

North American Transmission Forum External Newsletter

October 2023

NATF CEO Participates in Physical Security Technical Committee

NATF CEO Tom Galloway participated as a panel member for the “Best Practices and Operational Preparedness” portion of the joint (NERC and FERC) physical security technical conference on August 10.

The conference was held to “discuss physical security of the Bulk-Power System, including the adequacy of existing physical security controls, challenges, and solutions” and included panels covering the effectiveness and applicability of NERC Reliability Standard CIP-014-3 (Physical Security). Topics included minimum levels of physical protection, solutions beyond CIP-014-3, physical security best practices, and operational preparedness and planning. The panelists and moderators collectively articulated that industry is implementing many best practices beyond what is required by CIP-014 for overall security and improved resilience with respect to all hazards.

NATF staff submitted post-conference comments reaffirming that CIP-014 requirements should be reserved for a very specific subset of industry assets and that any further security requirements should be risk-based.

More information about the conference is available on the [FERC website](#).

NERC-NATF-EPRI Annual Transmission Planning and Modeling Workshop

The NATF is partnering again with the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) and the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) to host a transmission planning and modeling seminar on November 1-2, 2023 (1:00 – 5:00 p.m. eastern each day). This year’s virtual event will focus on bulk power system load modeling, integrated system planning practices, inverter-based resource risk mitigation, and updates on the latest research and activities across the industry. More information will be posted in the coming weeks.

NATF Supplier Outreach and Coordination

The NATF is continuing to promote good supply chain security practices and examples through its collaborative work with industry suppliers. Examples of recent and upcoming activities for suppliers and NATF members are noted below. Recordings of the September webinars are posted on the NATF [resources](#) section of our Supply Chain Cyber Security Industry Coordination site.

Special NATF Webinar: ISA Product Certifications (September)

This webinar included an overview of the ISASecure certifications offered for products, the assurances these certifications can offer to entities for supply chain security, and how the certifications provide validations for supplier information gathered through the NATF criteria and questionnaire.

Supplier Sharing Webinar on Artificial Intelligence (September)

Discussions about artificial intelligence capabilities, use by suppliers, and risk management were led by Jonathan Dambrot (CEO of Cranium AI, Inc.) and Sreedhar Sistu (VP AI external offers, Schneider Electric).

November 6–7 Supplier Sharing Seminar

The virtual seminar will cover national strategies and practical applications regarding supply chain. Stephanie Johnson (program manager of supply chain risk management at CESER/DOE) will provide keynote remarks. The complete agenda and registration links are available on our [website](#).

Supply Chain Resources: Guidance Updated, Revision Process Underway

NATF Supply Chain Risk Management Guidance Updated

The recently posted *NATF Supply Chain Risk Management Guidance* document provides a high-level overview of key supply chain risk management elements, practices, and resources that are available for entities as they consider implementing, developing, or maturing their own comprehensive supply chain risk management programs. Prominently featured are the NATF's supply chain resources, although resources from other industry participants, such as APPA and EEI, are also noted.

This document revises and replaces the NATF *Cyber Security Supply Chain Risk Management Guidance* document, created in 2018 in response to the NERC Board of Trustees' request that the NATF and NAGF "develop white papers to address best and leading practices in supply chain management, including procurement, specifications, vendor requirements and existing equipment management, that are shared across the membership of each Forum, and to the extent permissible under any applicable confidentiality requirements, distribute such white papers to industry."¹

The revised document references updated supply chain resources created by the NATF and industry since the publication of the 2018 document, such as the *Supply Chain Security Assessment Model*, *NATF Supply Chain Security Criteria*, *Energy Sector Supply Chain Risk Questionnaire*, and NATF-developed implementation guidance endorsed by the ERO Enterprise. The [document](#) may be found on NATF's public [Supply Chain Cyber Security Industry Coordination site](#) and will also be posted to NERC's [Supply Chain Risk Mitigation Program site](#).

Revision Process Open

The annual revision process for the *NATF Supply Chain Security Criteria* and the *Energy Sector Supply Chain Risk Questionnaire* is underway. 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 to provide the opportunity for input.

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](#)

¹ See NERC Board of Trustees' Resolution (August 2017):

<https://www.nerc.com/gov/bot/Agenda%20highlights%20and%20minutes%202013/Proposed%20Resolutions%20re%20Supply%20Chain%20Follow-up%20v2.pdf>

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.

Input on the criteria and questionnaire can be submitted to supplychain@natf.net until close of business January 26 for consideration in the 2024 review cycle.

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