

Media Release

GridEx VII Report Highlights Further Action to Enhance Grid Resilience

April 2, 2024

WASHINGTON D.C. – The [GridEx VII Lessons Learned Report](#), published today, is a detailed post-exercise review and analysis of NERC and the Electricity Information Sharing and Analysis Center’s (E-ISAC) GridEx VII, that took place in November 2023. The report provides recommendations and actions for utilities, government partners, the E-ISAC, and other stakeholders to prepare for and respond to security incidents that affect the North American electric system.

“Today’s threat landscape is dynamic, presenting challenges that are increasingly difficult to detect and protect against. The scenario created for GridEx VII reflected this by testing the collective ability of industry, government, and cross-sector partners to restore the grid under the most extreme circumstances,” said Manny Cancel, senior vice president of NERC and chief executive officer, E-ISAC. “An exercise on this scale requires significant commitment and collaboration from the participants. This continues as we develop associated action plans and I am encouraged that several participants have already begun to implement some of the recommendations in their organizations.”

More than 15,000 participants from approximately 250 North American organizations—including the electric industry, cross-sector partners from gas and telecommunications, and U.S. and Canadian government partners – took part in a two-day exercise, which tested operational and policy measures that would be needed to restore the grid following a severe cyber and physical attack. Using core planning and exercise materials developed by E-ISAC’s GridEx team, participants tested their response and restoration capabilities by customizing the core scenario to meet their actual operating environment.

GridEx VII concluded with a day-long Executive session during which industry executives and government leaders from the United States and Canada convened in-person in Washington, D.C., as well as virtually, to explore strategic and policy implications presented by the scenario.

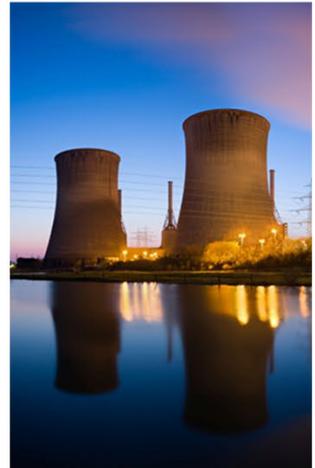
Among the key recommendations to industry’s success during a severe security event are:

- Explore opportunities to improve the transmission of critical data between control centers

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- Evaluate alternative technologies for voice communications necessary to operate the grid
- Increase participation and collaboration between utilities, local, state and provincial governments
- Conduct further discussion between industry and government regarding restoration priorities and supply chain concerns
- Evaluate options to manage the grid reliability impacts of energy market disruption over an extended period

Further collaboration and coordination between the E-ISAC, industry and government is already in progress with action plans in development based on recommendations in the report. Feedback received from participants will be incorporated into the planning process for GridEx VIII in 2025. NERC and the E-ISAC are committed to continue enhancing the GridEx program to meet the challenges posed by the complex threat environment across North America.

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Electricity is a key component of the fabric of modern society and NERC, as the Electric Reliability Organization, serves to strengthen that fabric. The vision for the ERO Enterprise, which is comprised of NERC and the six Regional Entities, is a highly reliable and secure North American bulk power system. Our mission is to assure the effective and efficient reduction of risks to the reliability and security of the grid.