

NERC News

October 2019

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ERO Executive Spotlight – Jim Robb

GridSecCon Draws Record Crowd of Security Professionals

More than 600 attendees participated in GridSecCon 2019 — a record number and a testament to how seriously our industry and stakeholders take security and how committed we are to continuous improvement. NERC and SERC cohosted this year's conference in Atlanta, which is home to NERC's headquarters and is the largest city in SERC's geographic footprint. NERC began cohosting the event with Regional Entities because they work directly with the registered entities, and I believe this year's attendance numbers show that it is working. I appreciate SERC's support in helping to make GridSecCon 2019 happen.



We began this conference in 2011 to bring together a diverse group of cyber and physical experts from North American industry and government to share best practices and lessons learned. The conference continues to grow and expand on the importance of training and education toward broadening cyber and physical security skills and capabilities, which in turn strengthens the fabric of the bulk power system across North America.

We were fortunate to have keynote remarks from Assistant Secretary Karen Evans, Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security and Emergency Response, Department of Energy; Assistant Director Brian Harrell, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, Department of Homeland Security; and Chair, President and CEO Tom Fanning, Southern Company. This shows the level of commitment our industry has toward ensuring security — from both the private and public sectors. [Continued on page 2](#)

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GridSecCon (cont'd)

Prior to the start of the conference, a day of training sessions covering a range of topics, including physical security, threat intelligence, human error and supply chain, were held. Panel discussions focused on trade associations and grid security advocacy; assessing potential physical security threats; responding to drone threats; the nexus between physical and cyber security threats; cyber supply chain threats; and potential emerging threats.

Our industry has a culture of collaboration that is unique among other critical infrastructures. GridSecCon emphasizes these partnerships and highlights the work of the Electricity Information Sharing and Analysis Center (E-ISAC) — through which we rapidly share actionable data with members via a secure portal; the Cybersecurity Risk Information Sharing Program (CRISP), which we manage in concert with Pacific Northwest National Laboratory and in partnership with the Department of Energy; and the Electricity Subsector Coordinating Council (ESCC), which provides a robust forum for sharing and working on collective issues related to defense and government relationships at the national, state and local levels.

On November 13–14, NERC will host its fifth GridEx. This security exercise allows participants to exercise their response, resilience and restoration capabilities during a simulated scenario that combines cyber and physical attacks. I hope you will all take advantage of this training opportunity.

Electricity is the fabric of our society, and the work we do serves to strengthen the reliability and security of that fabric. Thanks for all the work you do! ■■■

Headlines

Statement on October FERC Open Meeting

At its monthly open meeting, FERC issued a letter order accepting the proposed 2020 business plans and budgets of NERC, the Regional Entities and the Western Interconnection Regional Advisory Body. The order also

granted NERC's request for the Midwest Reliability Organization and SERC to receive an exception under Section 1107 of the NERC Rules of Procedure that requires penalty monies collected during the 12 months prior to July 1 of a given year be used to reduce assessments in the following year.

The ERO Enterprise appreciates today's action and will continue to work with FERC and stakeholders toward assuring the reliability of the North American bulk power system. ■■■

Compliance

Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program Quarterly Report Now Available

This report highlights key ERO Enterprise Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program (CMEP) activities that occurred in Q3 2019 and provides information and statistics regarding those activities.

In Q3 2019, CMEP activities throughout the ERO Enterprise reflected continued implementation of a risk-based approach and program alignment. The ERO Enterprise:

- Approved two multi-region registered entities (MRREs) for entry into the Coordinated Oversight Program;
- Certified one new Reliability Coordinator and reviewed one already certified and operational registered entity;
- Processed 46 functional registration changes;
- Completed one Bulk Electric System (BES) Registration Exception Request;
- Filed one full Notice of Penalty (NOP);
- Filed 12 Spreadsheet Notices of Penalty (SNOP); and
- Began to develop the revised Compliance Oversight Plan template.

The full report is currently available as **Agenda Item 3** in the [Compliance Committee Agenda Package](#) for the November 5 NERC Board of Trustees Meeting. ■■■

Reliability Risk Management

Webinar Resources Posted

NERC posted the [presentation](#) and [streaming recording](#) from the September 19 and September 26 Generator Operator Survey webinars.

NERC posted the [presentation](#) and [streaming recording](#) from the September 13 Interconnection Oscillation Analysis Report Findings and January 11 Forced Oscillation Event Analysis webinar.

NERC posted the [presentation](#) and [streaming recording](#) from the October 11 informational webinar regarding the recently published *NERC Reliability Guideline: Recommended Improvements to Interconnection Requirements for BPS-Connected Inverter-Based Resources*.

Monitoring and Situational Awareness Conference Resources Posted

The seventh annual Monitoring and Situational Awareness Conference brought together more than 120 operations and energy management system (EMS) experts from registered entities, government regulators and a variety of vendors and consultants from all Regions and Canada at Southwest Power Pool (SPP) in Little Rock, AR. The theme of this year's conference was "Solutions for Emerging Changes." NERC posted the [presentations](#) from the technical conference, which took place September 24–25, 2019. ■■■

Standards

With the implementation of the [Align Project](#) in 2020, there will be changes to the [Reliability Standards web page](#) and associated reports, including the One-Stop Shop, U.S. Effective Date Status/Functional Applicability spreadsheet and VRF and VSL matrices. We will provide more details in the coming months.

Nomination Period Open for Project 2019-06 SAR Drafting Team Members

Standards staff is seeking nominations for Project 2019-06 – Cold Weather Standard Authorization Request (SAR) drafting team members through

November 5, 2019. By submitting a nomination form, you are indicating your willingness and agreement to participate actively in face-to-face meetings in Atlanta as well as conference calls.

NERC is seeking individuals who possess experience with cold weather preparation through performing or developing processes to address the following tasks:

- Implementing freeze protection measures and technologies;
- Performing periodic adequate maintenance and inspection of freeze protection measures and technologies;
- Ensuring gas-fueled generating units' Reliability Coordinator and Balancing Authority are provided notification of firm transportation capacity for natural gas supply;
- Conducting winter-specific and plant-specific operator awareness training;
- Developing a procedure for determining the operating temperatures for generating unit availability for extreme cold weather performance; and
- Communicating with the appropriate entities on the operating temperatures for generating unit availability for extreme cold weather performance and when expected temperatures are forecasted within the determined generating unit availabilities, expected availability of the generating units and fuel assurance for the appropriate next day operating horizon.

NERC is also seeking individuals who have facilitation skills or legal/technical writing backgrounds as well as those who have experience with developing standards inside or outside the NERC development process (e.g., IEEE, NAESB, ANSI, etc.). Please highlight such experience in the information you submit, if applicable. Previous drafting or periodic review team experience is beneficial, but not required.

Use the [electronic form](#) to submit a nomination. Contact [Wendy Muller](#) regarding issues with the system. An unofficial Word version of the

nomination form is available on the [Drafting Team Vacancies](#) page and the [project page](#). ■■■

Regional Entity Events

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

- **Security Advisory Council Meeting**, November 5 | [Details](#)
- **CMEP Advisory Council Meeting**, November 19 | [Details](#)
- **MRO Protective Relay Subcommittee 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 \(RF\)](#)

- **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](#)

- **Q1 2020 Open Forum Webinar**, January 27 | [Details](#)

[Texas RE](#)

- **Talk with Texas RE** – November 21 | [Details](#)
- **Board of Directors Meeting** – December 11 | [Details](#)

[WECC](#)

- **Board of Directors and associated meetings**, December 3–4 | [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](#).

- **Board Committees, Member Representatives Committee, and Board of Trustee Meetings** – November 5–6, Atlanta | [Meeting and Hotel Registration](#)
- **Guideline for Distributed Energy Resource (DER) Modeling for Bulk Power System Planning Assessments Webinar** – 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Eastern, November 8 | [Register](#)
- **Improvements to Compliance and Enforcement Pages on NERC.com** – 3:00–3:30 p.m. Eastern, November 14 | [Register](#)
- **Standards Committee Conference Call** – 1:00–3:00 p.m. Eastern, November 20 | [Register](#)
- **Improvements to Compliance and Enforcement Pages on NERC.com** – 2:00–2:30 p.m. Eastern, December 9 | [Register](#)
- **Operating Committee, Planning Committee, and Critical Infrastructure Protection Committee Meetings** – December 10–11, 2019, Atlanta | [OC Registration](#) | [PC Registration](#) | [CIPC Registration](#) | [Hotel Registration](#)
- **Probabilistic Analysis Forum** – December 11–13, Atlanta | [Register](#) ■■■

Filings

There were no Filings to FERC in October

NERC Filings in Canada

October 16, 2019

Notice of Filing of NERC of its 2020 Business Plan and Budget and the 2020 Business Plan and Budget of the relevant Regional Entity and of Proposed Assessments to Fund Budgets (Alberta)

[Attachments to 2020 Budget Filing](#) ■■■

Careers at NERC

E-ISAC Security Operations Analyst

Location: Washington, D.C.

[Details](#)

Enforcement Analyst

Location: Washington, D.C.

[Details](#)

**Senior CIP Technical Advisor – Advanced System
Analytics Modeling and Security**

Location: Atlanta

[Details](#)

Human Resource Business Partner

Location: Atlanta or Washington, D.C.

[Details](#)

**Senior Auditor – Internal Audit and Corporate Risk
Management**

Location: Atlanta

[Details](#)

Senior Standards Developer

Location: Washington, D.C.

[Details](#) ■ ■ ■