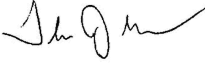


To: NERC Board of Trustees (BOT)

From: Thomas J. Galloway, NATF President and CEO 

Date: January 12, 2026

Subject: NATF Periodic Report to the NERC BOT (February 2026)

Attachments: NATF External Newsletter (January 2026)

The NATF interfaces with the ERO and other external organizations on key reliability, resilience, security, and safety topics to improve performance while reducing effort duplication. 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 and synchronize efforts. The two groups convened face-to-face last July and again virtually last October to identify top-priority areas for coordination. Several topics are discussed in this report.

The next virtual meeting will be held in February, and a face-to-face strategy session is scheduled for April in Washington, DC to continue these important discussions.

Reliable Addition of Large Datacentric Loads Project

The NATF's Reliable Addition of Large Datacentric Loads (RALDL) project is currently underway. The NATF developed a project plan to guide members through the reliable integration of large datacentric loads to the grid with a current focus on the interconnection process for large datacentric loads. See the attached external newsletter for additional information on this project.

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. 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 until close of business January 30, 2026.

To assist entities and suppliers that are not yet familiar with the criteria and questionnaire and how to start using these powerful tools, 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. Additional information is included in the attached external newsletter.

NATF-RSTC Coordination

The NATF and the NERC RSTC recognize that communication and collaboration foster better alignment between the two organizations, and both groups are actively coordinating on a process to align work plans to ensure their

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efforts support one another and minimize duplication. The NATF and the NERC RSTC have agreed to include RSTC work plan topics related to grid transformation, resilience to extreme events, and security as areas for collaboration. Both organizations will share limited releases of a subset of project scopes and will determine if NATF documents could be referenced to reduce the work required by NERC, if NATF and NERC RSTC work plan items could be coordinated to reduce duplication, or if work by the NATF could eliminate the need for significant work by NERC.

GridEx Recommendations

During the April 2024 coordination meeting, NATF and NERC leadership discussed recommendations from GridEx VII, held in November 2023. The group concluded that E-ISAC would primarily manage activities needed to address the recommendations, with NATF support on selected initiatives. In response, the NATF launched a project to expand existing supplemental operating strategy guidance with additional practices for operating through significant impairment or loss of ICCP connections to neighboring Control Centers, in addition to impairment or loss of normal voice communication channels. The final product from that effort, [NATF Resilient Data and Voice Communications for System Operations](#), is available for industry use on our public site.

Implementation Guidance

Another NATF product, [NATF CIP-015 INSM Implementation Guidance](#), has been submitted as a candidate for implementation guidance. This document describes ways that a Registered Entity could comply with CIP-015-1 Requirements R1, R2, and R3.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Reminder: Supply Chain Criteria and Questionnaire Feedback Due January 30th

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 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/>.