

# NERC News: October

## ERO Executive Spotlight

**Manny Cancel,  
NERC Senior Vice President and  
E-ISAC Chief Executive Officer**



### Outreach and Collaboration Fundamental to Knowledge-based Defense

As we enter the final quarter of the year, it's a good time to pause and reflect on the cyber and physical security landscape and on the outreach undertaken by the Electricity Information Sharing and Analysis Center (E-ISAC) team over the past 10 months.

Our annual grid security conference, GridSecCon 2023, just concluded. More than 450 security experts representing a cross section of industry and government partners from across North America came together for the three-day conference in Québec City. Hosted by the E-ISAC, NERC and the Northeast Power Coordinating Council, Inc. (NPCC), it was the first in-person conference we've held since 2019. A prestigious group of speakers drawn from industry and the public and private sectors in both the United States and Canada gave keynote speeches and joined discussion panels and training sessions. It was quite clear from the level of engagement during the conference that we should never underestimate the power of gathering in-person to share knowledge and open a dialogue about potential solutions to the challenges we face in our industry. At the close of the conference, the annual E-ISAC Electricity Security Service Award in honor of Michael J. Assante was awarded to:

- Jonathan Bransky, Director Threat Intelligence, Dominion Energy
- Steen Fjalstad, Director of Security, Midwest Reliability Organization
- Steve McElwee, Chief Information Security Officer, PJM Interconnection

On November 14–15, we will host our biennial grid security exercise, GridEx VII. This year's exercise features a complex scenario that incorporates both cyber and physical security impacts on our sector and provides an opportunity for utilities to exercise their incident response plans and coordinate efforts and messaging with local law enforcement and within their supply chain/vendors to determine appropriate responses. GridEx also features an executive tabletop component that brings together industry and government executives to focus on strategic and policy-level issues raised during the exercise. One important outcome of the exercise is a report on lessons learned, which will be published in Q1 next year.

During the summer, E-ISAC hosted a physical security workshop at the Electric Power Research Institute's

facility in Charlotte, N.C. The workshop and subsequent discussions will keep a necessary focus on physical security for key stakeholders; reinforce relationships with local, state and federal law enforcement and government partners; and socialize the physical security resources available to industry.

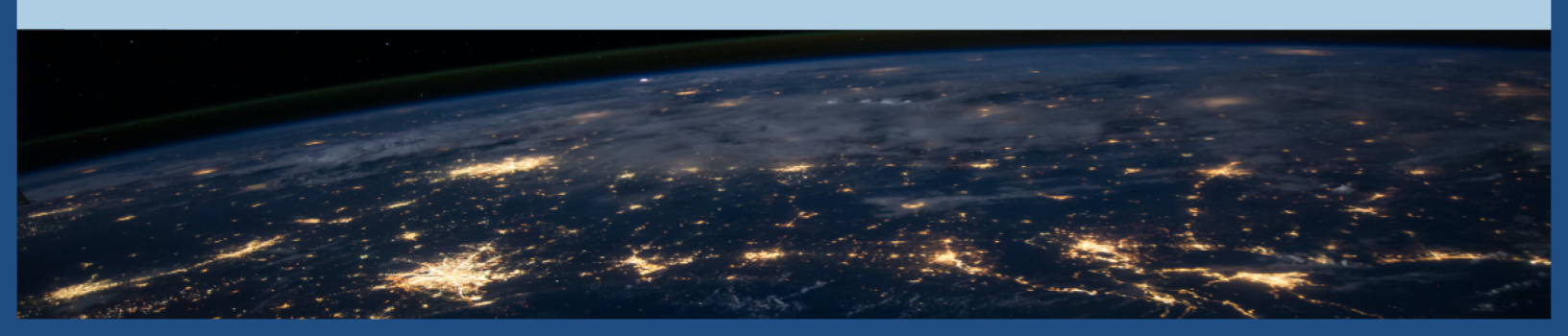
In addition to our external outreach, the E-ISAC develops new products and services to enhance members' experience. Our [Vendor Affiliate Program \(VAP\)](#) continues its strong growth trajectory. Since its inception, the program has welcomed a dozen partners committed to improving the security posture of our nation's most critical infrastructure. In October, Google Cloud joined the VAP as its first major cloud provider and will share their resources and unique expertise to help the energy sector transition to a more secure, resilient and reliable future.

The E-ISAC's analysis and outreach efforts continue against an increasingly unstable geopolitical backdrop, most recently with the Israel– Hamas situation. Since the beginning of the year, we have seen nation-state threat actors use campaigns to attack various sectors, including the electricity sector. Some of the areas the E-ISAC is focusing on include Russia, China, Iran and North Korea.

During the year, campaigns such as Volt Typhoon targeted U.S. utility and other critical infrastructure sectors; the MOVEit File Transfer Supply Chain Compromise impacted U.S. government and service providers; and other prominent vulnerabilities garnered much industry and media attention. In response to the spike in ballistic attacks last year and to demonstrate the electricity sector's continued focus on these issues, the E-ISAC, the NERC Regional Entities, the U.S. government and several trade associations recently delivered a one-day physical security workshop for asset owners and operators and government and law enforcement agencies with active participation in critical infrastructure protection.

We appreciate the partnerships we have with local, state and federal law enforcement and regulatory agencies in Canada and the United States, and we look to continued productive engagement.

Cyber and physical security remain critical risks to our nation's critical infrastructure. Accordingly, NERC and the E-ISAC remain committed to assuring the reliability and security of the North American grid.





# Headlines

[NERC Lauds NASEM Decarbonization Report](#)

[NERC Launches Interregional Transfer Capability Web Page, Other Resources to Highlight Project Progress](#)

[Statement on FERC October Open Meeting](#)

[12th Annual GridSecCon Highlights Cross-Border Security Collaboration, Names Assante Award Recipients](#)

[E-ISAC Vendor Affiliate Program Marks One Year of Strengthening Our Grid's Defense](#)

[Statement on Cyber Security Awareness Month](#)

[Disturbance Report Emphasizes Continued Need for Industry Action, Provides Recommendations](#)



## Other NERC Activities

[Standards](#)

[Compliance and Enforcement](#)

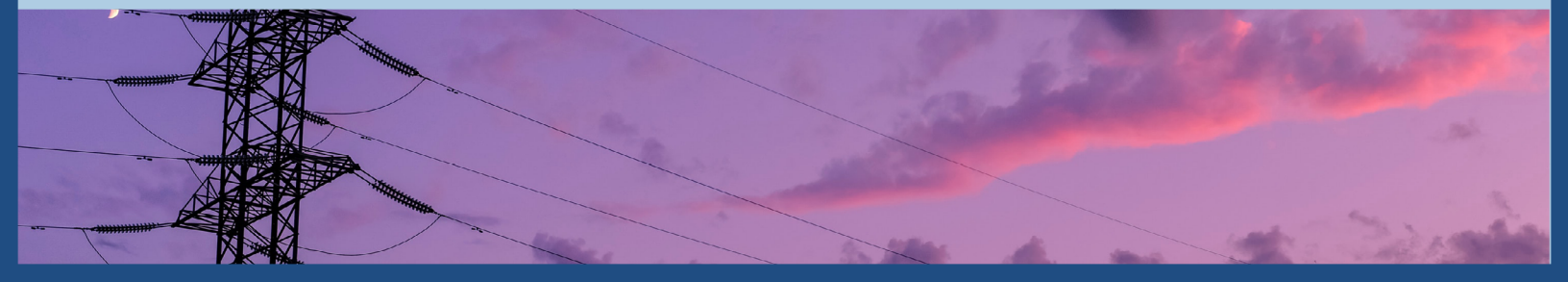
[Event Analysis, Reliability Assessment and Performance Analysis Highlights](#)

[E-ISAC](#)

## Filings

[U.S. Filings](#)

[Canadian Filings](#)







# Events Across the ERO Enterprise

**NERC**  
NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC  
RELIABILITY CORPORATION



**MRO**

**SERC SERC**



**NPCC**



**TEXAS RE**



**ReliabilityFirst**



**WECC**



## Work at NERC

### Current Opportunities:

Senior Procurement and Contracts Coordinator, Atlanta/Remote

Records Manager, Atlanta/Remote

Senior Engineer Transmission Assessments, Atlanta/Remote

Bulk Power System Awareness Analyst, Atlanta/Remote

Registration Engineer, Atlanta/Remote

Compliance Assurance Advisor (CIP), Atlanta/Remote



**Reliability | Resilience | Security**