

Announcement

Board Initiates Standards Modernization Task Force, Elects New Chair, Bids Farewell to Longtime Trustee

February 13, 2025

MIAMI – The NERC Board of Trustees began its first meeting of 2025 by establishing a standards modernization task force, approving three resolutions for outstanding service and electing a new Board chair and vice chair.

Ken DeFontes, outgoing Board chair, opened the meeting by reflecting on the accomplishments during his chairmanship.

“We have accomplished so much over the past four years — I couldn’t have imagined it was even possible,” DeFontes said. “We were able to do this because of the commitment of the Board, Jim Robb, the NERC team and our stakeholders. This is one of the most special boards I’ve ever served on, and I look forward to continuing to serve.”

The Board issued a resolution establishing the Modernize Standards Process and Procedures Task Force to initiate a strategic review of the Reliability Standards development process ensuring that standards can be developed in a more efficient and effective manner to better address a complex and rapidly evolving risk landscape. The Board appointed Greg Ford, president and chief executive officer (CEO) of Georgia System Operations Corporation, to serve as chair and Todd Lucas, vice president of Transmission Operations and Policy at Southern Company, as vice chair of the task force.

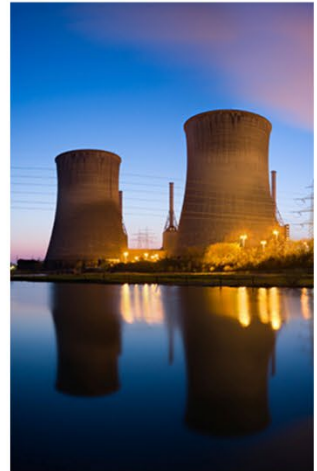
“The task force must be open to all possibilities — take a clean-slate approach and ensure everything is on the table, including processes, balloting, drafting and the role of the various committees,” said incoming Board Chair Suzanne Keenan. “There are important guiding principles that must be retained — the collaborative stakeholder-based nature of the process with reasonable notice and opportunity for public comment, due process, openness and balance of interests in developing Reliability Standards consistent with NERC’s obligations.”

Keenan and George Hawkins were elected by the Board as chair and vice chair, and Jane Allen, Ken DeFontes and Colleen Sidford were elected to new three-year Board terms by the Member Representatives Committee (MRC). New [Board committee assignments](#) were also announced.

CONTACT:
Communications@nerc.net



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



The Board also approved three additional resolutions — all for outstanding service — to Ken DeFontes for his tenure as Board chair; Bob Clarke for his 12 years on the NERC Board; and Stan Hoptroff, who is retiring after 10 years as vice president of Business Technology.

Opening remarks were provided by Armando Pimentel, president and CEO, Florida Power & Light Company; Tricia Pridemore, commissioner, Georgia Public Service Commission and president of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners; and Derek Olmstead, president and CEO, Alberta Market Surveillance Administrator and CAMPUT representative to NERC.

Before providing his remarks, NERC President and CEO Jim Robb asked for a moment of silence to commemorate those who lost their lives or a lifetime of memories during recent tragedies around the country: Hurricanes Milton and Helene, the California wildfires, and the recent aviation crash near Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport.

Robb highlighted actions taken to achieve NERC's 2024 work plan priorities, noting considerable progress achieved through partnership, collaboration and hard work over the past year. Highlights of these accomplishments are featured in two videos — NERC's Year-in-Review: [Driving Reliability and Shaping our Future](#) and the [E-ISAC End-of-Year Report](#).

"These videos describe our 2024 work plan priorities in an engaging, accessible way — something stakeholders have told us they want," Robb said. "I encourage you all to view them and see how much work we have accomplished together."

The Board also approved work plans submitted by its technical and procedural committees and received a standards update. Soo Jin Kim, vice president of Engineering and Standards, briefed the Board on the status of Project 2024-03 – Revisions to EOP-012-2 – Extreme Cold Weather Preparedness and Operations, noting that the standard is posted for comment under Section 321 guidelines. Previously, the Board opted to invoke Section 321 of the Rules of Procedure, for the second time, to ensure that the standard would make FERC's March filing deadline.

"We've learned a lot since we first invoked 321 action in the fall; in particular, the value of conducting technical conferences early in the development process, bringing experts together more often and providing more conference and workshops to try and forge agreement earlier," Robb said. "However, we also are committed to our collaborative stakeholder process. The Standards Committee, along with the drafting team and NERC staff, are working diligently to meet FERC's deadline and want your feedback on the revisions currently out for industry comment."

More Information

Board presentations can be found on the on the [NERC website](#) on the Board of Trustees [agenda page](#). The next Board of Trustees meeting is May 7–8 with a hybrid format. MRC and Board members will participate in person, while all observers will be virtual.

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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.