

NERC News

March 2022

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ERO Executive Spotlight – Melanie Frye President and CEO, WECC

Partnering for Reliability and Security

In his December 2021 Spotlight interview, Jim Robb noted the last 18 months “brought great clarity to the key risks facing the electric sector and the challenges our 21st century grid (and the Electric Reliability Organization (ERO)) need to be prepared to manage.” The reliability challenges are as wide-ranging as they are complex, and the Western Interconnection is no exception.



For the grid to be reliable there must be enough energy to serve load at all times. For decades, utilities in the Western Interconnection shared excess resources to make the most of seasonal load and resource diversity. Resource adequacy was not a concern — it was presumed. However, changes in climate, more frequent extreme weather events and the retirement of many large traditional baseload resources have stressed a system that was once sufficient to meet customers’ needs. Add to that a rapid move toward electrification of the economy, wholesale market expansion and the need for transmission development, and it is clear the ERO Enterprise needs to ensure that reliability is a top priority while addressing these challenges.

At WECC, we recognize that we cannot address these matters or perform our critical reliability and security work alone. Only through increased partnership and a commitment to engage with, consider and value all stakeholder perspectives will we be able to manage grid reliability and security successfully.

Headlines

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(Cont'd)

As the only independent organization focused on the reliability and security of the Western Interconnection, WECC is uniquely situated to convene diverse stakeholders and facilitate discussions to address the reliability and security risks facing the entire region.

To that end, we have begun elevating our strategic engagement efforts, convinced that working with stakeholders as an indispensable partner is the most successful way to approach, evaluate and address the most important reliability and security issues that affect the West.

Early efforts toward greater stakeholder engagement have already borne fruit. In response to stakeholder feedback, we developed an annual report — *The Western Assessment of Resource Adequacy* (Western Assessment) — intended to review and assess resource adequacy in the Western Interconnection. The Western Assessment began with coordinated conversations with a variety of stakeholders. It has developed into an annual report that complements NERC's *Long-Term Reliability Assessment*. The contents of the Western Assessment are shaped by the concerns and priorities expressed by our stakeholders. In practice, the yearly development of the Western Assessment has given us the opportunity to participate in and facilitate discussions about resource adequacy more broadly. The resulting dialogue has allowed us to improve our analysis and provide more relevant data and conclusions with each release of the Western Assessment.

Our partnership with stakeholders is vital to ensure that these assessments contain information, data and analyses that stakeholders understand and can use to address the resource adequacy and other challenges the West is facing. The contribution of state and provincial regulators, policymakers and energy officials is essential to the credibility and value of our work products.

We collectively face significant challenges. As conversations about the changing resource mix, transmission optimization and development, market

development and the effects of climate change continue, WECC is expanding stakeholder engagement to enhance and elevate the conversations concerning the reliability and security of the grid. Our stakeholders represent a variety of interests and myriad policy perspectives, but they all share our desire to ensure a reliable and secure bulk power system. As Alexander Graham Bell said, "Great discoveries and improvements invariably involve the cooperation of many minds." Strong partnerships and collaboration with all stakeholders are necessary to address the significant reliability challenges we face with our rapidly changing electric grid. ■■■

Headlines**GridSecCon 2022 Call for Abstracts**

We recently sent an abstract submission request for NERC, E-ISAC and ReliabilityFirst's (RF) GridSecCon 2022, welcoming submissions from asset owners and operators in physical or cyber security roles, academic researchers and industry and government experts. The deadline for submitting an abstract for a training or breakout session is April 22. For more information or assistance, please contact events@eisac.com.

Gugel Participated in Joint FERC, NRC Meeting

Howard Gugel, NERC's vice president of Engineering and Standards, participated in a joint meeting of the [Federal Energy Regulatory Commission](#) (FERC) and the [Nuclear Regulatory Commission](#) (NRC) on March 31. Gugel joined representatives on a panel — Grid Reliability, Nuclear Power Plants & Other Topics — to review key findings from NERC's *2021 State of Reliability*, *2021 Long-Term Reliability Assessment*, the Energy Reliability Assessment Taskforce and reliability risk mitigation activities.

Robb Participated in EPSA Competitive Power Summit

Jim Robb, NERC's president and CEO, participated in the Electric Power Supply Association (EPSA) Competitive Power Summit on March 29. The summit featured experts discussing the critical issues facing our grid today as well as what it means for America's energy future. Robb participated the "Addressing Reliability in a Changing Grid" panel, which focused on the tragic and extensive

power outages in Texas last winter, along with summer resource challenges in California and other U.S. states, highlighting the importance of a demonstrable commitment to power system reliability.

Other panelists included:

- Thad Hill, president and CEO, Calpine
- Manu Asthana, president and CEO, PJM Interconnection
- Devin Hartman, policy director, energy and environmental policy; resident senior fellow, R Street Institute

NERC Staff Participated in California Mobility Center Webinar

Ryan Quint, NERC's senior manager of BPS Security and Grid Transformation, and Mike Walker, NERC's former senior advisor of Strategic Initiatives and current strategic advisor to the California Mobility Center (CMC), participated in a CMC webinar on March 22. The public webinar, led by a panel of industry experts, discussed large-scale electric vehicle deployment impacts on electric system reliability risk mitigation and future opportunities. ■■■

Compliance

Webinar Resources Posted

NERC posted the [presentation](#) and [streaming webinar](#) from the March 8, 2022 CIP-012-1 Small Group Advisory General Session webinar.

NERC Releases Fourth Episode of Compliance Podcast

NERC is pleased to announce the release of the fourth installment of its compliance podcast, "Currently Compliant." Hosted by ERO Enterprise subject matter experts (SME), "Currently Compliant" is intended to be a quick way to bring attention to frequently asked questions on which the SMEs have some clear insights to share.

[Currently Compliant: Episode 4](#) focuses on Real-Time Assessments, in particular a [free Real-Time Assessment](#)

[training module](#) developed by SERC. This episode features the following SMEs:

- Ryan Mauldin, Senior Engineer, Compliance Assurance, NERC
- Banna Underland, Technical Writer & Training Coordinator, SERC
- Joel Rogers, Senior Compliance Auditor, SERC
- Greg Tenley, Senior Compliance Auditor, SERC
- Justin Kelley, Senior CIP Engineer, SERC
- Steve Rose, Compliance Auditor, SERC
- Mike Kuhl, Manager, O&P Monitoring, SERC

To learn more about Real-Time Assessments, please also check out these resources:

- [FERC and ERO Enterprise Joint Report on Real-Time Assessments](#)
- [FERC and ERO Enterprise Webinar on Real-Time Assessments](#)

For any suggestions or questions, please contact compliancequestions@nerc.net and put "Currently Compliant" in the subject line. ■■■

Event Analysis, Reliability Assessment, and Performance Analysis

Webinar Resources Posted

NERC posted the [presentation](#) and [streaming webinar](#) from the March 2, 2022 Joint Review of Protection System Commissioning Programs webinar.

Lessons Learned Posted

NERC posted one new lessons learned document on the [Lessons Learned page](#). A successful lesson learned clearly identifies the lesson, contains sufficient information to understand the issues, visibly identifies the difference between the actual outcome and the desired outcome and includes an accurate sequence of events, when it provides clarity.

The [Managing UFLS Obligations and Service to Critical Loads during an Energy Emergency](#) Lesson Learned addresses an incident in which — due to the amount of load shed during the February 2021 cold weather event

— entities found it difficult to rotate customer outages while maintaining service to critical loads and underfrequency load shed (UFLS) feeders. Simultaneously, the percent of system load connected to UFLS feeders substantially exceeded the required percentage levels, which created a risk of frequency overshoot and instability in the event of UFLS activation. This document is of primary interest to Transmission Operators, Transmission Owners, Distribution Providers, Balancing Authorities, Reliability Coordinators and Planning Coordinators.

Nomination Period Open for Reliability and Security Technical Committee Sector 10 Special Election

Due to an upcoming resignation from the [Reliability and Security Technical Committee \(RSTC\)](#), a vacancy has been created in Sector 10 – Independent System Operator – Regional Transmission Organization. The period for nominating candidates began March 23 and ends on April 6, 2022.

Sector nominees need not be NERC members in the sector for which they are nominated; however, they must be eligible to be a member in that sector. Only NERC members may elect the RSTC members in each sector.

Please submit all [nominations](#) by **April 6, 2022**.

Energy Reliability Assessment Task Force Industry Update and Opportunity for Industry Comments

The [Energy Reliability Assessment Task Force \(ERATF\)](#) held an industry workshop on February 16, 2022 to discuss the key findings and recommendations from a technical paper written by the members of the ERATF. Panelists discussed energy assurance issues in the operations, operational planning and planning time horizons. In addition, attendees were given the opportunity to provide comments for the development of a final Standard Authorization Request (SAR) for RSTC consideration. Due to time restraints some questions were unable to be addressed during the call, so the ERATF has provided a [Q&A document](#) to answer those question. ■■■

Standards

Webinar Resources Posted

NERC posted the [slide presentation](#) and [recording](#) from the March 12, 2022 Project 2016-02 – Modifications to CIP Standards | Virtualization webinar.

NERC also posted the [slide presentation](#) and [recording](#) from the March 16, 2022 Project 2020-03 – Supply Chain Low Impact Revisions webinar. ■■■

Upcoming Events

For a full schedule 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](#).

- Member Representatives Committee Pre-Meeting Conference Call and Informational Webinar – 11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Eastern, April 12, 2022 | [Register](#)
- [Utilizing Excess Capability of BPS-Connected Inverter-Based Resources for Frequency Support Webinar](#) – 1:00–3:00 p.m. Eastern, April 19, 2022 | [Register](#)
- Hybrid Compliance and Certification Committee Meeting – April 27–28, 2022, Juno, FL/Virtual | [Day 1 In-Person Registration](#) | [Day 1 Virtual Registration](#) | [Day 2 In-Person Registration](#) | [Day 2 Virtual Registration](#)
- Board of Trustees Committees, Member Representatives Committee, and Board of Trustees Meetings – May 11–12, 2022, Arlington, Virginia | [Register](#) ■■■

Regional Entity Events

[Midwest Reliability Organization \(MRO\)](#)

- [MRO Reliability Advisory Council Q1 Meeting](#), April 6
- [Organizational Group Oversight Committee](#), April 6
- [MRO Board of Directors Meeting](#), April 7
- [MRO SAC Webinar on Supply Chain Effectiveness Survey Results](#), April 12

- [MRO CMEPAC Internal Controls Question and Answer Session](#), April 18
- [MRO Virtual RAM Process Webinar](#), April 28

NPCC

- [NPCC 2022 Spring Compliance and Reliability Webinar](#), May 17

ReliabilityFirst (RF)

- [Tech Talk](#), (virtual) April 18
- [Q1 & 2 Board of Directors Meeting](#), April 28

SERC Reliability Corporation

- [System Operator Conference #2](#), April 12–14
- [SERC Sponsored Certified Protection Professional \(CPP\) Class](#), April 25–29
- [Natural Gas Electric Coordination Vision for the Future](#), May 17
- [The Scoop on Ransomware](#), June 15

Texas RE

- [Talk with Texas RE: E-ISAC Update](#), April 14
- [Talk with Texas RE: Texas Public Power Association Update](#), April 28
- [Talk with Texas RE: FAC-008](#), May 5
- [Talk with Texas RE: FERC/NERC Report on Protection System Commissioning Programs](#), May 10

WECC

- [Member Advisory Committee](#), April 20
- [Compliance Open Mic](#), April 21
- [Stakeholder Budget Overview](#), April 27
- [Reliability Assessment Committee](#), April 28 ■■■

Filings

NERC Filings to FERC in March

March 28

[Comments in Response to NOPR](#) | NERC and the Regional Entities submitted comments in response to Notice of Proposed Rulemaking regarding Internal Network

Security Monitoring for High- and Medium-Impact Bulk Electric System Cyber Systems.

March 24

[2022 NERC Standards Report, Status and Timetable for Addressing Regulatory Directives](#) | NERC submitted its 2022 NERC Standards Report, Status and Timetable for Addressing Regulatory Directives. The annual report is filed in accordance with Section 321.6 of the NERC Rules of Procedure.

March 21

[NERC Annual Report on Cyber Security Incidents](#) | NERC submitted to FERC the Annual Report on Cyber Security Incidents as directed by FERC in its July 19, 2018 Order.

March 21

[Reply Comments Re CIP-014 Evidence Provision](#) | NERC submitted to FERC reply comments regarding NERC's proposal to modify the compliance section of Reliability Standard CIP-014.

March 18

[Amended Petition Re ROP Revisions \(Standards\)](#) | NERC submitted to FERC an amended petition for approval of revisions to its Rules of Procedure regarding Reliability Standards (Section 300, App. 3B, and 3D).

March 15

[CIP SDT Schedule March Update Informational Filing](#) | NERC submitted an informational filing as directed by FERC in its February 20, 2020 Order. This filing contains a status update on one standard development projecting to the CIP Reliability Standards.

March 11

[Joint Petition of NERC and NPCC for Approval of Amendments to NPCC Bylaws](#) | NERC and NPCC submitted a petition for approval of amendments to NPCC Bylaws.

March 7

[Reply Comments Re: Electricity Market Design](#) | NERC and the Regional Entities submitted reply comments to the technical conference proceeding regarding Modernizing Electricity Market Design.

NERC Canadian Filings to FERC in March

March 21

[Notice of Filing of NERC Amendments to the Bylaws of NPCC](#)

[Attachments 1–2 NPCC Bylaws](#)

[Amended Filing of NERC ROP Revisions](#)

March 2

[CIP-014 Evidence Provision](#)



Careers at NERC

Communications Specialist, Internal Communications

Location: Washington, D.C.

[Details](#)

ETAC Security Advisor (E-ISAC)

Location: Washington, D.C.

[Details](#)

Exercise and Resilience Specialist (E-ISAC)

Location: Washington, D.C.

[Details](#)

Senior (CTI) Cyber Threat Intelligence Analyst (E-ISAC)

Location: Washington, D.C.

[Details](#)

Enforcement Analyst

Location: Washington, D.C.

[Details](#)

Electricity Sector OT Cyber Security Specialist

Location: Atlanta

[Details](#)

Data Science Advisor

Location: Atlanta

[Details](#) ■ ■ ■