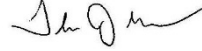


TO: NERC Board of Trustees (BOT)

FROM: T.J. Galloway, NATF President and CEO



SUBJECT: NATF Periodic Update to the NERC BOT – February 2015

Attachments: 1. Summary of NATF / NERC Coordination Topics
2. NATF near term focus and activities

The North American Transmission Forum (NATF) mission is to promote excellence in the reliable operation of the electric transmission system, with the vision to see reliability continuously improve. As such, the NATF shares many common objectives with NERC. To advance these common objectives, and avoid redundant or conflicting efforts, we have undertaken periodic (roughly quarterly) coordination meetings between the senior leadership of both organizations. The next such meeting is scheduled for January 30, 2015. A summary of the coordination topics and NATF status/actions are presented as attachment 1.

In addition to specific points of coordination, the NATF has a number of activities underway that benefit reliability, security, and resiliency that are likely of interest to the NERC BOT. These activities and initiatives are detailed in attachment 2.

cc:

NERC: G. Cauley, M. Lauby, J. Merlo, A. Koch
NATF: R. Carter, K. Berent, C. Sills, Letter Log

Attachment 1 - Summary NATF / NERC Strategic Coordination Topics

Topic	NATF Status / Details
345 kV Breaker Alert and follow up activities	Coordination with NATF members and various other groups to promote awareness of NERC 345 kV breaker Advisory and related industry status. Final update was provided in the August 2014 BOT.
Protection System Mis-operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NATF has a longstanding system protection practices group. • A formal NATF initiative was created specifically to help reduce Mis-operations by performing detailed analysis of data from a member subset. • Principle causes identified matched those of the MisOp task force, namely: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Relay setting errors ○ Communication channel problems ○ Relay failures • Several contributors were identified to these causes, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Application and setting of Directional Comparison Blocking Schemes ○ Failure rates of electro-mechanical relays ○ Complexity, knowledge/skills gaps regarding micro-processor settings ○ Impedance modeling, quality checks and lack of relay setting templates • NATF has created several related working groups (WGs) and is developing, implementing, and reinforcing related “superior practices”. Current WGs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Powerline Carrier Application / Maintenance ○ Short Circuit Impedance Modeling ○ Relay Settings Training ○ DC Trip Circuit Design and Maintenance ○ Mis-operations Data and Analysis ○ Relay failure (later in 2015)
Security (Cyber and Physical)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CIP-014, R1 Guide developed, shared with NERC, posted for industry use. • CIP-014 R4, 5 Guides under development. • Longstanding, active, and well-attended security practices group. • In October 2013 a physical security work group was added. • Cyber/Physical are both standard parts of NATF peer review scope. • Project team efforts produced a comprehensive CIPV5 implementation guide. • Active member coordination is ongoing for CIP-014 implementation. • Joint NATF/EEI CIP-014 workshops October 30th and Nov 5th. • Significant increases planned regarding NATF security related assistance visits. • NATF staff observed a CRPA. Similar NATF assistance are planned in 2015.
Risk Based Compliance Assurance Initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk/Controls (R/C) has been a topic of heavy focus over the last two years. • Risk/Controls were added as a standard peer review element in 2013. • R/C focus has evolved to a broader focus of Governance, Risk, and Controls. • NATF evaluating “endorsing” certain aspects of members GRC programs.
Modeling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two NATF Modeling practices were shared with NERC (January 2014) to preclude the need for NERC/Technical Committees to generate similar documents. These documents are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Generator specifications for planning, Ops, and real-time ○ Power flow modeling reference document

Topic	NATF Status / Details
Geomagnetic Disturbance (GMD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NATF administered detailed member surveys to better gauge member understanding of GMD and actions towards mitigation. Generic results were shared with NERC GMDTF to help hone focus. • Conducted two GMD workshops (October 2013 and February 2014). • Ongoing, periodic coordination with the GMDTF to preclude duplication.
Facilities Rating Alert follow-up activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Superior practices drafted for ongoing ROW maintenance.

Attachment 2 - Other NATF Near-Term Focus and Activities

NATF / EPRI Collaborations

- Conducted a comprehensive Resiliency Summit October 7-8
- Using a comprehensive, “all hazards” approach including:
 - Severe Weather
 - Cyber / Physical Security
 - GMD/EMP/IEMI
 - Single point / common mode failures
 - Severe workforce reduction / pandemic
- Equipment Performance and Maintenance
 - Shared insights on failure rates, causes, and corrective actions
- Strategy Sessions: Grid Operations and Planning Synergies

NATF / INPO Collaborations

- Shared Operating Experience / LOOP Reductions (IER 13-53)
- Nuclear plant switchyard self-assessment tools
- Emergency power runtime / fuel supply replenishment / Blackstart
- Joint NATF/EPRI/INPO Summit: Transmission – Nuclear Switchyard (May 2015)

Other / General

- Systematic interaction with Members / ERO on Reliability Assurance Initiative (RAI)
 - Sharing of Key Principles and Lessons Learned
 - Strong Risk / Controls focus in Peer Reviews
 - Preparing Members for risk-focused audits
 - Interacting with ERO Staff (workshops, etc.)
- NATF 2015 Peer Review Program fully integrates:
 - Risk Assessment and Internal Controls
 - Human Performance Error Reduction
 - Operating Experience Exchange
 - Physical Security
- Other recently completed / near term activities:
 - Human Performance Symposium
 - System Operations – EMS focus
 - Vegetation management – detailed benchmarking / compliance template
 - Cold weather webinar
 - Using a comprehensive peer challenge board concept for selected member events