ERO Executive Spotlight – Sara Patrick, President and CEO, MRO

Taking Time to Celebrate Success

As we near the end of yet another challenging year for industry and the ERO Enterprise, it is important to take time to reflect on, and celebrate, our successes. Many of the activities we have undertaken over the past two years demonstrate our commitment to continuous improvement and have undoubtedly contributed to our vision of a highly reliable and secure North American bulk power system. Continued on page 2

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Taking Time (cont’d)

One of our most notable achievements in 2021 was the amount of progress made toward implementing the ERO Enterprise Align and Secure Evidence Locker (SEL) tools. The Align tool was designed to be a common platform for Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program (CMEP) activities — a way of standardizing processes and improving effectiveness across the ERO Enterprise. During the development of Align, the concept of the SEL was introduced to address data security concerns raised by industry stakeholders. The SEL supports Align by providing a secure, isolated environment to collect and protect CMEP information, which significantly reduces the risk of data loss or exposure of evidence. Consolidating the 18 separate tools used to do this work previously into a single platform has been a monumental task that is being phased in appropriately to ensure successful implementation and adoption. A considerable amount of coordination occurred this year among ERO Enterprise staff — and between the ERO Enterprise and industry — to continue moving the needle forward and ensure the success of this project. That is certainly worth celebrating!

The release of the SEL in March could not have been timelier given the substantial increase in cyber security threats and vulnerabilities over the past year. Cyber security continues to be one of the highest priorities of the ERO Enterprise and was appropriately a significant focus area this past year. One of the ways we are addressing this rapidly evolving risk is through increased engagement and information sharing with industry stakeholders. NERC and the Regional Entities continue to support the work of the Electricity Information Sharing and Analysis Center (E-ISAC) as it increases its capabilities to gather threat intelligence and share actionable information with its industry members. In November, the E-ISAC held its sixth annual grid security exercise (GridEx), which in 2019 brought together more than 7,000 individuals from 425 organizations across North America to participate in a distributed play exercise that tests participants’ responses to coordinated cyber and physical security events on the bulk power system. Lessons learned from this exercise are shared widely and enable participants to improve their company’s emergency preparedness and response plans, which in turn helps bolster security of the North American power grid as a whole.

Another example of strong coordination between the E-ISAC, ERO Enterprise and industry is the weekly threat forum established by MRO’s Security Advisory Council in 2019 for sharing information and best practices on various security topics that affect the MRO Region. In 2020, MRO added a second weekly threat call to facilitate discussion on pandemic response measures. These weekly calls are well attended and often include staff from the E-ISAC and other government agencies to provide insight on existing and emerging threats. The amount of communication and information-sharing we are seeing today across all industry stakeholders has allowed us to be nimble in our response against security threats and is definitely worth celebrating!

On the reliability side, significant progress was also made in 2021 to advance a common reliability risk framework to help the ERO Enterprise assess and prioritize risk and related mitigation efforts. As the ERO Enterprise contemplates how best to support industry in addressing reliability challenges, like the changing resource mix, distributed energy resources, and the assurance of future energy supply, a shared understanding of these risks is critical. MRO’s Reliability Advisory Council — comprised of industry subject matter experts — developed a risk matrix tool in 2020 to provide a standard mechanism to help entities assess and prioritize risk. The ERO Enterprise has been working collaboratively to incorporate this risk matrix into an enterprise-wide reliability risk framework. The expertise offered by industry and the collaborative efforts to advance the ERO Enterprise mission “to identify, prioritize and assure effective and efficient mitigation of risks to the reliability and security of the North American bulk power system” are absolutely worth celebrating!

As I write this article, I am reminded of the strength we have when we work together toward a common objective. The efforts undertaken to transform the ERO Enterprise and the way we work together (a synchronous machine fueled by mutual trust and respect) have laid the foundation for these continuous improvement initiatives.
There are synergies in greater collaboration that lead to better outcomes. This is, unquestionably, worth celebrating!

Thank you all for your efforts.

Our future is bright!

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**Headlines**

**NERC’s Two-Day Grid Security Exercise Allows Industry to Test Response Capabilities**

On November 18, NERC’s grid security exercise, GridEx VI, concluded the distributed play portion of its exercise. Over the course of two days, more than 700 planners led their organizations’ efforts to exercise their response and recovery plans in the face of simulated, coordinated cyber and physical attacks on the North American bulk power system and other critical infrastructure. Hosted every two years by NERC’s E-ISAC, GridEx is the largest grid security exercise in North America.

Exercises like GridEx are an important aspect of NERC’s mission to assure the reliability and resilience of the bulk power system, which is tied inextricably to grid security. Since the last GridEx in 2019, the cyber security landscape has continued to evolve, guided by geopolitical events, new vulnerabilities, changes in technologies and increasingly bold cyber criminals and hackers.

“I can’t overstate the importance of the role that our partnerships with industry and government leaders play in mitigating these threats,” said Manny Cancel, CEO of E-ISAC. “The emergency response planning and coordination that takes place during the exercise strengthens our collective ability to defend the electricity grid against the cyber and physical security threats of the future.”

This year, GridEx participants expanded to include more representation from public power, co-op and municipal entities, Canadian partners and other critical infrastructure sectors, such as natural gas, original equipment manufacturers, financial services and telecommunications. “These cross-border, cross-industry relationships provide the necessary strength in-depth needed to mitigate the current threat landscape,” Cancel noted.

Lessons learned from GridEx over the years include tangible recommendations for entities as well as industry-wide insights leading to strengthened crisis communication procedures across the industry, such as the development of the Cyber Mutual Assistance program, which has proven to be a critical resource.

The exercise concluded with an invitation-only executive tabletop session, which brought together industry and government executives to focus on strategic and policy level issues raised during the exercise.

Following GridEx VI, the E-ISAC will develop a public report on the exercise with input from all participants, which is scheduled for release in March 2022.

**NERC Warns of Regional Reliability Risk this Winter; Stresses Readiness Planning**

NERC’s assessment for the upcoming winter finds that reliability risk is elevated in regions that are especially vulnerable to extreme weather, natural gas supply disruptions and low hydro conditions. NERC’s 2021–2022 Winter Reliability Assessment advises industry to ensure the readiness of operating plans to manage potential supply shortfalls and take proactive steps for generator readiness, fuel availability and sustained operations in extreme conditions.

Winter weather conditions that exceed projected conditions can expose power system generation and fuel delivery infrastructure vulnerabilities that challenge electricity system operators’ ability to maintain reliability of the bulk power system. Regions of particular risk this winter include:

- **Central United States:** Peak demand or generator outages that exceed forecasts — at levels that have been experienced in previous winter events, such as the February 2021 Cold Weather Event — can be expected to cause energy emergencies in MISO, SPP and ERCOT this winter season.
- **New England and California:** New England’s transportation infrastructure can be constrained when cold temperatures cause peak demand for
both generation and consumer heating needs. New England competes for liquefied natural gas supply on the world market and unprecedented high liquefied natural gas demand is anticipated for this winter. California has limited storage and lacks redundancy in the supply infrastructure.

- **Western United States and Canada:** Continuing drought in the West has caused low hydro conditions and could reduce the supply of electricity available for transfer. Higher demand from more extreme temperatures in the Northwest could cause a shortfall. Low hydro conditions can reduce transfers needed to mitigate a wide-area cold weather event.

“Winter Storm Uri highlighted the vulnerabilities of our electricity and natural gas systems during long duration, widespread cold-weather conditions. The industry has taken major steps to prepare for extreme weather conditions this winter, but our existing generation fleet and fuel infrastructure remain exposed in many areas,” said Mark Olson, manager of Reliability Assessments. “To be resilient in extreme weather, we are counting on our grid operators to proactively monitor the generation fleet, adjust operating plans and keep the lines of communication open.”

This year’s assessment highlights two additional key findings for the upcoming winter season:

- Generator Owners are facing challenges in obtaining coal and oil fuels as supply chains are stressed.
- Responses to [NERC’s Level 2 Alert: Cold Weather Preparations for Extreme Weather Events](https://www.nerc.com/docs/142960.pdf) indicate that operating plans for winter are in place, but generator resource availability could again suffer because of equipment failure or lack of fuel under severe winter conditions.

To reduce the risks of energy shortfalls on the grid this winter, NERC recommends the following:

- Grid operators, Generator Owners and Generator Operators should review the NERC Level 2 Alert and NERC’s [Generating Unit Winter Weather Readiness Guideline](https://www.nerc.com/docs/142960.pdf), taking recommended steps prior to winter.
- Balancing Authorities should poll their generating units periodically and in advance of approaching severe weather to understand their readiness level for normal and extreme conditions, giving consideration for unit weatherization as well as fuel supply risk.
- Balancing Authorities and Reliability Coordinators should conduct drills on alert protocols to ensure that they are prepared to signal need for conservative operations, restrictive maintenance periods, etc. Balancing Authorities and Generator Operators should verify protocols and operator training for communication and dispatch.
- Distribution Providers and Load-Serving Entities should review non-firm customer inventories and rolling black out procedures to ensure that no critical infrastructure loads (e.g., natural gas, telecommunications) would be affected.

Undertaken annually in coordination with the Regional Entities, NERC’s Winter Reliability Assessment examines multiple factors that collectively provide deep and unique insights into reliability risk. These factors include resource adequacy, encompassing reserve margins and scenarios to identify operational risk; fuel assurance; and preparations to mitigate reliability concerns. The report encourages industry to discuss their plans and preparations to ensure reliability for the upcoming winter period (December 2021 –February 2022).

**NERC and FERC Staff Recognized for Work on Joint Cold Weather Inquiry**

FERC Chairman Glick recognized the dedicated work of FERC and NERC staff on producing the joint report focused on the February 2021 cold weather event at FERC’s November open meeting. The report looks at the impacts the freeze had on the Bulk Electric System in Texas and other parts of the South Central United States and provides recommendations for avoiding the situation in the future. Glick commended the team of nearly 50 subject matter experts for conducting such a comprehensive report in nine months and presented awards to the four team leads:
Statement on Confirmation of Willie Phillips as FERC Commissioner
NERC congratulates Willie Phillips on his confirmation as FERC’s newest commissioner. Phillips served as chair of the D.C. Public Service Commission and previously as assistant general counsel to NERC from 2010 to 2014.

“Willie has a distinguished career as an energy lawyer and regulator,” said Jim Robb, NERC president and CEO. “He brings a deep understanding of the reliability challenges facing the transforming electric grid to the Commission. We are very proud that his expertise — including his time at NERC — has been recognized at the national level.”

Final Report on February 2021 Freeze Underscores Winterization Recommendations
FERC, NERC, and NERC’s Regional Entities recently issued the final report examining the impact the February 2021 freeze had on the Bulk Electric System in Texas and other parts of the South Central U.S. This 300-page analysis underscores preliminary recommendations released earlier this fall. The final report includes additional details regarding the need to strengthen rules for cold weather preparedness and coordination to prevent a recurrence of last winter’s blackouts.

In February 2021, a severe cold weather event — also known as Winter Storm Uri — caused numerous outages, derates or failures to start at electric generating plants scattered across the region. The Texas grid operator (Electric Reliability Council of Texas or ERCOT) ordered 20,000 MW of rolling blackouts in an effort to prevent grid collapse; this represents the largest manually controlled load shedding event in U.S. history. More than 4.5 million people in Texas lost power — some for as long as four days. Tragically, the loss of electricity caused the deaths of numerous Texans.

“The final report on Winter Storm Uri is a sobering analysis that highlights the significant work that needs to be done. I previously committed to take the recommendations seriously, and I plan to do exactly that,” FERC Chairman Glick said. “The devastating effects of extreme cold on our bulk power system’s ability to operate in 2011 and now, 2021, must not be allowed to happen again. We have a duty to protect the bulk power system and public safety and we will do just that.”

“Extreme weather events, such as the one in February 2021, are unfortunately becoming more commonplace and the electricity ecosystem needs to come together to plan for and prepare to operate under more extreme, longer duration, and wide area weather events,” NERC President and CEO Jim Robb said. “The FERC–NERC–Regional Entity Staff Report also highlights the need for substantially better coordination between the natural gas system and the electric system to ensure a reliable supply that nearly 400 million people across North America depend upon to support their way of life.”

The final report highlights the critical need for stronger mandatory electric reliability standards, particularly with respect to generator cold weather-critical components and systems. Notably, a combination of freezing issues (44.2%) and fuel issues (31.4%) caused 75.6% of the unplanned generating unit outages, derates and failures to start. Of particular note, protecting just four types of power plant components from icing and freezing could have reduced outages by 67% in the ERCOT Region, 47% in the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) and 55% in the Midcontinent Independent System Operator South (MISO) Regions. Natural gas-fired units represented 58% of all generating units experiencing unplanned outages, derates or failures to start. The remaining portion was comprised of wind (27%), coal (6%), solar (2%) and other generation types (7%), with four nuclear units making up less than 1%.
The final report provides more details:

- 81% of freeze-related generating unit outages occurred at temperatures above the units’ stated ambient design temperature.
- 87% of unplanned generation outages due to fuel issues were related to natural gas, predominantly related to production and processing issues, while 13% involved issues with other fuels such as coal or fuel oil.
- Natural gas fuel supply issues were caused by natural gas production declines, with 43.3% of natural gas production declines caused by freezing temperatures and weather, and 21.5% caused by midstream, wellhead or gathering facility power losses, which could be attributed either to rolling blackouts or weather-related outages such as downed power lines.

The final report includes 28 formal recommendations that seek to prevent a recurrence of the failures experienced during the February 2021 cold weather event. These recommendations include important revisions to the NERC Reliability Standards surrounding generator winterization and gas-electric coordination.

Additional recommendations are included regarding topics such as cold weather impacts on mechanical and electrical components, utilization of weather forecasts to better predict electric demand and increasing the ability to rotate rolling blackouts, amongst other recommendations. The report also encourages additional study of the ERCOT system’s reliability issues, guidance on identification of natural gas infrastructure for protection from rolling blackouts and additional ways to address natural gas fuel supply shortfalls during extreme cold weather events.

The full report is available [here](#). The presentation of the preliminary findings released in September 2021 is available [here](#).

**FERC, NERC and the Regional Entities Release Joint Review of Protection System Commissioning Programs**

On November 4, 2021, FERC, NERC and the Regional Entities released a joint review assessing certain registered entities’ protection system testing or protection system commissioning (PSC) programs and procedures. This project was initiated after a review of a sample of the Misoperation Information Data Analysis System (MIDAS) data indicated that an estimate of between 18% and 36% of misoperations in MIDAS, on January 1, 2019, could be attributed to issues that should have been detected through PSC. The goal of the review was to reduce misoperations attributable to PSC by identifying opportunities for improvement and developing recommendations and best practices for registered Transmission and Generator Owners’ PSC programs. The joint staff review was not a compliance or enforcement initiative. In conducting this review, the joint staff review team gathered information and examined PSC programs from a representative sample of eight participants with diverse bulk power system geographical locations and one contractor entity with experience aiding registered entities with their PSC programs. The joint staff review team assessed the existence and thoroughness of various elements of each participant’s PSC program and procedures.

The joint staff review team identified best practices and opportunities for improvement in the participants’ programs/procedures and developed associated recommendations, which are discussed in the report. These recommendations and best practices are voluntary; they do not impose any obligations beyond those required by the relevant Reliability Standards. Thus, to obtain the intended benefits from this report, Transmission Owners, Generator Owners and Distribution Providers are encouraged to assess their own PSC programs and procedures and implement relevant recommendations and best practices where appropriate.

**Board Takes Action on Cold Weather Risks, Sets Priorities on Extreme Events, Energy Sufficiency, Cybersecurity**

Cold weather risk featured prominently at NERC’s quarterly Board of Trustees meeting, including Board action prioritizing proposed cold weather standards, a preview of the upcoming Winter Reliability Assessment, discussion of winter preparations and emphasis of Standards Committee work. In other key actions, the Board adopted work plan priorities focused on resilience.
for widespread, long-term extreme temperature events, energy sufficiency, enhanced cyber standards and E-ISAC operations.

Board Chair Ken DeFontes said in opening remarks that the “FERC/NERC Cold Weather Inquiry” would be released soon and that the risks identified must be addressed expeditiously, including the recommendations for the development of standards.

DeFontes noted that the grid is rapidly changing along with weather patterns and we must do whatever is necessary to ready the system for these events, which are no longer rare. He expressed disappointment with recent action by the Standards Committee delaying the cold weather standards authorization request, while stressing that industry takes extreme weather risk seriously and is up to the task.

Jim Robb, president and CEO, concurred with DeFontes’ message during his president’s remarks. “Extreme weather is an acute and well-understood reliability risk, threatening lives and well-being. None of us want that,” Robb said. “Industry stakeholders must act with urgency on concrete risk-informed mitigation measures. I encourage the Standards Committee to move forward on the proposed cold weather standards. And while standards are just one part of the solution, they remain a key tool toward addressing these risks."

NERC has undertaken numerous activities to help industry prepare for the upcoming winter, including webinars, workshops and a Level II alert. However, Robb noted, “we are not moving as fast as needed, particularly if we see another cold weather event.”

**Board Action**

The Board and the Member Representatives Committee (MRC) issued resolutions in tribute to Bill Gallagher, a long-time member of the MRC and utility expert who passed away in October. The resolutions lauded Gallagher’s more than 14 years of service and contributions to the Electric Reliability Organization and industry.

Opening remarks also were made by Stan Connally, Jr., executive vice president of Operations, Southern Company; Mark Christie, commissioner, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission; Patricia Hoffman, acting assistant secretary, Office of Electricity, Department of Energy; and David Morton, CAMPUT chair and representative to NERC.

The Board took several actions relating to NERC Reliability Standards. Most notably, approving the 2022–2024 Reliability Standards Development Plan, which prioritizes standards projects for the coming year. However, the Board directed — via a resolution — that the plan should include a new cold weather operations, preparedness and coordination standards project as a high-priority item to address the recommendations of the FERC/NERC Joint Inquiry. In recognition of the urgency to address this pressing reliability issue, the Board directed the project be completed in stages, with the completion of the first stage due to the Board by September 2022, and the second stage due to the Board by September 2023, consistent with the timelines recommended in the joint inquiry.

During his MRC update, Ortiz stressed the importance of acting promptly on the recommendations identified in the inquiry, stating FERC expects industry to act promptly to address them, including new and enhanced Reliability Standards. A sentiment also expressed by Robb in his opening remarks.

The Board also approved proposed revisions to the Standards Committee Charter and asked the Standards Committee to review its charter for opportunities to advance efficiency and to clarify its scope in advance of the Board’s February 2022 meeting.

The Board approved the 2022 ERO Enterprise Work Plan Priorities, which identify key priorities for the coming year that closely align with the focus areas highlighted in the ERO Enterprise Long-Term Strategy.

The four risk elements addressed:

- Improve Bulk Electric System resilience for widespread, long-term extreme temperature events.
- Deepen planning and operating focus beyond capacity adequacy toward energy sufficiency.
• Enhance the structure of the CIP Standards, including review and improvement of the bright-line risk criteria.
• Expand the impact of the E-ISAC through information sharing, communications and monitoring of critical security threats.

Attendees received presentations on two assessments: The *2021 Winter Reliability Assessment*, released in mid-November, which looks at conditions for the upcoming winter months; and the *2021 Long-Term Reliability Assessment*, which will look at resource adequacy for the 2022–2031 assessment period, to be released mid-December. Both assessments point to elevated reliability risk especially under more extreme weather scenarios.

**New MRC Officers**
The MRC elected new 2022 officers at their meeting earlier in the day. Roy Jones, CEO of ElectriCities and current MRC vice chair, will serve as MRC chair; and Jennifer Flandermeyer, director, Federal Regulatory Affairs at Evergy and current representative for Sector 1 (investor-owned utilities), will serve as MRC vice chair. Both terms begin at the February 2022 MRC meeting.

**Next Meeting**
Board presentations are located on the Board of Trustees agenda page on NERC’s website. The next Board meeting is February 10 under a hybrid model — Board and MRC members will gather in-person in Atlanta, while attendees will take part virtually.

**Robb Delivers Keynote at New England-Canada Business Council Meeting**
Jim Robb, NERC’s president and CEO delivered the keynote address at the New England-Canada Business Council’s 29th Annual Executive Energy Conference on November 4. The hybrid in-person/virtual meeting opened with remarks from U.S. Sen. Angus King of Maine. Robb also participated on a panel — *The Future of our Energy and Environmental Transformation*. Other panelists included:

• **John Flynn**, President, Versant Power, an Enmax Company

• **Mollie Johnson**, Assistant Deputy Minister, Natural Resources Canada
• **Louis Tremblay**, President and CEO, AddEnergie and its subsidiary company, FLO
• **Dan Dolan**, President and CEO, New England Power Generators

The mission of the New England-Canada Business Council is to advance business, political and cultural relationships between Canada and the United States and to help members grow their cross-border professional networks.

**Compliance**

**Compliance Guidance Update**
Implementation Guidance is developed by industry and vetted through pre-qualified organizations. In order for an organization to become pre-qualified, a member of that organization must submit an application to the Compliance and Certification Committee. Vetted examples can then be submitted to the ERO Enterprise for endorsement, and, if endorsed, the ERO Enterprise would give the example deference during CMEP activities with consideration of facts and circumstances. Implementation Guidance would not prescribe the only approach to implementing a standard and entities may choose alternative approaches that better fit their situation. Draft Implementation Guidance is posted while it is being considered for ERO Enterprise endorsement. Once the Implementation Guidance is endorsed, it will be moved to the ERO Enterprise-Endorsed Implementation Guidance section. Draft Implementation Guidance that does not receive ERO Enterprise endorsement will be removed.

There are four new proposed Implementation Guidance documents posted to the NERC Compliance Guidance web page:

• **CIP-004-7 Personnel & Training (2019-02 SDT)**
• **CIP-005-7 R3 Electronic Security Perimeters (2019-03 SDT)**
• **CIP-010-4 R1 Configuration Change Management and Vulnerability Assessments (2019-03 SDT)**
Quarterly Compliance and Enforcement Report Available
The Q3 2021 Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program (CMEP) report is available to view on the Compliance & Enforcement page. This report highlights key ERO CMEP and Organization Registration and Certification Program (ORCP) activities that occurred in Q3 2021 and provides information and statistics regarding those activities.

Reliability Risk Management

Resources Posted
NERC posted the presentations from Day 1 and Day 2 of the EPRI-NERC-NATF 2021 Planning and Modeling Virtual Seminar.

Two New Documents Posted to Assist Organizations Preparing for Registration
The ERO Enterprise posted a new document titled ERO Enterprise Informational Package - New Registered Entities: 101 to welcome and assist organizations that are interested in registration. This package provides a framework to assist organizations with becoming a NERC registered entity, including the steps to complete shortly after the registration process has been completed. For those that are already registered, information regarding registration changes, compliance, and performance are also included.

This package was released in conjunction with the updated version of the ERO Enterprise Registration Procedure. The purpose of the ERO Enterprise Registration Procedure is to help new entities who are candidates for registration with NERC understand key terminology, how the Registration process works, and initial requirements for the entities, NERC and Regional Entities. NERC together with the six REs form the ERO Enterprise. In accordance with the regional delegation agreement (RDA), the REs have been assigned the responsibility of initiating the process for registering entities functioning as owners, operators and users of the BPS. The document also contains information regarding certain registration processes that are relevant to existing registered entities. If there are any questions, please contact your Regional Entity or send an email to nerc.registration@nerc.net.

Nomination Period Open for Reliability Issues Steering Committee Members
As the terms expire for a number of Reliability Issues Steering Committee (RISC) members on January 31, 2022, volunteers are being sought from the Member Representatives Committee (MRC) and industry to serve on the RISC for two-year terms ending January 31, 2024. The RISC is an advisory committee that reports directly to the NERC Board of Trustees, triages and provides front-end, high-level leadership and accountability for issues of strategic importance to bulk power system reliability and security. The RISC assists the Board, NERC technical committees, NERC staff, regulators, Regional Entities and industry stakeholders in establishing a common understanding of the scope, priority and goals for the development of solutions to these issues. In doing so, the RISC provides a framework for developing recommendations to help NERC and the industry effectively focus their resources on the critical issues needed to improve the reliability and security of the bulk power system. The Board approved The 2021 ERO Reliability Risk Priorities Report on August 12, 2021.

As described in the RISC charter, nominees for RISC should meet the following general qualifications:

- Executive-level position within the electric utility industry;
- High-level understanding and strategic perspectives on reliability risks; and
- Commitment to regular participation on the RISC in a collaborative and consensus-building manner.

The RISC holds a combination of in-person meetings and conference calls, at least once per quarter. When determining a final slate of recommended members, the RISC Nominating Committee will evaluate nominees based on experience and qualifications, as well as diversity within the context of the entire membership of the RISC based on the following considerations:
• Geographic and international diversity, such that Eastern, Western and Texas Interconnections, along with Canada are represented on the RISC;
• Sector, size and asset (transmission, distribution, load, generation, etc.) diversity; and
• Diversity in professional background and experience.

If you are interested in nominating either yourself or another person, please complete the RISC Nomination Form by December 15, 2021.

Standards

Nomination Period Open for Project 2021-07 – Extreme Cold Weather Grid Operations, Preparedness, and Coordination
NERC is seeking nominations for Project 2021-07 Standard Authorization Request (SAR) drafting team members through 8 p.m. Eastern, Tuesday, December 21, 2021. The time commitment for this project is expected to be two face-to-face meetings per quarter (on average two full working days each meeting) with conference calls scheduled as needed to meet the agreed upon timeline the team sets forth. Team members may also have side projects, either individually or by sub-group, to present for discussion and review. Lastly, an important component of the team effort is outreach. Members of the team will be expected to conduct industry outreach during the development process to support a successful ballot. Previous drafting team experience is beneficial but not required.

By submitting a nomination form, you are indicating your willingness and agreement to participate actively in face-to-face meetings and conference calls. Use the electronic form to submit a nomination. Contact Linda Jenkins regarding issues using the electronic form. An unofficial Word version of the nomination form is posted on the Standard Drafting Team Vacancies page and the project page. The Standards Committee is expected to appoint members to the SAR drafting team in February 2022. Nominees will be notified shortly after they have been appointed.

Comment Period Open for Project 2021-07 – Extreme Cold Weather Grid Operations, Preparedness, and Coordination SAR
A 30-day formal comment period for the Project 2021-07 SAR is open through 8 p.m. Eastern, Tuesday, December 21, 2021. Use the Standards Balloting and Commenting System (SBS) to submit comments. The drafting team will review all responses received during the comment period and determine the next steps of the project.

Supplemental Nomination Period Open for Project 2020-02 – Transmission-connected Dynamic Reactive Resources
NERC is seeking nominations for additional Project 2020-02 – Transmission-connected Dynamic Reactive Resources SAR drafting team members through 8 p.m. Eastern, Monday, December 20, 2021. The potential risk of increasing amounts of reactive power being supplied by nonsynchronous sources was identified in NERC’s 2017 Long-term Reliability Assessment. In response to the concern, the Planning Committee (PC) assigned the System Analysis and Modeling Subcommittee (SAMS) to study the issue. The SAMS developed the Applicability of Transmission-Connected Reactive Devices white paper, which was approved by the PC at its December 2019 meeting. The PC Executive Committee reviewed the draft SAR from SAMS at its January meeting and subsequently approved the SAR by email vote ending on February 11, 2020. The SAR was posted for industry comment March 30–May 13, 2020, and drafting team member nominations were solicited. However, the project was temporarily paused before a SAR drafting team was appointed.

By submitting a nomination form, you are indicating your willingness and agreement to participate actively in face-to-face meetings and conference calls. The time commitment for this project is expected to be one face-to-face meetings per quarter (on average two full working days each meeting) with conference calls scheduled as needed to meet the agreed upon timeline the team sets forth. Face-to-face meetings will be conducted only when CDC health guidelines permit. Team members may also have side projects, either individually or by sub-group, to present for discussion and review. Lastly, an important component of the team effort is outreach. Members of the team will be expected to conduct industry outreach
during the development process to support a successful ballot. Previous drafting team experience is beneficial but not required. See the project page and nomination form for additional information. Use the electronic form to submit a nomination and contact Wendy Muller regarding issues with the system. An unofficial Word version of the nomination form is posted on the Standard Drafting Team Vacancies page and the project page. The Standards Committee is expected to appoint supplemental members to the drafting team in February 2022. Nominees will be notified shortly after they have been appointed.

Supplemental Nomination Period Open for Project 2019-04 – Modifications to PRC-005-6
NERC is seeking nominations for additional Project 2019-04 – Modifications to PRC-005-6 drafting team members through 8 p.m. Eastern, Wednesday, December 15, 2021. The time commitment for this project is expected to be two face-to-face meetings per quarter (on average two full working days each meeting) with conference calls scheduled as needed to meet the agreed upon timeline the team sets forth. Team members may also have side projects, either individually or by sub-group, to present for discussion and review. Lastly, an important component of the drafting team effort is outreach. Members of the team will be expected to conduct industry outreach during the development process to support a successful ballot. By submitting a nomination form, you are indicating your willingness and agreement to actively participate in face-to-face meetings and conference calls. Previous drafting team experience is beneficial but not required.

Use the electronic form to submit a nomination. Contact Wendy Muller regarding issues with the electronic form. An unofficial Word version of the nomination form is posted on the Drafting Team Vacancies page and the project page.

The Standards Committee is expected to appoint members to the drafting team in January 2022. Nominees will be notified shortly after they have been appointed.

Standards Committee Segment Representative Election Results
Each of the 10 industry segments that make up the NERC Standards Committee (SC) had a vacancy to fill a two-year term beginning January 1, 2022 and ending December 31, 2023. A nomination period was held from October 4–25, 2021, and an election for Segments 1–9 was held from November 2–11, 2021. The elected nominees all received the highest total number of votes in that segment and received a simple majority of the votes cast in that segment. In accordance with Appendix 3B of the NERC Rules of Procedure, the following individuals have been elected to fill two-year terms in their respective segments.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SC Election Results</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Segment 1: Michael Jones</td>
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<tr>
<td>Segment 2: N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Segment 3: Kent Felks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Segment 4: Marty Hostler</td>
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<tr>
<td>Segment 5: Terri Pyle</td>
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There will be a special election for Segment 2’s two-year term concluding December 2023. Segment 10 (Regional Entities) has an alternative election procedure, as permitted by Appendix 3B of the NERC Rules of Procedure. Pursuant to that alternative election procedure, Tony Purgar, from ReliabilityFirst was elected to represent Segment 10.

Regional Entity Events

Midwest Reliability Organization (MRO)
- MRO Board of Directors Meeting, December 2
- Long-Term Reliability Assessment Overview Webinar, December 8

WECC
- Board of Directors and Associate Meetings, December 7–9
- WECC Technical Session, December 7
- WECC Member Advisory Committee, December 7
Upcoming Events

For a full accounting of NERC events, such as meetings and conference calls for standard drafting teams, other standing committees, subcommittees, task forces, and working groups, please refer to the NERC calendar.

- FERC and ERO Enterprise Real-time Assessments Webinar – 1:00–3:00 p.m. Eastern, December 8, 2021 | Register

Filings

NERC Filings to FERC in November

November 15, 2021
Compliance Filing in Response to January 2013 Order | NERC submits an unaudited report of NERC’s budget-to-actual variance information for the third quarter 2021. This compliance filing is in accordance with FERC’s January 16, 2013 Order, which approved a Settlement Agreement between the FERC Office of Enforcement and NERC, related to findings and recommendations arising out of its 2012 performance audit.

November 30, 2021
2022–2024 Reliability Standards Development Plan | NERC submits its Reliability Standards Development Plan (RSDP) for 2022–2024. This informational filing provides a status update on active development projects and a forecast of future work to be undertaken by NERC and its stakeholders throughout the upcoming year.

NERC Canadian Filings to FERC in November

November 5, 2021
2022 Budget Filing

November 9, 2021
NERC 2022 Budget Amendment

Careers at NERC

Accounting Specialist
Location: Atlanta
Details

Associate Counsel or Counsel (Enforcement)
Location: Washington, D.C.
Details

CIP Assurance Advisor
Location: Atlanta
Details