

Announcement

Change, Security Standards and Summer Reliability Outlook Key Topics at Board Meeting

May 9, 2024

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Embracing change — focusing on the rapidly changing grid and the resource and capability shifts needed to keep up with those changes — was a key topic at NERC’s quarterly Board of Trustees meeting today.

Opening remarks were made by Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Commissioners Mark Christie and Allison Clements; Patricia Hoffman, principal deputy director of the Department of Energy’s (DOE) Grid Deployment Office; and Derek Olmstead, administrator and chief executive officer (CEO) of the Alberta Market Surveillance Administrator and CAMPUT representative.

The FERC commissioners urged NERC to continue being the independent voice for reliability and its challenges. Christie emphasized the need for sufficient energy resources and stressed NERC’s important reliability assessments. Clements described the complexities of grid transformation and the importance of forward-looking transmission planning and called upon NERC to keep pace with reliability challenges.

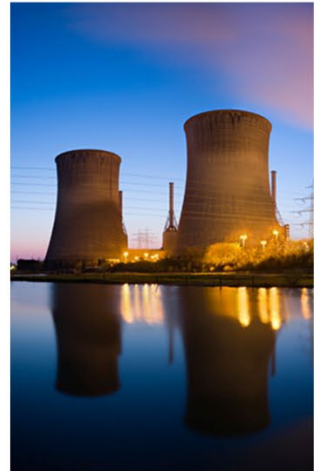
Hoffman surveyed DOE’s work in support of the nation’s transmission needs, indicating that the agency is pursuing every available authority under recently enacted legislation. Olmstead complimented NERC for its collaboration with Canadian energy regulators and reflected on a recent engagement in Calgary with NERC trustees and senior leadership.

Following the opening remarks, NERC President and CEO Jim Robb shared that NERC continues to adapt to meet the challenges of a transforming grid, optimizing resources and realigning the organization to be nimbler and better reflect priorities. Robb also noted the upcoming retirements of **Manny Cancel**, senior vice president and CEO of the Electricity Information Sharing and Analysis Center, and **Stan Hoptroff**, vice president of Business Technology; and the addition of **Camilo Serna**, NERC’s new senior vice president of Strategy and External Engagement.

CONTACT:
Communications@nerc.net



3353 Peachtree Road NE
Suite 600, North Tower
Atlanta, GA 30326
404-446-2560 | www.nerc.com



“With these changes on the Executive team, we had an opportunity to realign our business areas a bit to gain efficiencies and increase capability. These realignments will move us successfully forward in our highly complex, ever-changing industry,” Robb said. “NERC is doing the work needed to ensure we have the capabilities and resources in place to evolve at the same rapid pace.”

The changes include:

- **Kelly Hanson, Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer.** This title accurately reflects Hanson’s focus on resources and planning, leveraging technology to improve processes and creating a culture that puts people first.
- **Sonia Rocha, Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary.** Rocha’s role will concentrate on corporate governance and business assurance initiatives. Her core functional areas are Legal, Corporate Secretary, Enterprise-Wide Risk Management, and Internal Audit oversight.
- **Howard Gugel, Vice President, Regulatory Oversight.** Gugel will now provide Enforcement oversight in addition to his Compliance Assurance and Registration roles. The Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program is core to the NERC’s mission, and this change brings compliance activities into greater alignment. Gugel will also take on the leadership role for the ERO Enterprise’s Operations Leadership Team.

Board Action

The Board adopted two standards projects: Project 2016-02 – Modifications to Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP) Standards and Project 2023-03 – Internal Network Security Monitoring.

- **Project 2016-02** proposes revisions to 11 CIP Reliability Standards and the associated new and revised Glossary of Terms definitions required to enable entities to use virtualized technologies for Bulk Electric System (BES) Cyber Systems securely. The proposed revisions are an important step toward accommodating newer technologies, imparting a degree of “future proofing” to the CIP Reliability Standards to allow response to the fast-changing pace of technology.
- **Project 2023-03** develops requirements for internal network security monitoring of all high-impact BES Cyber Systems and medium-impact BES Cyber Systems with external routable connectivity, as directed by FERC’s January 2023 Order 887. These requirements will ensure detection of network activity indicative of an attack, increase the probability of early detection and allow for quicker mitigation and recovery from an attack.

In addition, the Board approved Morenike Miles (Dominion Energy) as the new vice chair of the Reliability Issues Steering Committee and Todd Lucas (Southern Company) as the Sector 1: Investor-Owned Utility representative to the Reliability and Security Technical Committee.

Other Activities

Prior to the MRC and Board meetings, a technical session featured updates on three upcoming reports and two key work plan priority topics. The technical sessions strive to highlight NERC activities and allow for open discussion with stakeholders.

Participants received previews on the *2024 Summer Reliability Assessment* (expected release: May 15); the *2024 State of Reliability Assessment* (expected release: early June); and the *Interregional Transfer Capability Study Overview*, the first of four reports planned in response to the congressionally mandated study (expected release: mid-June).

In addition, Tom Wilson, senior program manager with the Electric Power Research Institute, provided an update on electrification, including key drivers of load growth, the potential pace of change, regional variations and key uncertainties. Darrell Moore, NERC's director of Bulk Power System Awareness, followed with an update on situational awareness in Q2 2024, noting that no widespread, significant events were observed or reported on the bulk power system. Moore also pointed out that there was no impact to the grid from the April 8 solar eclipse, largely due to proactive planning by system operators.

Board presentations are located on the [Board of Trustees](#) agenda page on the [NERC website](#). The next Board of Trustees meeting will take place August 15, 2024, in Vancouver, Canada.

###

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.