

Announcement

NERC's Two-Day Grid Security Exercise Kicks Off

November 13, 2019

WASHINGTON, D.C. – NERC began its two-day grid security exercise today. Industry and government set a new record with more than 425 organizations participating in GridEx V. Community-owned utilities and electric cooperatives represent the largest increase in participation with 53 organizations added to the exercise since GridEx IV, which drew 6,500 participants from more than 370 organizations.

GridEx, hosted by NERC's Electricity Information Sharing and Analysis Center (E-ISAC), is the largest exercise of its kind. The GridEx V scenario involves coordinated cyber and physical attacks affecting the bulk power system across North America. For GridEx V, grid operators face simulated conditions including compromised customer payment systems, fuel shortages and copycat attacks.

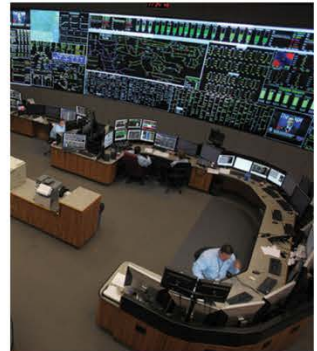
"GridEx V marks a 10-year milestone in NERC's effort to help industry members and government partners continually improve their security posture," said Jim Robb, NERC's president and chief executive officer. "The steady growth of GridEx participation since our first exercise in 2011 is a testament to how seriously the industry takes security."

GridEx V also expanded participation from other sectors including natural gas, electrical equipment manufacturing, telecommunications and finance. The growing interdependence of critical infrastructures is a key focus area for industry and government officials with emergency response plans.

For the first time, the exercise's executive tabletop will focus on simulated attacks and responses for specific regions within North America. "Narrowing the geographical focus of the executive tabletop gives industry and government leaders the opportunity to deepen their grid security training without sacrificing any intensity in the impacts on the bulk power system," Robb said. "GridEx is designed to overwhelm even the most prepared organizations."

CONTACT:
Kimberly.Mielcarek@nerc.net

3353 Peachtree Road NE
Suite 600, North Tower
Atlanta, GA 30326
404-446-2560 | www.nerc.com



Following GridEx V, the E-ISAC will develop a public report on the exercise with input from all participants. NERC intends to release the GridEx V report in March 2020.

GridEx is a vital tool for industry and government cyber and physical security experts from across North America. As cyber and physical security risks to the bulk power system evolve, NERC, industry and government officials must remain vigilant and adapt their training to mitigate threats effectively and efficiently. GridEx is one way that NERC and the E-ISAC provide industry members and government partners with that necessary grid security training and education.

###

Electricity is a key component of the fabric of modern society and the Electric Reliability Organization Enterprise serves to strengthen that fabric. The vision for the ERO Enterprise, which is comprised of NERC and the six Regional Entities, is a highly reliable and secure North American bulk power system. Our mission is to assure the effective and efficient reduction of risks to the reliability and security of the grid.