

NERC

NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC
RELIABILITY CORPORATION

ALIGN

Registered Entity Newsletter

August 2020

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LET'S GET ALIGNED: KEY TAKEAWAYS

Benefits of the ERO Secure Evidence Locker

The Align team has made strong progress since receiving FERC's financial approval to develop the ERO Secure Evidence Locker (SEL) on June 22. The team has completed the locker infrastructure design, purchased and received hardware, and is progressing on implementing the infrastructure and defining the locker portal requirements and design.

The ERO SEL is a key component of NERC's reimagined suite of Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program (CMEP) work and data management tools. It will be implemented in conjunction with Align Release 1 in early 2021.

Registered Entity Testing Exercise Update

The registered entity testing exercise held last month gave select entities the opportunity to test entity-specific functionality for Release 1. Forty-four testers from twenty different registered entities, listed below, participated in the exercise.

Participating Registered Entities			
CAISO	Exelon	GTC	Oncor
Center Point	FMPA	ISO-NE	OXY
Dominion	FPL	NCPA	SoCalEdison
ERCOT	GASOC	NYISO	Southern Co
Evergy	GASOC (NRECA)	Oklahoma Municipal Power Authority	Xcel Energy

The registered entity representatives were able to execute business scenarios related to the following functions:

- Self-report, mitigation, and enforcement-related workflows and business rules
- Registered entity dashboards
- Registered entity notifications

In addition to testing Release 1 functionalities, registered entities previewed various Align training materials, including training videos and a comprehensive user guide. The Align team received positive reviews of the training materials from the representatives, which will be shared more broadly with the regional and registered entities during training later this year.

Mark Pratt, Reliability Standards Compliance Assurance Manager for Southern Company, has been with the company for almost 22 years and participated in the recent registered entity testing exercise. Southern has been engaged with the Align since its inception and was involved in the NERC Compliance and Certification Committee during the initial scoping of the various phases of Align.

“Southern is appreciative of a single platform for consistency in the reporting of possible violations and the entering and tracking of mitigating activities,” said Pratt. “The current use of CTS in one Region and webCDMS in another is cumbersome. Additionally, the reporting features in Align will be useful for communicating to management on the status of compliance issues across multiple Regions.”

Please reach out to the testing subject matter experts (SMEs) for your Region with any questions about the registered entity testing exercise.

Align Testing SMEs	
Organization	Testing SMEs
MRO	Desiree Sawyer , Marissa Falco
NPCC	Damase Hebert , Jason Wang , Kimberly Griffith , Mina Ellis , Scott Neid
RF	Patrick O’Connor , Ray Sefchik
SERC	Janice Carney , Rick Dodd , Shawna Speer
Texas RE	AJ Smullen , Rachel Coyne
WECC	Mailee Cook

Know What's Coming: Preview of Training Materials

The Align team is pivoting its focus toward starting training in October. Train-the-Trainer sessions are scheduled for late October (exact dates to be announced). The team also previewed the training videos hosted on the [NERC Training Site](#) during the registered entity testing exercise. You can navigate to the training videos relevant for your role as seen in the screenshot below. Note: These are draft videos and will be finalized before October 1.

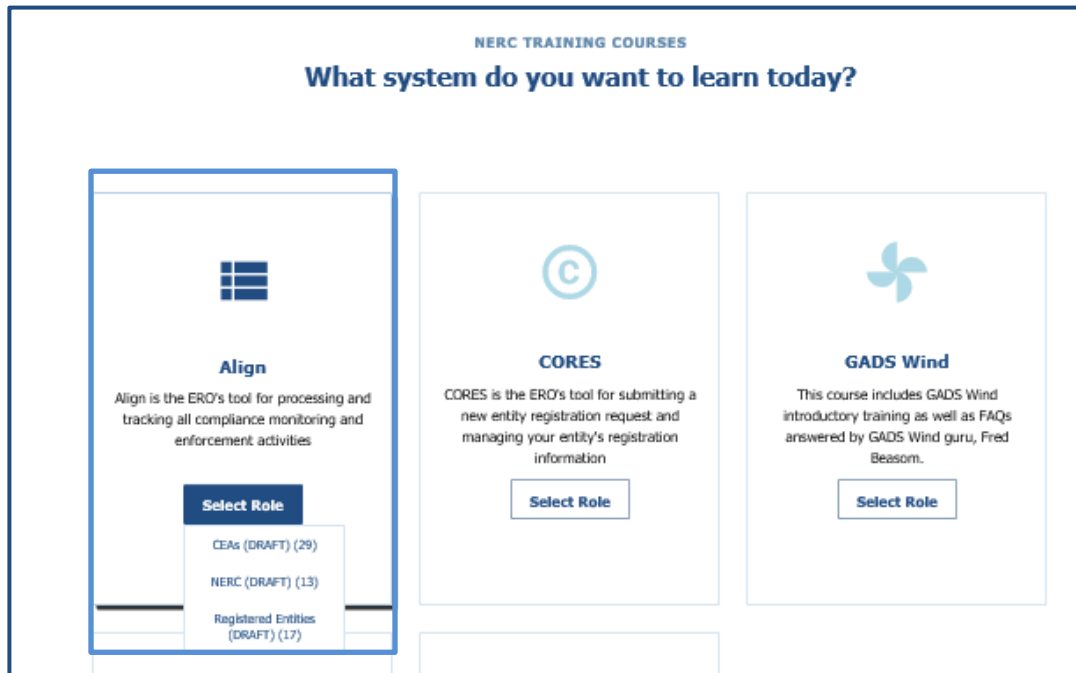


Figure 1.1: NERC Training Site

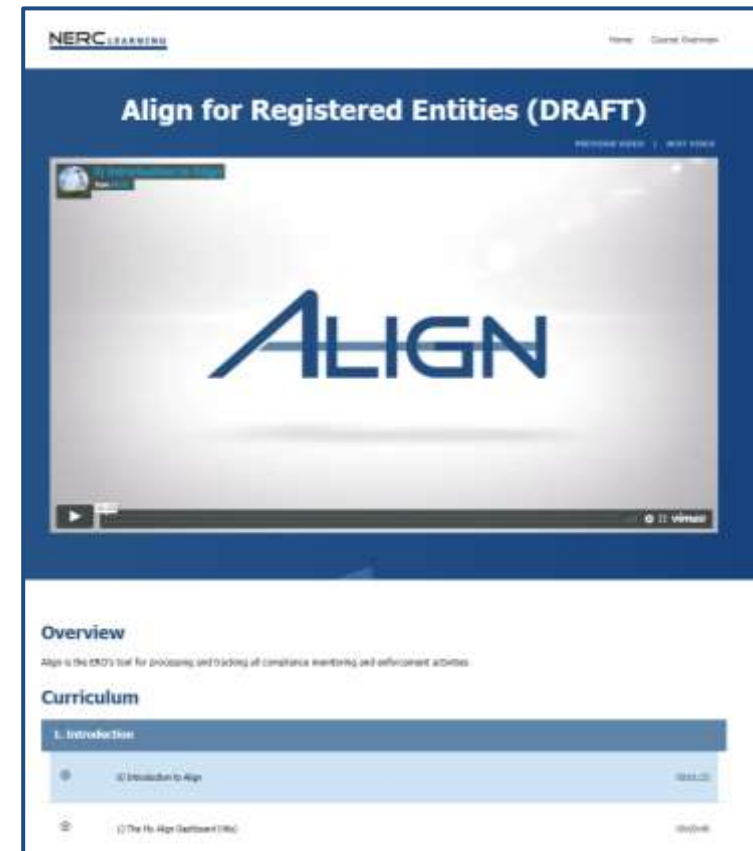


Figure 1.2: NERC Training Site

In addition, there will be a comprehensive user guide, Start/Stop/Continue guides, and process reference materials, available during training. The images below provide a sneak preview of some of these materials. The user guide provides a detailed overview of how to navigate through Align Release 1 functionalities, while the Start/Stop/Continue guides provide detailed guidance on which activities move to Align and which

activities stay inside the legacy systems. Each Region will use the same training materials and will lead the training sessions for all regional and registered entity staff.



Figure 1.3: User Guide Example

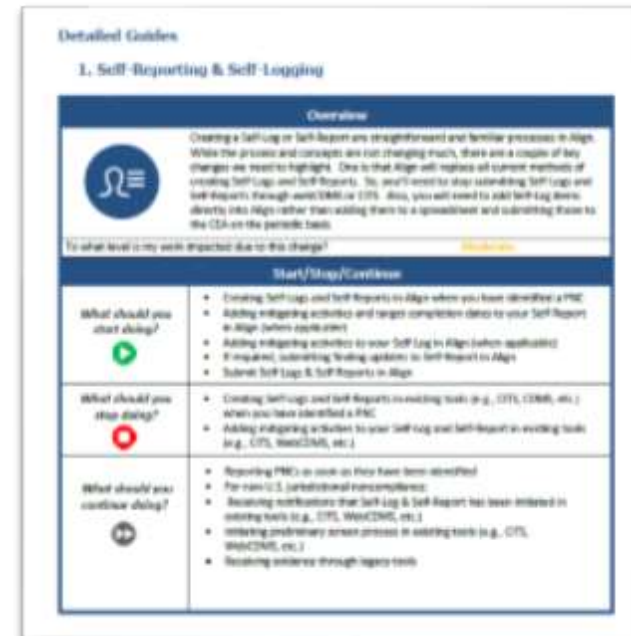


Figure 1.4: Start/Stop/Continue Guide Example

Accessing Align: Act Now!

As we continue to get closer to Release 1, it is important that you complete the setup or verification of your ERO Portal Account. You are required to have an active ERO Portal Account prior to accessing Align. Additional instructions and next steps on provisioning will be sent closer to Release 1. **Please follow the instructions below to verify your existing account or set up your new account!**

To Set Up an ERO Portal Account:

1. Navigate to <https://eroportal.nerc.net>.
2. Select "Register" in the upper left-hand corner.

3. Complete the registration form and click “Submit.”

To Verify an ERO Portal Account:

1. Navigate to <https://eroportal.nerc.net>.
2. Select “Sign In” in the upper left-hand corner.
3. Enter your credentials to confirm access to ERO Portal.

If you cannot remember your username/password, select the “Forgot Password/Username” to reset your password. If you have questions or problems concerning your ERO Portal account, please submit a support ticket [here](#).

Quick Links for Reference

Here is a list of links to commonly requested project materials for Align and the ERO SEL. Please reach out to the Change Agents for your Region for any additional materials.

Quick Links
FAQs
Program Business Case (Updated April 2020)
Registered Entity SEL Requirements (April 29, 2020)
ERO SEL Stakeholder Presentation (March 23, 2020)

Want to Learn More? Key Contacts and Resources

Reach out to your Region’s Change Agents, who meet on a monthly basis and have the latest project updates. They are another resource available to you for asking questions or sharing comments and feedback on the project.

Align Change Agents	
Organization	Change Agents
MRO	Desiree Sawyer , Marissa Falco
NERC	Chris Boyd-Witherspoon , David Calderon , Farzaneh Tafreshi , Sara Minges
NPCC	Jason Wang , Kimberly Griffith

RF	Ray Sefchik
SERC	Andrew Williamson , Melinda Montgomery , Todd Curl , Rick Dodd , Janice Carney
Texas RE	Rochelle Brown
WECC	Michael Dalebout

ABOUT THE ALIGN NEWSLETTER

This newsletter compiles a list of important Align project updates with actionable deadlines, as well as upcoming events, recently posted resources, and other relevant news and information. Please [email the Align project team](#) with feedback on this newsletter. Current and future newsletters and additional project resources, including the regularly updated [Align FAQs](#), can be found on the [Align Project Site](#).