

[November 21](#) – *Talk with Texas RE* – 1:30 p.m.

November 28 & 29 – Texas RE Office Closed

October 2019						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
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		

November 2019						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	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