



GridEx III Fact Sheet

November 18-19, 2015

Background

[GridEx III](#) is scheduled for November 18-19, 2015. The first grid security exercise took place in November 2011. NERC conducted its second industry-wide grid security exercise, GridEx II, in November 2013. These geographically distributed exercises are designed to provide an opportunity for utilities to demonstrate how they would respond to simulated coordinated cyber and physical security threats and incidents, strengthen their crisis communications relationships, and provide input for lessons learned.

Objectives

The objectives for GridEx III are:

- Exercise crisis response and recovery
- Improve communications
- Identify lessons learned
- Engage senior leadership

Similar to the first two GridEx exercises, GridEx III is a grid-focused operational exercise for utilities across North America. NERC is also coordinating a separate tabletop discussion for industry executives and senior government officials on an invitation-only basis. Industry participants typically take part in GridEx from their regular work locations and respond to simulated scenario injects over the two days of the exercise. Based on this information, participants respond with simulated internal and external operational activities including sharing information within their organization and with external entities according to their established procedures. NERC's exercise control cell, based in the Washington, D.C. area, manages scenario distribution, monitors the progress of the exercise, and gathers lessons learned.

Planning and Utility Participation

The nine-month GridEx III planning schedule is structured around three planning conferences; the Initial Planning Conference on March 11-12, the Mid-term Planning Conference on June 10-11, and the Final Planning Conference on September 3. Lead Planners and Planners from each utility are encouraged to participate in these conferences. Planners identify their organizations as either "Active" (i.e., directly involved in planning, dynamic exercise play, and after-action activities) or "Observing" (e.g., more limited tabletop-like participation). Planners identify their own exercise participants ("Players") from across departmental and functional areas and are encouraged to develop their own customized scenario events consistent with the NERC scenario to achieve additional local exercise objectives and increase realism for their Players.

For more information, contact [Bill Lawrence](#), Senior Manager of CIP Awareness, Electricity Sector Information Sharing and Analysis Center.