

North American Transmission Forum External Newsletter

January 2023

New NATF-EPRI Resilience Definition

The Resilience Steering Group, which includes representation from both the NATF and EPRI, has created a new NATF-EPRI definition of resilience. Development included a thorough review of available resilience definitions and frameworks with intentional incorporation of common terms and concepts. The new definition will guide NATF and EPRI collective and respective work in resilience and can serve as a point of convergence through use by organizations across the electricity subsector.

The original (2017) definition was limited to transmission resilience. While transmission entities are a special focus for the NATF, we recognize many of our members and other utilities include business units beyond transmission, including generation, distribution, or both. In addition, many entities approach resilience holistically, so an overall definition for the electricity subsector aligns with and realizes efficiencies from that approach.

New definition:

The ability of the system and its components (both equipment and human) to (1) **prepare** for, (2) **anticipate**, (3) **absorb**, (4) **adapt** to, and (5) **recover** from non-routine disruptions, including high impact-low frequency (HILF) events, in a reasonable amount of time

Where:

1. **Prepare** involves both longer-term mitigation strategies (e.g., system hardening, sparing strategies/acquisition) and shorter-term preparations (e.g., reconfigurations, staging)
2. **Anticipate** provides situational awareness before and during an event
3. **Absorb** requires inherent robustness of the system and supporting processes during an event
4. **Adapt** entails flexibility and scalability of the system and supporting processes during an event
5. **Recover** relates to response and recovery activities during an event

The *Understanding the Definition of Resilience* companion document expounds on the implications and application of this definition and is posted to the NATF [public website](#) for industry use.

NATF-EPRI-NERC Transmission Resilience Summit

Industry leaders and subject-matter experts engaged in resilience activities are encouraged to mark your calendars and plan to attend the 2023 NATF-EPRI-NERC Transmission Resilience Summit on May 17, 2023, in Tempe, Arizona, hosted by Salt River Project at its PERA facility. The theme of the summit will be climate resilience. Detailed agenda planning is underway, and registration information will be published shortly.

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NATF Framework for Addressing Grid Transformation

Grid transformation is one of the four risk profiles of the *2021 ERO Reliability Risk Priorities Report*. The NATF defines grid transformation as “the modification of processes for planning, constructing, and operating the bulk electric system due to increased penetration of variable energy resources and changing load behaviors.” Significant, rapid deployment of renewable resources, the bulk of which will be inverter-based devices, combined with the body of knowledge yet to be developed, suggests that grid transformation may be the most significant issue to be managed by the electricity industry over the next 30 years.

The NATF has a framework that helps us recognize problem statements related to grid transformation, identify which problem statements should be within NATF scope and which would best be left to others, and create scope statements for projects to address the problem statements. The NATF’s focus on promoting excellence in the safe, reliable, secure, and resilient operation of the electric transmission system is infused in the framework’s nine domains (modeling; planning; operations; emergency response and system restoration; construction and capacity; inverter behavior; interconnection requirements; load behaviors; and data communications, computing, and security) and related projects.

Scorable Version of NATF Supply Chain Risk Questionnaire Now Available

Based on industry feedback, the NATF has developed a scorable version of the *Energy Sector Supply Chain Risk Questionnaire* to provide an optional format for entities to help assess supply chain risk. This optional format provides all the same questions as the existing questionnaire but adds the ability for entities to provide their own per-question score and weight to a completed questionnaire. This flexible approach allows entities to adjust weights to reflect their unique needs or priorities while allowing for the consistent evaluation of multiple responses. No prescribed thresholds or requirements are made by the NATF, and all scores are provided by the entities themselves.

This new version is posted on the NATF’s public [Supply Chain Cyber Security Industry Coordination](#) site. Use the “Scorable Option” link to the right of *Energy Sector Supply Chain Risk Questionnaire V3.0*.

Annual Supply Chain Criteria and Questionnaire Revision Process Underway

The annual revision process for the *NATF Supply Chain Security Criteria* and the *Energy Sector Supply Chain Risk Questionnaire* is now underway, providing the opportunity for industry-wide inputs. The revision process, the criteria, and the questionnaire are posted on the NATF’s public [Supply Chain Cyber Security Industry Coordination site](#). The process is open to industry, suppliers, regulators, and other stakeholders.

These tools are useful for risk management and compliance efforts. Both the criteria and the questionnaire are incorporated into the ERO Enterprise-endorsed implementation guidance documents for CIP-013 (available on the NERC website and the NATF public website):

- [NATF CIP-013 Implementation Guidance: Using Independent Assessments of Vendors](#)
- [NATF CIP-013 Implementation Guidance: Supply Chain Risk Management Plans](#)

These documents support using the criteria and questionnaire in a risk-based manner, where the entity determines which criteria or questions apply for a procurement.

Suppliers are working to have a complete set of responses ready and available upon request. To support suppliers in this endeavor, the criteria or questionnaire should not be modified. After receiving a complete set of responses, entities can determine which of the criteria or question responses need to be considered in the risk assessment for the procurement.

As the criteria and questionnaire are mechanisms to drive convergence on information needed so suppliers can have responses ready, it is important that the information you need to conduct risk analyses is included!

Input on the criteria and questionnaire can be submitted to supplychain@natf.net until close of business February 17 for consideration in the 2023 review cycle.

As a reminder: The criteria and questionnaire are mapped to the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) frameworks; and are also mapped to other security frameworks that are certified or assessed by a qualified third-party.

Supplier Sharing Calls

The NATF is hosting a webinar series (“supplier sharing calls”) exclusively for suppliers for the purpose of improving security practices through supplier mentoring. The value for the industry is improved supplier cyber security practices and risk reduction.

The meetings are being held bi-monthly, with the next call scheduled for January 25 from 1:00–2:30 pm eastern. Please encourage attendance from suppliers who are looking to improve their cyber security practices or could serve as mentors to other suppliers. For more information or to obtain an invitation, please contact supplychain@natf.net.

EMS External Modeling Reference Document Posted for Industry

The NATF has posted version 3.0 of the *NATF EMS External Modeling Reference Document* to our [public website](#) for the benefit of the industry.

The document provides guidance to improve performance of EMS external models. The document is intended for personnel with responsibility for development and maintenance of EMS models for real-time state estimator and real-time contingency analysis.

For more information about the NATF, please visit <https://www.natf.net/>.