

North American Transmission Forum External Newsletter

October 2018

External Modeling Reference Document Posted for Industry

We recently posted version 2.0 of the “NATF EMS External Modeling Reference Document” to our [public website](#). The document provides guidance to those working to improve performance of their EMS external models. The intended audience for the document is persons with responsibility for developing and maintaining EMS models for real-time state estimator and real-time contingency analysis.

Cyber Security Supply Chain Risk Management White Paper and Guidance

The NATF shared its “NATF Supply Chain Risk Management Guidance” and “NATF CIP-013-1 Implementation Guidance” documents with the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) Board of Trustees in August. The documents were drafted in response to an August 2017 NERC board resolution requesting industry assistance via white papers.

Both documents are available on the NATF [public website](#) for industry use. The “NATF Supply Chain Risk Management Guidance” document (white paper), which describes practices for establishing and implementing a supply chain cyber security risk management plan, is also posted on NERC’s [Supply Chain Risk Mitigation Program page](#), while the “NATF CIP-013-1 Implementation Guidance” document is posted on NERC’s [Compliance Guidance page](#) and is pending review for consideration as ERO-endorsed implementation guidance.

Redacted Operating Experience Reports

Since our last newsletter, we have posted five reports to our [public site](#) for members and other utilities to use internally and share with their contractors to help improve safety, reliability, and resiliency.

New MOU with the Utilities Technology Council

The NATF and the Utilities Technology Council (UTC) recently executed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to leverage their collective knowledge, minimize duplication of effort, and promote collaboration in related efforts to provide timely support to energy owners/operators for the planning, management, and operation of the electric transmission system. The intended collaboration is expected to help facilitate greater responsiveness to the needs of the industry generally, the NATF and UTC memberships, electric power customers, and the public.

For more information about the UTC, please visit <https://utc.org/>.

NATF CEO Participates in FERC Technical Conference

NATF President and CEO Tom Galloway served as a panelist during the [July 31 FERC technical conference](#) regarding the Bulk-Power System. Galloway appreciated the opportunity to provide perspectives on resiliency during panel II (“Advancing Reliability and Resilience of the Grid”), which focused on power system planning and operations challenges and opportunities resulting from the changing generation resource mix.

Program Overview: Assistance

The NATF Assistance Program continues to be a popular and practical option to help our members with specific reliability topics or issues and identifies solutions that will improve reliability, security, and performance. A request for assistance may originate from an issue or problem, an event or near miss, or as a result of a current project for which the member would benefit from an independent review.

The program offers flexibility to meet member needs and timelines, with a goal of promoting operational excellence and continuous improvement. All services and products (e.g., onsite visit, webinars, surveys) offered by the NATF are considered when determining the best approach for meeting the member's request.

One example is an assistance visit, which can be onsite or virtual based on member needs, where requesting members receive subject-matter expert input via meetings or conference calls and a final report with suggested actions or recommendations. Some topics covered to-date include switching, control center operations, critical switchyard assessments, security, and system protection.

Program Update: Peer Reviews

In 2018, the NATF marked the 11th year of the Peer Review Program. We conducted the first NATF peer review in October 2008 and are approaching 90 reviews total, with participation from over 1000 member experts.

An NATF peer review is an evaluation of a member company's procedures, practices, and processes—for up to nine technical areas—by a group of subject-matter experts and peers from other NATF members. Concluding each peer review, the member company receives an exit presentation that highlights strengths, noteworthy items, and recommendations for improvement.

The program, which has continually evolved and matured, includes a follow-up aspect where, at the six-month and one-year (post review) timeframes, NATF staff and host members discuss and track the "realized value" the hosts are receiving (i.e., the implementation and resulting improvements from the peer-review recommendations).

Workshops and Meetings

In addition to regular web conferences, NATF working groups hold annual workshops and in-person meetings. Recent and upcoming activities include:

- Operator Training "Train the Trainer" Workshop (August)
- Substations Equipment and Asset Management Workshop (September)
- Human Performance Improvement Workshop (September)
- System Operations Workshop (October)
- Underground Cable Systems Working Group Meeting (October)
- Vegetation Management Workshop (October)
- Transmission-Nuclear Interface Workshop (November)

For more information about the NATF, please visit www.natf.net.