

Announcement

Reliability Leadership Summit Focuses on Wide-Ranging Known and Potential Risks to Reliability and Security

January 21, 2021

ATLANTA – NERC and the Reliability Issues Steering Committee (RISC) will host the biennial [Reliability Leadership Summit](#) virtually next week on Tuesday and Wednesday. During the two-day event, leading industry experts will address multiple topics relating to known and emerging risks to bulk power system reliability.

Mark Lauby, NERC’s senior vice president and chief engineer; Nelson Peeler, senior vice president, Transmission and Fuels Strategy and Policy, Duke Energy, and RISC chair; and Brian Slocum, vice president, Operations, ITC Holdings Corp. and RISC vice chair, will serve as hosts of the event.

Giving opening keynote addresses will be Cheryl LaFleur, former FERC chair and commissioner, and Jacinda B. Woodward, senior vice president, Power Operations at the Tennessee Valley Authority. Other NERC speakers include Manny Cancel, NERC senior vice president and chief executive officer (CEO) of the E-ISAC; and Jim Robb, NERC president and CEO, who will deliver closing remarks on Wednesday.

“I’m pleased that we have attracted top industry and government experts who will address wide-ranging challenges to electricity reliability, security and resilience,” Lauby said. “Despite the virtual nature of the event, we have more than 400 registrants, and I know that — as in previous years — robust and interesting debate will be the hallmark of the summit.”

Over the course of the event, four panels will focus on:

- **Grid Transformation** – Panelists will discuss the challenges created by the shift from conventional generation resources to the new resource mix, the risks faced by operators and planners posed by new resource integration as well as reliability and security impacts and the associated considerations.

CONTACT:
Kimberly.Mielcarek@nerc.net

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



- **Extreme Natural Events** – In addition to weather-related events, panelists will discuss the impacts of “people” events, such as the current pandemic, the unique challenges they create and ways to prepare for them.
- **Security Risks** – Panelists will discuss the evolution and potential mitigation activities that support operational, cyber and physical security, which are the essential components of a highly reliable bulk power system.
- **Critical Infrastructure Interdependencies** – Panelists will discuss the implications of the increased interdependencies between critical infrastructure and industry subsectors as well as how best to address the jurisdictional issues that need to be tackled to address the risks they present.

A reception at the end of the first day will feature Peter Fox-Penner, Ph.D., who speaks frequently on energy topics and is the author of numerous published articles and books, including “*Smart Power: Climate Change, the Smart Grid, and the Future of Electric Utilities*” and its sequel “*Power After Carbon: Building a Clean, Resilient Grid.*”

Each day will conclude with a moderated open discussion. The results and observations from the entire event will be used to identify, assess and manage reliability priorities across the Electric Reliability Organization (ERO) and will be documented in the RISC’s report, anticipated to be released in August 2021 (for background, see [2019 Report](#)).

Register for the [2021 RISC Reliability Leadership Summit](#).

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Electricity is a key component of the fabric of modern society and the ERO 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.