

To: NERC Board of Trustees (BOT)

From: Thomas J. Galloway, NATF President and CEO 

Date: September 4, 2026

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

Attachments: NATF External Newsletter (July 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 virtually in August to discuss identified top-priority areas for coordination. Several topics are discussed in this report.

The next virtual meeting will be held on November 12.

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. *The NATF Reliable Addition of Large Data-centric Loads: Interconnection Requests and Studies Practices* document is available to members and will soon be posted on the NATF's public site for general use. Significant work is already taking place on the next phases of the program, which will address interconnection requirements and agreements plus monitoring. NATF is conducting a fall workshop with the theme of balancing load growth, security, and supply chain challenges.

NATF Enters the Final Stretch of the IBR Interconnection Lifecycle Program

The NATF and its members recognize the challenges of managing requests to connect inverter-based generation facilities (IBR) to transmission systems. 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.

Several products of the program have been released, including the *NATF IBR Interconnection Requests and Studies Practice*, the *NATF IBR Interconnection Agreements and Requirements Practice*, the *NATF Inverter-Based Resources Change Management and Event Analysis Practice*, the *NATF Facility Engineering Design Review Practice*, and the *NATF Inverter-Based Resources Operating Practice*.

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. To support adoption, these documents are being made available under open distribution on the NATF's public website. We would also thank NERC for including the links to two of the documents on its IBR Registration Initiative web page.

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On August 12, the NATF hosted a web meeting for members of the NATF and the North American Generator Forum (NAGF) to learn about this guidance.

NATF Wildfire Steering Committee and Wildfire Response

The NATF participated in the January 2025 Wildfire Mitigation Workshop held at WECC's offices and Piedmont Wildfire Workshop held in August in Charlottesville, Virginia. 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. Finally, we appreciate continuing dialogue with NERC staff to determine how the NATF and NERC 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 will 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.

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 efforts support one another and minimize duplication related to grid transformation, resilience to extreme events, and security as areas for collaboration.

NATF at GridSecCon

The NATF is returning to GridSecCon this year to facilitate a panel discussion, *Supply Chain and Third-Party Risk Management*. NATF staff will convene and moderate the panel, 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.

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NATF IBR Facility Engineering Design Review Practices Document

The industry is facing a growing range of challenges related to the reliable interconnection of inverter-based resources (IBRs) to transmission systems. To support its members in addressing these challenges, the NATF develops and publishes IBR practice documents. In addition to resources available exclusively to members, the NATF has produced several IBR-related practice documents to share with industry. The most recently posted document, *NATF IBR Facility Engineering Design Review Practices*, can be accessed via the NATF public website under the [“Planning and Modeling” section of Documents](#).

NERC Level 3 Alert/Standards Changes

The electric industry welcomes the reliable and secure integration of new large loads yet recognizes that certain activities of these loads could significantly impact the grid. The rapid addition of transmission-connected large load customers providing data services (e.g., data centers, crypto mining, artificial intelligence) is creating new electrical grid challenges related to resource adequacy, planning uncertainty, cost allocation, and operating characteristics.

NERC has responded to this challenge with a level-3 alert—*Essential Action to Industry: Computational Load Modeling, Studies, Instrumentation, Commissioning, Operations, Protection, and Control*—which includes seven essential actions and 33 questions over a range of topics, depending on respondent registrations. The NATF is helping members navigate these changes. On July 13, the NATF held a special webinar for members to discuss available NATF resources and hear insights from members on their responses to the NERC alert. A range of topics were covered, including modeling data and studies. This webinar was well supported by members with over 1,000 total attendees. The NATF Reliable Addition of Large Datacentric Loads (RALDL) project includes development of practice documents to guide members through the lifecycle for reliable integration of these loads to the grid.

NATF Criteria and Questionnaire Version 7.0 Posted for Industry Use

The annual criteria and questionnaire revision process has been recently completed with NATF approval of the documents on May 19, 2026. The [NATF Supply Chain Security Criteria](#) and [Energy Sector Supply Chain Risk Questionnaire](#) version 7.0 documents are posted on the [Supply Chain Industry Coordination](#) page of the NATF public website. The [Version History](#) link on that site also includes prior versions and redlines.

Revisions to the NATF criteria and questionnaire include edits for clarity, completeness, and to update framework mappings for NIST SP 800-171r3 and NIST SP 800-53r5.2.0. A supplier response column has been added to the criteria, and multiple edits have been made to the guidance text in the questionnaire to improve coverage.

These 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: Using Independent Assessments of Vendors* and *NATF CIP-013 Implementation Guidance: Supply Chain Risk Management Plans*, which are also available on the Supply Chain Industry Coordination page.

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

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