

North American Transmission Forum External Newsletter

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NATF Releases Inverter-Based Resource Interconnection Lifecycle Documents

The NATF and its members recognize the challenges of managing requests to connect inverter-based generation facilities (IBR) to transmission systems. These challenges include developing performance requirements, establishing interconnection agreements, overseeing construction and commissioning, monitoring facility performance, and managing change. The NATF IBR Interconnection Lifecycle Program is a series of projects to develop guidance documents for each of the life stages of an IBR facility.

The first two products of the program are now available on NATF's public website. The [NATF IBR Interconnection Requests and Studies Practice](#) provides guidance on managing interconnection requests and studies under the FERC Order 2023 cluster process. The [NATF IBR Interconnection Agreements and Requirements Practice](#) provides guidance on creating documentation to accompany the FERC pro forma LGIP and LGIA, including business practices, operating requirements, performance standards, and technical specifications. The document also covers how to reference IEEE 2800 when establishing performance requirements for the IBR facility.

Together, these documents promote consistent management of the task of integrating IBR into the bulk power system. Widespread adoption of these practices by transmission providers will streamline the interconnection process for transmission providers and for IBR facility developers and owners alike.

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.

NATF Releases Security and System Operation Documents for Industry Use

The NATF recently posted security and system operations documents to its public site for members and industry. Links and summaries are listed below.

- [NATF CIP-015 INSM Implementation Guidance](#): describes ways that a Registered Entity could comply with CIP-015-1 Requirements R1, R2, and R3.
- [NATF Resilient Data and Voice Communications for System Operations](#): in response to recommendation 1(c) from GridEx VII Executive Tabletop, this document describes a method to continue exchanging data

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upon loss of normal ICCP channels between control centers and addresses methods for secure voice communication in the event of loss or degradation of primary voice communication channels.

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 virtual transmission planning and modeling seminar November 12–13, 2025 (1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. eastern each day).

The seminar will feature industry experts sharing valuable insights, best practices, and innovative strategies to address the evolving transmission planning and modeling topics and challenges. The theme for this year is "Inverters and Intelligence: The New Power Paradigm" and topics include IBR performance and modeling, large load industry activities, and artificial intelligence in transmission planning.

The link to register is [here](#).

Annual Supply Chain Criteria and Questionnaire Revision Process Underway

The annual revision process for the *NATF Supply Chain Security Criteria* and *Energy Sector Supply Chain Risk Questionnaire* is now underway. As a reminder, 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 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/>.