

Press Release

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NERC Awards Situation Awareness Contract to SmartCloud

PRINCETON, N.J. – The North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) announced it has selected SmartCloud, Inc., to develop, implement and host a situation awareness system for use by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, NERC, and the Regional Entities.

The project, called SAFNR Version 2, will be used in the situation awareness program's Electricity Sector Information Sharing and Analysis Center (ES-ISAC). NERC and the Regional Entities monitor operating conditions on the bulk power system in North America to maintain an awareness of situations that impact or have the potential to impact the reliability of the grid as they arise. The SAFNR project will provide near real-time information to situation awareness staffs at FERC, NERC and the eight Regional Entities.

“SAFNR Version 2 will give the NERC situation awareness team a near real-time view of conditions and emerging reliability events within the United States,” said Tom Galloway, senior vice president and chief reliability officer at NERC. “Having the ability to observe reliability parameters as they change on the grid is critical to fulfilling NERC’s obligation to monitor and evaluate the reliability performance of the North American bulk power system.”

The SmartCloud team is comprised of SmartCloud Inc. in Bedford, Mass., which specializes in real-time data orchestration; PowerWorld Corporation in Champaign, Ill., which specializes in power system visualization; and InStep Software, LLC, in Chicago, which specializes in data storage and visualization.

The original SAFNR tool, which was implemented on June 1, 2009, displays limited data and uses display formats that are unique to each Reliability Coordinator. The users developed a specification document that identified additional data and functionality requirements to provide a system that achieves enhanced situation awareness, particularly in the near real-time horizon with a focus on common visual representation of the information and increased trending capability.

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The North American Electric Reliability Corporation's mission is to ensure the reliability of the North American bulk power system. NERC is the electric reliability organization certified by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. NERC develops and enforces reliability standards; assesses adequacy annually via forecasts; monitors the bulk power system; and educates, trains and certifies industry personnel. Learn more at www.nerc.com.