

Announcement

NERC's GridEx VII Tests Rapid and Innovative Response Capabilities

November 16, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. – GridEx VII has concluded the distributed play portion of its exercise. Over the past two days, more than 250 organizations played simultaneously in a complex and challenging scenario while adapting the exercise to meet their specific organizational needs. This year's scenario reflected real-world cyber and physical threats and was designed to stress-test crisis response and recovery plans. Hosted every two years by NERC's Electricity Information Sharing and Analysis Center (E-ISAC), GridEx is the largest grid security exercise in North America.

"Although, the E-ISAC is not aware of any specific credible cyber or physical threats to the North American grid, the threat landscape in which we are operating is unprecedented – we are facing challenges that are increasingly difficult to detect and protect against," said Manny Cancel, NERC senior vice president and E-ISAC chief executive officer. "Our adversaries continue to look for ways to exploit our interconnected system. We must continue to be vigilant. By working together in exercises like GridEx, we can make sure they are not successful."

Since GridEx VI in 2021, the E-ISAC has expanded partnerships and reciprocal information sharing with industry sectors associated with electricity, and the E-ISAC leverages these partnerships to help members mitigate potential compromises to their systems.

Exercises like GridEx are an important aspect of NERC's mission to assure the reliability and resilience of the bulk power system, which is inextricably tied to grid security. Since the last GridEx in 2021, the cyber security landscape has continued to evolve, guided by geopolitical events, new vulnerabilities, changes in technologies, and increasingly bold cyber criminals and hackers.

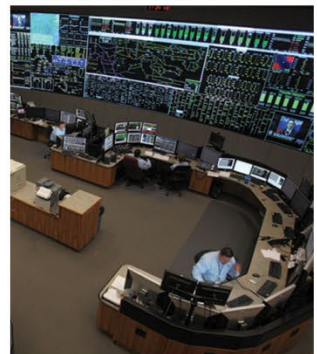
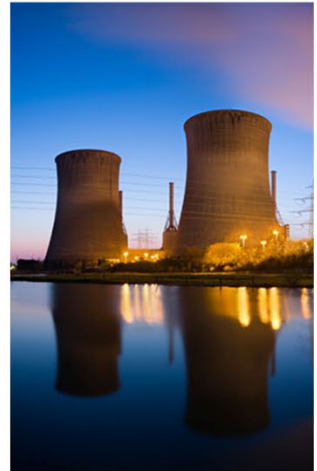
"I'm extremely proud of how our sector has responded to – and addressed – these challenges," said Cancel. "Our remarkable resilience and unity as well as rapid and innovative response capabilities are a reflection of how our industry has been monitoring and, through exercises like GridEx, preparing for these events for decades."

The exercise concludes with an invitation-only executive tabletop session, which brings together industry and government executives to focus on strategic and policy-level issues

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raised during the exercise and presents the opportunity for serious dialog about how to make the grid more secure.

Following GridEx VII, the E-ISAC will develop a public report on the exercise with input from all participants. The report is scheduled to be released by the end of the first quarter of 2024.

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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.