

NERC News

November 2020

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ERO Executive Spotlight – Sara Patrick President and CEO, MRO

ERO Enterprise Demonstrates Commitment to Industry Collaboration and Cooperation

One of the hallmarks of this industry is the voluntary mutual assistance network that is implemented during times of crisis. Utility companies across North America rely on each other to speed recovery efforts and bring the system back on-line following a large-scale event. This kind of collaboration is necessary to ensure the resiliency of a very complex and highly integrated bulk power system.



Also necessary to achieving this objective is close coordination between industry participants, government agencies and other organizations that contribute to the reliability and security of the grid. The ERO Enterprise (collectively NERC and the Regional Entities) plays a valuable role in supporting industry and government partners in this regard. Our continual mission is to identify, prioritize and assure effective and efficient mitigation of risks to the reliability and security of the North American bulk power system. [Continued on page 2](#)

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Collaboration and Cooperation (cont'd)

I have often said that one of the most effective tools the ERO Enterprise has to preempt noncompliance and mitigate risks to reliability and security is outreach—facilitating collaboration and information sharing across the entire reliability ecosystem. Several examples of this that are worth highlighting come to mind.

Late in 2019, the ERO Enterprise participated with industry in the Electricity Information Sharing and Analysis Center's (E-ISAC's) biennial grid security exercise, GridEx. This was the fifth exercise of its kind, and I've seen it mature and become more robust with each cycle. The two-day exercise simulates coordinated physical and cyber security attacks on the grid and other critical infrastructures to help industry stakeholders strengthen their preparedness, response and recovery plans. More than 500 organizations from utilities, government and other critical infrastructure sectors participated in last year's exercise. Lessons learned from this exercise are shared across the industry to help improve grid security. MRO held a GridEx debriefing last November, inviting local FBI officials and Commissioner John Tuma and staff from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission to attend and participate in the discussions, broadening our outreach to others who share similar reliability and security objectives.

Since its inception in 2017, MRO's Security Advisory Council (SAC) has worked to develop and strengthen relationships between industry security experts and government agencies across MRO's regional footprint. The GridEx debriefing is a good example of how those relationships are cultivated throughout the year. Another good example is MRO's Regional Security Risk Assessment that the SAC hosts each year. Participants include staff from our registered entities, the E-ISAC, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the FBI and other government and provincial agencies. The purpose of the assessment is to share threat information and determine the security risks most prevalent in the MRO Region.

The results of the assessment feed into a broader Regional Risk Assessment that includes system operations risk and helps to guide MRO's strategic focus and the work and activities of MRO's organizational groups. The SAC also implemented a weekly Security Threat Forum, starting in 2018, for the purpose of sharing real-time threat information with registered entities and other security experts across the Region. More than 200 participants are registered for this weekly call, and it has been well received in our Region and across the ERO Enterprise.

Fostering relationships and creating open lines of communications across our industry (and beyond) is critical to our mission and key to our success. The ERO Enterprise is undertaking an important initiative to strengthen relationships and become a valuable and trusted resource for other federal, provincial and state regulatory agencies. Chair Ryan Silvey from the Missouri Public Service Commission participated in MRO's 2020 Reliability Conference to provide his insights on the reliability challenges facing state regulatory agencies. Seeing some of the same challenges we face on the bulk power system from a distribution perspective increases our awareness and understanding of reliability risks. Similarly, the ERO Enterprise sharing information with other regulatory agencies informs these organizations of work being done to address reliability and security risks across North America.

Finally, our response to the global pandemic reflects a significant amount of coordination and collaboration. The Electricity Subsector Coordinating Council (ESCC) implemented biweekly calls with NERC, the E-ISAC and key government partners (i.e., Department of Energy, DHS, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and Department of Health and Human Services) to share situational awareness updates and best practices. The ESCC also developed a guidance document ([Assessing and Mitigating the Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)) that was regularly updated as the situation unfolded.

NERC and the Regional Entities responded immediately to assess industry's preparedness and response to the pandemic and worked with FERC to provide registered entities with regulatory relief, allowing industry to focus its resources on responding to this unprecedented health crisis. This relief has been extended through Q1 2021, and NERC will reassess continually given the evolving nature of the pandemic. In MRO's Region, the Security Threat Forum immediately added a separate weekly call to support discussions surrounding COVID-19 planning, response and sharing of information and best practices. This weekly meeting will continue until the threat forum determines it is no longer needed.

Safeguarding the reliability and security of the bulk power system amid the many challenges we face has necessitated this commitment to collaboration and cooperation across the entire reliability ecosystem. It is through this collaboration and cooperation that I am reminded of the strength we have when we work together toward a common objective. Thank you all for your efforts. **Our future is bright!** ■■■

Headlines

E-ISAC Expands Key Cybersecurity Program

NERC's Electricity Information Sharing and Analysis Center (E-ISAC) recently partnered with the Department of Energy (DOE) on an expansion of the Cybersecurity Risk Information Sharing Program (CRISP) to include operational technology. The CRISP expansion, to include two operational technology pilots, marks a major milestone to improve E-ISAC capabilities that strengthen grid security in North America.

The purpose of the new pilots is to identify potential cyber threats to utilities' industrial control systems by capturing raw and/or refined operational technology data and comparing it to CRISP information technology data.

"The CRISP operational technology pilots are an important advance in E-ISAC capabilities and reflect a maturation of our partnership with DOE," said Frank Honkus, E-ISAC associate director, Intelligence Programs and CRISP Manager. "These pilots will help the E-ISAC

meet its core responsibility of advising utilities on the detection and mitigation of industrial control system threats from the most advanced and persistent international adversaries."

Under the first pilot, E-ISAC analysts will leverage operational technology sensors that are already installed across the electricity industry to identify anomalous or potentially malicious cyber behavior. The objective of the second pilot, primarily funded by DOE, is to gain unique cybersecurity insights from the correlation and analysis of CRISP information technology data and operational technology data from the DOE-funded, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA)-led Essence program. Essence uses sophisticated real-time anomaly detection to identify and warn of possible network breaches.

In partnership with DOE, this pilot will expand to include five utility members of NRECA, and the Essence program will be expanded to include the CRISP community. In addition to the two operational technology pilots, the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) and E-ISAC are improving CRISP through a new information technology project that facilitates detecting anomalous and malicious activity on utilities' business networks. The E-ISAC manages CRISP under an agreement with PNNL, which installs network monitoring equipment at participating utilities and supports CRISP analysis that the E-ISAC produces for asset owners and operators (AOOs) across North America.

"CRISP is a unique capability for utilities, providing threat and trend analysis that participants cannot get anywhere else," Honkus noted. "The pilots and the strong public-private partnership with DOE and PNNL ensure that CRISP continues to evolve to meet emerging threats to industry."

Under the CRISP information technology project, the E-ISAC will integrate the analysis of email and website traffic data to improve the identification and mitigation of broader cyber threats to AOOs. These new data sources will inform CRISP analysis and provide more robust product lines for the CRISP community. Contact the [E-ISAC](#) for information about becoming a member.

Capacity Supply Adequate for Winter Demand; Extreme Weather, Fuel and Energy Risks in New England and California are Top Reliability Concerns

In its [2020–2021 Winter Reliability Assessment](#), NERC finds sufficient resource capacity is in place across North America to meet winter demand. Noting how extreme weather can challenge grid reliability in specific areas, the assessment closely examines this reliability risk and identifies higher risk areas that are susceptible to emergency operating actions.

During extreme and prolonged winter conditions, vital natural-gas fuel supplies for electricity generation can be at risk in New England, California and the southwestern United States. High reliance on natural gas-fired generation and limited natural gas infrastructure elevates reliability risk in these areas.

For this assessment, NERC analyzed severe weather scenarios that incorporated generation outages under peak load conditions. NERC noted particular reliability risk in areas within the Midcontinent Independent System Operator, the Canadian Maritimes, Texas, the Rocky Mountain Reserve Group and the Northwest Power Pool.

“Winter conditions challenge grid operators in many parts of North America. Our assessment looks at expected peak demand and the ability of the area resource mix to provide that demand under harsh winter conditions,” said Mark Olson, manager of Reliability Assessments. “Overall, industry takes winter reliability risks very seriously. Our extreme weather scenarios help stakeholders prepare for situations where winter conditions threaten resource adequacy, potentially forcing grid operators into emergency actions like demand curtailment.”

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, NERC also stresses a priority focus on protecting the workforce, including system and power plant operators. This year’s assessment highlights the below key findings for the upcoming winter season:

- Sufficient capacity resources are expected to be in service.

- Fuel and energy assurance risk remains a reliability concern.
- Extreme weather continues to pose risk to bulk power system reliability.
- The ongoing pandemic is causing increased uncertainty in electricity demand projections and presents cyber security and operating risks.
- Post-2020 hurricane season restoration efforts may continue in hard-hit areas along the Gulf Coast, where storm damage has degraded the transmission system that supplies local areas.

Undertaken annually in coordination with the Regional Entities, NERC’s Winter Reliability Assessment examines multiple factors that collectively provide deep and unique insights into reliability risk. These factors include resource adequacy, encompassing reserve margins and scenarios to identify operational risk; fuel assurance; and preparations to mitigate reliability concerns. The report encourages industry to discuss their plans and preparations to ensure reliability for the upcoming winter period.

APPA, E-ISAC Partner on Cybersecurity Summit

Citing cyber threats as a top concern for industry and government leaders, the American Public Power Association (APPA) and NERC’s Electricity Information Sharing and Analysis Center (E-ISAC) co-hosted the [Cybersecurity Virtual Summit](#) on November 16–17. Jim Robb, NERC’s president and CEO, delivered the summit’s opening keynote on November 16. Manny Cancel, NERC senior vice president and CEO of the E-ISAC, delivered the keynote on November 17. [Learn More about the E-ISAC.](#)

Summit topics for speakers included:

- Cyber threat and information sharing trends
- Utility responses to current threats
- Cyber resilience during the pandemic and natural disasters
- Utility supply chain risks and solutions
- Cyber tools, technologies and training

Robb Participates in New England-Canada Business Council Conference

Jim Robb, NERC's president and CEO, participated in a panel as part of the New England-Canada Business Council's Energy Trade and Technology conference, [Energy and Environmental Leadership in Times of Unprecedented Uncertainty](#). The two-day virtual conference, November 12–13, focused on all sectors of energy trade and cooperation between the Northeast United States and its largest energy partner, Canada. The forum brought together Canadian and U.S. senior executives, policymakers, regulators and energy experts who will provide their perspectives, share knowledge and explore a wide range of topics.

Robb participated in the first session titled "Setting the Stage: The Outlook for Building a Cleaner and More Secure Energy System" on November 12. The panel was moderated by John Gulliver, senior partner and head of the International Group, Pierce Atwood. Other panelists included: Gordon van Welie, president and CEO, ISO New England; Bill Quinlan, president, Transmission, Eversource Energy; Rick Janega, CEO Emera Newfoundland & Labrador, COO all Electric Utilities, Canada and Caribbean, Emera, Inc.

Collaboration, Coordination Key to Success in Addressing Risks

NERC held its fourth quarter Board of Trustees meeting virtually, its third via videoconference due to the ongoing pandemic. Board Chair Roy Thilly commended NERC, the Regional Entities and industry for their commitment to reliability and security during this time of change and uncertainty, noting that while we changed how we worked, we are still collaborating successfully and rising to the challenge.

Opening remarks were made by Patricia Hoffman, principal deputy assistant secretary at the Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Electricity; and John McAvoy, chair and chief executive officer (CEO) of Consolidated Edison of New York, who is retiring at the end of the year.

Hoffman thanked NERC and the Electricity Information Sharing and Analysis Center (E-ISAC) for the continued collaboration with DOE on pandemic response activities.

Reporting on the department's accomplishments and priorities, Hoffman discussed continued progress on the North American Energy Resilience Model, energy storage, protection of critical defense facilities and supporting resilience investments. There is important work ahead on addressing resilience matters and infrastructure protection capabilities, Hoffman noted, and she looks forward to continued collaboration between DOE and NERC on these topics.

Cyber security risk and the importance of collaboration, innovation and smart investment were key topics from McAvoy. Collaboration through the Electricity Subsector Coordinating Council (ESCC) with DOE, NERC and others has proven invaluable in helping industry strengthen its overall security posture, he said, stressing the need to stay ahead of adversary threats and make smart, risk-based investments in cyber security.

In his president's remarks, Jim Robb, NERC's president and CEO, noted that this month marks 55 years since the November 9, 1965 northeast blackout that left 30 million people without power for 13 hours.

"This event underscores the importance of international collaboration across North America. We have much to celebrate, but much yet to do as the challenges facing the grid continue to evolve. We must remain flexible in adapting to the changing environment around us — 2020 highlights our ability to do this and do it well," Robb said.

The Board adopted Project 2019-03 – Cyber Security Supply Chain Risks, which adds electronic access control or monitoring systems (EACMS) to the supply chain requirements — specifically EACMS that provide electronic access control to high- and medium-impact Bulk Electric System (BES) Cyber Systems. In addition, physical access control systems (excluding alarming and logging) to high- and medium-impact BES Cyber Systems were added to the Supply Chain Standards. The project includes the following standards:

- CIP-005-7 – Cyber Security – Electronic Security Perimeter(s)

- CIP-010-4 – Cyber Security – Configuration Change Management and Vulnerability Assessments
- CIP-013-2 – Cyber Security – Supply Chain Risk Management

NERC will file the standards with FERC by the required filing deadline of December 26, 2020. The Board also approved the [2021–2023 Reliability Standards Development Plan](#), which provides time frames and anticipated resources for each project under development or anticipated to begin by the end of the year.

Howard Gugel, vice president of Standards and Engineering, provided an update on multi-pronged efforts to address reliability risks related to cold weather. NERC has collected and shared information on preparation and bulk power system impacts since 2011 through webinars, special reports, lessons learned, failure modes and mechanisms and other resources. The “Generating Unit Winter Weather Readiness Reliability Guideline” is currently in the comment phase of its third tri-annual review and was discussed in the 2020 Winter Weather webinar.

“Cold weather preparation and performance continue to be an area of focus,” Gugel said. “Lessons learned through recent winter operating events have shown that, while efforts have been effective, standards will need to be modified to address issues in communication and preparation.”

A standards drafting team was appointed to begin work on Project 2019-06 – Cold Weather, which will address findings from the [2019 FERC and NERC Staff Report: The South Central United States Cold Weather Bulk Electric System Event of January 17, 2018](#). The standard will be posted for comment in early 2021.

The Board received updates on the 2020/2021 Winter Reliability Assessment, which will be released next week; the 2020 Long-Term Reliability Assessment, scheduled for release in December; and the coordination process between the Reliability and Security Technical

Committee and the Reliability Issues Steering Committee.

The Board also approved the 2021 ERO Enterprise work plan priorities, which identify key activities that will be tracked and reported on throughout the year and that align closely with the [ERO Enterprise Long-Term Strategy](#).

“The work plan objectives set the table for the work to be performed in 2021,” noted Mark Lauby, senior vice president and chief engineer. “These objectives address a transforming industry, while NERC remains nimble to take on any emerging risks that may present themselves during the year.”

Board presentations are located on the Board of Trustees [agenda page](#) on NERC’s website. The next Board meeting is February 4 and will take place virtually via WebEx.

Cancel Addresses Senior Canadian Electricity Executives

Manny Cancel, NERC senior vice president and chief executive officer of the Electricity Information Sharing and Analysis Center (E-ISAC), delivered keynote remarks on November 2 to senior industry leaders at the Ontario Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) annual Cyber Security Executive Briefing. Cancel discussed the current threat landscape, the benefits of the Canadian industry’s partnership with the E-ISAC, the use of E-ISAC products and services by Canadian members and opportunities for stronger collaboration. Learn more about the [E-ISAC](#) and the [IESO](#). ■■■

Compliance

Newly Effective Standard

On December 1, 2020, [BAL-003-2 – Frequency Response and Frequency Bias Setting](#) became effective. BAL-003-2 requires sufficient Frequency Response from the Balancing Authority to maintain Interconnection Frequency within predefined bounds by arresting frequency deviations and supporting frequency until the frequency is restored to its scheduled value. The standard also provides consistent methods for measuring Frequency Response and determining the Frequency Bias Setting.

Reliability Standard Audit Worksheet Posted

NERC posted a new Reliability Standard Audit Worksheet (RSAW) for [CIP-008-6 – Cyber Security – Incident Reporting and Response Planning](#) is now available on the [RSAW page](#) of NERC’s website under the heading “Current RSAWs for Use.” CIP-008-6 becomes effective January 1, 2021.

RSAWs are guides provided by the ERO Enterprise that describe types of evidence that registered entities may use to demonstrate compliance with a Reliability Standard. The ERO Enterprise drafts these worksheets, which include information regarding how the ERO Enterprise may assess evidence, during the development of their corresponding NERC Reliability Standards, allowing for enhanced transparency around compliance expectations.

Updating Registered Entity Contacts in CORES

In preparation for the pending move to the new CMEP Align system in 2021, the ERO Enterprise will enable new functionality in the Centralized Organization Registration ERO System (CORES) allowing registered entities to make changes to their own registered entity contact roles (i.e., PCO, PCC, ACC, etc.) directly in CORES. The ERO Enterprise plans to release this new CORES software functionality soon and will notify registered entities when the software is released.

By enabling this additional functionality, CORES will ultimately become the official system of record for registered entities to maintain their contact information. It is essential to keep current and accurate registered entity contacts in CORES because the data will be needed in Align, which will start rolling out to the registered entities on March 31, 2021.

The ERO Enterprise will be operating in both the legacy systems (CDMS, CDAA, and the SERC Compliance & Committee Portal) and the ERO Portal with CORES until the transition to Align is completed. There have been substantial checks made to ensure that contact roles will be accurate, current and up to date in all systems, but it is up to registered entities to verify and update any new changes to contact roles, as needed.

Compliance Guidance Updates

NERC posted one new proposed Implementation Guidance document on the [Compliance Guidance web page](#):

- [PRC-019-2 Coordination of Voltage Control Systems, Protection Systems, and Equipment Capabilities \(RSTC\)](#).

NERC posted two new ERO Enterprise-endorsed Implementation Guidance documents:

- [PRC-002-2 Clarification of Fault Recorder \(FR\) Trigger Setting Requirements \(MRO CMEPAC\)](#)
- [CIP-012-1, R1 – Communications Between Control Centers \(2016-02 SDT\)](#)

NERC updated the [ERO Enterprise Non-Endorsed Implementation Guidance tracking spreadsheet](#) to include the following:

- CIP-004-6 and CIP-011-2 Cloud Solutions and Encrypting BCSI (NERC RSTC)
- CIP-008-6 Incident Reporting and Response Planning (2018-02 SDT)
- CIP-010-2 Configuration Change Management & Monitoring ((MRO CMEPAC)
- MOD-025-2 Verification and Data Reporting of Generator Real and Reactive Power Capability and Synchronous Condenser Reactive Power Capability (MRO CMEPAC)
- TPL-007-4 Transmission System Planned Performance for Geomagnetic Disturbance Events (OC)

Compliance Oversight Plan Pre-Recorded Webinar Posted

In 2016, as part of the risk-based compliance monitoring and enforcement program (CMEP) transformation, the ERO Enterprise implemented Compliance Oversight Plans (COPs) to tailor each registered entity’s specific compliance monitoring activities based on its inherent risks, controls, and performance history. The COP process has continued to mature, and the ERO Enterprise and industry identified various enhancement opportunities. As a result, the ERO Enterprise made improvements that are highlighted in this webinar.

The webinar covers the following:

- Analysis of inherent risk and performance data
- Selection of risk categories
- Selection of oversight strategy
- Reliability Standards for monitoring
- Contents of the COP report
- Helpful resources

The [streaming webinar](#), [slide presentation](#), [COP FAQ](#) (includes risk categories), and [COP report template](#) are now available.

Program Alignment Updates

The ERO Enterprise Program Alignment Process is intended to enhance efforts to identify, prioritize and resolve alignment issues across the ERO Enterprise. Using this process, NERC captures identified issues from the various resources in a [centralized repository](#). The Consistency Reporting Tool uses a third-party application, EthicsPoint, which allows stakeholders to submit consistency issues—anonously, if desired. Over the past month, NERC received one alignment issue pertaining to the assessment criteria for TOP-001-3 R9 and one self-identified alignment issue pertaining to CMEP practice guide on considerations on virtualization for ERO Enterprise CMEP staff.

2021 ERO Enterprise Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program Implementation Plan Updated

As announced previously, NERC posted the [2021 ERO Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program \(CMEP\) Annual Implementation Plan](#). The Implementation Plan is the annual operating plan used by Compliance Enforcement Authorities (CEAs) to implement the CMEP. The CEAs, which include NERC and the six Regional Entities, carry out CMEP activities in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure and Appendix 4C. NERC has updated the CMEP IP to include links to Regions' monitoring schedules. For more information or assistance, please contact [Ryan Mauldin](#).



Reliability Risk Management

Webinar Resources Posted

NERC posted the [presentation](#) and [streaming webinar](#) from the October 27, 2020 Lesson Learned: Verification of AC Quantities during Protection System Design and Commissioning webinar.

NERC also posted the presentations and streaming audio from the [October 28, 2020 | TADS 101 Reporting Training](#) and the [November 12, 2020 | TADS 201 Reporting Training](#).

New Lessons Learned Published

NERC posted two new [Lessons Learned](#).

The [Cold Weather Operation of SF₆ Circuit Breakers](#) Lesson Learned addresses a concern that when a SF₆ circuit breaker (CB) hits its critical low pressure, its fault interrupting capability can be compromised. Most Transmission Operators protect against this by either auto-opening the CB prior to reaching the critical low-pressure level or by blocking the CB from tripping (when it reaches the critical low-pressure level) and relying on adjacent CBs to open in the event of a fault (breaker failure mode). If this occurs across multiple locations, it can place the Bulk Electric System (BES) at additional risk since it weakens the overall topology of the system and can result in more facilities being removed from service to clear a fault. It also means that the contingencies modeled and studied in real-time contingency analysis (RTCA) studies may no longer be accurate, thereby potentially putting the BES in a less secure or unknown state. That condition occurred during the severe cold weather event that hit the upper Midwest region of North America on January 29–30, 2019. This Lesson Learned is of primary interest to Transmission Owners, Transmission Operators, Generator Owners, Generator Operators and Reliability Coordinators.

The [Loss of State Estimator due to Contradicting Information from Dual ICCP Clusters](#) Lesson Learned addresses an entity that encountered an operational problem, causing the state estimator (SE) to become nonconvergent. An evaluation indicated that SE was failing upon opposing device status sent from

independent dual ICCP clusters. This Lesson Learned is of primary interest to Transmission Owners, Reliability Coordinators and Balancing Authorities.

A successful Lesson Learned document clearly identifies the lesson, contains sufficient information to understand the issues, visibly identifies the difference between the actual outcome and the desired outcome and includes an accurate sequence of events, when it provides clarity.

Disturbance Report Now Available

On July 7, 2020, fault events on the bulk power system (BPS) occurred in the Southern California area causing approximately 1,000 MW of BPS-connected solar photovoltaic (PV) to reduce power output and likely some distributed energy resources to also trip off-line. The widespread reduction of power output from solar PV facilities across a relatively large geographic area led NERC and WECC in coordination with the California Independent System Operator (CAISO) and other affected entities to perform a detailed analysis of this event that was categorized as a Category 1i event in the NERC Event Analysis Program. The primary reduction of solar PV output was attributed to momentary cessation with relatively long times to recovery power to pre-disturbance levels. Multiple facilities also experienced partial tripping of inverters due to ac overcurrent, dc low voltage and ac low voltage protection. The [disturbance report](#) documents the analysis conducted and provides key findings and recommendations for industry. ■■■

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. NERC will provide more details in the coming months.

Align Project Update

As part of ongoing efforts to prepare the ERO Enterprise for upcoming process and technology changes, the Align team has launched a short change readiness assessment pulse check survey for future Align users. This survey is part of a series of assessment surveys designed to

monitor the levels of change readiness across the ERO Enterprise and help identify areas where additional training, communication, and stakeholder engagement activities are required to drive change adoption. Please take 5-10 minutes now to submit your [2020 change readiness assessment pulse check survey](#) response if your role requires you to start using Align. Your feedback is critical to help us ensure you are prepared for Release 1.

The Align team shifted its focus toward training and is working closely with the regional training leads who have developed region-specific plans that will inform training rollout over the next few months. Please note that there will be variations in the training schedule and delivery for different Regions based on their respective training plans. NERC and Texas RE are the first to commence training starting the first week of December. All training materials, including training videos, user guides, access guides, and process flows and reference guides, are now available on the [NERC Training Site](#).

Please email AskAlign@nerc.net with any questions about the project. The project team updates the [Align FAQs page](#) with answers to questions as needed and you can find the November edition of the Align newsletters on the [Align project site](#).

Nomination Period Open for Project 2020-05 – Modifications to FAC-001-3 and FAC-002-2 Drafting Team Members

The standards team is seeking nominations for Project 2020-05 – Modifications to FAC-001-3 and FAC-002-2 drafting team members through **December 11, 2020**. By submitting a nomination form, you are indicating your willingness and agreement to actively participate in face-to-face meetings and conference calls. Previous drafting team experience is beneficial but not required. See the [project page](#) for additional information. The Standards Committee is expected to appoint members to the drafting team in February 2021. Nominees will be notified shortly after they have been appointed.

Please use the [electronic form](#) to submit a nomination. Contact [Wendy Muller](#) regarding issues using the electronic form. An unofficial Word version of the

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

Standards Committee Segment Representative Election Results

The Standards Committee held an election for Segments 1 through 9 from October 26–November 4, 2020. NERC verified the votes cast and confirmed the results. The elected nominees all received the highest total number of votes in that segment and received a simple majority of the votes cast in that segment. In accordance with Appendix 3B of the NERC Rules of Procedure, the following individuals have been elected to fill two-year terms in their respective segments:

- Segment 1: Troy Brumfield
- Segment 2: Charles Yeung
- Segment 3: Linn Oelker
- Segment 4: Barry Lawson
- Segment 5: James (Jim) Howell
- Segment 6: Justin Welty
- Segment 7: Venona Greaff
- Segment 8: Philip Winston
- Segment 9: Kimberly Jones

Segment 10 (Regional Entities) has an alternative election procedure, as permitted by Appendix 3B of the NERC Rules of Procedure. Pursuant to that alternative election procedure, Steve Rueckert, WECC, has been elected to represent Segment 10. ■■■

Regional Entity Events

ReliabilityFirst (RF)

- [Technical Talk with RF](#), December 14

Midwest Reliability Organization (MRO)

- [Long-Term Reliability Assessment Overview Webinar](#), December 8

Northeast Power Coordinating Council, Inc. (NPCC)

- [Webinar: Introduction to Compliance Oversight Plans](#), December 9

SERC Reliability Corporation

- [The Scoop on Supply Chain](#), December 8

- [Open Forum Webinar](#), January 26
- [Outreach Event - FAC-008 Webinar](#), February 23

Texas RE

- [Talk with Texas RE: Upcoming O&P Standards](#) December 17
- [Talk with Texas RE - Align Update](#), January 28

WECC

- [Board of Directors](#) and associated meetings, December 8-9, 2020 (virtual format). ■■■

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](#).

- **Standards Committee Meeting** – 1:00–3:00 p.m. Eastern, December 9 | [Register](#) ■■■

Filings

NERC Filings to FERC in November

November 13, 2020

[CIP SDT Schedule November Update Supplemental Informational Filing](#) | NERC submits to FERC a supplemental informational compliance filing as directed by FERC in its February 20, 2020 Order. This filing contains a status update on two standards development projects relating to CIP Reliability Standards.

November 16, 2020

[Joint Answer to Complaint](#) | NERC and WECC submit a Joint Answer to the Complaint by Californians for Green Nuclear Power, Inc.

[Compliance Filing in Response to January 2013 Order](#) | NERC submits an unaudited report of NERC's budget-to-actual variance information for the third quarter 2020. This compliance filing is in accordance with FERC's January 16, 2013 Order, which approved a Settlement Agreement between the FERC Office of Enforcement and NERC, related to findings and recommendations arising out of its 2012 performance audit.

November 23, 2020

[Joint Comments in Response to NOI](#) | NERC and the Regional Entities submit Joint Comments in response to FERC's Notice of Inquiry regarding Equipment and Services Produced or Provided by Certain Entities Identified as Risks to National Security.

NERC Canadian Filings to FERC in November

November 9, 2020

[Alberta Amended Bylaws Filing](#)

November 10, 2020

[PRC-006-5 petition | attachments](#) ■ ■ ■