Electricity, Oil and Natural Gas ISACs Form Partnership to Strengthen Cyber, Physical Security Collaboration

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WASHINGTON, D.C. – NERC's Electricity Information Sharing and Analysis Center (E-ISAC) and the Oil and Natural Gas Information Sharing and Analysis Center (ONG-ISAC) announced an agreement to improve information sharing between the organizations and their members to enhance the cyber security of North America.

Through a variety of tools, both the E-ISAC and the ONG-ISAC analyze potential physical and cyber security threats and, using their respective secure platforms, alert and advise members about mitigating threats. The goals of the E-ISAC and ONG-ISAC under the partnership include:

- Improving security collaboration on common threat information and incident response.
- Providing joint analysis of security concerns and events.
- Advancing effective processes for information sharing and situational awareness.
- Enhancing information sharing among all ISACs.

"Although some of the threats facing the energy sector are daunting, building a stronger collaborative defensive capability between our organizations will pay off before or during a cyber or physical security emergency," said Bill Lawrence, NERC vice president and chief security officer. "This agreement with the ONG-ISAC continues to strengthen the E-ISAC's relationships to predict and help mitigate potential threats to the grid and our increasingly interdependent critical infrastructure."

The E-ISAC reduces cyber and physical security risk to the electricity industry across North America by providing unique insights, leadership and collaboration. The E-ISAC's information sharing systems are designed to produce unclassified descriptions of the tactics, techniques and procedures adversaries use as well as methods to prevent or mitigate grid security threats.

"Formalizing this important partnership advances efforts to secure infrastructure across the energy sector," said Angela Haun, ONG-ISAC executive director. "We have successfully established the need for a culture of safety and security, and now we need to take our efforts to the next level by fostering a culture of sharing threat intelligence through trusted relationships."

The ONG-ISAC serves as a central point of coordination and communication to aid in the protection of exploration and oil and natural gas industry's production, transportation, refining and delivery systems. The ONG-ISAC analyzes and shares trusted and timely cyber threat information, including vulnerability and threat activity specific to industrial control systems and supervisory control and data acquisition systems.

The E-ISAC and the ONG-ISAC have agreed to use existing policies and procedures for safeguarding sensitive information under the partnership.

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