

# Minutes Technology and Security Committee Meeting November 1, 2019 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Eastern

Conference Call

Chair Suzanne Keenan called to order a duly noticed open meeting of the Technology and Security Committee (the "Committee") of the Board of Trustees ("Board") of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation ("NERC" or the "Company") on November 1, 2019, at 2:00 p.m. Eastern, and a quorum was declared present. The agenda is attached as **Exhibit A.** 

# Present at the meeting were:

Committee Members	Board Members
Suzanne Keenan, Chair	Robert G. Clarke
Janice B. Case	David Goulding
Kenneth W. DeFontes	Robin E. Manning
George S. Hawkins	James B. Robb, President and Chief Executive Officer
Roy Thilly, ex officio	Jan Schori
	Colleen Sidford

#### **NERC Staff**

Tina Buzzard, Associate Director

Laura Brown, Director of Programs and Engagement

Eric Hartung, Senior Data Scientist Advisor

Steve Herrin, Director of Operations

Stan Hoptroff, Vice President, Chief Technology Officer, and Director of Information Technology Sônia Mendonça, Vice President, Interim General Counsel, Corporate Secretary, and Director of Enforcement

Darrell Moore, Associate Director of Situation Awareness

Lauren Perotti, Senior Counsel

Don Prince, Director of Cyber Infrastructure

Michael Walker, E-ISAC Chief of Staff

#### **NERC Antitrust Compliance Guidelines**

Ms. Keenan directed the participants' attention to the NERC Antitrust Compliance Guidelines included in the agenda, and indicated that all questions regarding antitrust compliance or related matters should be directed to Ms. Mendonça.

#### **Chair's Remarks**

Ms. Keenan welcomed the Committee members and described highlights from the annual NERC Grid Security Conference, or GridSecCon. She thanked SERC, as a co-host, and the NERC team, especially the



E-ISAC, for a great event. Ms. Keenan emphasized the success of the first women's GridSecCon networking breakfast. She also mentioned her attendance at the E-ISAC Members Executive Committee (the "MEC"), noting that the E-ISAC metrics were approved and will be presented today. Mr. Robb discussed a March 2019 cybersecurity incident that caused brief communications outages across several states, noting that the entity was not subject to NERC Reliability Standards and NERC published a lessons learned related to the incident in September.

#### **Minutes**

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Committee approved the minutes of the August 14, 2019 meeting as presented at the meeting.

### **ERO Enterprise IT Projects Update**

Mr. Hoptroff provided an overview of the ERO Enterprise information technology projects, referencing the materials that had been included in the advance agenda package. He provided an update on the Align project, emphasizing the project's focus on security, evidence, and data handling, including a planned multi-factor authentication feature for user access. Mr. Moore provided an update on the development of the version 3 of the Situation Awareness for FERC, NERC and Regions (SAFNR v3) tool, highlighting key features and functions to enhance situational awareness. Mr. Hoptroff discussed plans to roll out Salesforce, a new customer-relationship management tool, and additional refinements for the E-ISAC Portal.

## **E-ISAC Update**

Mr. Robb provided an update on recent E-ISAC activities, referencing the materials included in the advance agenda package. His update highlighted the E-ISAC's hiring success and detailed the October MEC meeting's focus areas. Ms. Brown provided an overview of GridSecCon, including the panels and topics discussed. She thanked Ms. Keenan for her support of the women's networking breakfast, and she highlighted GridSecCon's large attendance and positive feedback. Ms. Brown discussed the upcoming GridEx V, which will simulate a severe cyber-physical attack on the electric sector and other critical infrastructures across North America. She noted that 420 participating utilities are scheduled to participate at GridEx V, up from 206 utilities at GridEx IV.

Mr. Hartung discussed the 2020 E-ISAC performance metrics, which were endorsed by the MEC in October 2019, noting that the metrics align with the E-ISAC's long-term strategic plan. Mr. Hawkins noted the depth of the metrics and inquired about whether metrics could be developed to measure timeliness while balancing the need to disseminate information quickly and the need for completeness. Mr. Hartung noted ongoing discussions regarding the development of quality-based metrics. Mr. Thilly thanked E-ISAC staff and the MEC for its work and noted the importance of metrics to the Board's oversight role. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Committee accepted the proposed 2020 E-ISAC metrics on behalf of the Board.

Mr. Herrin provided an update on efforts to increase E-ISAC member information sharing, highlighting the development of a guide for members on information sharing and the growing participation in CRISP.



Mr. Robb provided an overview of the 2020 E-ISAC priorities, including building trust and connectivity with government and international partners and using metrics to improve operations. The Committee discussed increasing security operations staffing.

# Adjournment

There being no further business, and upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by,

Sônia Mendonça

**Corporate Secretary** 



# Agenda Technology and Security Committee

November 1, 2019 | 2:00-3:00 p.m. Eastern Conference Call

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**Introductions and Chair's Remarks** 

NERC Antitrust Compliance Guidelines and Public Announcement\*

Agenda Items

- 1. Minutes\* Approve
  - a. August 14, 2019 Meeting
- 2. ERO Enterprise IT Projects Update\* Review
- 3. E-ISAC Update\* Review
- 4. Adjournment

<sup>\*</sup>Background materials included.