

Announcement

E-ISAC Expands Industry Engagement Program

May 7, 2018

WASHINGTON, D.C. – NERC’s Electricity Information Sharing and Analysis Center, in a partnership with the Large Public Power Council, began an initiative – called the Industry Augmentation Program – in January that fosters enhanced collaboration and information sharing with member utilities by inviting utility staff for multi-day visits to work alongside E-ISAC personnel. To date, eight utilities have participated in the augmentation program.

“This program highlights the benefit of multi-directional information sharing between the E-ISAC and industry,” said Bill Lawrence, director of the E-ISAC. “Having industry members work closely with E-ISAC personnel improves both organizations’ information sharing processes and gives each organization insight into the needs of the other, which strengthens security efforts across North America. It also builds trust in the safeguards the E-ISAC has in place to protect information shared from members.”

The goals of program include:

- Raising awareness of E-ISAC cyber and physical security analysis processes, data protections and the separation from NERC’s compliance functions.
- Increasing opportunities for the E-ISAC to receive feedback from industry on tools and communications protocols.
- Strengthening utility security programs and staff expertise.

To date, participants have included cyber security experts from publicly owned utilities and investor-owned utilities. JEA, the Los Angeles Department of Water & Power, the Nebraska Public Power District, the New York Power Authority, the Sacramento Municipal Utility District and Salt River Project are participants from the Large Public Power Council. Consolidated Edison, Inc. and Southern Company are the first two investor-owned utilities to participate in the program.

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The goal is to conduct an exchange program each quarter to E-ISAC members from investor- and publicly owned utilities, as well as electric cooperatives. Interested members should contact memberservices@eisac.com for more information.

Quality analysis, rapid information sharing and member engagement continue to be the key focus areas for the E-ISAC, which is in the first year of a [five-year strategic plan](#) to continue enhancing capabilities. NERC and the E-ISAC remain committed to the security and reliability of the North American bulk power system.

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The vision for the Electric Reliability Organization (ERO) Enterprise, which is comprised of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) and the eight Regional Entities (REs), is a highly reliable and secure North American bulk power system (BPS). Our mission is to assure the effective and efficient reduction of risks to the reliability and security of the grid.