

A DIVISION OF NERC



# E-ISAC

ELECTRICITY  
INFORMATION SHARING AND ANALYSIS CENTER

# E-ISAC Operations

Manny Cancel, NERC Sr. Vice President and E-ISAC CEO  
Technology and Security Committee Open Meeting  
February 15, 2023

**TLP:CLEAR**

**RELIABILITY | RESILIENCE | SECURITY**





- 2022 Review
- Threat Briefing
- Cybersecurity Risk Information Sharing Program (CRISP)
- Vendor Affiliate Program

- Complex Geopolitical Landscape
  - Russian Ukraine conflict presents unique challenges
  - China remains active
  - Iran, North Korea, and others look for opportunities
- E-ISAC Response
  - Tri-Sector Coordination (Energy, Finance, and Communications)
  - “SHIELDS UP”
  - ERO Crisis Action Plan





- Protecting Physical Infrastructure
  - Security Incidents in Q3 2022
  - U.S. midterm elections
  - Drones a major challenge
- E-ISAC Response
  - All-Points Bulletins
  - Special topic briefings and training
  - Physical Security Advisory Group
  - Quarterly and Monthly reports
  - Physical Security Resource Guide
  - Future webinars





- Cyber Security Threats
  - Emergence of new IT and OT threats
    - Industroyer2
    - Incontroller/Pipedream
    - BadVIBE(s) VMware
    - European wind turbine cyber events
- E-ISAC Response
  - Energy Threat Analysis Center (ETAC) Participation
  - New Cyber Security Advisory Group (CSAG)





- 2022 activities focused on membership expansion, outreach across the E-ISAC community, and improved information sharing
  - GridEx VI Lessons Learned Report
  - CRISP growth
  - New E-ISAC Portal
  - Vendor Affiliate Program
  - Industry Engagement Program
  - GridSecCon 2022



- 3% of physical security incidents shared with E-ISAC between 2020-2022, resulted in outages or other grid impacts
- Notable increase in Q3-Q4 2022 compared to baseline trends over the past 18 months
- Recent increase in ballistic damage, intrusion/tampering, vandalism
- Notable increase in repeat and clustered incidents



- Sharing information in a timely manner, with consent from the affected member
- Tracking incidents for further analysis
- Providing recommendations and analyst comments - enhancing lessons learned for other members
  - TLP:GREEN - Physical Security Resource Guide for Electricity Asset Owners and Operators
- When applicable, coordinating with federal, state, and local partners
  - National Counter Terrorism Center (NCTC)
  - FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF)
  - Threat briefings
  - Member group calls





- Improve partnership with state/local law enforcement and regulators
- Encourage all entities to share data regarding physical security incidents with the E-ISAC and law enforcement
- FERC has directed NERC to conduct an assessment of physical security landscape and provide recommendations for any needed adjustments to CIP-014
- Assess protections in place against a coordinated attack (physical or cyber) and determine what next tranche of protection investments gain in risk reduction versus cost

- Attacks on Service Providers
  - Engineering firm compromise exposes industry data
  - Communications vendor compromise impacts business operations
  - Timeliness of vendor disclosures
- Ransomware
  - Exploiting legacy vulnerabilities
  - Targeting small and medium utilities
- Exposed ICS Devices on the internet
  - Devices found using Shodan
  - Guidance to identify devices issued



- Anticipated winter pro-Russia activity
  - Continued Russian physical/cyber attacks against Ukrainian energy
  - Russian military destructive and ransomware cyber activity in Poland
  - Amplified Russian disinformation around increased energy costs
  - Killnet DDoS activity
- Continued scanning and targeting by China
  - Top Common Vulnerabilities exploited by China advisory
  - Compromise of digital certificate authorities in Asia



- 2022 program year in review
- 14% increase in new participants year over year
- Completed CRISP — Essence Integration Pilot in December 2022
- Five Year Strategy — 2023 Milestones
- Technology update
- DOE investing in new sensor suite
- Natural gas expansion in partnership with DOE and American Gas Association

- **Purpose:** The Vendor Affiliate Program brings together security/OEM vendors and member utilities to collaborate upon vulnerabilities, risks, and mitigation best practices
- 2022 Vendor Affiliate Program Partners
  - Silver: Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories and Axio
  - Bronze: Siemens Energy, Nozomi Networks, 1898 & Co.
- U.S. Chamber of Commerce Supply Chain Working Group
- 2023 Engagement Opportunities
  - Portal Access (Read and Post)
  - Vendor Working Groups / Quarterly Meetings
  - Participation in: Monthly Briefings, IEPs, GridSecCon, GridEx



- Revenue-Based Program Model
- Revenue will be Reinvested to:
  - Self-Fund Vendor Affiliate Program
  - Offset cost of other E-ISAC programs, services, and technology
- Program Growth Plan
  - 2022 — 5 vendors
  - 2023 — 15 vendors
  - 2024 — 30 vendors
- \$87,000 Total Committed Revenue





NERC, the E-ISAC, and NPCC are co-hosting the 12<sup>th</sup> annual GridSecCon in Québec City, Canada, on October 17–20

- Conference and hotel registration will open in May
- Exhibitor/Sponsorship information and Call for Abstracts coming soon
- For more information or assistance, please contact [events@eisac.com](mailto:events@eisac.com)



- GridEx VII will take place on November 14–16, 2023
  - Distributed Play (E-ISAC members and partners), November 14–15, 2023
    - Audience: E-ISAC members and partners, to include electricity industry, government agencies, other relevant organizations
    - Registration for GridEx VII is now open to E-ISAC members and partners with Portal access at [www.register4gridex.eisac.com](http://www.register4gridex.eisac.com)
  - Executive Tabletop (invitation only), November 16, 2023
    - Audience: industry and government executives from the ESCC, EGCC, and impacted entities
- Email questions to [GridEx@eisac.com](mailto:GridEx@eisac.com)



A map of North America is shown in a light blue color. A darker blue horizontal band is superimposed across the middle of the map, passing through the United States. The text 'Questions and Answers' is centered within this band.

## Questions and Answers

# NERC

NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC  
RELIABILITY CORPORATION

# ERO Enterprise Business Technology Update

Stan Hoptroff, Vice President, Business Technology

Dee Humphries, Director, Project Management Office

Technology and Security Committee Open Meeting

February 15, 2023

**RELIABILITY | RESILIENCE | SECURITY**



- NERC Business Continuity Program (BCP) - Sustainability, Corporate Risk Reduction
- Align Update
- Security Advisory Group (SAG)
- Critical Skills Update

- BCP Plan Purpose
- BCP Team
- Inputs and Influences
- Regional Engagement
- Scenarios

- Ensure organizational resilience
- Safeguard business critical operations
- Protect employees and stakeholders

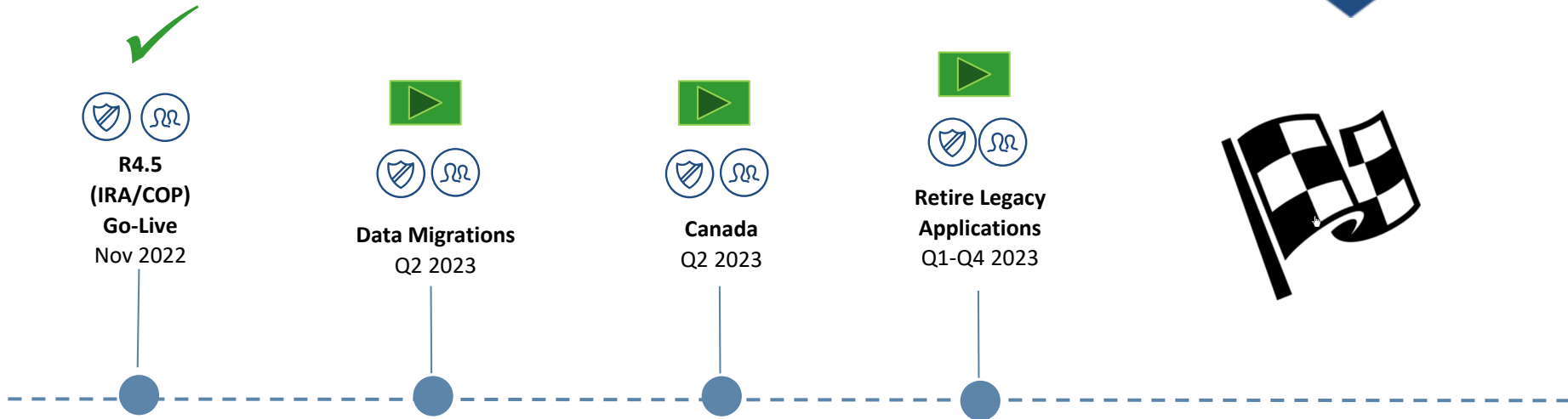
- Dee Humphries, BCP Champion
- Stephanie Lawrence, BCP Administration
- Internal Support Team: Represented by critical business functions
- Crisis Management Team: NERC Officers and key employees

- Documentation
  - Policy
  - Department level response plans
  - Business Impact Analysis of processes and systems
  - Crisis Management contact list and resources
  - Incident Response Plan and Ransomware Framework
- Emergency Communications Approach
  - NERC Communications Team
  - Satellite phone communications technology
  - Emergency alert system – Send Word Now
- Outside Counsel and Other Experts

- Regional Entity CEOs invited to participate in scenarios
- Share lessons learned
- Determine ERO Enterprise BCP framework



- Definition: Tabletop exercise
- Frequency: Twice per year
- Post-tabletop reviews
- Recent scenarios
- Upcoming scenarios



**AUDIENCE IMPACT KEY**



Registered  
Entities



ERO  
Enterprise  
Staff

 *In progress*

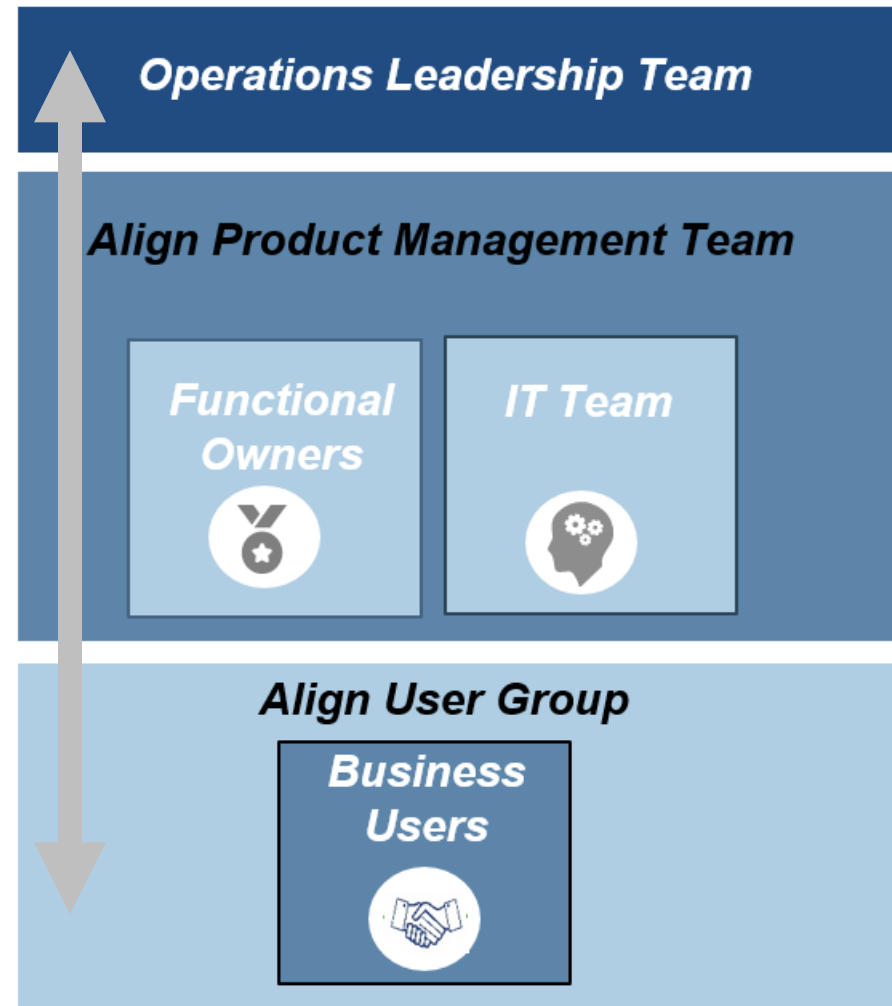
 *Complete*

*“For the first time, we now have one purpose-built system that supports all of our CMEP work from end to end.”*

- Steve Noess, Vice President, Reliability & Security Oversight, WECC

- Feedback Received
  - Align easy to use and navigate
  - Additional training needed
  - Additional enhancements requested
  - ERO SEL secure but inconvenient
- December 5, 2022 Training Webinar
  - More than 400 participants
  - Questions focused on SEL and data submittal; very few on Align
- Current Activities
  - Vetting enhancements
  - Planning additional training

- **Operations Leadership Team (OLT):** Align Steering Committee will transition duties to OLT in Q2 2023, after Canada and data migrations are complete
- **Product Management Team:** Meeting quarterly; OLT approved three-year roadmap in January
- **Align User Group:** Currently engaged and meeting quarterly; determining priorities



- In-person meeting
- ERO SEL Roadmap
- Additional National Institute of Standards and Technology frameworks

- **Cyber Security**
  - Quality Assurance
  - Cloud Computing
  - Analytics
- **Application Development**
  - Technology Success Support
  - Project and Vendor Management



# Questions and Answers

# **Background and Reference Material**



Moving to a common platform has provided:

- **A more secure** method of managing and storing Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program (CMEP) data
- Alignment of **common business processes**, ensuring consistent practices and data gathering
- A **standardized interface** for registered entities to interact with the ERO Enterprise
- **Real-time access to information**, eliminating delays and manual communications
- **Consistent application** of the CMEP
- **Ease of Access:** Ability to download all standards and requirements for use in other systems