

To: NERC Board of Trustees (BOT)
From: Thomas J. Galloway, NATF President and CEO
Date: July 19, 2023
Subject: NATF Periodic Report to the NERC BOT (August 2023)
Attachments: NATF External Newsletter (July 2023)



The NATF interfaces with the ERO as well as other external organizations on key reliability, resiliency, security, and safety topics to promote improvement, while reducing duplication of effort. Some examples are listed below and in the attached NATF external newsletter, which is also available on our public website: www.natf.net/news/newsletters.

NATF-ERO Leadership Meetings

To promote effective coordination, NATF and ERO leadership meet periodically to discuss topics and activities. July 13 topics included the E-ISAC update, August NERC-FERC physical security technical conference, draft RISC report, standards process changes and compliance monitoring approaches, grid transformation (in particular, inverter-based resources), and cross-regional transfer capability.

Joint NERC, FERC Physical Security Technical Conference

NATF members and staff will participate in the August 10 conference and have offered support with planning and post-conference activities.

The NATF focuses on security in its Practice Program, with specific groups dedicated to sharing information and developing best practices. Some of this information, related to CIP-013 and -014, has been shared on the NATF [public site](#).

Inverter-Based Resources

Both the NATF and NERC are working on aspects of the grid's changing resource mix. During the recent leadership meeting, NATF and NERC leadership discussed options for coordination related to the increase of inverter-based resources, a key part of grid transformation.

RISC Report

NATF work planning factors in electric-system risks, such as those identified in the ERO reliability risk priorities reports developed by the Reliability Issues Steering Committee (known as the RISC).

The NATF has encouraged members to submit comments on the draft 2023 report, and the NATF and NERC plan to use the report to help guide future discussions and coordination.

Special NATF Webinar: ISA Product Certifications

On September 26, the NATF will host a half-day webinar open to both members and the broader industry that will overview the ISASecure certifications offered for products, the assurances these certifications can offer to

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entities for supply chain security, and how the certifications provide validations for supplier information gathered through the NATF criteria and questionnaire.

Additional information, including the agenda and registration information, will be published closer to the event.

North American Transmission Forum External Newsletter

July 2023

New Video Highlights NATF RESTORE Program (Equipment Sharing) Benefits

The NATF has posted a new video highlighting the benefits of the RESTORE Program (see the linked image below and the bottom of our [Programs](#) page).

RESTORE, or Regional Equipment Sharing for Transmission Outage Restoration, is designed to enhance grid resilience and reliability by identifying sources and facilitating replacement of equipment following disastrous events. This optional, self-funded program is available to any transmission-owning NATF member.

Participation in the RESTORE Program can be a key component of a member's overall resilience program and spare equipment strategy to enhance its ability to recover from an event with significant transformer damage.



NATF-EPRI-NERC Transmission Resilience Summit

The North American Transmission Forum (NATF), Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), and North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) held a transmission resilience summit on May 17 in Tempe, Arizona, hosted by Salt River Project.

The summit theme was climate resilience, with topics focused on lessons learned from past extreme weather events, planning and preparing for future events, emerging technologies, and examples of how resilience is a team sport.

Former FERC Commissioner Colette Honorable provided a virtual keynote address highlighting the significance of electric system resilience and stressing the important role served by the attendees. Former FEMA Administrator Brock Long spoke about the importance of advanced coordination and collaboration by utilities

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with customers, regulators, first responders, and local government prior to a resilience event and the importance of continuity of communications for effective restoration.

NATF CEO Tom Galloway commented, “We’ve done over a dozen resilience summits and this was the best. We had great speakers and an engaged audience, and it was obvious tremendous progress has been made. But it’s clear that resilience challenges have increased, and the industry must continue to collaborate and persevere.”

[Meeting materials](#) from the summit are posted on the NATF website.



NATF Supply Chain Criteria and Risk Questionnaire Updated for Industry

Updated *NATF Supply Chain Security Criteria* and *Energy Sector Supply Chain Risk Questionnaire* (version 4.0) documents have been posted for industry use on the [Supply Chain Cyber Security Industry Coordination](#) page of the NATF public website. The “Version History” link includes all prior versions and redlines of the NATF criteria and risk questionnaire.

The updates were reviewed and accepted by the ERO Enterprise to ensure its continued endorsement of the two NATF CIP-013 Implementation Guidance documents: *NATF CIP-013 Implementation Guidance: Independence Assessments of Vendors* and *NATF CIP-013 Implementation Guidance: Supply Chain Risk Management Plans*.

Revisions for the 2023 annual cycle include a new detailed change log for the NATF criteria and risk questionnaire. In particular, the security frameworks identified in the NATF criteria were revised and one new supplier criteria was added. The questionnaire is now available in one format merging the previous unformatted, formatted, and scorable options. Other minor changes include additional notes, references, and terminology updates to provide clarity.

Industry and supplier convergence on the use of the NATF criteria and risk questionnaire provides a streamlined, effective, and efficient industry-accepted approach for entities to assess supplier security practices, which, if adopted widely, will reduce the burden on suppliers, provide entities with more information, improve supply chain security, and (when executed and documented appropriately) assist entities with compliance.

Redacted Operating Experience Reports

We recently posted a new operating experience report to the “[Documents](#)” section of our public site for members and other utilities to use internally and share with their contractors to help improve safety, reliability, and resilience.

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