



NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY COUNCIL

Princeton Forrestal Village, 116-390 Village Boulevard, Princeton, New Jersey 08540-5731

Critical Infrastructure Protection Committee Meeting

March 17-18, 2005
Long Beach, California

Highlights

Logistical Matters — A quorum was present throughout the meeting. NERC Antitrust Compliance Guidelines were reviewed. Presentations made during the meeting are available as specified by the authors.

CIPC Executive Committee First Report — The executive committee met with Michehl R. Gent, NERC President and CEO, in December 2004 to review Critical Infrastructure Protection Committee (CIPC) focus and work plan. NERC has submitted, upon request, a letter to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) recommending the Electricity Sector Coordinating Council to be composed of the CIPC Executive Committee and the President/CEO of NERC. The letter has received acknowledgement. The executive committee provided an update regarding security-related recommendations in the Joint U.S.-Canada Power System Outage Task Force report. Most CIPC work is either completed or in process for completion in 2005. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has requested individual comments on the Critical Energy Infrastructure Information program. CIPC has provided initial input to the Department of Energy task: Organizing the Next Blackout Investigation; further involvement is expected. Some have expressed concern for security guidelines being treated by regulatory agencies as requirements. NERC is developing a paper that describes the intent of the various public materials including standards, reference documents (including security guidelines), technical documents, and technical procedures. The International Electricity Infrastructure Assurance Forum (IEIAF), consisting of industry and government representatives from Australia, New Zealand, the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom, conducted an inaugural meeting in November 2004 attended by Mike Assante, Larry Brown, Jeff Dagle, and Stuart Brindley. The IEIAF has established a list of seven deliverables to be complete in 2005 (refer to IEIAF in these highlights).

CIPC Working Groups and Task Forces Follow-up Items —

Indications, Analysis, Warnings Working Group: Working group member comments on the work plan to Chairman Bugh by March 25, 2005 for discussion with CIPC. Meeting Wednesday, June 8, 2005, preceding CIPC in Washington, D.C.

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Control Systems Security Working Group: Working group comments on Control System Electronic Security guideline to Elizabeth Rhodenizer and comments on Patch Management guideline to Linda Nappier promptly to facilitate CIPC approval by third week in April for presentation to the NERC Board of Trustees at the May 2005 meeting, as requested.

Standards and Guidelines Working Group: The working group will meet by conference call and Webex to continue work on the Security Guidelines.

Risk Assessment Working Group: The working group will review the latest version (02/07/2005, revised) of the paper, “Risk-Assessment Methodologies for Use in the Electric Utility Industry” with comments to Chairman Heller by April 8 followed by a working group conference call April 21, 2005 for submittal to CIPC for consideration at the June 2005 meeting.

CIP Outreach Working Group — Seven of the NERC regions have CIP groups. Outreach opportunities will be explored including newsletters and workshops. Three Cyber Security Standard-1200 workshops were conducted (January and March 2005). These were well-attended and workshop design for the Standards CIP-002-009 will commence at an appropriate time given standard development.

Standards and Guidelines Working Group — Compliance with NERC standards is required by the entities named in the standards. The NERC Security Guidelines describe desired performance or behavior in a given technical area, or a suggested approach through which excellence in system reliability performance can be achieved. Conformance to security guidelines is encouraged, but is not mandatory and compliance is not monitored or enforced.

Cyber Security Standard CIP-002-009 — The standard is approaching draft-3, which is expected to be posted for comment by April 15, 2005. It will be recommended that comments to draft-3 be stated as “required” or suggested enhancements. There may be a time gap between the required termination of the Urgent Action Standard-1200 followed by approval and adoption of the permanent standard. NERC is looking at options for how to bridge this gap.

Security Guideline: Threat Alert System and Physical Response — This security guideline will be revised for CIPC approval at the June 2005 meeting.

Security Guidelines: Control System Electronic Security and Patch Management — These two security guidelines are nearing development completion with a goal of presentation for approval by the NERC board at its May 2005 meeting.

Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN) — HSIN was tested using two scenarios (hurricane and terrorist attack) to examine capabilities under “all-threat” environments. Some further portal development will be done; the tool now looks promising to be a single reporting capability to agencies and the ESISAC. A timeline for completion for approval is not yet available. Some confidentiality issues must be resolved. Several other critical infrastructure (CI) sectors are also developing HSIN portals.

Risk Assessment Working Group — The working group received presentations on two methodologies that may support the determination of key resources (KR) within the electricity sector CI. (Note: CI/KR are terms of art in the recently released DHS Interim National Infrastructure Protection Plan.) The methodologies are Vulnerability of Electric Grid Analysis (VEGA) by the Naval Postgraduate School and Vulnerability Assessment Tool (VAT) by I2R. The paper that discusses several risk assessment methodologies for the electricity sector is expected to be presented to the CIPC for consideration at the June 2005 meeting.

Control Systems Security Working Group — CIPC approved the paper, “Common Vulnerabilities of Control Systems – 2004” for use by the electricity sector. The working group is coordinating with several associations, agencies, vendors, and consultants regarding security of control systems. The working group is working with the Idaho National Laboratory regarding use of the National SCADA Test Bed. The DHS is standing up the Process Control Systems Forum; the electricity sector will be involved as appropriate. Work is beginning with the Telecom Information Sharing Analysis Center (ISAC) on securing communications.

U.S. Department of Energy — The Interim National Infrastructure Protection Plan (NIPP) was released February 9, 2005. The energy specific plan is expected very soon. There will be comment opportunities, however, the format (within the FACA) has not yet been determined. A National Assets DataBase is called for in the plan. The National Response Plan (NRP) was released December 2004, and is posted on the ESISAC Internet site <<http://www.esisac.com/>>. This is essentially a redo of the former Federal Response Plan. The NIPP focusses on protection; the NRP on incident emergency response.

Public Safety Emergency Preparedness Canada — The Silver Links exercise report is expected to be released shortly. The security recommendations from the August 14, 2003 outage report are under review by the Joint U.S.-Canada Power System Outage Task Force and NERC. A report that includes implementations and gaps is expected by May 2005.

International Electricity Infrastructure Assurance Forum (IEIAF) — The development of the IEIAF was presented. The forum has identified seven deliverables for 2005:

- R&D catalogue of infrastructure assurance projects,
- directory of infrastructure assurance professionals,
- library of threat scenarios,
- center of excellence prototype,
- library of security technologies and tools,
- training material library, and
- trust network/communication framework.

Those in the electricity sector interested in participating should contact John Allen: 602-625-2044; john.allen@ey.com

Transmission Tower Incidents — Excellent presentations were made to CIPC by several organizations that had tower incidents in the past two years. Lessons learned will be valuable to the electricity sector.

CIPC Executive Committee Second Report — The executive committee approved revised work plans for Control Systems Security Working Group, Reporting Technologies Working Group, Standards and Guidelines Working Group. All other working groups' and task forces' work plans should be prepared by the June 2005 CIPC meeting. Work plan development for 2006 is requisite for input to the NERC plans and budget. Proposed security guidelines development should be included in the work plans. All work plans will be posted on the NERC CIPC website. The executive committee will work with working group/task force chairs to assist with resource requirements. The executive committee will meet via conference call with all chairs. All CIPC members, alternates, and associates are strongly encouraged to be actively involved in the working groups/task forces. The executive committee approved the "Inter-ISAC Information Exchange Policy and Procedures MOU." Several ISACs are now signatory to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

Comments

1. Several participants strongly urged development of talking papers to present an accurate response to public statements pointed to the electricity sector and its security endeavors.
2. The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association and Rural Utility Services are conducting a series of workshops on security matters.
3. Several electricity sector entities and the ESISAC will participate in the TopOff-3 exercise scheduled for the first week in April 2005.
4. The next CIPC meeting was affirmed to be Thursday and Friday, June 9–10, 2005 in Washington, D.C. A cleared briefing for the electricity sector is planned for Wednesday, June 8 in the morning followed by working group/task force meetings.