

NERC News

August 2022

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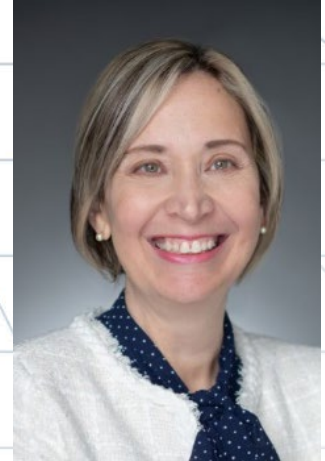
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ERO Executive Spotlight – Sonia Mendonça, Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary, NERC

Return to In-Person Public Meetings and Commitment to our Reliability and Security Mission

Earlier this month I had the privilege of participating in the first in-person open meeting of the NERC Board of Trustees and Member Representatives Committee (MRC) in Vancouver, Canada. After more than two years of very productive virtual meetings, it was refreshing to see so many colleagues in person, renew work and personal connections and engage with the broader stakeholder community on the important topics associated with NERC's reliability and security mission.



As NERC's corporate secretary, I value especially the interaction with our MRC, a body that is central to NERC's corporate governance and is charged in our bylaws with providing input on policy matters to the Board, among other things. Various Board committees — including the Nominating Committee, which has the important task of identifying candidates for election to an upcoming vacancy on the Board — also met in person. The Board approved a proposed budget put forth by management after extensive consultation with stakeholders that takes into account the need to make significant investments in the organization to ensure its ability to continue to pursue its mission.

We experimented with broadcasting the open meetings to those unable to attend in person and, by all accounts, the format was successful in expanding our reach. As discussed extensively in the meetings, NERC has a strong focus on effectiveness

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and efficiency in meeting its mission. We recognize the enormity of the challenge ahead, as well as the importance of addressing it with excellence. We also understand that, with a changing grid and the evolving nature of threats to the bulk power system, NERC needs to expand the reach of its message beyond its usual audience in order to continue to be effective. We were reminded during our budget discussion of the essentiality of electric reliability to other essential infrastructure and the importance of the work of NERC and the industry. Our commitment remains to fulfill our mission with efficiency and also excellence.

Our pursuit of excellence extends to governance matters. In the coming weeks, the Board will undergo an in-depth review of some of its governance processes to determine what enhancements will better position it to continue to perform its oversight of the organization. Issues like trustee onboarding and education, meeting rhythm, committee structure and roles, among others, will be considered.

Looking ahead to the next set of quarterly meetings, and informed by the experience in August and the learnings from the governance discussions, we will continue to balance the importance of holding in-person meetings and strengthening interpersonal connections with the advantages brought by technology that allows us to reach more people at a lower participation cost. This broadening of our audience will continue to be a critical focus as NERC positions itself to keep up with the challenges posed by a changing grid and evolving nature of cyber and physical threats to the bulk power system. I look forward to helping lead the organization in that important pursuit. ■■■

Headlines

Board Approves 2023 Budgets; Receives Updates on Cold Weather and CIP Standards

NERC's Board of Trustees concluded its quarterly meeting, featuring the approval of 2023 budgets, the appointment

of two new members of the Reliability and Security Technical Committee (RSTC) and a strategic discussion with Canadian utility regulators. It was the first in-person board meeting since February 2020.

Manny Cancel, NERC's senior vice president and chief executive officer (CEO) of the Electricity Information and Security Analysis Center (E-ISAC), gave opening remarks on behalf of NERC president and CEO Jim Robb, who was unable to attend the meeting in person after testing positive for COVID. Cancel addressed the rapidly evolving reliability ecosystem, discussing the effects of extreme weather, the changing generation resource mix and the challenging security threat landscape while stressing the importance of collaboration and coordination. He expressed NERC's appreciation for the policy input received from the members and stakeholders who contributed NERC's work on the changing risk environment and threat landscape.

Inverter-Based Resource Performance Identifies Reliability Risk; Joint Report Provides Recommendations

NERC and Texas RE published a joint disturbance report, [*Panhandle Wind Disturbance: Joint NERC and Texas RE Staff Report*](#), which studies an event involving the loss of wind resources in the Texas Panhandle area that occurred on March 22, 2022. While the event did not meet the qualified criteria for a Category 1i event per the Electric Reliability Organization (ERO) Event Analysis Process, the ERO Enterprise conducted an analysis of this event due to the high risk of inverter-based resource performance issues. The ERO Enterprise continues to analyze these disturbances to identify systemic reliability issues, support affected facility owners and share key findings and recommendations with industry for increased awareness and action. ■■■

Compliance

Compliance Guidance Updates

On August 31, 2022, the ERO Enterprise retired the following General Guidance documents:

- CIP-002-5.1 Communications and Networking Cyber Assets Lessons Learned

- External Routable Connectivity Lessons Learned
- Vendor Access Management Lessons Learned

The retired guidance documents were developed during the CIP Version 5 transition period and provided the pilot participants lessons learned for CIP Version 5 implementation. The ERO Enterprise retired the documents, as they do not provide guidance to comply with the applicable standards and/or requirements. These documents will be publicly accessible until a future announcement.

Also in August, NERC posted one new proposed Implementation Guidance document: [FAC-002-4 R6 Definition of Qualified Change \(2020-05 SDT\)](#).

More information can be found on the NERC [Compliance Guidance web page](#).

NERC Rules of Procedure Updated

NERC updated the current, effective [Rules of Procedure](#), which are available on NERC's website. ■■■

Event Analysis, Reliability Assessment, and Performance Analysis

Lessons Learned Document Posted

NERC posted a 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 [EMS Pausing During Database Deployment](#) Lesson Learned addresses several incidents in which entities have experienced energy management system (EMS) outages during EMS database deployment. All of the cases had the same EMS vendor. The document is of primary interest to Transmission Operators, Transmission Owners, Reliability Coordinators and Balancing Authorities.

White Paper Posted

The NERC System Planning Impacts of Distributed Energy Resources Working Group (SPIDERWG) has developed a number of guidelines and studies relating to Distributed

Energy Resource (DER) integration. Tracking DERs will add a significant level of complexity to the planning process, stressing data fidelity, modeling accuracy and computational limitations. The [Recommendations for Simulation Improvement and Techniques Related to DER Planning White Paper](#) provides a distilled version of the NERC SPIDERWG recommendations that may be pertinent to power system software developers and outlines some of the related literature that may aid in developing further software improvements and techniques. ■■■

Standards

Webinar Resources Posted

NERC posted the [slide presentation](#) and [recording](#) from the Project 2020-03 Supply Chain Low Impact Revisions Industry Webinar.

NERC posted the [slide presentation](#) and [recording](#) from the Project 2021-07 Extreme Cold Weather Grid Operations, Preparedness, and Coordination webinar.

NERC posted the [slide presentation](#) and [recording](#) from the Project 2017-01– Modifications to BAL-003 Phase II webinar.

Update on Project 2021-07 – Extreme Cold Weather Grid Operations, Preparedness, and Coordination Update

The 2021-07 Standard Drafting Team drafted a technical reference document, [Calculating Extreme Cold Weather Temperature](#), which is available on the [project page](#). This document is an example of how to calculate the Extreme Cold Weather Temperature with NOAA weather data and is intended to support the revisions proposed by the drafting team in EOP-012-1.

Nomination Period Open for Standards Committee Special Election

Standards Committee (SC) Chair, Amy Casuscelli, notified NERC that the Segment 9: Federal, State and Provincial Regulatory or other Government Entities currently has a vacancy for the remainder of the 2021–2022 term. Nominations are being accepted through **September 6, 2022**, in preparation for a special election.

Registered Ballot Body (RBB) members and others interested in NERC Reliability Standards are encouraged to submit nominations for industry segment representatives on the SC. Reliability Standards are mandatory for all bulk power system owners, operators and users in North America, and the SC's oversight role is therefore increasingly important. The SC consists of two members from each of the ten Industry Segments that make up the RBB. In addition, Appendix 3B of the Rules of Procedure contains special provisions to be used to achieve a balance of representation between the United States and Canada. The SC is elected by industry stakeholders and reports directly to the NERC Board of Trustees. The SC meets up to twelve times each year with meetings usually being held virtually. The [Standards Committee Charter](#) provides a description of the SC's responsibilities.

Anyone may submit a nomination. To be eligible for nomination, a nominee shall be an employee or agent of an entity belonging in the applicable Segment. **To allow verification of affiliation, a nominee must be a registered user in the NERC RBB.** It is not required that the nominee be the same person as the entity's RBB representative for the applicable Segment. Instructions are provided in the [Election of Members of the NERC Standards Committee Procedure](#) and nomination forms are posted on the [Standards Committee Election web page](#). To submit a nomination, complete the [nomination form](#) and submit to [Katrina Blackley](#) no later than September 6, 2022. Once received, nominations will be posted on the SC's Nominations and Election web page.

The special election will be conducted **September 13–23, 2022**. Election results will be announced shortly after the election closes.

Nomination Period Open for Project 2022-04 – EMT Modeling SAR Drafting Team Members

NERC is seeking nominations for Project 2022-04 – EMT Modeling Standard Authorization Request (SAR) drafting team members through **8 p.m. Eastern, Tuesday, September 13, 2022**. NERC is seeking individuals who possess experience in electromagnetic transient (EMT)

modeling and studies, including Transmission Owners, Transmission Planners and Planning Coordinators.

The time commitment for this project is expected to be up to 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 review or drafting team sets forth. Team members may also have side projects, either individually or by subgroup, to present to the larger team for discussion and review. Lastly, an important component of the review and drafting team effort is outreach. Members of the team will be expected to conduct industry outreach during the development process to support a successful project outcome. 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 October 2022. Nominees will be notified shortly after they have been appointed. ■■■

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](#).

- Preparation for Severe Cold Weather Webinar – 1:00–4:30 p.m. Eastern, September 1, 2022 | [Register](#)
- Reliability and Security Technical Committee Meeting – September 13–14, 2022 | [Day 1 Registration](#) | [Day 2 Registration](#)
- Standards Committee Special Call – 3:00–4:00 p.m. Eastern, September 14, 2022 | [Register](#)

- Standards Committee Meeting – 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. Central, September 21, 2022, Austin | [Register](#)
- Monitoring and Situational Awareness Technical Conference Session 1 – September 22, 2022 | [Register](#) | [Agenda](#)
- Monitoring and Situational Awareness Technical Conference Session 2 – October 6, 2022 | [Register](#) | [Agenda](#)
- GridSecCon 2022 – October 18–19, 2022 | [Register](#)
- Monitoring and Situational Awareness Technical Conference Session 3 – October 20, 2022 | [Register](#) | [Agenda](#)
- [EPRI–NATF–NERC 2022 Annual Transmission Planning and Modeling Workshop](#) – November 2–3, 2022 | [Day 1 Registration](#) | [Day 2 Registration](#)



Regional Entity Events

Midwest Reliability Organization (MRO)

- [CMEP Advisory Council Monthly Call](#), September 13
- [MRO Compliance Monitoring & Enforcement Program Advisory Council Q3 Meeting](#), September 21
- [Organizational Group Oversight Committee](#), September 21
- [MRO Board of Directors Meeting](#), September 22
- [MRO Security Conference Training](#), October 4
- [MRO Security Conference](#), October 5
- [CMEP Advisory Council Monthly Call](#), October 11

NPCC

- [NPCC Fall 2022 Hybrid Compliance and Reliability Conference](#), November 9–10

ReliabilityFirst (RF)

- [Technical Talk with RF](#), September 12
- [Fall Workshop](#), September 27
- [Fall Workshop](#), September 28
- [Technical Talk with RF](#), October 24

SERC Reliability Corporation

- [System Operator Conference #3](#), September 20–22
- [SERC Risk Committee](#), September 21
- [SERC Board of Directors Meeting](#), September 22
- [Fall Reliability and Security Seminar](#), October 4–5
- [Extreme Weather Webinar](#), October 20
- [SERC Sponsored Physical Security Professional \(PSP\) Class](#), October 24–28
- [System Operator Conference #4](#), November 8–10

Texas RE

- [Talk with Texas RE Panhandle Wind Disturbance Report](#), September 15
- [Extreme Events Resiliency Workshop Day 1](#), September 20
- [Extreme Events Resiliency Workshop Day 2](#), September 21

WECC

- [Joint Guidance Committee Virtual Meeting](#), September 2
- [Resource Adequacy Series: Steel in the Ground Webinar](#), September 7
- [Annual Member Meeting](#), September 13
- [Member Advisory Council Meeting](#), September 13
- [Board of Directors Meeting](#), September 14
- [Winter Weather Readiness Virtual Meeting](#), September 15
- [Compliance Open Mic Virtual Meeting](#), September 15
- [Reliability Assessment Committee Virtual Meeting](#), September 22



Filings

NERC Filings to FERC in August

August 26

[Comments on Transmission System Planning](#) | NERC and the Regional Entities submitted comments on the FERC Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NOPR) regarding Transmission System Planning Performance Requirements for Extreme Weather.

August 23

[NERC 2023 Business Plan and Budget Filing](#) | NERC submitted this filing requesting acceptance of the 2023 Business Plans and Budgets of NERC, the six Regional Entities, and the Western Interconnection Regional Advisory Body and approval of the proposed assessments to fund the 2023 budgets.

August 17

[Comments on Transmission Planning NOPR](#) | NERC and the Regional Entities submitted comments on the FERC NOPR regarding Building for the Future Through Electric Regional Transmission Planning and Cost Allocation and Generator Interconnection.

August 15

[Compliance Filing in Response to January 2013 Order](#) | NERC submitted an unaudited report of NERC's budget-to-actual variance information for the second quarter 2022. 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.

NERC Canadian Filings to FERC in August

August 19

[NERC Second Quarter 2022 Application for Approval of Reliability Standards for Nova Scotia](#)

August 1

[National Energy Board GMD Filing](#) ■ ■ ■

Careers at NERC

Enforcement Analyst

Location: Washington, D.C.

[Details](#)

Procurement Manager

Location: Atlanta, GA

[Details](#) ■ ■ ■