

Announcement

E-ISAC Launches New Engagement Program with Industry

February 7, 2018

WASHINGTON, D.C. – NERC’s Electricity Information Sharing and Analysis Center launched a new program to enhance engagement with industry and the exchange of information on potential threats that could affect the bulk power system.

The goals of the new initiative, called the Industry Augmentation Program, include:

- Raising awareness of E-ISAC cyber and physical security analysis processes
- Increasing the opportunities for the E-ISAC to receive specific feedback from the industry on tools and communications protocols
- Strengthening utility programs and staff expertise

“Face-to-face collaboration by the E-ISAC and the industry on how they view and manage risks to grid security is a great opportunity for all participants,” said Bill Lawrence, director of the E-ISAC. “The Industry Augmentation Program is designed to enhance member relationships that are vital to ensuring the trust needed to foster a successful approach to grid security across North America.”

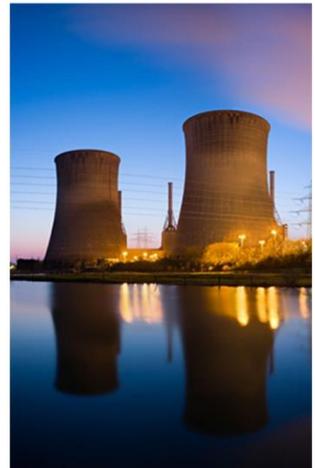
NERC launched the program in a pilot phase under an ongoing partnership with the Large Public Power Council and its member utilities. The first program participants were cyber security experts from the New York Power Authority (NYPA) and Salt River Project (SRP) in January.

During their weeklong exchange, the E-ISAC, NYPA and SRP shared how each organization collects and analyzes information for possible threat vectors, and how information is rapidly shared to mitigate identified threats.

The E-ISAC intends to complete the pilot phase of the program by early May, after which it will open up the program to all members.

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The Industry Augmentation Program follows a 2017 agreement between NERC and the American Gas Association assigning Downstream Natural Gas Information Sharing and Analysis Center (DNG-ISAC) staff to the E-ISAC. The partnership between the E-ISAC and the DNG-ISAC builds on the long-standing efforts of the electricity and gas industries to address supply interdependencies.

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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.