

NERC News

July 2019

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ERO Executive Spotlight – Jason Blake, President and CEO, SERC

Working Together for Reliability and Efficiency

It is often said that change is the only constant. Change is a natural part of evolution and, with change, comes great opportunity for improvements that we may not have sought without such a catalyst.

This past year has brought great change to the ERO landscape. On July 1, 2019, SERC officially extended a warm welcome to all registered entities across the entire state of Florida, when the Florida Reliability Coordinating Council (FRCC) ceased its Regional Entity operations. This transition provided SERC with the very catalyst we needed to review dozens of key processes performed separately by two adjacent Regions and extract value for future operations as a single Region.

Our objective for the integration was a single, superior and more effective Region focused on reducing risk to the reliability and security of the grid. A cornerstone of this effort was the performance of Value Stream Mapping — a technique used in lean manufacturing processes that we tailored for the work we do as a Regional Entity. We used this technique on key processes like reliability assurance, reliability assessments, violation processing and enforcement and several other processes that affect the daily operation of the Region. This collaborative effort between the SERC and FRCC regional staff recognizes that while each Region has a particular way of doing business that has evolved over the years a combined process could become something so much more. Working together with our peers to the south has truly resulted in a stronger, more reliable and more efficient Region for the future. [Continued on page 2](#)



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Working Together (cont'd)

As a learning organization, SERC was able to leverage the great work done in 2018 by both SERC and the Midwest Reliability Organization (MRO) with the integration of entities from the former Southwest Power Pool (SPP) Regional Entity. We collaborated with MRO to share experiences, lessons learned and feedback about SPP integration efforts so we could plan accordingly for the FRCC transition. This paid dividends for the Florida entities, as they were able to enjoy a simple, smooth and seamless transition.

We assembled a project team of SERC and FRCC leaders and subject matter experts to manage the complex transition plan and created a dedicated [FRCC Integration web page](#) to communicate how stakeholders would be engaged to learn more about SERC programs, technical committees and outreach initiatives. The web page provided, and continues to provide, a one-stop shop for all relevant integration information and a window into the project's progress. Working together with the affected registered entities was the crux of a robust outreach plan to keep all stakeholders engaged throughout the process.

SERC is pleased that all of the talented former FRCC Regional Entity staff accepted offers to join the SERC team. These new team members have been integrated across SERC at all levels, which further speaks to the tremendous and positive impact they will immediately have on the organization and the value they will bring to all of the Region's stakeholders. I am especially grateful to Stacy Dochoda for her leadership throughout the process, and I am looking forward to continued engagement with her and the FRCC Member Services organization.

We have accomplished much this year, and SERC continues to be committed to facilitating a successful integration. In addition, while there are a number of integration-related tasks that will continue well into the second half of the year, we have been sure to integrate key processes and transfer key data between the Regions. However, like any significant integration, the

work does not stop on the official "transition" date. We have put plans and staff in place to ensure sustained and permanent success. We continue combining the best practices from both Regions to make sure the resulting processes are elevated to become best in class. Our goal remains a combined Region that is greater than the sum of its parts, and we can help achieve this through the work we perform every day.

This period of change has been exciting and has afforded us many opportunities for collaboration. Working together with our peers from across the ERO has resulted in a tremendously efficient Region. The most exciting part is that all of these important efforts have had the same objective at their core: to improve our focus, work and approach continuously so that we are best positioned and aligned to deliver an even more reliable and secure power grid. We look forward to working together with our stakeholders, NERC and the other Regional Entities toward an even more reliable and secure power grid.

Jason Blake is president and chief executive officer at SERC. ■■■

Headlines

Search for NERC Leadership Positions Underway

NERC has engaged Lyceum Leadership Consulting to conduct its search for two leadership positions: senior vice president, general counsel and corporate secretary; and senior vice president and chief administrative officer. Lyceum will conduct the initial executive search and provide qualified candidates to NERC's chief executive officer and other senior executives for review. Qualified candidates should review the position descriptions on Lyceum's website for more information and send an email with their resume to [Carly Olson](#).

[Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary](#) | [Senior Vice President, Chief Financial and Administrative Officer](#)

FERC and NERC Release Report on January 2018 Extreme Cold Weather Event

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and NERC released a [joint staff report](#) that once again stresses the need for generation owners and operators to prepare adequately for winter weather conditions to ensure bulk electric system reliability.

On January 17, 2018, regional operators in the Midwest and South Central U.S. (MidContinent Independent System Operator and Southwest Power Pool) called for voluntary reductions in electricity use due to abnormally cold temperatures and higher than forecast demand. The system remained stable. However, continued reliable operation would have required shedding firm load if MISO had experienced its largest single generation contingency in MISO South.

The joint report finds that, despite prior guidance from FERC and NERC, cold-weather events continue to result in unplanned outages that imperil reliable system operations. It endorses the development of one or more mandatory Reliability Standards requiring generator owner/operators to prepare for the cold weather and provide information about those preparations to their Reliability Coordinators and Balancing Authorities.

Robb Testifies at House Cyber Hearing

NERC President and CEO Jim Robb testified Friday, July 12 during a hearing hosted by the [House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Energy](#). The hearing — “Keeping the Lights On: Addressing Cyber Threats to the Grid” — began at 9:30 a.m. Eastern.

In addition to Robb, other witnesses were:

- The Honorable Karen S. Evans, Assistant Secretary, Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response, Department of Energy
- J. Andrew Dodge Sr., Director, Office of Electric Reliability, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission



Personnel Certification and Continuing Education

System Operator Certification Program

NERC is accepting [nominations](#) to fill two positions on the [Exam Working Group \(EWG\)](#), which reports to the Personnel Certification Governance Committee (PCGC). The term for one vacancy is from January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2021. The second vacancy term is from January 1, 2020 until December 31, 2022. Nominations will be accepted from July 29, 2019 through 5:00 p.m. Eastern on August 30, 2019. Interested candidates must have a valid NERC System Operator credential; must work in an operating or support capacity associated with a real-time Bulk Electric System control center; and must be fluent in English.

The EWG is responsible for development and delivery of the certification exams used in the NERC System Operator Certification Program. The EWG also maintains the item bank to ensure relevance to the industry job task analysis and identified references, and performs this work under the general guidelines set forth by the PCGC.

Nominations are open to all interested parties and self-nominations are encouraged. Qualified candidates should submit a [nomination form](#) to [Trion King](#). ■■■

Standards

Workshop Resources Posted

NERC posted the [presentations](#) from the July 25, 2019 Electromagnetic Pulse Task Force Workshop.

Team Nomination and Feedback Solicitation Periods Open

The Standards Efficiency Review (SER) Project began in 2017 with the goal of improving efficiency within the NERC Reliability Standards. The ERO formed an advisory group and selected industry representatives to participate with a goal of identifying requirements that were not essential for reliability and could be retired. The result of the SER Project was a recommendation to retire more than 100 O&P requirements. As this project continues to move forward, it has been determined that

a similar review is appropriate for the CIP Standard Requirements.

NERC is soliciting industry feedback on areas of inefficiency within the CIP Standard Requirements through **August 26, 2019**. NERC will document this feedback on the [CIP SER Matrix](#). Additionally, NERC is assembling a team to perform analysis of the responses to the CIP SER Matrix as well as to prioritize efforts and identify next steps. If interested, please complete the [nomination form](#) by **Friday, August 16, 2019**.

Please submit the completed CIP SER Matrices, nomination forms and any questions to [Brian Allen](#).

Update to Standards Navigation on NERC Website

After reviewing and analyzing recent analytics, NERC determined that Standards website pages consistently have more traffic than any other site on NERC.com. In fact, 7 out of 10 of the most visited website pages during the last year have been to Standards pages.

Based on stakeholder feedback and in an effort to make Standards more visible and accessible, NERC has added the main Standards page to the top navigation bar. This means there are now three ways to quickly and directly access the Standards home page—through the new Standards link on the top navigation bar, through the Program Areas & Department dropdown on the top navigation bar and through the Standards section on the NERC.com landing page.

Standards Committee Special Election – Segment 9

Segment 9 — Federal, State and Provincial Regulatory or other Government Entities—currently has a vacancy for the remainder of the 2019–2020 term. The Standards Committee (SC) is accepting nominations through August 19, 2019, in preparation for a special election for Segment 9 to fill the remainder of the term.

Registered Ballot Body (RBB) members and others interested in NERC Reliability Standards are encouraged to submit nominations for industry segment representatives on the SC. Reliability Standards are mandatory for all bulk power system owners, operators

and users in North America, and the SC's oversight role is therefore increasingly important. The SC consists of two members from each of the ten Industry Segments that make up the RBB. In addition, Appendix 3B of the Rules of Procedure contains special provisions to achieve a balance of representation between the United States and Canada. Industry stakeholders elect the SC members, who report directly to the NERC Board of Trustees. The SC meets up to twelve times each year, with four face-to-face meetings and the remainder by conference call. The [SC Charter](#) provides a description of the SC's responsibilities.

Anyone may submit a nomination. To be eligible for nomination, a nominee shall be an employee or agent of an entity belonging in the applicable Segment. **To allow verification of affiliation, a nominee must be a registered user in the NERC RBB.** It is not required that the nominee be the same person as the entity's RBB representative for the applicable Segment. The [Election of Members of the NERC Standards Committee Procedure](#) includes instructions while the [Standards Committee Election web page](#) contains the nomination forms. To submit a nomination, complete the form and submit it to [Linda Jenkins](#) no later than **August 19**. Once received, NERC will post the nominations on the SC's Nominations and Election web page.

The SC will conduct the special election **August 27–September 5** and announce election results shortly after the election closes. ■■■

Regional Entity Events

[Midwest Reliability Organization \(MRO\)](#)

- **Reliability Advisory Council Meeting**, August 7 | [Details](#)
- **One Company's Path to Establishing Threat Intelligence and Hunting Webinar**, August 21 | [Details](#)
- **CMEP Advisory Meeting Council**, September 18 | [Details](#)
- **Organizational Group Oversight Committee Meeting**, September 18 | [Details](#)
- **MRO Board of Directors Meeting**, September 19 | [Details](#)

- **Security Conference**, September 25 | [Details](#)
- **Security Advisory Council Meeting**, September 26 | [Details](#)
- **CMEP Conference**, October 22 | [Details](#)
- **Reliability Advisory Council Meeting**, October 30 | [Details](#)
- **Security Advisory Council Meeting**, November 6 | [Details](#)
- **CMEP Advisory Council Meeting**, November 19 | [Details](#)
- **MRO Annual Member and Board of Directors Meeting**, December 5 | [Details](#)

[Northeast Power Coordinating Council \(NPCC\)](#)

- **2019 Fall Compliance and Standards Workshop**, November 20–21, Newport, R.I.

[ReliabilityFirst \(RF\)](#)

- **2019 Protection System Workshop**, August 13–14, Independence, Ohio | [Details](#)
- **2019 Human Performance Workshop**, August 14–15, Independence, Ohio | [Details](#)
- **Reliability and Compliance Open Forum Call Conference Call**, August 19 | [Details](#)
- **Reliability and Compliance Open Forum Call Conference Call**, September 16 | [Details](#)
- **2019 Fall Reliability and CIP Workshop**, October 1–3, Cleveland, Ohio | [Details](#)
- **Reliability and Compliance Open Forum Call Conference Call**, October 21 | [Details](#)
- **Reliability and Compliance Open Forum Call Conference Call**, November 18 | [Details](#)
- **Reliability and Compliance Open Forum Call Conference Call**, December 16 | [Details](#)

[SERC Reliability Corporation](#)

- **Regional Entity Align Tool Training**, August 6–7 | [Details](#)
- **Registered Entity Align Tool Training #1**, August 13 | [Details](#)
- **Registered Entity Align Tool Training #2**, August 20 | [Details](#)
- **System Operator Conference**, August 27–29 | [Details](#)

- **CIP Compliance Seminar**, September 17–18 | [Details](#)
- **System Operator Conference**, September 24–26 | [Details](#)
- **Fall Compliance Seminar**, October 8–9 | [Details](#)

[Texas RE](#)

- **Talk with Texas RE** – August 15 | [Details](#)
- **2019 Texas RE and ERCOT Generator Weatherization Workshop** – September 5 | [Details](#)
- **Talk with Texas RE** – September 19 | [Details](#)
- **Align Training for Registered Entities** – September 24 | [Details](#)
- **Align Training Webinar** – September 24 | [Details](#)
- **CIP Low Impact Workshop** – October 1, Houston | [Details](#)

[WECC](#)

- **Grid Fundamentals Class**, August 20–22, Salt Lake City, Utah | [Register](#)
- **Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors**, September 10–11, Seattle | [Details](#)
- **Human Performance Conference**, October 1–3, Salt Lake City, Utah | [Register](#)
- **Reliability and Security Workshop**, October 22–24, Las Vegas | [Register](#) ■■■

[Upcoming Events](#)

For a full accounting of NERC events, such as meetings and conference calls for standard drafting teams, other standing committees, subcommittees, task forces and working groups, please refer to the [NERC calendar](#).

- **[Proposal for Restructuring NERC Technical Committees Webinar](#)** – Noon–1:00 p.m. Eastern, August 8 | [Register](#)
- **[Electromagnetic Transient Simulations for Large-Scale Systems Studies with High Penetration of Inverter-Based Resources Webinar](#)** – 4:30–5:30 p.m. Eastern, August 12 | [Register](#)
- **[Electromagnetic Pulse Task Force Workshop](#)** – 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Eastern, August 27, Atlanta | [Register](#)

- **Board of Trustees Committees, Member Representatives Committee, and Board of Trustees Meetings** – August 14–15, Québec, QC | [Meeting Registration and Hotel Information](#)
- **Critical Infrastructure Protection Committee Meeting** – September 17–18, Minneapolis, Minn. | [Register](#)
- **Monitoring and Situational Awareness Technical Conference** – September 24–25, Little Rock, Ark. | [Register](#) | [Hotel and Travel Information](#) | [Presentations from Previous Conferences](#)
- **GridSecCon 2019** – October 22–25, Atlanta | [Register](#)
- **Probabilistic Analysis Forum** – December 11–13, Atlanta | **Registration Coming Soon** ■■■

Data Analyst – Performance Analysis

Location: Atlanta

[Details](#)

Senior Critical Infrastructure Protection Technical Advisor

Location: Atlanta

[Details](#) ■■■

Filings

NERC Filings to FERC

July 22, 2019

[First Informational Filing of NERC Regarding Work Performed Under the Geomagnetic Disturbance Research Work Plan](#) | NERC submits the first Informational Filing regarding the results of research performed to date under the NERC Geomagnetic Disturbance Research Work Plan.

July 26, 2019

[2019 Five-Year ERO Performance Assessment](#) | NERC submits the Five-Year ERO Performance Assessment for the period between 2014 and 2018.

There were no NERC Filings in Canada in July. ■■■

Careers at NERC

Cyber Analyst – Network Analyst

Location: Washington, D.C.

[Details](#)

Manager North American Relations

Location: Washington, D.C.

[Details](#)

Enforcement Analyst

Location: Washington, D.C.

[Details](#)