



**TEXAS RE**

# **Supply Chain Series: Renewables**

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**Radian Generation**

**September 19, 2024**

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# Upcoming Texas RE Events



**October 2, 2024**

Winter Weatherization  
Workshop



**October 9, 2024**

Electric and Oil & Natural Gas  
Coordination



**October 16, 2024**

Understanding New  
Generator Obligations



# Upcoming ERO Enterprise Events



**September 25, 2024**

E-ISAC Physical Security  
Workshop



**October 15-17, 2024**

System Operator  
Conference



**October 22-25, 2024**

GridSecCon



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A photograph of a wind farm at sunset. A gravel path leads through a grassy field towards a line of wind turbines on a hill. The sky is a mix of blue, orange, and yellow. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent dark blue band.

# Talk with Texas RE: Supply Chain & Renewables

## *Ensuring Reliability through Supply Chain Awareness*

Kellie Macpherson | Executive Vice President, Compliance + Security

# Radian Generation By The Numbers



## 1 GW Solar Generation:

Provides 1.5B kWh Annual Electricity  
Powers 126,000 Homes Yearly

Displacing CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions From:  
1.5M Barrels of Oil  
726M Pounds of Coal

We are supporting 10X+

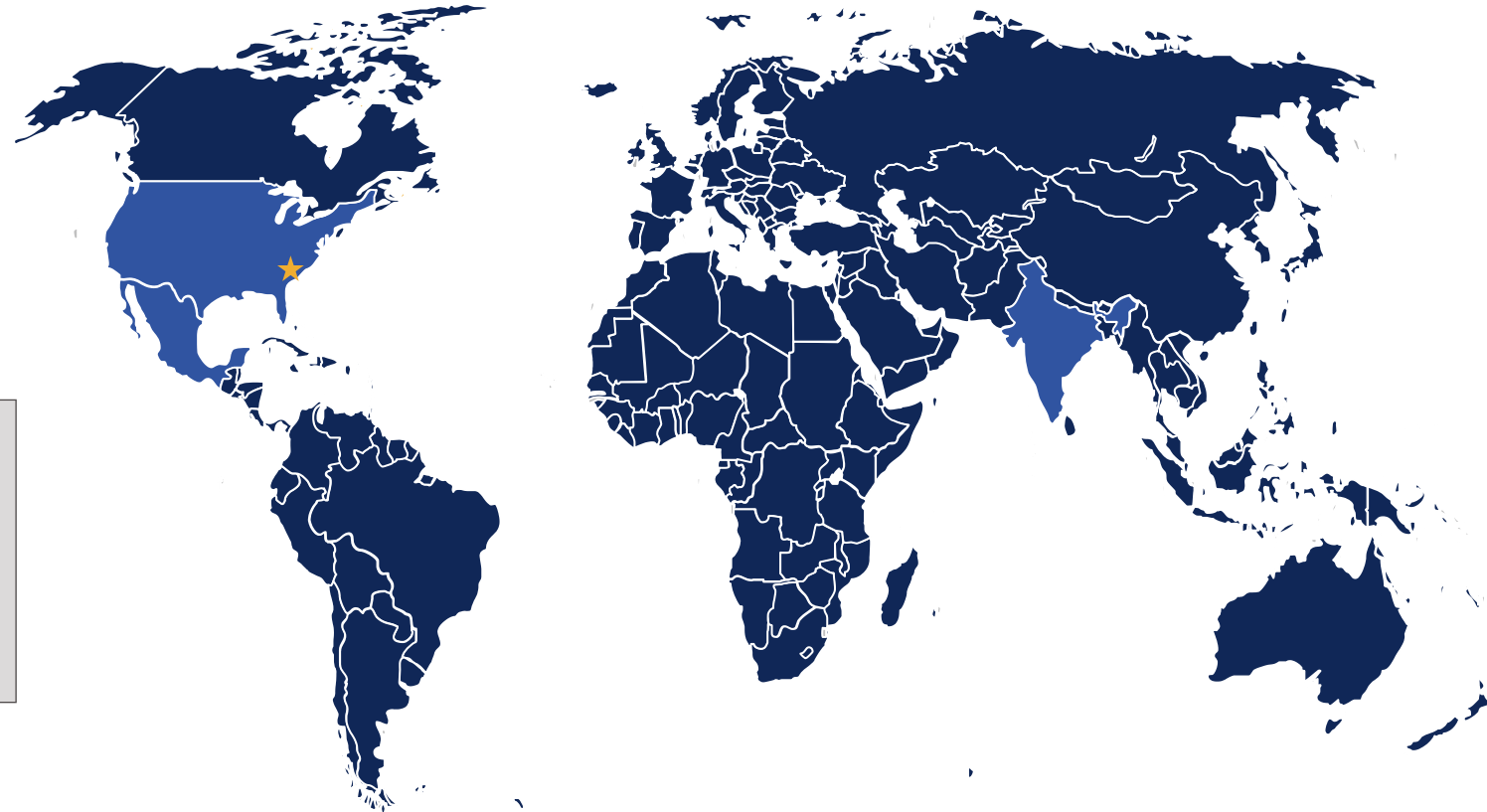
Founded in 2013

Headquartered in  
Charlotte, NC

US, Mexico & India Offices

1,200+ Project Managed  
(Utility & Commercial)

100+ Clients in 7  
Countries  
(Solar, Wind, Storage)



# Introduction to Radian Generation

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- What We Do

- Radian Generation is a global provider of critical technology-forward services designed specifically to support the comprehensive lifecycle of renewable facilities—including solar, wind, and energy storage

- Who We Serve

- Radian Generation's wide range of commercial, technical and compliance services provide developers, owners, and operators with critical insights into each aspect of their assets to make better-informed decisions

- Compliance + Security

- **6 of 6 Electric Reliability Regions**
- WECC, TRE, SERC, RF, MRO, NPCC
- **Canadian Regions** - Alberta, British Columbia, Ontario, Quebec
- **300+ PROJECTS** - Day to Day Compliance Obligations (POC)
- **CLIENTS**
  - SOLAR, WIND, & STORAGE (178)
  - UTILITY & CONVENTIONAL (20)
  - CONTROL CENTERS (13) (6 CIP Medium)
- **Functional Registrations**
- GO, GOP
- TO, TOP, TP
- BA, RP
- DP, UFLS



# History of Supply Chain Efforts

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- Initial Focus on Reliability
  - Rise of Renewable Generation (2000s)
  - Cybersecurity and Supply Chain Standards (2014)
  - FERC Order 829 (2016)
  - Project 2016-03 (2016)
  - Project 2019-03 (2019)
  - Continued Evolution and Grid Transformation (2020s)
  - Project 2020-03
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- Industry Adjacent Work
    - CFIUS
    - Texas – Lone Star Infrastructure Protection Act

# Vendor Remote Access

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- Remote access by vendors is a particular security risk for the renewable industry
- This risk is the basis for several NERC requirements:
  - CIP-005 R2.4 and 2.5 is applicable to systems deemed CIP medium or high impact
  - CIP-003-9 for systems deemed CIP low impact, will go into effect on 4/1/2026
    - Note: Will require significant changes to business practices by many renewable operators
- Best Practices for Renewable Assets:
  - Ensure procurement is done with trusted and known vendors
  - During construction, ensure that vendors and OEMs are required to follow best cyber security practices
  - Prior to COD, ensure that all extraneous access is disable; only those with a true business need should keep access
  - Ensure that ongoing maintenance by OEMs is done with best cyber security practices in mind
  - Common to see OEMs creating backdoor connections, making changes to security settings, general disregard for cyber security

# Vulnerabilities and Malicious Code

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- Hardware, software and operating systems need to be maintained regularly to prevent the use of unmitigated vulnerabilities or malicious code for a cyber-attack
- Entities need to have established methods in place with its vendors to receive security patches and updates in a timely manner.
- While much of the NERC requirements regarding this risk only apply to systems deemed CIP medium or high impact, it is a commonsense security best practice to also apply these to your low impact systems
- Here are some of the requirements that apply to medium and high impact – and should be considered for low impact systems:
  - Ports & Services: (CIP-007 R1)
  - Security Patch Management (CIP-007 R2)
  - TCA and Removable Media (CIP-010 R4)
  - Vulnerability Assessment (CIP-010 R3)
- Best Practices for Renewable Assets
  - Train Field Staff to be your first line of defense
  - Train control center staff to trust but verify
  - Implement clear change management program with inverter and SCADA OEMs post COD

# Supply Chain Risk Management

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- Currently, applies to systems deemed medium or high impact
- Cyber Security Risk Assessment
  - Entities must conduct a cyber security risk assessment prior to procuring hardware, software or services
- Entities must address specific cyber security risks during the procurement process
  - Notification from the vendor of incidents related to the product or service that post a cyber security risk to the entity
  - Coordination of response to the vendor's notification of incidents
  - Notification when remote or onsite access is no longer needed
  - Disclosure by vendor of vulnerabilities related to the product or service
  - Verification of integrity and authenticity of all software and associated patches provided by the vendor
  - Coordination of controls for vendor-initiated remote access.
- Best Practices for Renewable Assets:
  - Communication and Setting Expectations
    - Remote operators
    - Remote work by OEMs



# Ensuring Reliability through Supply Chain Awareness

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- Vigilant eye on vendors and suppliers to catch security risks early
- Check the integrity of the hardware and software
- Set up strict access controls
- Regularly audit to identify potential vulnerabilities
- By staying aware of what's happening in our supply chain, we can quickly spot and address potential issues and ensure that the grid remains reliable

## Connect With Us



*Navigating the Grid with  
Kellie Macpherson*



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**Thank You!**  
Questions?



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