



SERC Reliability Corporation

EXECUTIVE ORDER ON SECURING THE UNITED STATES BULK POWER SYSTEM

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On May 1, 2020, after declaring a national emergency with respect to the threat of the United States bulk power system (BPS), President Trump issued an [Executive Order](#) (“Order”) that seeks to secure our nation’s grid from foreign adversaries.

The Order prohibits any entity or person subject to the jurisdiction of the United States from acquiring, importing, transferring, or installing any BPS equipment in which any foreign country or foreign national has any interest and the transaction poses an unacceptable risk to national security or the security and safety of U.S. persons. Under the Order, the Secretary of Energy (“Secretary”) is authorized to do the following:

- Establish and publish criteria for recognizing particular equipment and vendors in the BPS electric equipment market as “pre-qualified” for future transactions and apply the criteria to establish and publish a list of pre-qualified equipment and vendors;
- Identify any now-prohibited BPS equipment already in use and develop recommendations on ways to identify, isolate, monitor, and replace this equipment as soon as practicable and as appropriate; and
- Work closely with the Departments of Commerce, Defense, Homeland Security, and Interior, as well as the Director of National Intelligence and other appropriate Federal agencies (including the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority) to carry out the authorities and responsibilities outlined in the Order.

The Secretary is required to publish rules or regulations implementing the authorities delegated to the Secretary by the Order within 150 days of the date of the Order.

Additionally, a Task Force led by the Secretary will develop energy infrastructure procurement policies and procedures to ensure national security considerations are integrated into government energy security and cybersecurity policymaking. The Task Force will consult with the energy industry through the Electricity and Oil and Natural Gas Subsector Coordinating Councils to further its efforts on securing the BPS.

Watch for a comprehensive article on the Order in the upcoming June SERC Newsletter.