

**NERC**

NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC  
RELIABILITY CORPORATION

# ALIGN

## Registered Entity Newsletter

July 2022

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**LET'S GET ALIGNED: KEY TAKEAWAYS**

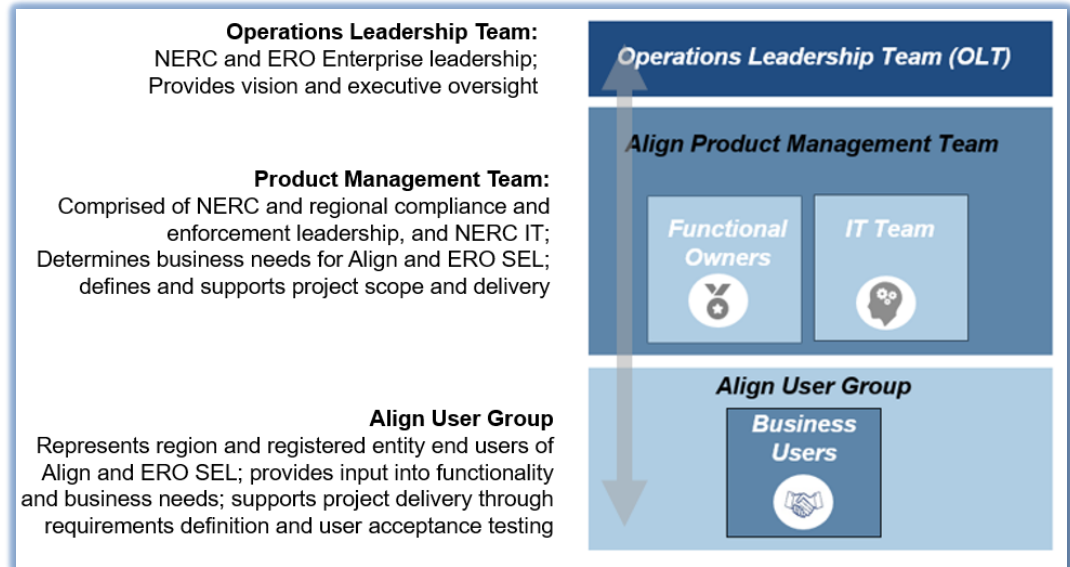
**CIP-014-2 FERC Ruling and ERO SEL Impact**

On June 16, 2022, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued an order regarding the use of the ERO Secure Evidence Locker (SEL) for the collection of evidence related to Reliability Standard CIP-014-2. In its ruling, FERC stated that it approved NERC’s petition to remove the on-site evidence viewing requirement for this specific standard and that the ERO SEL “now offers a secure and more flexible alternative for compliance evidence collection and review for Reliability Standard CIP-014-2.” In addition, the ruling stated that the removal of the evidence provision in this standard “will allow NERC to monitor compliance more effectively without compromising the confidentiality of sensitive information.”

**Transition to Governance Model**

As mentioned in a previous edition of the Align Newsletter, releases of Align and the ERO SEL in 2023 and beyond will come under the future governance model. The model, approved by the Align Steering Committee, consists of three tiers: Operations Leadership Team (OLT), the Product Management Team, and the Align Users Group (AUG).

Registered entity insight and input is heard through representation on the AUG. The Compliance and Certification Committee (CCC) provides three representatives on the AUG and will be seeking input from stakeholders on the future priorities for Align and the ERO SEL. The transition to the governance model will be completed by December 2022.



**Figure 1**

## **Release 4 and 4.5**

On June 21, 2022, the Align project team deployed Release 4 into production. Release 4 included additional required features and enhancements for compliance monitoring, audit, and scheduling activities.

Release 4.5, which is the final release planned under the current business case, is scheduled for September 2022. Development is complete, and acceptance testing is in progress. Release 4.5 includes features to enable development of inherent risk assessments (IRAs) and compliance oversight plans (COPs).

### ***Data Migrations from Legacy Systems***

The completion of Release 4.5 will also mean the retirement of legacy systems (webCDMS and Guidance). The data team (a sub-group of the Align project team) is executing a data migration plan for data identified by each Region that is needed from these legacy systems. The data migration is the final key element to completing the scope outlined in the Align business case and is scheduled to be completed by January 2023.

## **Canadian Jurisdictions' Use of Align**

The Align project team continues to work with those Regional Entities that support Canadian regulators—MRO, NPCC, and WECC—to execute project plans and activities in support of using Align. These activities include determining detailed requirements by province, importing provincial standards data into Align, and defining the appropriate user roles.

The requirements definition work is completed and a project schedule is as follows (subject to change if issues arise):

- MRO: October 2022
- NPCC: Q1 2023
- WECC: November 2022

## Accessing Align

An important part of the project's success is ensuring appropriate access to the system. An active ERO Portal Account is required to access Align and the ERO SEL. **Please follow the instructions below to verify an existing account or set up a new account and note that it takes 48 hours for a new account to be activated.** For password resets, select the "Forgot Password/Username" to reset a password. For questions or problems concerning ERO Portal accounts, please submit a support ticket [here](#).

All registered entities' primary compliance contacts (PCCs) should also have an ERO Portal Account and be set up as Align Registered Entity Submitters and the Entity Administrators responsible for approving access requests. Users approved by the PCCs are automatically given an ERO SEL submitter role. Additional access to the ERO SEL outside of Align access must be handled with a support ticket. Refer to the [Registered Entity User Access Guide](#) for detailed instructions.

### To Set Up an ERO Portal Account:

1. Navigate to <https://eroportal.nerc.net>.
2. Select "Register" in the upper left-hand corner.
3. Complete the registration form and click "Submit."

### To Verify an ERO Portal Account:

1. Navigate to <https://eroportal.nerc.net>.
2. Select "Sign In" in the upper left-hand corner.
3. Enter your credentials to confirm access to ERO Portal.

## Quick Links for Reference

Here is a list of links to commonly requested project materials for Align and the ERO SEL. Please reach out to your Change Agents for additional materials.

Quick Links
<a href="#">FAQs</a>
<a href="#">ERO Enterprise BES Artifacts Submittal Exception Process</a>
<a href="#">Align Governance Model</a>
<a href="#">Registered Entity SEL Requirements</a>
<a href="#">NERC Training Site</a>
<a href="#">CEA SEL User Guide</a>
<a href="#">Release 1 CEA User Guide</a>
<a href="#">Release 2 CEA User Guide</a>
<a href="#">Release 3 CEA User Guide</a>
<a href="#">Registered Entity User Access Guide</a>
<a href="#">Data Handling Guide to Align and ERO SEL</a>
<a href="#">Align Business Case</a>

## Want to Learn More? Key Contacts and Resources

Please submit questions to [AskAlign@NERC.net](mailto:AskAlign@NERC.net) or reach out to your Regional Change Agent. The change agents meet monthly and have the latest project updates. They are another resource for asking questions or sharing comments and feedback on the project.

Align Change Agents	
Organization	Change Agents
MRO	<a href="#">Desiree Sawyer</a> , <a href="#">Marissa Falco</a>
NERC	<a href="#">Jamie Calderon</a> , <a href="#">Farzaneh Tafreshi</a> , <a href="#">Sara Minges</a>
NPCC	<a href="#">Jason Wang</a> , <a href="#">Kimberly Griffith</a>
ReliabilityFirst	<a href="#">Anthony Jablonski</a>
SERC	<a href="#">Janice Carney</a> , <a href="#">Melinda Montgomery</a> , <a href="#">Rick Dodd</a> , <a href="#">Todd Curl</a>
Texas RE	<a href="#">Tammy Thomas</a> , <a href="#">Rachel Coyne</a>
WECC	<a href="#">Angie Shapiro</a> , <a href="#">Ben Aldous</a> , <a href="#">Mailee Cook</a>

Release 3 Training Contacts	
Region	Training Leads
MRO	<a href="#">Desiree Sawyer</a> ; <a href="#">Jeremy Mattke</a>
NPCC	<a href="#">Jason Wang</a> ; <a href="#">Kimberly Griffith</a>
ReliabilityFirst	<a href="#">Bob Folt</a> ; <a href="#">George Spila</a> ; <a href="#">Anthony Jablonski</a> ; <a href="#">Ron Ross</a>
SERC	<a href="#">Serge Beauzile</a> ; <a href="#">Clay Shropshire</a> ; <a href="#">Robert Vaughn</a> ; <a href="#">Rick Dodd</a> ;
Texas RE	<a href="#">Ben Gregson</a> ; <a href="#">Dennis Glass</a> ; <a href="#">Devin Kitchens</a> ; <a href="#">Eric Newnam</a>
WECC	<a href="#">Angie Shapiro</a> ; <a href="#">Jessica King</a> ; <a href="#">Holly Peterson</a> ; <a href="#">Phil O’Donnell</a> ; <a href="#">Brittany Crosby</a>

### ABOUT THE ALIGN NEWSLETTER

This newsletter compiles a list of important Align project updates with actionable deadlines, as well as upcoming events, recently posted resources, and other relevant news and information. Please email [AskAlign@nerc.net](mailto:AskAlign@nerc.net) with feedback on this newsletter. Current and future newsletters and additional project resources, including the regularly updated [Align FAQs](#), can be found on the [Align Project Site](#).