NERC
NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY CORPORATION

Announcement

Fourth Reliability Leadership Summit Identifies Key Priorities for Bulk Power System

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WASHINGTON, D.C. – The North American Electric Reliability Corporation convened its fourth Reliability Leadership Summit with more than 100 leaders from industry, including top executives, state and federal regulators and other stakeholders, in attendance. The goal of the summit was to identify and discuss challenges in operating the bulk power system; resiliency and security; and emerging risks to reliability.

"The Reliability Leadership Summit provides a unique opportunity to discuss reliability risks and their mitigation now and into the future," said Mark Lauby, senior vice president and chief reliability officer of NERC. "The participants provide validation of the committee's work and, importantly, identify potential gaps in risk identification."

The topics of this year's summit focused on identifying, mitigating and preventing current and future risks to bulk power system reliability. Outcomes from the summit are a key milestone in the strategic planning processes of the Electric Reliability Organization (ERO) and will be used to identify, assess and manage reliability priorities across the ERO Enterprise.

The summit was opened with remarks from Mark Lauby, senior vice president and chief reliability officer of NERC, and Peter Brandien, chair of the Reliability Issues Steering Committee and vice president of system operations at ISO New England. Cheryl LaFleur, acting chair of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, highlighted reliability challenges facing FERC, NERC and industry, including essential reliability services, infrastructure, regulatory structure, and grid security and resilience.

Panels included experts from the North American Transmission Forum, Michigan Technological University, ITC Holdings, Westar Energy, Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corporation, Exelon, UTC, Kansas City Power and Light, Schweitzer Engineering

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Laboratories, EPRI, Southern California Edison, Arizona Public Service Company and Duke Energy.

Gerry Cauley, president and chief executive officer of NERC, delivered closing remarks saying forums like the summit help emphasize industry priorities, including the changing resource mix and security environment.

On distributed energy resources, Cauley said, "Grid operators need to improve the observability, controllability and coordination of DER resources. NERC and industry must continue working together to enhance the reliability of the grid with measurements from synchrophasors and other important data sources." He added, "High-impact, low frequency risks to the grid, including cyber security threats and electromagnetic pulses, require NERC and industry to think in specific terms about what concrete actions we should be taking to address these risks in a logical, cost-effective manner."

Dialogue from the Reliability Leadership Summit will be used to update the reliability risk profiles developed by the Reliability Issues Steering Committee, which will then be presented to the NERC Board of Trustees at its May 10 meeting in St. Louis. The RISC's *2016 ERO Risk Priorities* report can be found here.

Using a technical foundation of data and analysis, NERC, as the ERO, prioritizes risk efforts and develops mitigation strategies that are key to assuring bulk power system reliability and security in the future. Information sharing and discussion with industry leaders ensures a wide range of perspectives and allows NERC to more accurately focus efforts on the aspects that pose the most risk to reliability.

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The North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) is a not-for-profit international regulatory authority whose mission is to ensure the reliability of the bulk power system in North America. NERC develops and enforces Reliability Standards; annually assesses seasonal and long-term reliability; monitors the bulk power system through system awareness; and educates, trains, and certifies industry personnel. NERC's area of responsibility spans the continental United States, Canada, and the northern portion of Baja California, Mexico. NERC is the electric reliability organization for North America, subject to oversight by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and governmental authorities in Canada. NERC's jurisdiction includes users, owners, and operators of the bulk power system, which serves more than 334 million people.