

North American Transmission Forum External Newsletter

October 2026

NATF Wildfire Steering Committee and Wildfire Response

The NATF participated in the January 2026 Wildfire Mitigation Workshop held at WECC's offices and the Piedmont Wildfire Workshop held in August in Charlottesville. We were happy to comment on drafts of the NERC report *Reducing the Risk of Wildfire Ignition by the Bulk Power System* and to provide additional comments as NERC prepared its *Wildfire Action Plan* for submittal to FERC. The NATF continues to communicate with NERC staff to determine how the two organizations can collaborate to address the directives of Executive Order 14308, *Empowering Commonsense Wildfire Prevention and Response*, and subsequent FERC actions.

The NATF has formed a Wildfire Steering Committee, which will help the NATF develop guidance for members on wildfire mitigation. We anticipate that this committee will recommend projects that leverage the significant knowledge and capabilities many NATF members have developed to help those who are seeing increased risk of wildfire ignition and increasing impact from wildfires.

On September 30, the NATF conducted a special webinar that shared key insights and learnings from a recently completed Wildfire Risk Mitigation Considerations Assistance Project. This project supported utilities outside traditional wildfire-prone territories in assessing practical mitigation strategies aligned with their geographic, asset, and regulatory profiles.

NATF Releases Documents for Industry Use

The NATF recently posted several documents to its public site for members and industry. Links and summaries are listed below. (Additional documents addressing large loads and inverter-based resources are posted on the NATF public website, under the "[Documents](#)" section, for industry use.)

Reliable Addition of Large Datacentric Loads

The NATF is executing a project plan consisting of multiple documents to guide members and industry through the reliable integration of large datacentric loads to the grid, with a current focus on the interconnection process for large datacentric loads.

The newly posted documents are listed below. The documents include a set of practices along with formatted spreadsheets for gathering information to model and study interconnection requests for large datacentric loads:

- [Interconnection Requests and Studies Practices](#)
- [Appendix 1: Large Datacentric Load Questionnaire – General Information](#)
- [Appendix 2: Large Datacentric Load Questionnaire – Technical Information](#)

These documents support certain aspects of the computational load standards currently under development by NERC.

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Significant work is already taking place on the next phases of the program, which will address interconnection requirements and agreements plus monitoring. The NATF is conducting a fall workshop with the theme of balancing load growth, security, and supply chain challenges.

IBR Interconnection Lifecycle Program

The NATF IBR Interconnection Lifecycle Program is a series of guidance documents for each of the life stages of an IBR facility. Together, these documents promote consistent management of the task of integrating IBR into the BES. Widespread adoption of these practices will streamline the interconnection process for transmission providers and for IBR facility developers and owners alike.

Newly posted documents establish consistent industry methods for the interconnection of inverter-based resources:

- [*NATF Inverter-Based Resources Change Management and Event Analysis*](#)
- [*NATF Inverter-Based Resources Performance Monitoring and Operating Practices*](#)

NATF at GridSecCon

The NATF is returning to [GridSecCon](#) this year to facilitate a panel discussion titled *Supply Chain and Third-Party Risk Management*. NATF staff will convene and moderate the segment, opening with an overview of how various NATF resources, such as the *NATF Supply Chain Security Assessment Model*, the *NATF Supply Chain Security Criteria*, the *Energy Sector Supply Chain Risk Questionnaire*, and *NATF Supply Chain Risk Controls and Monitoring* can work together to help organizations assess and monitor supply chain risk. The overview will be followed by a panel discussion on how industry, suppliers, and third-party assessors can work together to identify, assess, and respond to supply chain risks.

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 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 29, 2027, for consideration in the 2027 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/>.