

Texas RE Fall Standards, Security, & Reliability Workshop



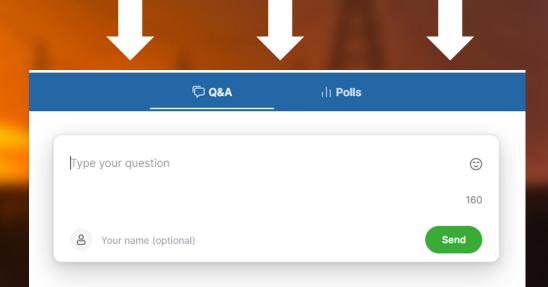
AGENDA

- Cybersecurity Threat Assessment
- Oil & Natural Gas Industry Coordination
- <u>Texas Legislature Update</u>
- Self-Certification Enhancements
- Modernization of Standards
 Process and Procedures Task

 Force
- Supply Chain Risk Management
- Self-Reporting Best Practices
- Artificial Intelligence
- 2026 CMEP IP
- Standards Effective in 2026

November 5, 2025

To submit questions during the workshop, please visit **slido.com** and enter today's participant code: **TXRE**



Welcome & Instructions

Matthew Barbour

Texas RE

Communications & Training Manager





Antitrust Admonition

Because this event brings together market participants who may be viewed as actual or potential competitors, we must be mindful to conduct it in a manner that is consistent with the antitrust and competition laws. Participants should not disclose non-public, proprietary, or competitively sensitive information.

Attendees should exercise independent judgment and avoid even the appearance of discussions of agreements or concerted actions that may be viewed as restraining competition. Any questions on Texas RE's Antitrust Compliance Corporate Policy may be directed to Texas RE's General Counsel.

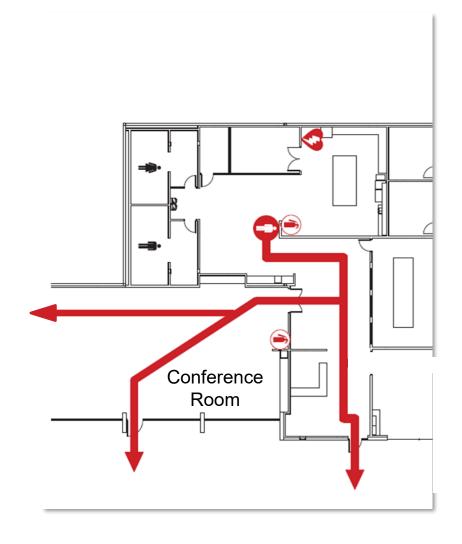




Safety Moment

In case of emergency, evacuate through the nearest door

Rally point is in the front parking lot



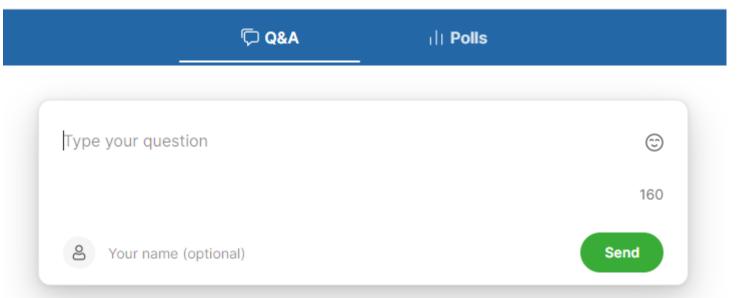




Questions

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Training Page



COMPLIANCE

ENFORCEMENT

REGISTRATION

RELIABILITY SERVICES

HOME | ABOUT US | CAREERS

STANDARDS



ty of compliance- and standards-related topics. Texas RE offers training on a va Workshops and seminars are a ounced to subscribers of the Texas RE Information mailing list. To sub ibe to our mailing list please visit Texas RE Mailing Lists.

se contact Texas RE Information. For questions about training, p

Workshops v

Talk with Texas RE v

Align Training v

Lessons Learned V

Archived Presentations v

Workshops

Women's Leadership in Grid Reliability and Security Conference | Recording Understanding New Generator Obligations | Recording



Fall Standards, Security, and Reliability Workshop

2025 Fall Standards, Security, and Reliability Workshop



Spring Standards, Security, and Reliability Workshop

2025 Spring Standards, Security, and Reliability Workshop | Recording



Cyber and Physical Security Workshop

2024 Cyber and Physical Security Workshop | Keynote | Panels: Critical Infrastructure, Threat Assessment, Grid Technologies, Security Posture



Evolving Grid Workshop

2025 Evolving Grid Workshop | Keynote: Jim Robb | Keynote: Michael Webber Panels: Large Loads, Integrating Emerging Technologies, Expanding Security Challenges, Transmission Planning



Winter Weatherization Workshop

Winter Weatherization Workshop | Re



Reliability 101 & 201





MCLE Credit

This workshop is accredited for 5 Minimum Continuing Legal Education (MCLE hours). To receive credit you may either:

- **□** Self-report the MCLE course number
 - **•** 174300383

<u>OR</u>

- ☐ Email Information@texasre.org your attendee information
 - Name
 - Bar Card Number
 - Hours Attended





Upcoming Texas RE Events

















@Texas_RE_Inc



/TexasReliabilityEntity





Executive Welcome

Joseph Younger

Texas RE

Vice President & Chief Operating Officer





DRAGGS

Safeguarding Civilization

Texas RE: General Threat Landscape



Introduction

- Scott Bear II, Dragos Principal Threat Intelligence Analyst
- US Air Force Veteran
 - Initially 1N3x1, but Pashto is hard
 - 3D1x2 Cyber Transport routers, switches, SONET, ISDN
 - 1B4x1 Cyber Warfare interactive ops, election def. ops, host forensics
- 1~ year at Crowdstrike
 - SOC work isn't for this guy
- 3.5 years at Dragos supporting/facilitating info sharing for NA grid



Introduction

- Education
 - A.S. in IT (YTI), A.S. Electronics Engineering (CCAF), A.S. Cybersecurity
 (CCAF)
 - B.S. in Cybersecurity (WGU)
 - WiP: B.A. in Philosophy (UTSA)
- Certifications
 - SANS GCFA
 - CompTIA A+/Net+/Linux+/Sec+
 - EC-Council Certified Encryption Specialist
 - ETA Fiber Optic Installer
 - SSCP
 - Something I'm sure I've forgotten



Overview

- DER/Microgrid landscape
- Geopolitics and OT
 - Russia-Ukraine and cascading effects
 - China and long-term strategies
 - Shift in hacktivism severity
 - Persistent engagement
- Domestic issues
 - Renewables and politics





Distributed Energy Resources (DER)

Key Findings from Dragos DER Threat Perspective

- Reconnaissance takes little/no effort
- DoS are simple and can have cascading effects
- MitM & Packet Replay: moderate competence with significant impact
- Firmware Mod: difficult, effects range from annoying to severe
- Device-level attacks are disruptive and/or destructive
- Attacks on clusters: disruptive, expensive, dangerous





Notable Events Impacting DER/Microgrids

- 2019: Utah-based solar/wind generation
 - Incidental, likely common scanners that found Cisco firewall vulns
- 2022: German wind generation control/management disruption
 - Incidental, sloppy targeting resulting in AcidRain malware (KAMACITE)
- 2024: SolarView used to conduct unauthorized bank transfers
 - Targeted, Chinese hacktivism relto Japan





Geopolitical Impacts: Russia's Invasion of Ukraine

- Of the existing ICS malware, most came from Russia attacking Ukraine (and one in retaliation)
- TTPs for civilian impact being rewritten
 - Attacks on grid operations (Industroyer, BlackEnergy, Industroyer2)
 - Attacks on civilian infrastructure (FrostyGoop)
- Shift in priority targeting
 - As Russian gas imports are banned, US exports fill gaps





Geopolitical Impacts: China & Long-Term Strategies

- Persistence in infrastructure globally
 - Enumeration, monitoring
 - Exfiltration
- VOLTZITE, SYLVANITE
 - SYLVANITE: opportunistic exploits, initial access broker
 - VOLTZITE: actions on objectives
- Significant investment in Global South, especially LATAM
 - Huawei dominates 5G infrastructure
 - China provides massive lines of credit for infrastructure
 - Most LATAM nations have switched stance on Taiwan





Geopolitical Impacts: Shifts in Hacktivism

- Used to be annoying, but not serious
 - DoS or directory walk against a public website
- Multiple groups have gone from persona to named threat group
 - BAUXITE (CyberAv3ngers)
 - TAT25-47 (Infrastructure Destruction Squad)
- Host nations ignore or endorse activities
 - Tacit endorsement by strategically aligned governments
 - Sometimes "unofficially" working for intelligence agencies





Geopolitical Impacts: Persistent Engagement

- Everyone's hands are in the cookie jar...are we okay with that?
 - CARR flooded water tanks in Texas.
 - BAUXITE compromised Unitronics devices in facility near Pittsburgh
 - VOLTZITE is hiding under every keyboard
- Industry analysts have likened this to modern espionage. I disagree.
 - Operational Preparation of Battlespace (OPB)
 - Intelligence Preparation of Battlespace (IPB)





Domestic Issues: Renewables Policy

- We're losing on renewables
 - Solar panels/inverters overwhelmingly produced in China
 - Increased security concerns across NAICS 2211
- Politicization issues
 - Stopping projects in progress
 - National Labs + "banned words" list



DRAGGS

Questions? intel@dragos.com



North American Energy Standards Board

Quick Facts

Mission & Government Coordination

The North American Energy Standards Board serves as an

industry forum for the development and promotion of standards to support the wholesale and retail natural gas and electricity markets

1994

GISB Founded

29

Years of Standards
Development

2001

NAESB Established

4,000+

Standards

Department of Energy

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners

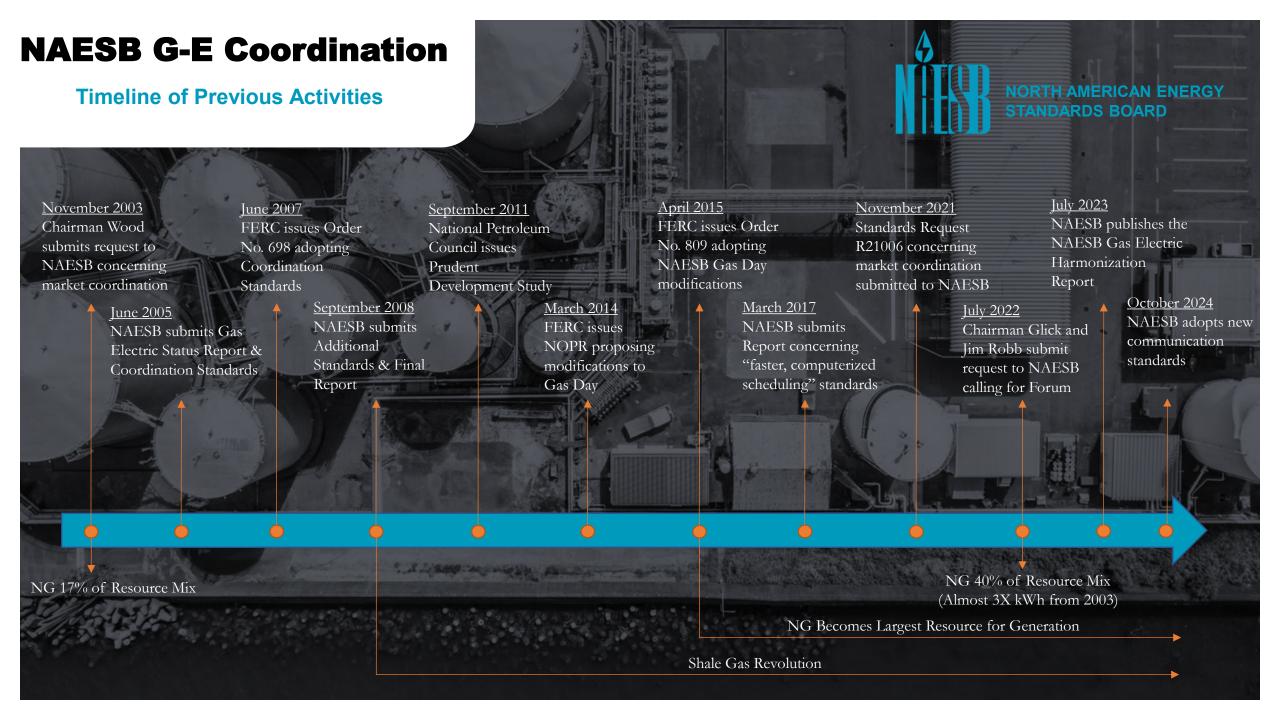
American National
Standards Institute
(ANSI) Accreditation

Oct. 2001

National Institute of Standards and Technology

North American
Electric Reliability
Corporation

National Petroleum Council



RECENT FERC ACTION NAESB GE Standards

NOPR on NAESB WGQ Standards

193 FERC ¶ 61,041 DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

18 CFR Part 284

Docket No. RM96-1-044

Standards for Business Practices of Interstate Natural Gas Pipelines

(Issued October 16, 2025)

AGENCY: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) proposes to amend its regulations to incorporate by reference certain modifications to the latest version (Version 4.0) of Standards for Business Practices of Interstate Natural Gas Pipelines adopted by the Wholesale Gas Quadrant (WGQ) of the North American Energy Standards Board (NAESB). NAESB's revisions in Version 4.0 of the standards streamline the process for accessing publicly available gas-electric coordination data during extreme cold weather or emergency events.

DATES: Comments are due [60 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

ADDRESSES: Comments, identified by docket number, may be filed in the following ways. Electronic filing through https://www.ferc.gov, is preferred.

 Electronic Filing: Documents must be filed in acceptable native applications and print-to-PDF, but not in scanned or picture format.



NAESB WGQ Standard No. 4.3.23

New Category: Gas Electric Coordination (when applicable)

NAESB WGQ Standard No. 0.3.z1

New Requirement for Scheduled Quantity Information for Directly Connected Power Plants

• Examples of Information that Could be Included

NAESB WGQ Standard No. 5.3.z1

New Information in Critical Notices to include geographic information of impacted areas, locations, or pipeline facilities



October 16, 2025



...I therefore encourage NAESB and industry stakeholders to continue this work and further enhance such information-sharing standards, potentially including providing information related to the natural gas scheduled by generators that are not directly connected to interstate pipelines.

NORTH AMERICAN ENERGY

STANDARDS BOARD

...In addition to providing feedback on the NAESB standards proposed in this NOPR, I urge stakeholders to provide comments in this proceeding on areas where additional improvements on gas-electric coordination would be valuable, particularly regarding information-sharing along the chain of entities that physically control or have financial rights to natural gas deliveries, starting at the wellhead and ending at generators or the gas local distribution companies.

Gas-Electric Coordination

Through the End of the Year

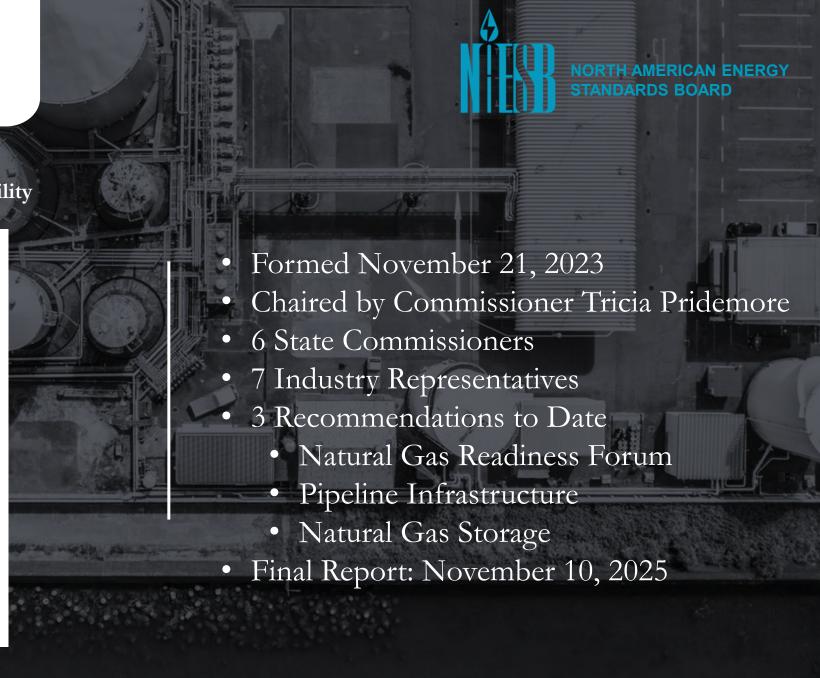
NARUC Task Force
Gas-Electric Alignment for Reliability

 $\frac{M \; \underline{E} \; M \; \underline{O} \; \underline{R} \; \underline{A} \; \underline{N} \; \underline{D} \; \underline{U} \; \underline{M}}{On \; the \; Creation \; of \; the}$ Gas- Electric Alignment for Reliability (GEAR)

On November 21, 2023, the NARUC Executive Committee approved a motion to permit NARUC President Julie Fedorchak, pursuant to Title I, Section 19 of the Policies and Procedures of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, 19 to establish the Gas-Electric Alignment for Reliability (GEAR) working group and approved the Written Mission Statement/Charter outlined below for GEAR.

Charter/Mission Statement: Case Electric Alignment for Reliability (CEAR) is chartered for a period of fifteen (15) months, as of this 21st day of November 2023. GEAR is a working group that will bring together state regulators and industry representatives to develop solutions to better align the gas and electric industries to maintain and improve the reliability of the gas and electric energy systems on which our nation depends for power. GEAR intends to gather regulator and industry stakeholder feedback and recommend solutions to better harmonize communication protocols, operations and planning of the gas and electric systems and markets. Findings from the North American Energy Standards Board Gas-Electric Harmonization Forum, the Reliability Alliance Report developed by NGSA, INGAA and EPSA, and the analyses of Sorms Uri and Elliott by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the North American Electric Reliability Corporation, will serve as a starting point for the working group.

Background: Over the last two decades, the U.S. electric and gas industries have undergone significant transformation driven by new technologies, replacement of aging infrastructure, environmental regulations and state and federal policy goals. New technologies for renewable electricity generation combined with the significant increase in natural gas production and correlated decrease in gas prices have transformed the electric industry and increased dependence on gas for electricity generation. As a result, the electric industry is more reliant than ever on the gas industry to fuel electricity generation. However, since the gas industry was largely designed and constructed to deliver gas for home heating and industrial processes, gas infrastructure and markets are misaligned from electric markets. The lack of coordination between dependence on gas in both systems is high. In February 2021, Winter Storm Uri caused numerous outages, derates or failures to start at electric generating plants scattered across the region. The Texas grid operator (Electric Reliability Council of Texas or ERCOT) ordered a total of 20,000 MW of rolling blackouts to prevent grid collapse; this represents the largest manually controlled load shedding event in U.S. history. More than 4.5 million people in Texas lost power - some for as long as four days. Not quite two years later, during Winter Storm Elliot, unprecedented electric generation outages coincided with winter peak electricity and gas demands. As a result, several Balancing Authorities in the Eastern U.S. declared Energy Emergencies to maintain electric grid reliability, ordering firm load shed exceeding 5,000 MW during the extreme cold weather event. Future trends and technologies indicate that gas and electric system interdependence will continue to grow. To support this transition while maintaining reliability and affordability for customers, and encouraging investments and growth in both industries, reforms are needed to address the areas of friction, disconnect and failure



Gas-Electric Coordination

Through the End of the Year

Natural Gas Readiness Forum Meetings



About AGA

Events

Member Center

Member Log

FUELING OU





Natural Gas Readiness Forum Meeting

NOV 18, 2025 - NOV 19, 2025

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Atlanta, Ga

AGA in collaboration with other energy trade associations is presenting the inaugural Natural Gas Readiness Forum Meeting. This event is a product of the Natural Gas Readiness Forum recommended by the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) Gas-Electric Alignment for Reliability (GEAR) Working Group. Presentations explore various topics related to the reliability of the energy system and how the natural gas system prepares for the high natural gas demand periods. Industry representatives and government will share practices that support winter readiness across the entirety of the U.S. natural gas value chain and critical end



• Foster Education, Situational Awareness, & Peer-to-Peer Connections

NORTH AMERICAN ENERGY

STANDARDS BOARD

- Series of Regional Meetings
- Registration Open to Management Level Industry Representatives
- No Media
- Next Meeting: November 18-19, 2025

Gas-Electric Coordination Through the End of the Year

NPC Study: Gas Electric Coordination



The Secretary of Energy

June 30, 2025

Mr. Alan Armstrong Chair National Petroleum Council 1625 K Street, NW Washington, DC 20006-16:

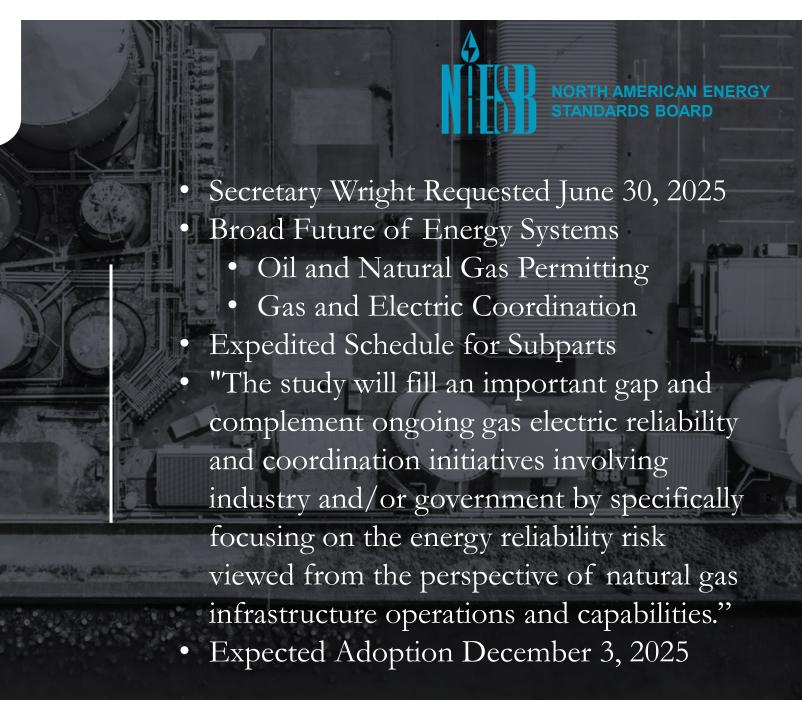
Dear Mr. Armstrong

Many of President Trump's directives, including Executive Order 14156, Declaring a National Energy Emergency, Executive Order 14154, Unleashing American Energy, and Executive Order 14213. Establishing the National Energy Dominance Council, underscore the critical role of domestic energy and natural resources in powering the Nation's economic prosperity and national security. Meeting future energy needs will require ingenuity, innovation, and market-based solutions.

Accordingly, I request that the National Petroleum Council (NPC) undertake a broad Future Energy Systems study with subcomponent deliverables designed to recognize and leverage the vast potential of domestic oil and natural gas resources and industry expertise to advance Administration goals for increasing the availability of affordable, reliable, and secure energy for American consumers and our allies. The scope of this study should be developed with key objectives, deliverables, and timelines mutually determined between the NPC and the Department. Please work with Deputy Assistant Secretary Ryan Peay from the Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management (FECM) to delineate the preliminary scope and subcomponent deliverables within the next 30 days.

For the initial deliverables within the *Future Energy Systems* study, I am requesting the NPC address two priority topics immediately, with reports delivered to me by December 2025. These topics are crucial to advancing the priorities outlined in President Trump's energy agenda and require prompt and focused attention:

Oil and Natural Gas Infrastructure Permitting. Streamlining and expediting permitting is essential for all parts of the energy value chain and for building infrastructure to meet future energy needs. Re-evaluating and updating the permitting section of the NPC's 2019 Dynamic Delivery study report with practical recommendations based on current legislation and regulations can provide meaningful input to support the effective redesign of government systems and siting of new energy infrastructure. The advice of the NPC on this topic will be particularly helpful in concert with the work of the National Energy Dominance Council. Important also will be insights regarding factors that affect industry's ability to attract and retain private sector investment or rapidly deploy new technologies that increase safety, integrity, or operational efficiency.



Gas-Electric Coordination

Through the End of the Year





NERC Electric/Gas Efforts Work Plan

August 2025

RELIABILITY | RESILIENCE | SECURIT



- NERC Driven Initiatives
- Study-Driven Initiatives
- Engagement Driven Initiatives
- Future Website to Follow Activities
- Link to Long-Term Planning Energy
 Assessment Standards that are Under

NORTH AMERICAN ENERGY

STANDARDS BOARD

Development

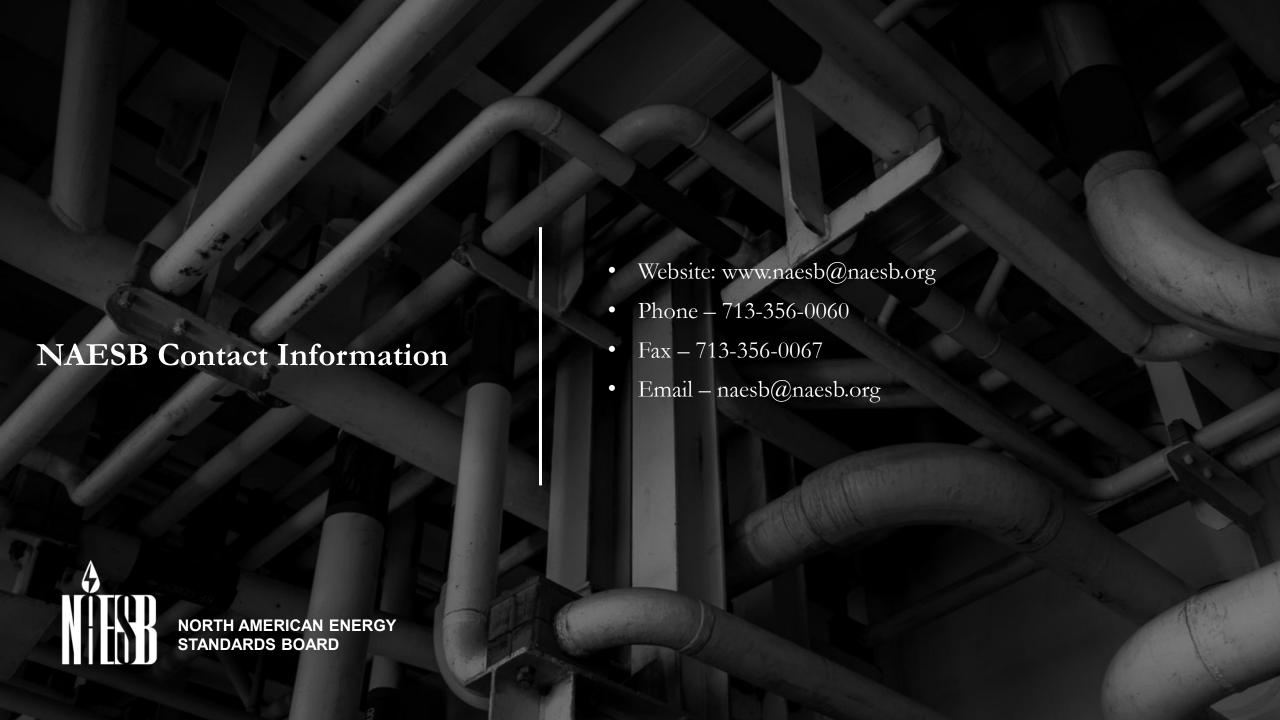
NAESB GE Coordination Activities

What's Next?



2026 WEQ/WGQ/RMQ Annual Plans

• Upon a request or as directed by NAESB Board or a relevant jurisdictional entity, consider developing and/or modifying business practice standards that reflect best practices that will provide stronger operating reliability from production/supply/transport during extreme weather conditions and more clear communications and business processes around force majeure declarations during critical operating periods



Texas Legislature Update

Presented by: Jessie Horn



89TH LEGISLATURE – REGULAR SESSION

- Regular session ended June 2, 2025
- 1,155 bills signed by Governor Abbott before the end of the veto period on June 22, 2025
- Senate Bill 6 was signed into law by Governor Abbott on June 20, 2025, and took effect immediately





SENATE BILL 6

Focuses on four main objectives:

- (1) ensuring transmission costs are properly allocated,
- (2) establishing grid reliability protection measures,
- (3) increasing transparency and credibility to load forecasting, and
- (4) protecting residential customers from outages by requiring large loads to share the load shed obligation during times of shortage.





SENATE BILL 6 IMPLEMENTATION - ROADMAP

Project No.	Project Style	Scoping	PFP	RAO
58479	Rulemaking for Net Metering Arrangements Involving a Large Load Co-Located with an Existing Generation Resource Under PURA §39.169	6/2025 to 8/2025	9/2025	3/2026
58480	Rulemaking to Establish Large Load Forecasting Criteria Under PURA §37.0561	6/2025 to 8/2025	9/2025	3/2026
58481	Rulemaking to Implement Large Load Interconnection Standards Under PURA §37.0561	6/2025 to 12/2025	1/2026	7/2026
58482	Rulemaking to Develop a Reliability Service to Competitively Procure Demand Reductions from Large Loads Under PURA §39.170	6/2025 to 1/2026	2/2026	8/2026
58484	Evaluation of Transmission Cost Recovery	6/2025 to 3/2026	6/2026	12/2026





PURA §39.169

Co-Location of Large Load Customer with Existing Generation Resource

PROJECT NO. 58479, RULEMAKING FOR NET METERING ARRANGEMENTS INVOLVING A LARGE LOAD CO-LOCATED WITH AN EXISTING GENERATION RESOURCE UNDER PURA §39.169

- Proposal for Publication approved at the September 18 open meeting
- Initial comments were due October 17
- Reply comments were due October 31
- Recommended Adoption Order by March 2026





PURA §37.0561(m)

The commission must establish criteria by which ERCOT includes forecasted large load of any peak demand in the organization's transmission planning and resource adequacy models and reports

PROJECT NO. 58480, RULEMAKING TO ESTABLISH LARGE LOAD FORECASTING CRITERIA UNDER PURA §37.0561

- Proposal for Publication approved at the September 18 open meeting
- Initial comments were due October 17
- Reply comments were due October 31
- Recommended Adoption Order by March 2026





PURA §37.0561

Planning for Interconnection of Large Loads

PROJECT NO. 58481, RULEMAKING TO IMPLEMENT LARGE LOAD INTERCONNECTION STANDARDS UNDER PURA §37.0561

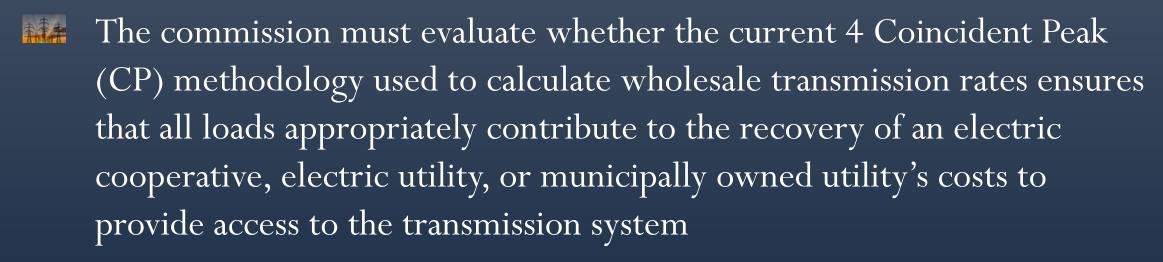
- Proposal for Publication is anticipated in January
- Initial comments will be due approximately 4 weeks later
- Reply comments will be due approximately 2 weeks after initial comments
- Recommended Adoption Order by July 2026





SENATE BILL 6 §6

PROJECT NO. 58484, EVALUATION OF TRANSMISSION COST RECOVERY



Report with analysis, findings, and recommendations for the Commission's consideration anticipated in Spring 2026

Based on feedback from the Commission, the necessary rulemakings will be initiated in June of 2026





PURA §39.170(b)

Large Load
Demand
Management
Service

PROJECT NO. 58482, RULEMAKING TO DEVELOP A RELIABILITY SERVICE TO COMPETITIVELY PROCURE DEMAND REDUCTIONS FROM LARGE LOADS UNDER §39.170

- Proposal for Publication is anticipated in February
- Initial comments will be due approximately 4 weeks later
- Reply comments will be due approximately 2 weeks after initial comments
- Recommended Adoption Order by August 2026





MORE FROM THE 89TH

- HB 14 Requires a study identifying state regulatory functions related to nuclear energy generation facilities in Texas.
- HB 144 Requires electric cooperatives, electric utilities, and municipally owned utilities that distribute electricity to the public to submit and annually update a distribution pole management and inspection plan to the PUCT.
- HB 912 Adds requirements to the approval process for determining a method of compensation for owners of distributed renewable generation in certain areas outside of ERCOT.
- HB 1584 Requires electric utilities to create and maintain a list of priority facilities in their service areas. Utilities must create a mechanism on their website that allows for a facility to request to be added to the list.
- HB 5247 Relating to alternative capital recovery process for certain utilities.
- HB 5323 Creates the Texas Energy Waste Advisory Committee to coordinate and improve upon existing state programs that reduce energy waste and increase energy efficiency.

- SB 75 Creates the Texas Grid Security Commission under the direction of TDEM to evaluate hazards to the ERCOT grid and vulnerabilities of essential service systems for municipalities.
- SB 231 Establishes new requirements for the procurement of Temporary Emergency Electric Energy Facilities (mobile generation). (Project No. 58392)
- SB 1697 Requires the PUCT to develop a customer guide to home solar energy devices and make it available to the public.
- SB 1789 Establishes minimum standards for the design, construction and replacement of electric poles owned by electric utilities, municipally owned utilities, and electric cooperatives.
- SB 1856 Relating to a capacity cost recovery rider for certain electric utilities.
- SB 2662 Relating to the PUCT's enforcement of drought contingency plans submitted by water and sewer utilities.





ADDITIONAL RELIABILITY INITIATIVES UNDERWAY OR RECENTLY COMPLETED

- **Firming.** Requires an owner or operator to demonstrate the ability to operate or be available to operate when called on for dispatch at or above the seasonal average generation capability during times of highest reliability risk due to low operation reserves. (Project No. 58198)
- **Transmission & Distribution Wildfire Mitigation.** Requires electric utilities, municipally owned utilities, and electric cooperatives that own transmission or distribution facilities in a wildfire risk area of this state to file and gain commission approval of a wildfire mitigation plan. (Project No. 56789)
- Firm Fuel Supply Service. Codifies the program used to procure resources that have firm fuel arrangements and can be deployed during extreme cold weather. (Project No. 58434)
- **Exemption Process for ERCOT Technical Standards.** Establishes requirements for ERCOT's evaluation of exemption or extension requests to certain reliability requirements and modifies the process at the Commission for contesting ERCOT decisions on exemption and extension requests (Project No. 57374)





OTHER RULEMAKINGS IN PROGRESS

- Small Fish. Review of §25.504 Wholesale Market Power in the ERCOT Region. (Project No. 58379)
- Directives. Framework for a commissioner to introduce and the Commission to adopt a directive requiring ERCOT to take an official action. (Project No. 57883)
- Emergency Operations Plans. Requires entities with Emergency Operations Plans (EOPs) to file flood annexes for transmission and distribution facilities and generation resources, file annexes in their entirety, and comprehensively re-file their EOPs every three years. (Project No. 57928)





Thank You!

CONTACT

- Jessie Horn
- jessie.horn@puc.texas.gov

PUC.TEXAS.GOV















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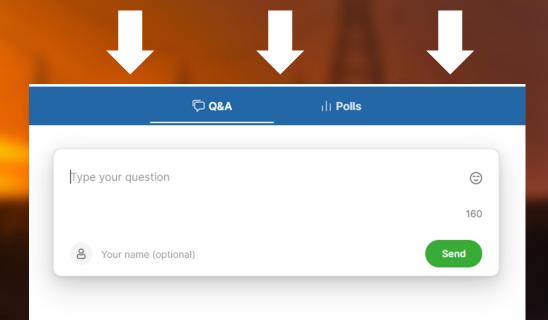
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- Artificial Intelligence
- 2026 CMEP IP
- Standards Effective in 2026

Return at 10:55 a.m.

To submit questions during the workshop, please visit **slido.com** and enter today's participant code: **TXRE**





Self-Certification Enhancements

Blair Giffin
Manager, O&P Compliance Monitoring

Devin Ferris
Manager, CIP Compliance Monitoring

Process Workflow





- No later than 135 days before start date
- Can occur earlier



ANL Visible

• 120 days before start date



Evidence Submission

• 90 days before start date





Schedule





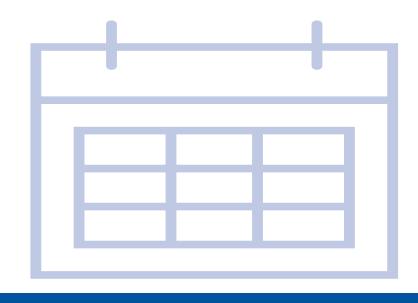
Summary or Exit Briefing

- No later than 4 days after the start date
- Can occur earlier

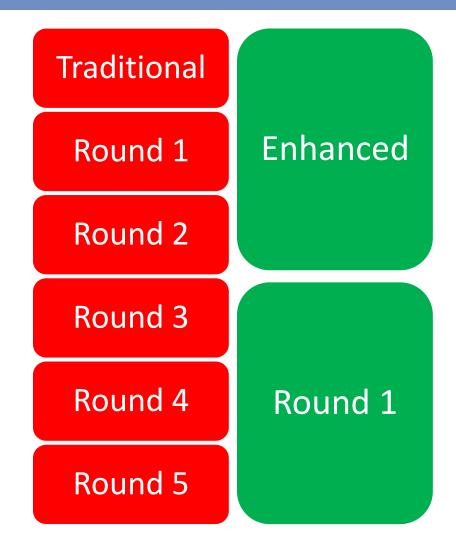




Focused Question Strategy



Request for Information Schedule







Streamlined Risk Notification





Engagement Scope



Applicable Functions



Monitoring Period



Engagement Team
Lead (ETL) Contact
Information

Risk Notification

- Reduced time and resource burden
- Supports enhanced question strategy
- Transparent



Risk Lead Contact Information

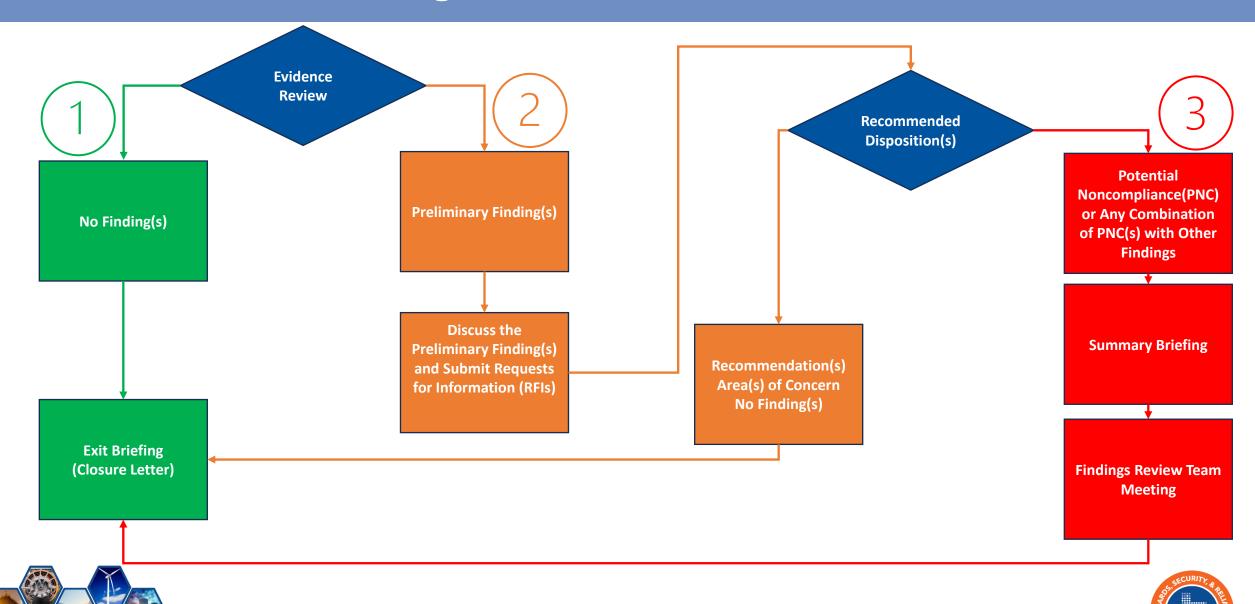


Align Visibility Date





Process Workflow Diagram



EOP-012 Question Strategy Example

R4 – Generator Cold weather plan(s) training







Dated Plan

Extreme Cold Weather Temperature (ECWT) Calculations

Checklists





Work Orders

Internal Controls





EOP-012 Question Strategy Example Continued

R5 – Generator Owner cold weather preparedness plan







Responsible Personnel

Dated Training

Training Materials



Internal Controls





Where to Locate the Engagement Common Questions



https://www.texasre.org/compliance

Entity Resources 🗸

Texas RE has developed guidance and reference documents to help entities prepare for compliance engagements and complete data request forms. Below are links to the guidance and reference documents. Additional documents associated with specific compliance activities are included in the corresponding sections below.

Texas RE encourages registered entities to review the Engagement (CIP and O&P) Common Questions. These questions provide insight on how Texas RE may approach a registered entity and are based on past experience monitoring the NERC Reliability Standards. The questions include internal control questions, which are critically important in understanding how a registered entity manages risk.

The Protection System Operations and Misoperations Procedure and Form reflects best practices that Texas RE has experienced reviewing PRC-004. The document provides a clear path for roles and responsibilities when determining what has occurred during an event and what should be done to support reliable operations. Some of the actions described reflect mitigation efforts noted as a result of compliance monitoring. With any best practice the outcome depends upon the personnel executing the actions and utilizing this form; the process <u>does not</u> guarantee compliance. This is simply being provided for registered entities who may not have a clearly documented process or want to compare their inhouse solution.

The Generator Welcome Package was designed to provide Generator Owner(s) (GO) and Generator Operator(s) (GOP) a framework to aid in preparing for compliance obligations and expectations. The Generator Welcome Package was developed based on Texas RE experiences with new GOs and GOPs and does not guarantee that compliance will be achieved. However, with proper planning and a framework for assessing the state of compliance, an entity is better prepared to be compliant on its registration date and beyond.

Documents





Process Improvements



Reduced time and resource burden



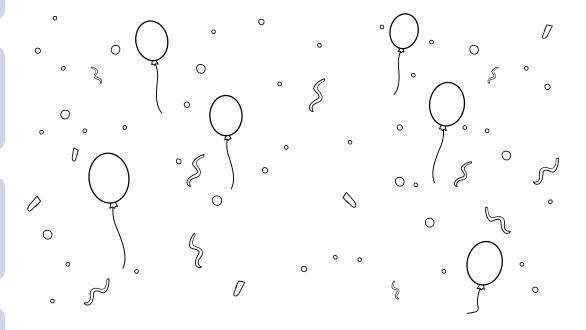
Streamlined process for initial evidence requests



Simplified process for engagement results



Increased Transparency













Modernization of Standards Processes and Procedures (MSPP) Task Force

Brett Kruse
Texas RE's Fall Standards, Security, & Reliability Workshop
November 5, 2025



Transform and Modernize the Process

Re-envision a modernized standard development process to address evolving risks.

Create Efficiencies

Identify areas of opportunity and recommendations to save time and remove redundant steps in the current process.

Develop a Trusted Process

Provide clear opportunities for stakeholder input, due process, openness, and balance of interests, remaining consistent with the requirements in Section 215 of the Federal Power Act.



Major Events Timeline(July through October)



White paper with potential improvement opportunities posted for comment

Q&A webinar sessions for each of the Process Steps

Stakeholder engagement and outreach

Stakeholder feedback analyzed

Draft recommendations developed

Draft recommendations posted for comment



Standard InitiationDrivers for Change

DRIVING CHANGE



Standard Authorization Request submission process is unclear



Prioritization and vetting is inconsistent



Lack of focus on building early stakeholder support



Process for initiating a standard is inefficient

MSPPTF RECOMMENDATION

Regularly scheduled submission period; single point of entry; simplified submission form

Established criteria and/or a risk model for consistent review and prioritization; RSTC conducts all technical vetting twice per year

New and early opportunities for upfront engagement and consensus building

Streamlined, consistent, and structured process with early consensus building; anticipated to be completed in four to six months



Standard DraftingDrivers for Change

DRIVING CHANGE



Time consuming and requires considerable stakeholder resources



Repeated comment and ballot periods



Roles and responsibilities are not always clear

MSPPTF RECOMMENDATION

Dedicated Stakeholder SME Panel provides expertise; discontinue requirements for authorizing administrative actions

Earlier stakeholder feedback with straw polls to gain consensus and minimize need for several comment periods; bifurcation of commenting and balloting

Defined roles for the various bodies involved in the drafting process (RISC subcommittee, NERC, Stakeholder SME Panel, Project Team, etc.)



Standard Balloting Drivers for Change

DRIVING CHANGE



Conflicting votes and impact on process equity



Insufficient accountability for ballot positions



Impediments to participate in the ballot body



Burdensome and time-consuming process resulting in "no" votes



Lack of broad industry participation

MSPPTF RECOMMENDATION

Allow one voter to represent multiple segments

Attestation or certification that balloting position is supported by voter's company being considered

Remove requirement for one-time ballot pool sign-up; Registered Ballot Body members automatically eligible to cast a ballot by participating in a comment period

More opportunities for industry engagement to drive consensus prior to balloting; balloting used as a tool to measure consensus

Refine segments; more flexible voting rules; increased outreach





Recommendations Holistic Approach







Standard Initiation

Semi-annual review and prioritization process leverages RSTC for all technical vetting

New RISC subcommittee determines path forward and develops term sheets based on enhanced stakeholder input mechanisms

Standard Drafting

RISC subcommittee coordinates drafting standards leveraging a new Stakeholder SME Panel and NERC staff

Enhanced public comment process drives consensus

Balloting

Individual entity balloting process to confirm consensus

Refined Registered Ballot Body composition and voting rules



Key Roles



RSTC



Provides initial technical vetting and prioritization



RISC

Oversight of RISC Subcommittee

Ultimate approval of path forward for SIRs (based on RISC subcommittee determination)

Visibility and accountability



RISC Subcommittee

High-level, strategic oversight and management of standard development process

Includes subset of RSTC and RISC members and other selected subject matter experts



Stakeholder SME Panel

Dedicated technical bench of experts that could be called upon to make up project teams to advise and assist with standard development projects



Project Teams

Formed with a subset from the Stakeholder SME Panel when needed to advise and assist on a specific standard project





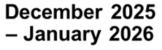


October 21

Draft recommendations released; Written comment period opens



In-Person Stakeholder Input Forum (Salt Lake City)



Revise recommendations













November 10

Written comment period closes

November 19

In-Person Stakeholder Input Forum (Atlanta)

February 2026

Present recommendations to NERC Board of Trustees

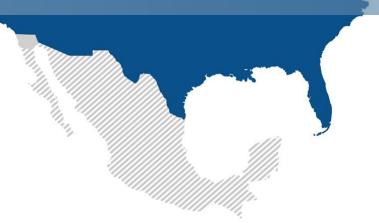
October 21 - November 19

External engagement events









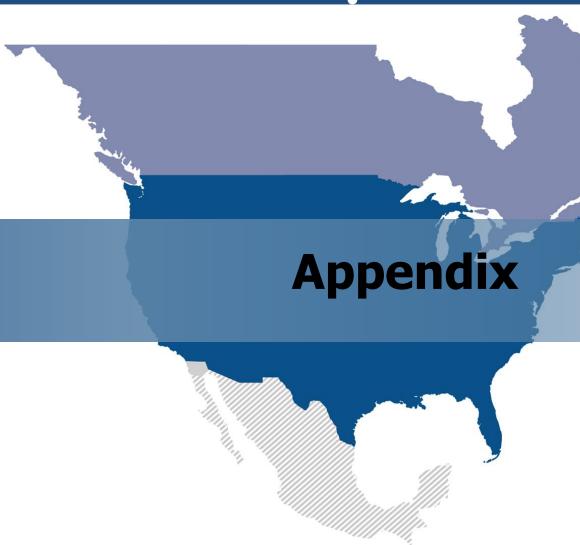
Visit **MSPPTF Webpage** for resources

Questions?

Email mspp@nerc.net











Standard Initiation Process Overview



RSTC Review and Recommendations

Stakeholder Feedback Approval and Prioritization

Term Sheet Development





















NERC
administers a
semi-annual
open period for
submission of
Standard
Initiation
Requests (SIR)

RSTC reviews SIRs and provides recommended actions RISC
subcommittee
requests
feedback via
written
comments
and/or Standard
Initiation
Workshop

RISC/RISC subcommittee determines and approves path forward based on analysis of feedback RISC subcommittee and NERC develop Term Sheets (stakeholder feedback as requested)

Stakeholder Participation

Submit SIRs

Provide written comments; Participate in Standard Initiation Workshop

Provide feedback on Term Sheets (as requested)





"Fast Track" Process



RSTC Review and Recommendations

Stakeholder Feedback Approval and Prioritization

Term Sheet Development





















What

Expedited track for regulatory directives or urgent NERC Board initiatives

When

Following issuance of a FERC or NERC Board directive to develop a standard

How

Begin with Term Sheet development, bypassing general intake and review process (with stakeholder feedback as appropriate)





RISC Subcommittee



Creation (Why)

Leverage stakeholder expertise and the existing structure and strategic role of the RISC without overburdening the RSTC



Role (What)

Provide high level, strategic oversight and management of standard initiation and standard drafting process



Composition (Who)

RISC members, RSTC members, and other individuals with appropriate expertise





Standard Drafting Process Overview



Initial Draft Standard

Informal Outreach

Comment Period

Comment Analysis Post for Confirmation Ballot



















NERC develops first draft based on the Term Sheet w/ "project team" from Stakeholder SME Panel

Project team conducts informal outreach and revises draft standard Post for stakeholder comment with straw poll

(compressed timing for "Fast Track" projects)

NERC and project team update draft standard based on comments and outreach

* Revisions and additional comment period if needed

Standard posted for a Confirmation Ballot

Stakeholder Participation

Participate in feedback process (possible technical conferences)

Provide comments and participate in straw poll





Stakeholder SME Panel



Creation (Why)

Dedicated technical bench to provide expertise limits burden on stakeholders



Role (What)

Advise and assist with standard development projects



Composition (Who)

Experts in operations, near and long-term planning, protection and control settings, generation, personnel training, critical infrastructure risks, and new and emerging risks





Standard Balloting Process Overview

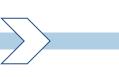
Confirmation Ballot



Board Adoption













Entities cast their ballots during the posting period

(Compressed period for "Fast Track")

Ballot confirms stakeholder consensus; project team can make nonsubstantial edits, if needed

Standard presented to NERC Board for adoption

Stakeholder Participation

Cast ballot (must be in RBB and have participated in a comment period)





Confirmation Ballot Does Not Pass

If the confirmation ballot does not pass, the project team shall review the ballot and present recommendations to the RISC Subcommittee, which will choose one of the following actions:



Option 1

Revise the standard and post for extraordinary ballot



Option 2

Determine alternative action (e.g., refer back to RSTC, alternative term sheet, Section 321/322)



Option 3

End work on the standard



Registered Ballot Body Voting Rules



Relax Ballot Pool Rules

RBB members
automatically eligible
to cast a ballot by
participating in a
comment period

2 se Participa

Ease Participation
Burdens

One voter could represent multiple segments, rather than requiring a distinct voter for each segment

avibility for

Flexibility for Voting Representatives

Corporate entities
would be allowed to
replace ballot body
voters at their
discretion



Voter/Entity Alignment

Considering requiring attestation/certification that balloting position is supported by the voter's company



Registered Ballot Body Structure Current vs. Recommendation

CURRENT RBB STRUCTURE

- 1. Transmission Owner
 - 2. RTOs & ISOs
- 3. Load-Serving Entities
- 4. Transmission Dependent Utilities
 - 5. Electric Generators
- 6. Electricity Brokers, Aggregators, & Marketers
 - 7. Large Electricity End Users
 - 8. Small Electricity Users
- 9. Federal, State, & Provincial Regulatory or Other Government Entities
 - 10. Regional Reliability Organizations & Regional Entities

RECOMMENDED RBB STRUCTURE

- 1. Transmission Owners
 - 2. RTOs & ISOs
- 3. Load-Serving Entities/Transmission Dependent Utilities
 - 5. Electric Generators
 - 7. Electricity End Users
- 9. Governmental & Nonprofit Public Interest Entities





Fall Engagement Dates

Date	Event	Event Time	
October 21	Public Comment Period Opens		
October 29	SERC 2025 Fall Reliability and Security Seminar	4:00 – 4:30 pm ET	
October 30	MRO MSPPTF Webinar	9:00 – 10:00 am CT	
November 5	Texas RE 2025 Fall Standards, Security, and Reliability Workshop	12:25 – 12:55 pm ET	
November 6	NPCC Fall 2025 Hybrid Compliance and Reliability Conference	11:25 – 11:55 pm ET	
November 10	Member Representatives Committee (MRC) Virtual Meeting and Informational Session	1:00 – 3:00 pm ET	
November 10	Public Comment Period Closes		



MSPPTF Stakeholder Input Forums

Salt Lake City, UT

November 13th 10:00 am – 2:00 pm MT WECC Offices

Atlanta, GA

November 19th 10:00 am – 2:00 pm ET Southern Company Offices

Registration information can be found on the MSPP webpage and NERC calendar



Cybersecurity - Supply Chain Risk Management

CIP-013-2 R1 & R2

Rebekah Barber
CIP Physical & Cyber Security Analyst

Kerrick Rosemond Jr.
CIP Physical & Cyber Security Analyst

Agenda



Why CIP-013?



CIP-013-2 Requirements 1 & 2



Internal Controls



Resources





ERO Enterprise Risk Element

CIP-013-2 R1 R2 Cyber Security-Supply Chain Risk Management

Rationale	Standard	REQ	Entities for Attention
Mitigate risks to the	CIP-013-2	R1	Balancing Authority
reliable operation of		R2	Distribution Provider
the Bulk Electric			Generator Operator
System (BES) by			Generator Owner
implementing sound			Reliability
Supply Chain policies			Coordinator
and procedures.			Transmission
			Operator
			Transmission Owner





Real World Scenarios



CVE-2020-10148

CVE-2021-30116





CVE-2024-5806





CIP-013-2 Requirement 1 & Requirement 2



R1. Each Responsible Entity shall develop one or more documented supply chain cyber security risk management plan(s) for high and medium impact BES Cyber Systems and their associated Electronic Access Control or Monitoring Systems (EACMS) and Physical Access Control Systems (PACS).



R2. Each Responsible Entity shall implement its supply chain cyber security risk management plan(s) specified in Requirement R1.





CIP-013-2 Requirement 1 Part 1.1

1.1 One or more process(es) used in **planning** for the procurement of BES Cyber Systems and their associated EACMS and PACS to identify and assess cyber security risk(s) to the Bulk Electric System from vendor products or services resulting from:

- Procuring and installing vendor equipment and software; and
- Transitions from one vendor(s) to another vendor(s)





CIP-013-2 Requirement 1 Part 1.2 & Requirement 2

1.2: One or more process(es) used in procuring BES Cyber Systems, and their associated EACMS and PACS, that address the following: as applicable:

1.2.1

Notification by the vendor of vendor-identified incidents related to the products or services provided.

1.2.2

Coordination of responses to vendor-identified incidents related to the products or services.

1.2.3

Notification by vendors when remote or onsite access should no longer be granted to vendor representatives.





CIP-013-2 Requirement 1 Part 1.2 & Requirement 2 Cont.

1.2: One or more process(es) used in procuring BES Cyber Systems, and their associated EACMS and PACS, that address the following: as applicable:

1.2.4

Disclosure by vendors of known vulnerabilities related to the products or services provided to the Responsible Entity.

1.2.5

Verification of software integrity and authenticity of all software and patches provided by the vendor for use in the BES Cyber System and their associated EACMS and PACS. 1.2.6

Coordination of controls for vendor-initiated remote access.





Possible Evidence



Policy/Procedure

Procurement Forms

Vendor Questionnaires

Risk Assessments

Vendor Contracts





Internal Controls

Supplier Risk Assessment Security
Requirements
for Suppliers

Monitoring Supplier Compliance

Access Controls

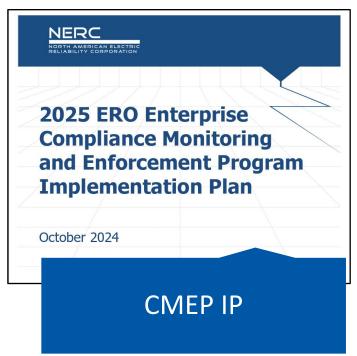
Incident Response Plan

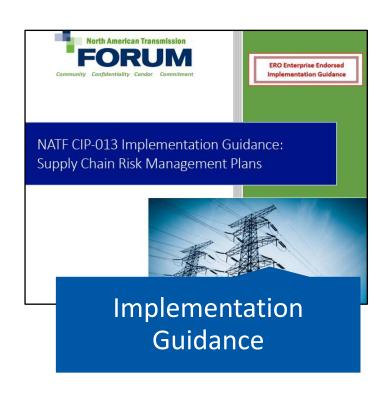




Resources















Texas RE Fall Standards, Security, & Reliability Workshop



AGENDA

- Cybersecurity Threat Assessment
- Oil & Natural Gas Industry Coordination
- <u>Texas Legislature Update</u>
- Self-Certification Enhancements
- Modernization of Standards
 Process and Procedures Task

 Force
- Supply Chain Risk Management
- <u>Self-Reporting Best Practices</u>
- Artificial Intelligence
- 2026 CMEP IP
- Standards Effective in 2026

Return at 12:55 p.m.

To submit questions during the workshop, please visit **slido.com** and enter today's participant code: **TXRE**



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Type your ques	tion		©
			160
8 Your name	(optional)		Send



Self-Reporting Best Practices

Shana Horton
Manager, Enforcement

Agenda

Why Is This Important to You?

#1 Issue: Mitigation

Extent of Condition (EOC) Reviews

Root Cause

Risk Analysis

Self-Logging





The Importance of Quality Self-Reports



Less work with fewer Requests for Information (RFIs)



Quicker off the books



Use your own language

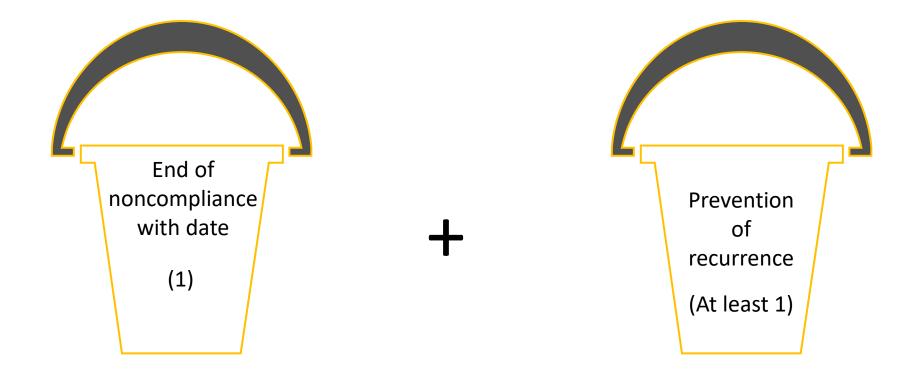


Save time and work with a little effort on the front end!





#1 Issue: Mitigation







#1 Issue: Mitigation

RFI No. 1-2

What actions has (Entity) taken, or will take, to end the noncompliance?

As applicable please provide documentation that demonstrates the **date of implementation**. For actions that will be taken in the future please provide the estimated date of implementation.

Please provide the corresponding Mitigation Milestone IDs, as applicable.

RFI No. 1-3

What actions has (Entity) taken, or will take, to prevent a similar noncompliance from reoccurring in the future?

As applicable please provide documentation that demonstrates the **date of implementation**. For actions that will be taken in the future please provide the estimated date of implementation.

Please provide the corresponding Mitigation Milestone IDs, as applicable.





Mitigation Must Address Root Cause

Examples

- Root cause: No/inadequate procedures
- Mitigation: Procedure revised to include or emphasize relevant information
- Root cause: Employee did not understand requirements of Standard
- Mitigation: Provided additional training to employees
- Root Cause: Lack of preventative controls to ensure timely compliance
- Mitigation: Added calendar reminders ahead of due dates





#1 Issue: Mitigation

PRC 005-6: Entity failed to perform maintenance on schedule

- End of noncompliance: Maintenance performed on (DATE)
- Prevention of recurrence:
 - Added calendar reminders on (DATE)
 - Provided training to relevant employees on (DATE)

CIP 008-6: Entity performed Cyber Security Incident Response Plan (CSIRP), but not with a reportable incident

- End of noncompliance: Qualifying CSIRP exercise completed on (DATE)
- Prevention of recurrence:
 - Updated procedure to require management review of CSIRP exercise prior to performance





Mitigation Exercise

- □ CIP 007-6 R2: Entity did not at least once every 35 calendar days, evaluate security patches for applicability that have been released since the last evaluation from the source or sources identified in Part 2.1.
- **Root Cause**: Insufficient Internal Controls. The patch notification process was not set up to reach the responsible personnel within the required timeframes set forth in the Reliability Standards. A personnel change resulted in the patch notification email from the source not being directly received by the responsible personnel.
- □ Corrective Action (end of noncompliance): Evaluated security patches on (DATE).
- ■Prevention of Recurrence: Implementation of a notification system designated for receipt of these notifications. Instead of these notifications going to an individual's email, this centralized system will be accessible by staff responsible for evaluating and implementing security patches.





Extent of Condition Review

What did you do?

How many sites,
devices, or
components,
procedures, personnel?

Over what time period (years, maintenance intervals)?

Did you find additional instances?

Goal: Demonstrate the issue was the only occurrence across the field of related sites, devices, components, procedures or personnel within that time period.





Extent of Condition Review

Example 1 (inadequate):

- EOC Performed: Yes
- Detailed description: No additional instances found

Example 2 (better):

- EOC Performed: Yes
- Detailed description: Entity reviewed all Transient Cyber Asset (TCA) checkout documentation prepared over the past year and a half (10 total incidences going back to (date)). When Entity adopted the TCA Authorization form, interviewed all relevant personnel and evaluated existing processes and policies. The review revealed seven additional instances.

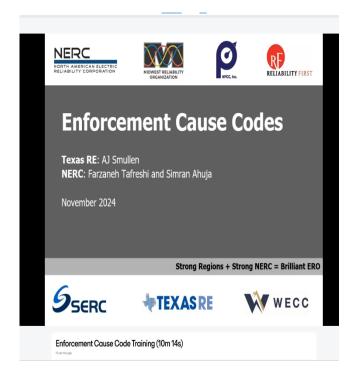




Root Cause

■Codes published by NERC this summer

Entities can select the appropriate code



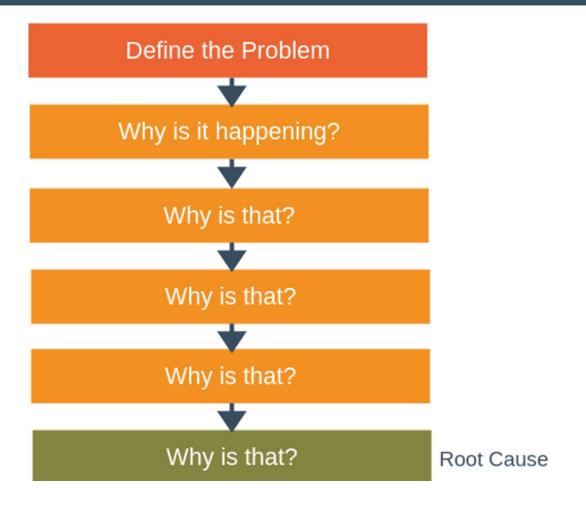
https://www.nerc.com/pa/comp/CE/Pages/Enforcement-and-Mitigation.aspx

"Enforcement Cause Code Training (Video)" (top right)



Root Cause: Five Whys

The 5 Whys







Root Cause: Commonly Cited Cause Codes

Code	Name and Description
	Change Management
1	Made changes without understanding the downstream impact of the change on other components of the
	system and its related processes
	Design – Ineffective Process Flow or System Design or failure of system/technology
4	Ineffective process or system design
	Items were missing from design, design-related documentation, or system or technology failure
7	Lack of/Deficient Policy/Procedure - Company Wide
	Ineffective management policy – high level, company-wide based
	Needs new policy/procedure/process (did not exist) or was deficient
	Lack of/deficient policy/procedure - Department/Business Level
8	Ineffective business-level procedure/process – Standard Operating Procedure, Instructions, department-based
	Needs new policy/procedure/process (did not exist) or was deficient
	Ineffective Preventive Controls
9	Lack of or ineffective internal controls designed to prevent noncompliance
	Detective controls were implemented but there was an ineffective or lack of a preventative control (e.g., checklist, secondary reviewer, workflow, or a backup or a redundant control)
10	Ineffective Validation/Detective Controls
	Lack of or an ineffective validation/detective control
	Preventative controls were implemented but there was an ineffective or lack of a validation/detective control after completion of the task





Root Cause: Common Cause Codes

Code	Name and Description
11	Additional Training Needed Training program is adequate but additional training needed The overall training program was adequate but training on a required task was not part of the employee's training requirements or frequency of the training was insufficient to maintain the required knowledge and skill to perform the job (e.g., did not consider the complexity of certain tasks or individual's skillset or experience). If the training design/content is adequate, but the entity failed to effectively deliver it to their employees or track the required training.
12	Lack of/deficient training materials and content The quality of the training objective, or training content and/or material was incomplete or unclear such that it did not contain all the information necessary for staff to fully perform all the task requirements in the procedure.





Root Cause: Human Performance Error

Often the first why

Rarely the last why

Often results in a

Request for Information







Root Cause Exercise

- ☐ Cascading analysis study completed after deadline
- The planning sub-group that performs the analysis was in a transitional stage at the time of this issue, with the former manager changing groups and a new manager stepping in
- ☐ The engineers working on the analysis were not aware of the 12/31/2023 deadline for the formal cascading analysis
- ■What is the root cause?
 - A. Lack of detective controls
 - B. Change Management
 - C. Additional training needed

Slido Question







Root Cause Exercise

■Mitigation (Prevention of Recurrence)

- Provided additional verbal training and coaching to engineers tasked with performing the assessment to ensure deadlines are met
- Implemented a more robust checklist and tracking system for completing the annual assessment, including review by the manager before the end of the year
- What is the root cause?
 - A. Lack of detective controls
 - B. Change Management
 - C. Additional training needed

Slido Question







Risk Analysis: Objective

What circumstances surrounding the noncompliance existed so that the worst possible outcome did not and could not have occurred?







Risk Analysis

For Generators

- Small size of Facility
- Low capacity factor
- Not a Blackstart Resource and not relied upon for system restoration
- Not a unit generally relied upon for voltage/frequency support (Ancillary Services)
- The Facility's energy output or capacity was unaffected





Risk Analysis

For Transmission

- None of the Facilities affected involve Interconnection
 Reliability Operating Limits (IROL) or inter/intra-area interfaces
- No System Operating Limits (SOLs) were violated
- Deviation was well below capacity of Facility
- Low traffic on affected Facility
- No system issues occurred due to the noncompliance
- Had there been a loss of the Facility, there was sufficient capacity on other Facilities





Risk Analysis

General

- Low percentage of affected Facilities/assets/elements/equipment, etc.
- Small deviation from applicable requirement
- Short duration of the noncompliance
- After the required review was completed, no updates/settings changes were found to be needed and the equipment was working normally
- Other Facilities/devices operated as a backup to the affected noncompliant Facility/device
- No harm occurred, no relay operations at all, no impacts to neighboring Entities, etc.
- The required information was provided in an alternative manner or was partially provided
- There would have been an alarm had there been an issue with the affected equipment
- The staff members that missed the required periodic training had received the training during a previous periodic training event (not a first-timer)





Self-Logs

Info needed for Self-Log

=
Info needed for SelfReport

Presumption of accuracy, completeness

Texas RE will analyze as usual, but use your language if it addresses all required elements and tells the story clearly

Minimal risk ONLY!

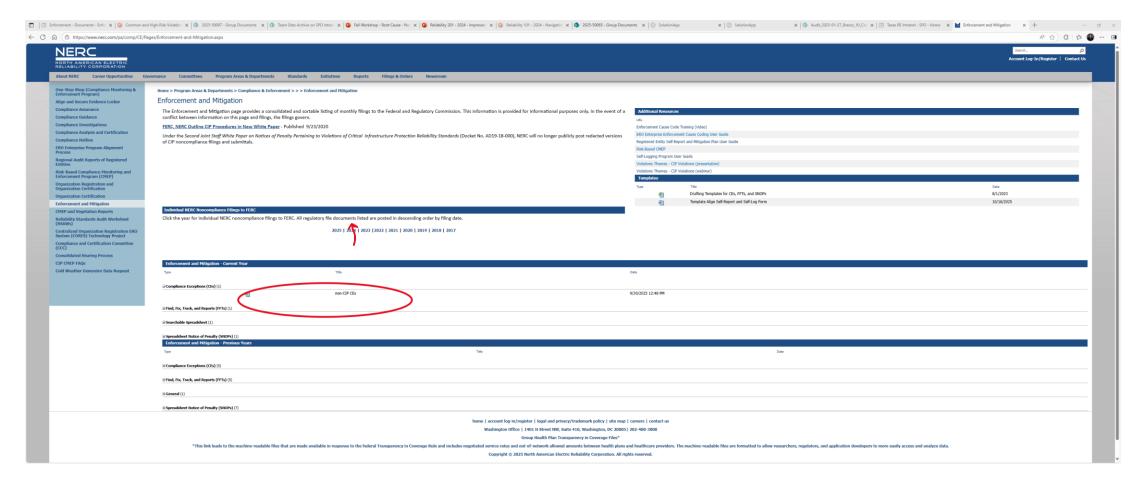
Even faster than Self-Reports!







Self-Logs: Approved Examples

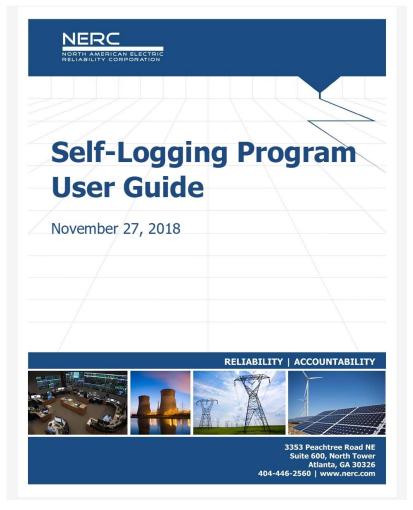


https://www.nerc.com/pa/comp/CE/Pages/Enforcement-and-Mitigation.aspx





Self-Logging: Qualification



To satisfy the evaluation and become eligible for self-logging, a registered entity must demonstrate that it has sufficiently institutionalized processes in place to identify, categorize, prioritize, and mitigate operational risks to reliability.

It also must have sufficient internal processes to perform cause analysis to ensure successful corrective and preventive actions.





Mitigation Reminders

One to end noncompliance

One or more to prevent recurrence

Root cause and mitigation should "rhyme"

Provide dated evidence for end of noncompliance









Datacenters and AI – the cause of, and potential solution to, most of your problems.

Dan Stanzione

Texas RE Fall Workshop

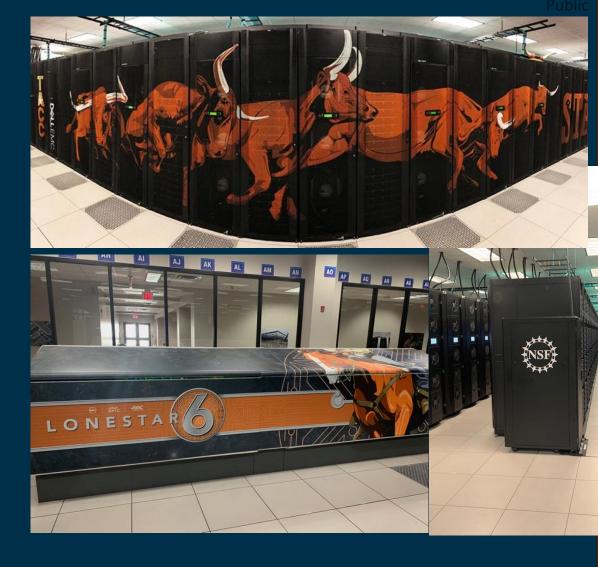
November, 2025





What is TACC?

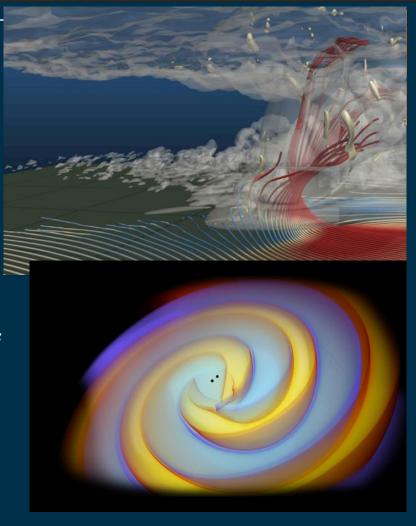
- We are the UT and UT System Research Computing Facility
- We are also the largest NSF-funded national computing center for open science
 - As well as NIST, NASA, NIH, DARPA, DOD, etc.
- 200+ Dedicated staff
- Altogether, ~20k servers, >1M CPU cores, 1k GPUs
- About seven billion core hours over several million jobs per year – for 3,000 projects and ~40,000 users per year.



Federal Investments in TACC are over \$1B in last 10 years; and over \$1B slated for next 10 years. While we are a national provider, we have *by far* the most computing resources of any University in the country (and often the world), and will continue to through the 2020s.

Who uses TACC?

- At UT, about 70% of NSF grant recipients, and >50% of NIH grant recipients, are TACC Users.
 - (~\$199M to UT Austin in 2024 *not* including awards directly to TACC).
- Around the country, users doing unclassified research at more than 400 institutions use TACC on over 3,000 projects for year.
 - Including a number of startups; large industry use us more for tech pathfinding.
- Since it's inception in 2001, TACC has had well over 100k users 90k of which are students.
 - >30k use the resources in any given year.
- TACC users have 4 Nobel prizes, many Gordon Bell prizes, and countless "first of its kind" computational achievements.
- Access to TACC is provided through:
 - NSF ACCESS and NSF Leadership Computing Programs.
 - NAIRR Pilot (National Al Research Resource).
 - UT-Austin and UT-System programs.
 - Direct investment from partner institutions (Texas A&M, Texas Tech, North Texas).





TACC Compute hardware The big systems in 2025

Resource	CPU type	#Nodes/Sockets/Cores	GPU Type	# GPUs
Frontera	Xeon (Cascade Lake)	8400/16800/470,400	RTX (Volta)	360
Lonestar-6	AMD Epyc	600/1200/76,800	NV A100	255
Stampede-3	Xeon (Sapphire Rapids)	2,024/4,048/150,080	Intel PVC	80
Vista	ARM/Grace	840/1080/77,760	NV H100	600
Horizon	ARM/Grace-next	6750/11400/1.02M	Blackwell	4,000

- Rough total peak power, 9.5MW
- Rough total average power, ~6MW
- Plus cooling power
- Horizon will add 13MW

Smaller NSF Platforms:

Jetstream – Cloud

Chameleon – CS Testbed

Al Inference endpoint hosting available very soon

Other Compute Platforms: Cyclone - Kubernetes Storage Platforms:

Ranch – Archive

Corral – Published Collections

Stockyard. -- Sitewide Work

The NSF Leadership Class Computing Facility

- A more capable follow-on to the current (aging) NSF leadership systems
- A more holistic and collaborative view of how we support "leadership applications".
- A long term investment to match the science missions we support.
- Adding a 20MW datacenter in Round Rock in a partnership with Sabey Datacenters to be completed the end of 2025 (first racks in 51 days).



Large Systems are Dense and Power Hungry

- One of the first meetings I had when I joined UT in 2009 was about the main campus datacenter
 - They wanted to build for 8KW/cabinet.
 - I suggested 50KW/cabinet (they went with 8)
 - Our new build at Sabey is at 250KW/rack 16 years later.
- TACC's Stampede, 2012 34KW /rack
- TACC's Frontera, 2019 60KW/rack
- Lonestar-6, 2021 70KW/rack
- Horizon, 2025 225KW/rack
- Why? Can't you just use more racks?

More Racks?

- In the year P.C. 2 (2019, two years pre-ChatGPT), commercial cloud datacenters often could, but we couldn't.
- Why? Latency.
 - Light travels one foot per nanosecond (or, for those from Texas, 30ns/First Down).
- If you are doing a lot of little problems (e.g. booking millions of ecommerce transactions), you don't really care.
- If you are doing one big problem across dozens of racks (e.g., simulating hurricane movements or training a large language model for AI) you care a lot, because latency means all the processors stop while waiting for data (and they need ~32 bytes more every three billionths of a second).

And Silicon Process Improvements Slowed Down at the Wrong Time

- Moore's Law *used* to mean we got twice the processing for roughly the same power every two years.
 - Hasn't been true the last few years.
 - (What Moore's Law *actually* says is we get twice the transistors in the same area, which has still been true).
- As we've gotten really small (the 3nm process means transistor features are *ten silicon atoms* wide), the transistors take more power, but they leak more current.
 - 2012 Stampede 130 Watts per socket
 - 2017 Stampede2 145 Watts per socket
 - 2019 Frontera 210 Watts per socket
 - 2024 Stampede3 350 Watts per socket
- The "free ride" from Physics is ending when we need it most.





- Much like with simulation, with AI, and Generative AI/Large Language
 Models in particular everything gets better with Scale.
 - The bigger the model, the better the quality of results.
 - More parameters
 - More training data.
- This means more hardware, both for training, and for inference.
- And it *is* a global race.

11/5/22

The Investment is Enormous

- Like nothing we've ever seen in the (already hype-cycle driven) tech market.
- Estimated investment in AI infrastructure this year is ~\$500B.
 - Datacenter construction + Datacenter hardware
- ~\$3T over this 5 year period.
 - For revenue that may or may not materialize at that scale.
- That much datacenter will consume 75 Gigawatts of power, all the time.
 - That is roughly the scale of Texas in August when it is over 100.
- And that is the *1 year* add to the power grid.

11/5/22

In The Last Month Alone...

- Oracle agreed to a deal to provide \$300B worth of GPU computing to OpenAI (roughly 4.5 GigaWatts of datacenter capacity).
- NVIDIA agreed to a \$100B investment in OpenAl.
- Those two deals alone represent more than the United States Government's investment in basic science (NSF) and biomedical research (NIH) combined for the last 6 years.
 - Things you should not pay attention to: OpenAl had \$5.5B in revenue in 2024. Nvidia is giving them \$100B to buy chips from Nvidia to put in the Oracle datacenters they otherwise could not afford to buy the equipment for, but the additional 5M projected GPU sales pushed up the value of Nvidia by \$150B which funds the \$100B investment to pay Oracle from the \$300B OpenAl doesn't have.

 This is in no way a circle or indicative of any kind of a bubble. Of course not. Everything is fine!
- Microsoft agreed to another \$40B in datacenter deals yesterday with another provider, despite spending \$80B/yr on in-house capability.
- AMD signed a deal for 4GW of chips (and 10% of the company) with OpenAI
- China announced discount power rates for large AI companies.
- Microsoft CEO warned about risk of buying GPUs, but no being able to turn them on.

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- Historically, the cost structure is good but demand outstripping supply will change that rapidly.
 - New datacenters have added \$15/month to the average residential power bill in Ohio so far this year.
- We will need to add capacity either at the datacenter, or to the Grid.
 - But there are complications.

11/5/**1**28



- We can produce more Natural Gas.
 - But we can't get more Natural Gas turbines currently back-ordered 3-5 years from GE.
- We have an enormous opportunity for Nuclear power
 - But even with less regulation, it will not be synonymous with "fast".
- There is no good reason we shouldn't be the leading state in wind and solar
 - And we can scale that fast.
- We should be doing all of these...
- Water may become our limiting factor.



For Al Datacenters

- Utilization is key to ROI, so the idea is to use power 24x365 at near full load.
- Large training jobs, however, mean large rapid swings in power consumption (10s of MW in a few seconds, with power for cooling lagging that a bit).
- On-site storage can minimize grid impact of this, but carries an extra cost. . .
 - Maybe something that can be done with regulation?
 - Right now, Al customers aren't particularly price sensitive but residential electric customers are, and the backlash is building.





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We could also do things more efficiently...

- In our datacenter we have evolved from under floor cooling, to in-row cooling with enclosed aisles, to Direct Liquid Cooling and Immersion Cooling.
- And we are now experimenting with two-phase cooling, alternate cooling fluids, negative pressure cooling, etc.
 - Working with six different companies in cooling experiments.
- We have a million gallon tankfor thermal storage -- so that we can store chilled water and turn off the chillers on summer afternoons during peak grid demand.
- We have an experimental hydrogen fuel cell tied in, a few hundred kilowatts of solar in the parking lot, and buy about 20% wind credits.
- At this point, datacenters are pretty efficient we can keep working on it and get a little more, but only changing the hardware and software will make a dramatic difference.

Texas Advanced Computing Center | The University of Texas at Austin 11/5/20

Two driving research questions going forward:

- Because they still need to happen, though there is more evidence now.
- We desperately need robust research activities in two areas:
 - Al Hardware for Science:
 - "Beowulf for AI" -- Exploit the chips being made for AI to do general scientific computing.
 - We won't survive if we don't
 - Al Full Stack Efficiency:
 - There are ways to scale up computation other than "throw billions of dollars at it", and our community, where we didn't have billions of dollars to throw, is pretty good at it.
 - We need to save the world from bankruptcy, rather financial or carbon.
 - I recently read an analysis that the average residential power bill in Ohio is \$15/month higher because of new datacenter demand.





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Al Hardware for Science: Why do I think this is Possible?

- Because we have done it before, and programmers in our community are generally pretty clever.
 - Without hacking in the molecular dynamics space in academia, it's possible GPUs would be doing (*gasp*) Graphics Processing.
 - If we let people know that INT8 operations are order 2k faster than 64 bit operations, don't you think they will figure something out?
 - See the Ozaki Scheme among other for emulation methods for FP64.
 - See a bunch of the Gordon Bell papers in the last few years for schemes exploiting mixed precision.



Al Stack Efficiency: Why do I think this can be done?

- It's mostly what DeepSeek did!
 - Nothing earth-shattering algorithmically, just pushing lots of techniques in both traditional optimization, and AI optimization (e.g. MoE) to the extremes.
- The huge focus on "biggest and first" has obviously left efficiency in the dust.
- When \$ become scarcer (or export controls cut off top chips),
 optimization will have time to catch up at all levels of the stack.



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Improving the Software Stack

- If spending \$100M on software engineering improves the efficiency of your \$400B investment by even 10% each year....
 - That is the definition of a good return on investment.
- 10% is probably not that hard. 50% is doable. 1,000% is in the range of theoretically possible (we are using nowhere near 10% of available peak FLOPS today).



Thanks!

dan@tacc.utexas.edu







Texas RE Fall Standards, Security, & Reliability Workshop



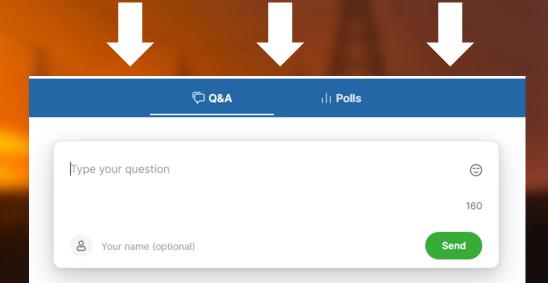
AGENDA

- Cybersecurity Threat Assessment
- Oil & Natural Gas Industry Coordination
- Texas Legislature Update
- Self-Certification Enhancements
- Modernization of Standards
 Process and Procedures Task

 Force
- Supply Chain Risk Management
- Self-Reporting Best Practices
- Artificial Intelligence
- <u>2026 CMEP IP</u>
- Standards Effective in 2026

Return at 2:05 p.m.

To submit questions during the workshop, please visit **slido.com** and enter today's participant code: **TXRE**







Agenda



CMEP IP Purpose

CMEP IP Changes

Relation to Risk-Based Monitoring





CMEP Implementation Plan (CMEP IP) Purpose

Reflects ERO and Regional Entity-specific risk elements that Regions prioritize for oversight of registered entities

Developed by NERC and the Regional Entities

Serves as an input in determining the appropriate monitoring of risks





CMEP IP Inputs

2025 ERO
Reliability Risk
Priorities Report

Long-Term Reliability Assessment

ERO Enterprise Strategic Plan

2024 State of Reliability
Report

Compliance findings

Event analysis





What's New with Risk Elements for 2026?

2025	2026	
Remote Connectivity	Remote Connectivity	
Supply Chain	Supply Chain	
Physical Security	Physical Security	
Transmission Planning and Modeling	Grid Transformation	
Inverter-Based Resources	Grid Transformation	
Facility Ratings	Facility Ratings	
Extreme Weather Response	Extreme Weather Response	
Incident Response		





What Parts are Staying the Same?







Remote Connectivity

- ☐ Focuses on communication between control centers, security management controls
- Network communications potential attack vector
- □ Coordination efforts with service providers needed

Standard	Requirement
CIP-003-8 CIP-003-9	R2
CIP-005-7	R2, R3
CIP-012-1 CIP-012-2	R1

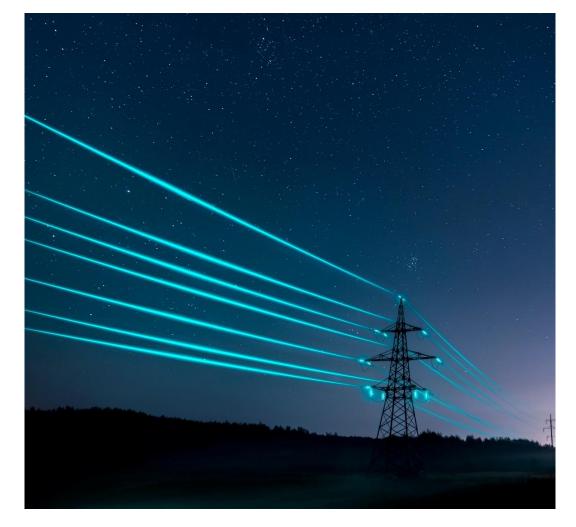




Facility Ratings

- Risk associated with ratings not being updated during projects or following severe weather
- ☐ Important to understand entity's controls in place to track Facility Ratings

Standard	Requirement
FAC-008-5	R6







Changes in the 2026 CMEP IP







Supply Chain

- ■New generation constrained by supply chain disruption
- **□**Long lead times
- Removed CIP-013-2 R2
- ☐Added CIP-013-2 R1
- ☐Added CIP-007-6 R2

Standard	Requirement	
CIP-010-4	R1	
CIP-007-6	R2	
CIP-013-2	R1	





Physical Security

- ☐ Frequency of physical security incidents causing operational impacts remains consistent
- □ Continues to focus on low-impact BCS
- ☐Added CIP-006-6 R1

Standard	Requirement
CIP-003-8 CIP-003-9	R2
CIP-006-6	R1
CIP-014-3	R4, R5





Extreme Weather Response

- Weather conditions can challenge operations
- ERO held additional Cold Weather Preparedness Small Group Advisory Sessions
- ☐ Includes new version of EOP-012
- ☐Added FAC-003-5 R6

Standard	Requirement
EOP-011-4	R1, R2, R3, R6
EOP-012-3	R1, R3, R4, R5, R6, R7
FAC-003-5	R6





Grid Transformation

- ☐ Risk related to
 - New large loads, increasing IBRs, resource adequacy
- ☐ Combines the risk related to IBRs and Transmission Planning/Modeling
- ☐ Adds CIP-002-5.1a R1, CIP-004-7 R6, and CIP-011-3 R1

Standard	Requirement	
CIP-014-3	R1	
TPL-001-5.1	R1, R2, R3, R4, R5, R6, R7	
MOD-025-2	R1, R2, R3	
MOD-026-1	R6	
MOD-027-1	R5	
MOD-031-3	R1, R2	
MOD-032-1 (Applies to CAT 2 IBRs beginning May 15, 2026)	R1, R2, R3, R4	
FAC-001-4	R1, R2	
FAC-002-4	R1, R2	
MOD-026-1	R2	
PRC-005-6	R3, R5	
PRC-024-3 (PRC-024-4 effective 10/1/2026)	R1, R2	
PRC-027-1	R1, R2, R3	
CIP-003-8 CIP-003-9 (effective 4/1/2026)	R2	
CIP-002-5.1a	R1	
CIP-004-7	R6	
CIP-011-3	R1	





Grid Transformation Risks

Resource Adequacy

Voltage and Frequency Fluctuations

Interconnection and Modeling

Workforce Adequacy

Aggregation of Control





Slido.com (#TXRE)

Slido Question

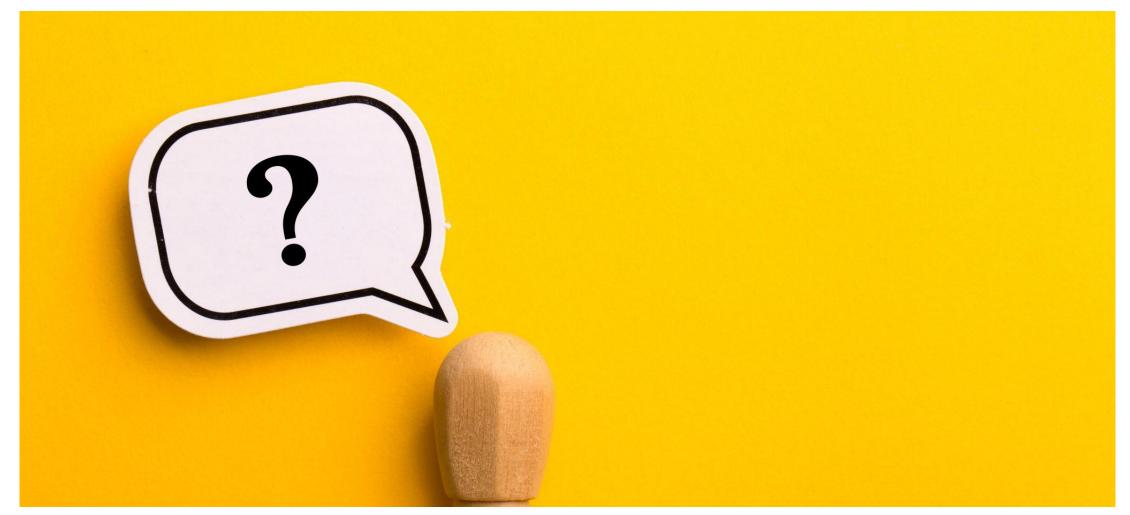
What outreach would you like to see related to Risk Elements?







What Does This All Mean?







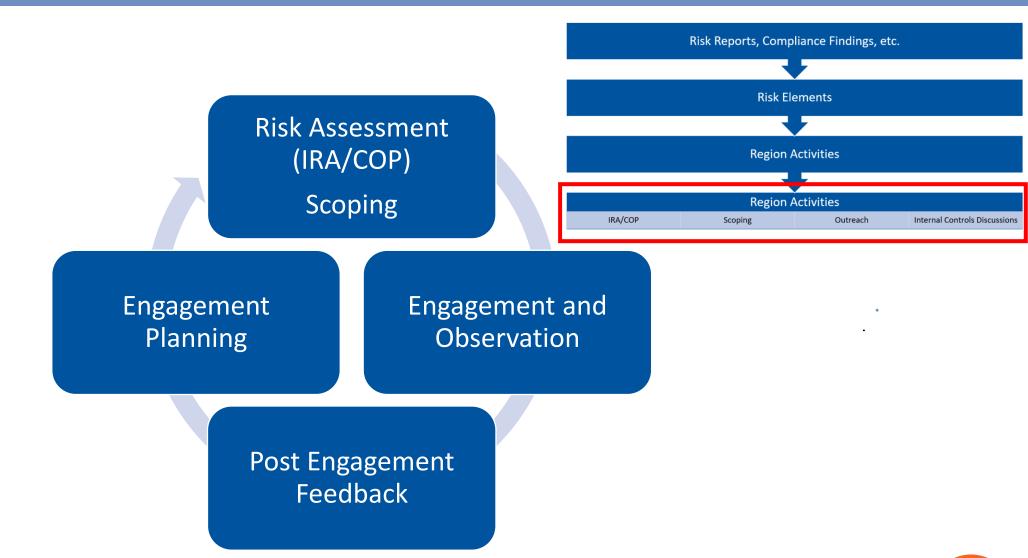
Risk Elements







Risk Elements - Risk Based Monitoring







Risk Based Monitoring Example

Risk Assessment (IRA/COP) Scoping

Engagement Planning

Engagement and Observation

Post Engagement Feedback

- **□**Physical Security Risk Element
- **□** Complete risk assessment
- ■Audit Scope
 - Walk downs
 - Internal controls review
- **□** Positive observations
- **□**Scoping next engagement









Standards Development

Texas RE Fall Standards, Security, & Reliability Workshop Jamie Calderon, Director of Standards Development, NERC November 5, 2025





Standards Effective 2026
Upcoming Areas of Focus
Modernization of Processes and Procedures Task Force
Outreach and Support







Standards Development - General

NERC facilitates the Standards Development process The Drafting Team develops specifics A strong Reliability Standard:

- Identifies responsible entity(ies) WHO
- Specifies objectives WHAT
- Specifies a periodicity WHEN

A strong Reliability Standard does not specify the HOW

- Entity facts & circumstances must be considered
- Entities have flexibility in meeting objectives





Standards Effective in 2026

Reliability Standard Name	Standard #	Effective Date
Cyber Security – Security Management Controls	CIP-003-9	April 1st
Transmission System Planning Performance Requirements for Extreme Temperature Events	TPL-008- 1	April 1 st
Cyber Security – Communications between Control Centers	CIP-012-2	July 1st
Frequency and Voltage Protection Settings for Synchronous Generators, Type 1 and Type 2 Wind Resources, and Synchronous Condensers	PRC-024- 4	October 1 st
Frequency and Voltage Ride-through Requirements for Inverter-based Resources	PRC-029- 1	October 1 st
Unexpected Inverter-Based Resource Event Mitigation	PRC-030- 1	October 1st
Transmission Operator and Balancing Authority Data and Information Specification and Collection	TOP-003- 7	October 1st





Upcoming Areas of Focus

Order 901 – Milestone 4

Planning and Operational Studies

Internal Network Security
Monitoring Standard Revision
Planning Energy Assurance
Risk Management for Third-party
Cloud Services







Modernization of Processes and Procedures Task Force

Draft Recommendations Posted: Focused on transforming Reliability Standards development in:

- Standard Initiation
- Standard Drafting
- Balloting

Feedback Deadline: Submit comments by Nov 10, 2025, 12:00 p.m. ET via standardized form (no character limit).

Forums for Input:

- Nov 13 Salt Lake City
- Nov 19 Atlanta
- Virtual option available (chat/Q&A only); in-person strongly encouraged.

Outreach Activities:

- Oct 20 webinar recording available on MSPPTF webpage.
- Presentations to NERC committees, trade groups, and Regional Entity events.

Next Steps: All input will inform final recommendations to be presented in early 2026.









New Website
More Technical Workshops
More concise and clear updates

- Standards Quarterly Video Updates
- Structured Project Webinars
- Summary Documents/Videos

More direct outreach to commenters







Questions and Answers

Wrap-Up



Thank you for coming!

You will receive a short survey via e-mail. Please complete it to help Texas RE develop future outreach.

