INSIDE SERC

By: Jason Blake, President & CEO

As we head into fall, we face two more months of the most active hurricane season since 1950. It will take time to recover from the devastating impact of Hurricane Laura on the SERC footprint. The SERC region has some truly amazing entities: more than 200 energy companies deployed over 21,000 resources to assist with Hurricane Laura restoration. This is a testament to the commitment we all share to the reliability and security of the bulk power system. SERC staff has been and will stay in close contact with MISO and Entergy throughout the recovery process, and will continue to monitor conditions during the rest of the 2020 hurricane season.

The ongoing pandemic has added an extra level of complexity to these restoration efforts. SERC, as well as our stakeholders, continue to focus on the health and safety of our staff. During the Fall Technical Committee meetings, we heard about some of the advances our stakeholders—who are well versed in storm restoration—have made toward integrating pandemic control measures in everyday operations. Our Region’s stakeholders continue to seek opportunities to improve the resiliency of the grid, even during these unusual times. In support, SERC will continue to work closely with NERC to ensure appropriate and thoughtful regulatory relief.

Our Technical Committees remain a critical tool for us to engage and collaborate with you to ensure we are all identifying, prioritizing, and coordinating our work in the most effective manner to reduce risks to the grid. This year’s Fall Technical Committee meetings recognized the Engineering Committee outgoing chair, Patrick Brown from MISO and presented Outstanding Contributor awards to key committee members. The CIPC approved the scope of the new CIP Tools Working Group, which Dr. Michael Elrod will lead as its first chair. Collaboration, participation, and cooperation in addressing risk to the reliability and security of the grid is the focus of the technical committees. You can read more about the Fall Technical meetings on page 9.
Ferc and Nerc Publish a Second Joint White Paper on Notices of Penalty Pertaining to Violations of Cip Reliability Standards

By: Dulce Plaza, Legal Counsel

On August 27, 2019, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("Ferc" or "the Commission") and the North American Electric Reliability Corporation ("Nerc") (collectively, "joint staffs") issued a Joint White Paper ("First Joint White Paper") containing a proposal regarding Nerc’s submission, and the Commission’s processing, of Notices of Penalty ("NOPs") for violations of Critical Infrastructure Protection ("CIP") Reliability Standards.

The First Joint White Paper sought to strike a balance between the transparency concerns within the industry and the general public regarding the disclosure of CIP noncompliance information. To do this, the First Joint White Paper proposed that CIP NOP submissions would consist of a public cover letter that discloses the name of the violator, the CIP Reliability Standard(s) violated (but not the Requirement(s)), and the penalty amount. Joint staffs invited comments on the proposal.

On September 23, 2020, joint staffs published a Second Joint White Paper, modifying the First White Paper proposal based on their review of the public comments. According to the Second Joint White Paper, the new format and treatment for future CIP noncompliance filings and submittals going forward will be as follows:

- CIP noncompliance submissions (i.e., NOPs, Spreadsheet NOPs, Find, Fix, Track, and Report filings, and Compliance Exceptions) will be filed or submitted by Nerc with a request that the entire filing or submittal be designated as Critical Energy/Electric Infrastructure Information ("CEII").
- Ferc staff will maintain the confidentiality of those filings and submittals by designating them as CEII in their entirety.
- Nerc will no longer publicly post redacted versions of CIP noncompliance filings and submittals.

This means that going forward, SERC registered entities should no longer expect to receive a copy of a redacted CIP noncompliance disposition document for review from SERC staff.

As for the rationale behind the Second Joint White Paper’s modified proposal, joint staffs assert that the First Joint White Paper proposal was insufficient to protect the security of the bulk-power system (BPS).
SECOND JOINT WHITE PAPER (Continued)

and did not implement the Commission’s full legal authority to protect such information from public disclosure. More specifically, joint staffs state that the public comments demonstrate that under the First Joint White Paper proposal, malicious actors could still use the limited information proposed for disclosure in CIP noncompliance filings to threaten the reliable operation of the BPS. Joint staffs state that in addition to ongoing attempts by foreign governments to infiltrate the BPS, hackers and malicious actors could attempt to exploit the vulnerabilities through phishing attacks and data mining using public information in CIP noncompliance filings. Additionally, aggressors may try to use data to find a registered entity with weak compliance history with CIP Reliability Standards and concentrate their efforts on exploiting “this weak link.” Joint staffs also note that when combined with the information revealed under the First White Paper proposal, an aggressor’s basic data mining may reveal any entity’s location, operating footprint, and facility details, resulting in more serious risks to the BPS.

Joint staffs further state that after NERC submits a CIP noncompliance filing or submittal for Commission review, only the Commission may initiate a review either through its own motion or by application of the violator - third parties are not permitted to intervene or seek review of CIP noncompliance submissions. Joint staffs add that since the public does not have a statutory role in the enforcement of Reliability Standards, public disclosure of CIP noncompliance information does not serve any statutory purpose.

Furthermore, joint staffs conclude that the new CIP noncompliance filing and submittal process is consistent with Commission precedent. Particularly, maintaining the confidentiality of CIP NOPs in their entirety is consistent with Order No. 672, which recognizes the need to preserve confidentiality as it pertains to “[t]he disposition of each violation or alleged violation . . . that would jeopardize the security of the Bulk-Power System if publicly disclosed.” Likewise, joint staffs conclude that withholding CIP noncompliance filings and submittals in their entirety is justified under the Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”) Exemptions 3, 4, and 7(F), and the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (“FAST”) Act.

You may find the Second Joint White Paper HERE.
By Rebecca Poulsen, Senior Legal Counsel

On Wednesday, September 9, 2020, SERC held its September Board Executive Committee meeting virtually.

Chair Ford provided a summary of the August 2020 NERC Board meetings, which were again held virtually due to the pandemic. During the meetings, there was discussion on the collaboration among NERC, the Regional Entities, and FERC to help entities during the COVID-19 crisis. The NERC Board approved the 2021 Business Plan and Budget of NERC and the Regions. The total ERO Enterprise combined 2021 budget increase from 2020 is 2.2% with an assessment increase of 0.6%. Chair Ford noted, as the Chair of NERC’s Reliability and Security Technical Committee (RSTC), he had the opportunity to provide a presentation to the NERC Board on the goals of the RSTC.

President and CEO Jason Blake reported on the state of affairs at SERC. During the ongoing pandemic SERC’s continued focus is on the health and safety of stakeholders and staff. Mr. Blake discussed SERC’s productivity during this unprecedented time, highlighting that we are on schedule to conduct over 50 audits this year. Also, 1,300 stakeholder representatives continue to participate in our vibrant technical committees, sharing numerous lessons learned. Mr. Blake discussed the devastating impact Hurricane Laura has had in the SERC footprint and the impressive restoration efforts of our entities. Through these obstacles, SERC has remained focused on its three strategic focus areas: (1) being a credible trusted expert organization for our stakeholders; (2) establishing SERC as a leader across the ERO and FERC; and (3) creating a highly desirable place to work through culture and purpose.

NERC Board of Trustees Chairman Roy Thilly provided the keynote speech to the committee. Mr. Thilly shared his thoughts on current and emerging issues and risks facing the ERO Enterprise. Mr. Thilly commended SERC and Florida staff and entities on how smoothly the FRCC integration has gone. Mr. Thilly commented, “with the six regions we now have, and Jim Robb’s leadership, and evolving leadership at the regions, the ERO has never been as strong as it is today.” Mr. Thilly complimented SERC’s transition to a hybrid board and President Jason Blake’s leadership in the ERO.

Tim Ponseti, SERC VP of Operations discussed the devastating impacts of Hurricane Laura in the SERC Region and the restoration challenges our entities face. Laura destroyed the transmission system in south-western Louisiana, especially in the area in and around Lake Charles. In its wake it left 1 million customers without power, 342 sustained transmission line outages, 1300 transmission towers damaged beyond repair, and another 400 towers damaged but repairable. Adding to the restoration challenges, the area is really an electrical peninsula or load pocket and Hurricane Laura went almost directly over a major substation in this area. Much of this area is very rural, not easily accessible, and made up of marsh and wetlands. Mr. Ponseti reported on restoration efforts following Hurricane Laura, emphasizing how all the companies and players involved worked together in a highly collaborative, open and transparent manner. Based on our staff's experience in working devastating damage and islanded systems, we sent 15 restorations guidelines to Entergy and MISO to serve as an aid as they manage risk levels during restoration efforts. Mr. Ponseti concluded that with the addition of the Florida Peninsula to SERC, it’s almost impossible now for a hurricane to miss us.
Guest speaker, David Zwergel, Sr. Director, Regional Operations with MISO, reported on MISO’s restoration efforts following the devastation of Hurricane Laura. Mr. Zwergel discussed the great collaboration among entities on restoration plans and the current status of restoration efforts and thanked Tim Ponseti for partnership and guidance. Mr. Zwergel discussed what MISO has done to support restoration efforts as both a Reliability Coordinator and a market operator.

The Board Executive Committee approved the following projects and initiatives: Member Portal Consolidation Project; Revised SERC Regional Reliability Standards Development Procedure; and 2021-2023 Strategic Plan — Brian Thumm, SERC VP, Performance Improvement & Risk Management, highlighted our continued three strategic focus areas: (1) position SERC as a credible trusted expert organization for its stakeholders; (2) establish SERC as a leader across the ERO Enterprise and FERC; and (3) foster a highly desirable place to work through culture and purpose.

John Odom, SERC Principal Consultant, provided an update on the continued integration of the Florida entities into SERC, noting that even though the official transition was 14 months ago, the work to ensure a smooth and seamless transition continues. Mr. Odom highlighted continued outreach efforts and work underway to revise the SERC Under-Frequency Load Shed Regional standard. Further, representation by Florida entities in our technical committees is very strong, with Florida entities making up more than 20% of the total 1,300 member representatives. Lastly, Mr. Odom discussed plans to conduct a follow-up survey of Florida entity representatives to measure their satisfaction with SERC.

Board Vice Chair Todd Hillman, as Chair of the Independent Director Search task force, reported that the task force narrowed the large candidate pool of 150 down to 13, and then down to the seven final candidates (who the task force interviewed over the next couple of days). Mr. Hillman discussed the robust and diverse mix of experiences and skill sets and the high caliber positions the candidates held or hold at prestigious, well-known and respected companies across diverse industries. He also noted the candidates provide diverse representation with the majority being female.

Holly Hawkins, SERC VP & General Counsel, provided an overview of the roles and responsibilities of the Board Risk Committee we are standing up January 1, 2021. The Risk Committee’s mission will be to ensure SERC is focused on identifying, prioritizing, and managing risks to support SERC’s mission of reducing risks to the reliability and security of the bulk power system, for today and the future. The committee will be responsible for oversight of two types of risk: (1) reliability and security risks to SERC’s footprint (we call these “Regional Risks”); and (2) strategic and operational risks to SERC (we call these “Enterprise Risks or Corporate Risks”). Ms. Hawkins explained the committee’s oversight of each of the two types of risk will be slightly different: For Regional Risks, SERC management would address the highest risks in the Regional Risk Report by developing and presenting risk mitigation strategies to the Risk Committee. For Corporate Risks, the Risk Committee would ensure each identified risk in the Enterprise Risk Management report is under the oversight of a Board Committee (e.g., employee risks would fall under the Human Resources and Compensation Committee) and SERC management would deploy mitigation approaches and regularly update the appropriate oversight Committee. SERC is a leader in the ERO in standing up a comprehensive Risk Committee of this nature.
BEC SEPTEMBER MEETING (Continued)

Other updates and reports included: the Align Project; the Regional Risk Report – Melinda Montgomery, SERC Sr. Director, Engineering & Advanced Analytics, discussed SERC’s regional risk identification, mitigation, and communication process; and ERO coordination on state outreach – Holly Hawkins discussed NERC and the Regions are working together to deliver harmonized messages to Governors, state legislators, state public utility commissions, state energy offices, state consumer groups, regional associations, and provincial regulators.

Overall, the September BEC meeting had a robust and content rich agenda with a strategic focus on risk. The next committee meeting is December 9, 2020.

UPDATE DUO PILOT - PHASE 2

The Duo Project is still in phase 2, which includes testing the application with our registered entities. During this phase, we plan to verify account access requirements: which accounts still require access to CIP-Up, and which accounts need to be removed. Testing will continue throughout the entire month of October. The production rollout is planned for November 2020. For more information, please contact cip-up@serc1.org.

SPECIAL WEBINAR: IDENTIFYING AND MANAGING POTENTIAL COMPROMISE OF NETWORK INTERFACE CARDS

The North American Transmission Forum (NATF), along with ReliabilityFirst and SERC, is hosting an industry-wide special webinar on “Identifying and Managing Potential Compromise of Network Interface Cards” on October 22, 2020 from 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm EST. This webinar is being presented as part of a pilot collaboration between the NATF, RF, and SERC focused on mitigation practices that entities can employ on their systems, equipment, and networks to reduce risk introduced via the supply chain.

The webinar will feature an overview of the NERC/FERC Joint Staff White Paper on Supply Chain Vendor Identification, in addition to the following planned topics:

- Overview of NATF-ERO Collaboration Pilot
- NATF Supplier Cyber Security Assessment Model – How Entity Mitigation Fits In
- Regional Entity Perspectives on Network Interface Card Compromise Risks and Mitigation
- NATF Member SME Perspectives/Experiences with NIC Compromise Mitigation

Advance registration is required using the following link: Register
FRC News

Links to FERC's Newsroom - Open Access Podcasts

- In Landmark Ruling, FERC Opens Wholesale Markets to Distributed Resources | News Release | Staff Presentation | Fact Sheet

- FERC, NERC Staff Outline Cyber Incident Response, Recovery Best Practices | News Release

- FERC Seeks Comments on Potential Risks to Bulk Electric System | News Release

- FERC Issues NOI on Potential Risks to Bulk Electric System | News Release

NERC News

Quick links to NERC's Newsroom and Newsletters
N ERC's 2020 State of Reliability

- Postings
  - Ballot Results for Project 2019-03 Cyber Security Supply Chain Risks
  - Ballot Results for Project 2015-09 Establish and Communicate System Operating Limits
  - CMEP Practice Guides
  - Statement on September Open Meeting Action
  - Standards Committee Election Results
  - FERC, NERC Staff Outline Cyber Incident Response

- Webinar:
  - September 3, 2020 Winter Preparation for Severe Cold Weather
FERC Issues Notice of Inquiry Seeking Comments on Potential Risks to the Bulk Electric System

By: Dulce Plaza, Legal Counsel

On September 17, 2020, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("FERC" or "the Commission") issued a Notice of Inquiry (NOI) (Docket No. RM20-19-000) seeking comments on the potential risk to the bulk electric system (BES) posed by using equipment and services provided by entities identified as risks to national security. The NOI seeks comments on:

- the extent to which equipment and services provided by such entities are used in the operation of the BES;
- the risks to BES reliability and security posed by the use of equipment and services;
- whether the current Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP) Reliability Standards adequately mitigate the identified risks;
- what mandatory actions the Commission could consider taking to mitigate the risk of equipment and services provided by certain entities related to BES operations;
- strategies that entities have implemented or plan to implement - in addition to compliance with the mandatory CIP Reliability Standards - to mitigate the risks associated with use of equipment and services provided by certain entities; and
- other methods the Commission may employ to address the identified risks.

Two Chinese companies - Huawei Technologies Company and ZTE Corporation - have been identified as examples of entities that are national security threats because they provide communication systems and other equipment and services that are critical to BES reliability.

During the Commission’s Open Meeting on September 17, 2020, Chairman Chatterjee highlighted the President’s May 1, 2020 Executive Order on securing the United States bulk-power system (BPS), which found that foreign adversaries are increasingly creating and exploiting vulnerabilities to the BPS and that unrestricted foreign supply of BPS electric equipment constitutes an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security. The Chairman indicated that although the Executive Order did not include any directives to FERC, it was incumbent on FERC, as the agency overseeing the reliability and security of the grid, to fully understand these risks and take appropriate action. The Chairman added that for those reasons, FERC was issuing the NOI and will be reviewing comments to determine what further action it should take.

Initial comments on the NOI are due 60 days from September 23, 2020 (the date of the NOI was published in the Federal Register), and reply comments are due 90 days from September 23, 2020. A copy of the NOI can be found HERE.
TECHNICAL COMMITTEES

FALL TECHNICAL MEETINGS

JOINT SESSION OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Joint Session of the Critical Infrastructure Protection Committee (CIPC), Engineering Committee (EC) and the Operations Committee (OC) held its fall meeting on the morning of September 22. The meeting began with a welcome by SERC CEO Jason Blake who concluded his remarks by honoring outgoing EC Chair Patrick Brown for his leadership.

This was the first time that the meetings were planned as virtual events so the format was modified to one three-hour session on Tuesday morning. Plans for the spring meetings include returning to face-to-face meetings depending on the pandemic situation. We will remain flexible to insure the safety of everyone involved.

We had two outstanding technical presentations. First, Schneider electric presented on how they are working to secure the supply chain and how they have mitigated the risk in their own processes for their customers. Second, John Greaves from Southern Company addressed the risks associated with disruption to the GPS system and how we are dependent upon the time synchronization provided by this system.

The joint session ended with presentations that highlighted responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Hector Sanchez from Florida Power & Light spoke on how FP&L prepared for hurricanes during this active hurricane season while in the middle of a pandemic. Peter Heidrich closed out the session highlighting the teamwork and coordination of SERC and Georgia Power Company to successfully certify a new control center VIRTUALLY. This was the first time that this has been done. This is an important achievement showing even though we may be in a pandemic, we can still keep the infrastructure safe and secure.

RELIABILITY COORDINATOR WORKING GROUP TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING

The Reliability Coordinator Working Group (RCWG) met on Monday, September 21, 2020, before the Fall Technical Committee meetings. The Reliability Coordinator Seasonal Review/Preview Worksheet has allowed for greater consistency in sharing events, forecasts, and challenges among the Reliability Coordinators. Each Reliability Coordinator present discussed summer operations and the challenges associated with extreme weather: Hurricanes Isaias, Laura, and Sally; Tropical Storms Cristobal, and Marco; the derecho storms; and severe storms and tornadoes that rolled across the SERC footprint over the summer.

For the seasonal review (summer), the RCs, on average, reported below-average temperatures and slightly above normal precipitation. The exception was the TVA RC who report hotter than normal temperatures and above-average precipitation. There was minimal information to share for the seasonal preview as most RCs have not completed their winter assessments yet. For the seasonal preview (winter), the RCs expect slightly above normal temperatures and average or slightly below normal precipitation.
FALL COMMITTEE MEETINGS (Continued)

The RCWG shared operational challenges and lessons learned from the summer season and discussed the opportunity to work with the NTWG on their seasonal studies, specifically on the vision and goals, to improve the studies and to enhance coordination with the RCWG.

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION COMMITTEE

The Critical Infrastructure Protection Committee (CIPC) held its fall meeting on the mornings of September 23 and 24. The meeting began with honoring Jim Howard from Lakeland Electric for his outstanding contributions to the region and to the security of the bulk electric system. Unfortunately, Jim passed away earlier this year; his widow, Donna, accepted the award.

Since the meetings were planned as virtual events, the format was modified to consist of three-hour sessions on both Wednesday and Thursday mornings. Plans for the spring meetings include returning to face-to-face meetings, depending on the pandemic situation. We will remain flexible to ensure the safety of everyone involved.

Throughout the meetings, subject matter experts from CISA, E-ISAC and SERC presented on both cyber and physical security. These presentations provided insight, suggestions, and opportunities to strengthen our cyber and physical infrastructure by applying best practices, processes and procedures.

During the spring meeting, the CIPC approved the creation of the CIP Tools Working Group (CTWG). The CTWG’s baseline focus is on the tools used by the industry to achieve compliance. However, the CTWG goes a step further to encourage participants to share best practices in using these tools. CIPC Chair Tony Hall appointed Dr. Mike Elrod as the first CTWG chair: the CTWG held its first meeting on August 27.

The final administrative task was for the CIPC to approve the scope of the CTWG. The scope document was passed by vote with no dissents. We are excited to see this group grow and bring additional technical expertise to the region.

The meeting ended with a "Pencils Down" roundtable that generated much discussion on issues of interest to the members. This session included members of the CIPC and SERC Staff to provide input and answers as requested. Tony Hall ended the discussion at noon on Thursday and announced a closed session for members only, which was reported to have opened the opportunity for even more discussion.

ENGINEERING COMMITTEE

The Engineering Committee’s two half day sessions on September 23 and 24 were well attended, with 39 member companies and 87 members and guests. As with all meetings this year, the EC Fall meeting was completely virtual. The overall theme of this EC meeting was on the Risks to the SERC Bulk Electric System (BES). The EC reviewed the 2020 EC Risk Registry and developed a new process to assign the risks to various EC committees and working groups. The new process includes a tracking method. Additionally, presentations on some of the top risks identified for 2020 helped the EC to gain a better understanding on the details of the risk. Bill Lamanna, NERC staff, presented on the risk associated with resource uncertainty. Hassan Hamdar, SERC staff, presented on the risk associated with the Executive Order and supply chain. Doug McLaughlin of Southern Company presented on reliability impacts from excessive segmentation of the BES lines with the increased penetration of the Variable Energy Resources. Daryl McGee, also of Southern Company, provided some insight on the improvement
OPERATING COMMITTEE

The Operating Committee (OC) met for three hours each morning on September 23 and 24. The meeting was well attended, with 73 members and guests representing 45 companies. Due to the pandemic, this was the first OC meeting to be planned as a virtual meeting. The focus of the OC meeting was on risk; especially, how to reduce risk to the Bulk Power System. Because of the reconfiguration of the Reliability Risk Report, six of the top ten risks are now operational risks: extreme weather, resource uncertainty, fuel diversity, transitioning workforce, pandemic, and parallel/loop flows. With the exception of “pandemic,” all of those risks were identified and tracked in previous years. The meeting included presentations on topics that address these risks: Parallel Flow Visualization, VERWG efforts to prioritize resource reliability studies, collaboration between the NTWG and OC Working Groups to build better near-term studies, and training during the pandemic.

PLANNING COORDINATION SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

The Planning Coordination Subcommittee (PLCS) met on Thursday, September 24, 2020, via WebEx. All of the Working Group Chairs presented their ongoing work and discussed the opportunities to take on new projects related to SERC regional transmission reliability studies and assessments for 2021. The PLCS provided a few recommendations for additional work, such as event analysis utilizing the previously established Event Powerflow Simulations and Analysis (EPSA) process, review of study needs related to inverter-based resource integration, and optimized transfer studies and reports. The Near Term Working Group has proposed a SERC-wide webinar to share the findings of their 2020/2021 reliability winter study with the Reliability Coordinator Working Group (RCWG) and the Operations Planning Working Group (OPWG) in October. The objective is to share information and enhance their study report with any feedback received during the webinar. In addition, the PLCS members voted for SERC to host the 2021 summer regional meetings in the city of Charlotte at SERC offices with the alternative option of conducting the meetings entirely via WebEx if there are ongoing travel restrictions in July 2021.

While the fall 2020 meetings were informative and successful, SERC and committee members look forward to the next time we can meet face to face. Hopefully, that will be at the spring meetings in 2021.
Outreach Opportunities

REF STEERING COMMITTEE ELECTION

Nominations are being requested for the 2021 Registered Entity Forum (REF) Steering Committee. The REF is a self-directed forum that provides a platform for registered entities to discuss reliability issues confidentially among peers. The REF is an entity-only group, led by a steering committee. Committee members are elected by their peers (registered entities).

- The committee comprises nine representatives from at least seven different registered entities.
- Three of the nine committee members are required to have a CIP compliance background.
- Committee members serve staggered two-year terms, so no more than half the steering committee members’ terms expire concurrently.
- All SERC registered entities, regardless of membership status in SERC, are eligible to serve on the REF Steering Committee.
- There are four two-year term positions open, one of which must be in the CIP area.
- Each SERC registered entity is allowed one vote. Ballots will be sent to all Primary Compliance Contacts on Thursday, November 5, 2020, and are to be returned by Friday, November 13, 2020.
- Election results will be sent to all nominees the week of November 23, 2020, and then announced in the December SERC Newsletter.

Nominations are due by Monday, November 2, 2020. A nomination form is available on the Registered Entity Forum page of the SERC website, along with additional information about the REF. Questions may be directed to either a current O&P or CIP REF Steering Committee member or support@serc1.org.

Due to the effects of the coronavirus, the O&P Compliance Seminar will be held via WebEx. Therefore, the REF Committee will not be able to conduct the Registered Entity Forum before the start of the O&P Compliance Seminar.

- Please make use of the Q&A Forum on the SERC Website to submit questions.
- If you prefer to remain anonymous, please click here and reach out to a CIP REF Committee Member.
Welcome New SERC Team Member

Chris Mahn joined SERC as a Reliability & Security Advisor in the Outreach and Training department on Tuesday, September 1, 2020.

Chris comes to us from Duke Energy where he has worked in various roles throughout his 22 year tenure. Most recently, he was a Lead Cybersecurity and Risk Analyst where he ensured NERC CIP compliance for the IT program. Before that he worked as a NERC CIP IT manager where he supervised the NERC CIP Compliance Operations & Support team and was responsible for the overall CIP program metrics to drive security and compliance, mitigate risk, and demonstrate improvement; and the list goes on.

Chris possess his bachelor’s degree as a double major in Economics and Business administration, as well as his Juris Doctor from the Charlotte School of Law. He then went on to pass the NC State bar to practice law. We are very excited to have Chris’ well-rounded educational background and years of experience joining the team.

Share good news about your company and send newsletter suggestions to: support@serc1.org.
Spotlight your company by submitting photographs for SERC’s use.
Subscribe / Unsubscribe by sending an email to: support@serc1.org

Question:
Since FERC approved the retirement of FAC-013-2 at their meeting on 9-17-2020 is each Planning Coordinator still required to conduct simulations and document an assessment per FAC-013-2 R4 for this year (2020)?

Response
On September 17, 2020, FERC issued Order No. 873 approving the retirement of NERC Reliability Standard FAC-013 2. The effective date of retirement is 60 days after the date of publication in the FEDERAL REGISTER and will occur on or around November 16, 2020. Because R4 is a calendar year requirement, compliance with R4 will not be required for calendar year 2020.
## October Events

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 6-7</td>
<td>SERC</td>
<td>CIP Compliance Webinar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Day 1</td>
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<td>Day 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, October 6, 2020</td>
<td></td>
<td>Wednesday, October 7, 2020</td>
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<td>Start 12:30 p.m. - End 4:30 p.m</td>
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<td>Start 8:30 a.m. - End 12:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 21</td>
<td>SERC</td>
<td>Board of Directors Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 22</td>
<td>NATF, SERC &amp; RF</td>
<td>Identifying and Managing Potential Compromise of Network Interface Cards</td>
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### More Events

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 10-11</td>
<td>SERC</td>
<td>O&amp;P Compliance Webinar</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Previously Fall Compliance Seminar. Because of the shortened allotted time and the fact that we hold a CIP Seminar we thought this would be the best option to keep attendees engaged)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Day 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, November 10, 2020</td>
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<td>Wednesday, November 11, 2020</td>
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## SERC Credit Instructions

All open credits issued in 2019 and 2020 are valid through December 31, 2021. Further extensions will be determined based on SERC’s ability to offer conferences and seminars over the next 18 months.

To use a credit, simply register for the event, indicate you will pay by check (but do not send a check), and send an email to support@serc1.org indicating for which event you registered.

## NERC Monitoring and Situational Awareness Technical Conference

The North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) will host its eighth annual Monitoring and Situational Awareness Technical Conference via Webex. The theme of this year’s conference is “Energy Management System Reliability and Resiliency in the Pandemic.”

There are two (2) more different conference sessions to choose from:

- Session 2 | October 15, 2020 | 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. EST Real-Time assessment
- Session 3 | November 10, 2020 | 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. EST Industry responses to COVID-19

[CLICK HERE for more details](#)