

# North American Transmission Forum External Newsletter

January 2026

## Reliable Addition of Large Datacentric Loads Project

The increase in both operating and planned large datacentric loads is a key industry topic. While the electric industry welcomes the reliable and secure integration of new large loads, certain activities of these loads could significantly impact the grid. Challenges include resource adequacy, planning uncertainty, cost allocation, and operating characteristics.

In response, the NATF has developed a project plan, which is like the NATF IBR Lifecycle project plan, to guide members through the reliable integration of these loads to the grid. The Reliable Addition of Large Datacentric Loads (RALDL) project is currently underway to address a range of industry needs with a current focus on the interconnection process for these large datacentric loads.

The RALDL project team consists of more than 50 member participants from over 25 member companies. While the project team is currently focused on developing practice documents for the reliable interconnection of large datacentric loads, the team also presented a special webinar to NATF members on data center monitoring in December 2025. This highly attended webinar was viewed by over 700 attendees and included presentations from NATF members on various aspects of monitoring and operational experience with data centers.

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## Human Performance Improvement Certification

The NATF recently recognized its second group of participants who completed the requirements of the NATF human performance improvement (HPI) certification program. The certification is a rigorous, multi-component program for HPI practitioners employed by NATF member organizations or active affiliates. The certification, which can be completed in six to nine months by someone who has been active in NATF activities, is based on HPI concepts and techniques as well as the direct application of HPI to the technical practices that ensure safe and reliable operation of the electric transmission system.

Certification is attained by attending training webinars, accumulating points for practitioner participation and activities, sharing operating experience, and passing a comprehensive written examination. The NATF provides a study map of essential topics, materials, and activities for self-directed learning.

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## External Workshops

### *Recent:* NERC-NATF-EPRI Annual Transmission Planning and Modeling Workshop

The NATF, North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), and Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) conducted an annual transmission planning and modeling seminar on November 12–13, 2025. This virtual event focused on IBR performance and modeling, large load industry activities, and artificial intelligence in transmission planning. The event was well attended, with 473 participants on day 1 and 373 participants on day 2. Materials (for [day 1](#) and [day 2](#)) are posted on NERC's website.

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### *Upcoming: NERC-NATF-EPRI GETS Conference*

The NATF, NERC, and EPRI will host a conference on grid enhancing technologies (GETs) on May 14, 2026, at EPRI's Charlotte, North Carolina, campus. This in-person conference will share GETs experiences, promote best practices, and learn from those in the industry currently using GETs. Additional information, including the conference announcement and registration information, will be sent early in the new year.

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### **NATF Supply Chain Criteria and Questionnaire Quickstart Guide Released**

Since their creation over five years ago, the *NATF Supply Chain Security Criteria* and *Energy Sector Supply Chain Risk Questionnaire* have provided industry with ready-made tools that entities can use to evaluate their supplier's security posture. These tools help entities conduct more thorough supplier risk assessments and assist entities in meeting their CIP-013 compliance obligations.

However, entities and suppliers that are not yet familiar with the criteria and questionnaire may be unsure how to start using these powerful tools. Therefore, the *NATF Supply Chain Criteria and Questionnaire Quickstart Guide* (Quickstart Guide) has been created to provide simple, step-by-step instruction in a brief and accessible format. The Quickstart Guide provides instructions for entities working to obtain information from suppliers, and for suppliers working to respond to requests for information from entities.

The Quickstart Guide has been posted on the NATF's public [Supply Chain Industry Coordination](#) website alongside the existing criteria and questionnaire tools.

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### **Reminder: Supply Chain Criteria and Questionnaire Feedback Due January 30<sup>th</sup>**

As a reminder, the annual revision process for the *NATF Supply Chain Security Criteria* and *Energy Sector Supply Chain Risk Questionnaire* is underway. The criteria and questionnaire are simple tools that entities can use when performing risk assessments on suppliers, and are intended to reduce the need for multiple, bespoke questionnaires or other data collection tools. The revision process, criteria, and questionnaire are posted on the NATF's public [Supply Chain Industry Coordination](#) website. The process is open to industry, suppliers, regulators, and other stakeholders to provide the opportunity for input.

*Input on the criteria and questionnaire can be submitted to [supplychain@natf.net](mailto:supplychain@natf.net) until close of business January 30, 2026, for consideration in the 2026 review cycle.*

Both the criteria and 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 procurement. The criteria and questionnaire are useful for supply chain risk management as well as ensuring potential threat vectors are identified via these industry-developed and adopted tools.

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