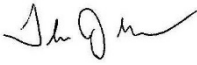


To: NERC Board of Trustees (BOT)
From: Thomas J. Galloway, NATF President and CEO 
Date: October 8, 2020
Subject: NATF Periodic Report to the NERC BOT (November 2020)
Attachments: NATF External Newsletter (October 2020)

The NATF interfaces with the industry as well as regulatory agencies on key reliability, resiliency, security, and safety topics to promote collaboration, alignment, and continuous improvement, while reducing duplication of effort. Some examples are highlighted below and in the attached October NATF external newsletter, which is also available on our public website: www.natf.net/news/newsletters.

Response to COVID-19 Challenges

The NATF continues to work with members and industry partners on responding to the epidemic. A particularly successful endeavor is our ongoing collaboration with NERC, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on the epidemic/pandemic response plan resource. As noted in the newsletter, version 3 of the resource was issued in August.

NATF-NERC Leadership Meeting

NATF and NERC leadership meet periodically to discuss collaborative work and industry topics. The October 9 agenda includes facility ratings, grid security emergencies, and supply chain.

Supply Chain Executive Order (NERC, DOE Requests)

The NATF has been supporting members with Executive Order 13920 *Securing the United States Bulk-Power System*. For example, NATF staff conducted discussions with NERC staff and offered guidance to NATF members to ensure quality responses to the NERC *Recommendation to Industry: Supply Chain Risk III*. In addition, NATF staff submitted [comments](#) to the DOE regarding its July 8 request for information.

Update on Pilot Collaborations with NERC, RF, and SERC

The NATF, along with ReliabilityFirst and SERC, will host an industry-wide special webinar on “Identifying and Managing Potential Compromise of Network Interface Cards” on October 22, 2020. The webinar is part of the pilot collaboration among the NATF, RF, and SERC focused on mitigation practices that entities can employ on their systems, equipment, and networks to reduce risk introduced via the supply chain.

The webinar features presentations from the NATF, RF, SERC, NERC, FERC, and NATF member-company subject-matter experts on the following topics:

- Overview of NATF-ERO Collaboration Pilot
- NATF Supplier Cyber Security Assessment Model – How Entity Mitigation Fits In
- NERC/FERC Joint Staff White Paper on Supply Chain Vendor Identification

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- Regional Entity Perspectives on Responding to Supply Chain Compromise Risk
- NATF Member SME Perspectives/Experiences with Supply Chain Compromise Mitigation

In the facility ratings collaboration, the NATF has conducted an initial baseline survey of member implementation status of key practices in the “NATF Facility Ratings Practices Document,” published in June 2020, and is preparing reports for its members. A summary report will be provided to the ERO in early 2021.

North American Transmission Forum External Newsletter

October 2020

Transmission Resilience Maturity Model: Helps Utilities Improve Resilience

In October, the inaugural version (1.0) of the Transmission Resilience Maturity Model (TRMM) was released publicly on the TRMM [website](#). In addition to access to the TRMM tool, the website provides overview and background information, FAQs, a suite of supporting documentation, and more.

The TRMM (developed jointly by the NATF, the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, the Electric Power Research Institute, and the U.S. Department of Energy) is a free, easy-to-use tool, with supporting documentation, designed for electric transmission system utilities to evaluate and benchmark the relative maturity of their transmission resilience programs. The model can help identify gaps and prioritize actions and investments to improve the resilience of transmission systems.

The draft model was piloted by five NATF member companies in 2020, and improvements based on lessons learned were incorporated into version 1.0. The NATF envisions incorporating aspects of the TRMM as additional service offerings for members, including facilitated self-assessments, metrics, and targeted assistance.

To obtain a passphrase for the tool, please register [here](#). Contact us at trmm@natf.net with any questions.

Virtual Peer Reviews

Consistently rated as one of the NATF's most value-added product offerings, peer reviews typically involve on-site evaluations of a member company's procedures, practices, and processes by a group of subject-matter experts from other NATF members (peers).

Substantial value and benefit come from the face-to-face engagement, which facilitates foundations of trust, teamwork, and candor—all fundamental tenets to ongoing program success. For these reasons, conducting peer reviews on-site at the host company remains the overall preference.

The COVID-19 pandemic, however, has continued to impact what we considered to be "normal" business. To ensure staff and member safety, support peer review business continuity, and continue to provide value during this time, the NATF has developed alternative approaches, including a "virtual" peer review option for our members. While not identical to an on-site offering, a virtual peer review will employ many of the same, effective, and proven peer review practices. Virtual peer reviews will be executed using available host and peer resources via web conferences.

Face-to-face peer reviews will remain the NATF's preference and standard practice. We are cautiously optimistic in resuming peer reviews on-site as soon as practical, hopefully beginning sometime in 2021. However, upcoming peer reviews will be carefully evaluated leveraging governmental (e.g., U.S. CDC) and World Health Organization guidance, industry/member/individual risk tolerances, and peer review host preferences.

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NATF Posts Revision Process for Supply Chain Criteria and Questionnaire

The NATF has posted the "Revision Process for the Energy Sector Supply Chain Risk Questionnaire and NATF Cyber Security Criteria for Suppliers" for industry use.

The purpose of this process is to facilitate periodic reviews and modifications of the NATF "Energy Sector Supply Chain Risk Questionnaire" (Questionnaire) and the "NATF Cyber Security Criteria for Suppliers" (Criteria), which were developed for industry-wide use to drive consistency of information obtained from suppliers of bulk power system hardware, software, and services.

Consistent with the NATF's open, collaborative, and consensus-based approach, modifications via this process will be made with consideration of input from across industry and will include adding, deleting, or modifying individual questions in the Questionnaire or individual criterion in the Criteria as well as adding, deleting, or modifying mappings to security frameworks (e.g., SOC2, ISO27001, etc.).

Learn more at <https://www.natf.net/industry-initiatives/supply-chain-industry-coordination>.

Coordination and Support Aspects Added to Epidemic/Pandemic Resource

The [Epidemic/Pandemic Response Plan Resource](#) has been updated to include details on cross-sector coordination, prioritized requests for government support, and misinformation.

The resource—which focuses on planning/preparedness, response, and recovery activities for a severe epidemic/pandemic—was jointly developed by the NATF, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation, the U.S. Department of Energy, and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to help utilities create, update, or formalize their epidemic/pandemic-response plans in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Redacted Operating Experience Reports

Since our last newsletter, we have posted three 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.

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