

Announcement

GridEx IV Focuses on Recovery from Cyber, Physical Security Events

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WASHINGTON, D.C. – Coordinating during and recovering from a wide-scale cyber and physical attack is the focus of NERC’s fourth grid security exercise, GridEx, which began today. More than 6,000 stakeholders from across North America are taking part in the exercise, which is designed for utilities to exercise their response and recovery to cyber and physical security threats in a simulated environment.

This voluntary exercise, which began in 2011 and takes place every two years, allows utilities, government partners and other critical infrastructure participants to engage with local and regional first responders; exercise cross-sector impacts; improve unity of messages and communication; identify lessons learned; and engage senior leadership.

The large-scale cyber and physical attack scenario is designed to overwhelm even the most prepared organizations. NERC used input from participants to develop observations and propose recommendations to help industry enhance the security, reliability and resilience of North America’s bulk power system. One of the best indicators of the success of GridEx is the steady increase in engagement by industry and government officials.

“The North American bulk power system is among the nation’s most critical and resilient infrastructures. However, the security landscape is dynamic and requires constant vigilance and agility,” said Charles Berardesco, acting chief executive officer.

Berardesco is participating in the Executive Tabletop on November 16, day two of the exercise. The tabletop focuses on the grid restoration and recovery response by senior government and industry leaders to the simulated cyber and physical security events reflected in the GridEx IV scenario.

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“GridEx is a vital part of the tools and training used by industry and government to stay ahead of potential cyber and physical security threats to the grid.”

Participants this year include security experts, senior leaders and CEOs from industry and government in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

NERC’s Electricity Information Sharing and Analysis Center and the industry’s Electric Subsector Coordinating Council serves as the information sharing conduit between industry and government for cyber and physical security threats.

Following GridEx in 2013, the ESCC developed a plan, called the ESCC Playbook, which provides a framework for responding to grid emergencies for senior industry and government executives to coordinate response and recovery efforts and communications to the American public.

“Events like GridEx are a key part of improving our current cyber and physical capabilities and ensuring the grid remains secure and resilient,” said Marcus Sachs, NERC senior vice president and chief security officer. “Addressing cyber and physical security threats requires continuous training and information sharing to prepare for real reliability emergencies.”

While there has not been any loss of load in North America attributed to a cyber attack, the security landscape is dynamic and requires constant vigilance and agility. Events and coordination like GridEx ensure industry is as prepared as possible. NERC remains focused on our mission to assure the reliability and resilience of the bulk power system, which is inextricably tied to grid security.

More information on GridEx is available [here](#).

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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.