

NERC News: January

ERO Executive Spotlight

Jim Robb,
NERC President and CEO



Looking Back, Planning for the Future

I joined NERC as CEO in April 2018 and am overwhelmed with how much has transpired over the past five years. The electric sector risk environment has rapidly evolved and is hyper complex, stemming from grid transformation, increasingly frequent extreme weather systems, escalating physical and cyber security threats, and, of course, COVID, which forced us to reimagine the way we work and engage with each other. I'm incredibly pleased with the **transformation** that the ERO Enterprise has undergone in a relatively short time under the dynamic risk and threat environment evolving across North America. Throughout 2022, NERC addressed the challenges facing our industry with numerous projects and outreach. A few highlights include:

- **Framing the key reliability challenges resulting from the changing resource mix through our reliability assessments.** We also engaged with key policymakers and stakeholders in state and federal governments to clearly convey the reliability challenges associated with grid transformation in a technical, non-ideological manner.
- **Expanding our outreach and engagement with non-utility sectors where risk issues are increasing (e.g., natural gas and renewable energy).** We focused our engagement on building awareness and trust as well as working to address emerging technical issues.
- **Providing visibility into compromises/threats.** The expansion of system monitoring services (CRISP and Neighborhood Keeper) improves the Electricity Information Sharing and Analysis Center's (E-ISAC) ability to conduct meaningful threat hunts. The E-ISAC also played a key role in supporting the Department of Energy's Energy Threat Analysis Center pilot, which (along with the Department of Homeland Security's Joint Cyber Defense Collaboration) promises to revolutionize threat identification and sharing between the intelligence community and the private sector.

ERO Enterprise

The ERO Enterprise came together more effectively and efficiently in 2022 by combining expertise and resources that exist throughout the organization. A few highlights include:

- **Upping our game on cyber security.** The ERO Enterprise's Information Technology and Security Group developed common mitigation approaches to address findings from a cyber security assessment, putting common tools in place, and adopting an Enterprise-wide data categorization protocol in support of our data loss prevention program.

- **Completing final phase of Align.** The final release of Align, the Enterprise-wide compliance monitoring and enforcement tool, for U.S. registered entities was completed. This provides a data and work management platform and sets a best practices model for driving higher levels of performance. In addition, we are learning how to work effectively with our National Institute of Standards and Technology-compliant Secure Evidence Locker.
- **Developing a facility ratings strategy.** The ERO Enterprise's Operations Leadership Team developed a comprehensive facility ratings strategy and tool kit to help industry improve performance in this key reliability area and foster broader engagement with industry.
- **Updating the ERO Enterprise long-term strategy.** The ERO Enterprise Executive Committee launched the review the *ERO Enterprise Long-Term Strategic Framework*, which was undertaken with the active involvement of more than 100 leaders across the Enterprise, to better meet future needs.

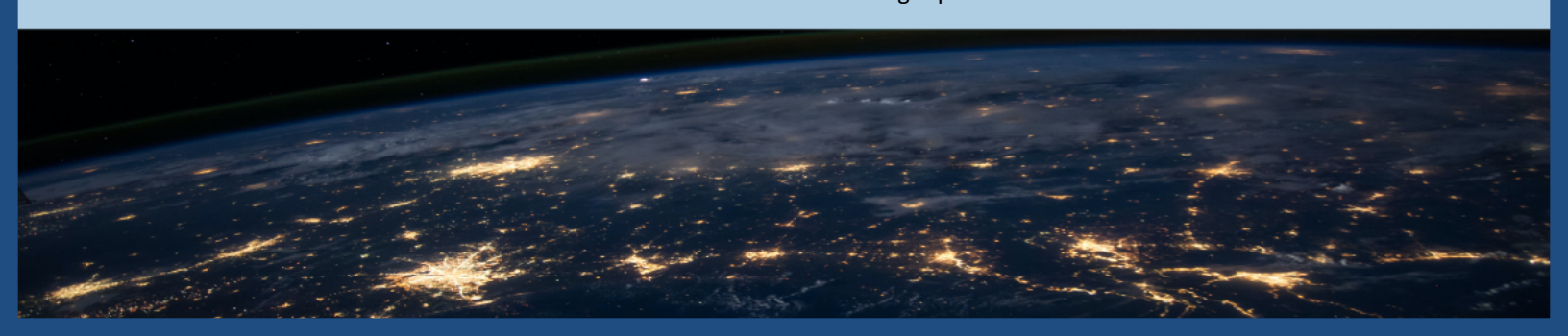
Our Future

In 2022, NERC developed identified four key focus areas—**Energy, Security, Agility, Sustainability**—and developed a three-year plan to outline projects/initiatives within those focus areas that will position NERC to meet the needs of our ever-changing industry in the years to come. A few highlights in those areas include:

Ensuring NERC has the resources to address emerging risks (reliability, security) while leveraging our key partners.

- Investing in our own infrastructure.
- Expanding analytics and modeling.
- Identifying responsive approaches to mitigating emerging risks, including use of a broader range of influence tools.
- Expanding the strength of the E-ISAC.

The second half of 2022 highlights how critical it is that the ERO and industry come together to identify real solutions to the very real issues we are facing—whether it's the continued large-scale inverter issues we have seen in Texas, the physical security events we have seen in North Carolina and the Pacific Northwest, or the challenges associated with extreme weather such as the Labor Day heat wave in the West or Winter Storm Elliott in December. The ERO Enterprise strives to help industry to get ahead of the rapidly changing issues facing our grid, while keeping our eyes on the perennial challenges facing our industry. We aspire to be the trusted source of information and provide ground-truth perspectives rooted in system engineering. In order to be effective, we must all work together to make this a reality, and I'm confident that we are on the right path in 2023.





Headlines

[Collaboration, Coordination Key to Assuring Reliability during Rapid Grid Transformation](#)

[Summit Focuses on Risks to Grid Reliability, Security](#)

[Statement on FERC Open Meeting](#)

[Statement on New FERC Acting Chairman](#)



Other NERC Activities

[Standards](#)

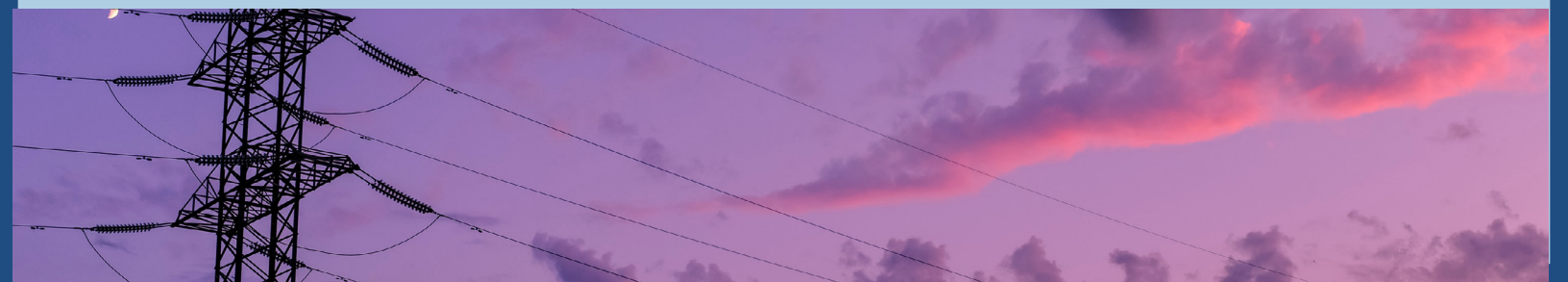
[Compliance and Enforcement](#)

[Event Analysis, Reliability Assessment and Performance Analysis Highlights](#)

[E-ISAC](#)

Filings

[NERC Filings](#)
[Canadian Filings](#)





Events Across the ERO Enterprise

NERC
NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC
RELIABILITY CORPORATION



MRO

SERC SERC



NPCC



TEXAS RE



ReliabilityFirst



WECC



Work at NERC

Current opportunities:

Counsel
Location: Remote/Hybrid

Senior Engineer, Reliability Assessments
Location: Remote/Hybrid

Contracts Coordinator
Location: Remote/Hybrid

Senior Data Scientist
Location: Remote/Hybrid



Reliability | Resilience | Security

