



NASEO Energy Security Committee Quarterly Newsletter September 30, 2023

Upcoming Events:

- NASEO Grid Resilience Call (State and Territory Agencies Only): October 13, 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. ET – Virtual (second Friday of each month)
- NASEO IJIA Grid Resilience Standing Call (State and Territory Agencies Only): October 13, 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. ET – Virtual
- [U.S. Energy Information Administration Winter Fuels Outlook Webinar](#): October 16, 11:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. ET – Virtual
- GridSecCon 2023: October 18-20, 2023 – Québec, Canada
- NASEO Grid Resilience Call (State and Territory Agencies and Department of Energy Only): November 10, 2023, 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. ET - Virtual
- Coming soon: Distribution System Planning and Resilience Training: Late 2023 and Early 2024

In the News:

South Carolina Office of Resilience Release the Strategic Statewide Resilience and Risk Reduction Plan

On June 29, 2023, the South Carolina Office of Resilience (SCOR) released the state's first [Strategic Statewide Resilience and Risk Reduction Plan](#) (Resilience Plan). The Resilience Plan evaluates the state's flood risk and future vulnerabilities, providing mitigation recommendations and resilience strategies for communities to manage those risks. The plan will advise future flood mitigation investments and policies to safeguard the state from extreme weather events. SCOR took a state-wide approach in developing the Resilience Plan, collaborating with over 100 organizations including the South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff – Energy Office, gathering input and expertise throughout the over two-year long planning process. The South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff – Energy Office continues to work with SCOR on upcoming energy resilience programs and projects.

Georgia Environmental Finance Authority Hosts Energy Assurance Tabletop Exercise

On June 15-16, 2023, the Division of Energy, Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA) hosted an energy assurance tabletop exercise in Atlanta, GA. The two-day event brought together local, state, national, and industry partners including the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency, Red Cross, Georgia Power, Colonial Pipeline, Georgia Department of Transportation, and the Department of Energy, to discuss statewide response and coordination efforts to energy security incidents. State Energy Official colleagues from Florida and Tennessee were present to provide an external perspective and connect with regional partners. The scenario initially centered around substation attacks during a period of high temperatures that had cascading impacts on Georgia's power supply, incoming and outgoing air traffic, and resource scarcity. This was followed by a cyberattack on natural gas infrastructure business and operating systems affecting natural gas supply and power generation. The engagement and feedback from the energy assurance exercise has informed GEFA in

their State Energy Security Plan update and further strengthened public-private partnerships in the region.

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Order: Improvements to Generator Interconnection Procedures and Agreements

On July 27, 2023, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued a final rule to reform the Commission's [standard generator interconnection procedures and agreements](#). Order No. 2023, Improvements to Generator Interconnection Procedures and Agreements, requires a number of reforms by electric generators and transmission owners to decrease interconnection queue backlogs and provide certainty for project time and cost. Order No 2023 also requires increased financial commitments from those in the interconnection queue to reduce speculative requests. Pending action by FERC, the final rule will become effective on November 5, 2023, with compliance filings due by December 5, 2023.

Generator-Powered Microgrids Provide Resiliency in Response to Wildfire Outages

After [wildfires interrupted the only transmission lines connecting two northwest California towns](#) to the electric grid, almost 40 megawatts (MW) of diesel generator-powered microgrids were deployed in response. With refueling required 2-3 times per day, the first of forty-four 1.5-2MW commercial-grade generators were brought in days following the event and connected to key substations. The generator-backed microgrids continued to serve the full load for a month as utilities made the needed repairs and prevented the fire from being reignited due to the transmission lines.

[Reports and Tools:](#)

NASEO–NARUC Release State Solar Cybersecurity Toolkit

On September 29, 2023, the National Association of State Energy Officials and the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, with support from the U.S. Department of Energy Solar Energy Technologies Office (SETO) announced their release of the [Cybersecurity Advisory Team for State Solar \(CATSS\) Toolkit](#). The CATSS Toolkit provides State Energy Offices and Public Utility Commissions with actionable information on cybersecurity for solar power and supports state cybersecurity enhancements for solar and other Distributed Energy Resources (DERs). The CATSS toolkit includes ten tools across two areas of focus: education and risk awareness and practical actions.

NASEO-NARUC Joint Report Provides Microgrid Framework for State Energy Offices and Public Utility Commissioners

On August 21, 2023, the National Association of State Energy Officials and the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, with support from the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Electricity, released a report, State Microgrid Policy, Programmatic, and Regulatory Framework, that is a resource for State Energy Offices and public utility commissions (PUCs) as they develop policies, regulations and programs to support microgrids. The goals of the framework are to foster productive collaboration among state entities and help them anticipate questions they may encounter as they plan and implement microgrid policies, programs, and regulations. To help achieve these goals, the report provides relevant microgrid background information for State Energy Offices and PUC consideration, regardless of their state's microgrid landscape, through examples from peers as states across the country have implemented varying strategies to enable microgrids. It's essential State Energy Offices and PUCs have a well-rounded understanding of microgrids and the large role they play in energy resilience and reliability.

Pennsylvania-New Jersey-Maryland Interconnection Release a Winter Storm Elliot Event Analysis and Recommendation Report

On July 17, 2023, Pennsylvania-New Jersey-Maryland Interconnection (PJM) released the Winter Storm Elliot Event Analysis and Recommendation Report, a system that impacted the eastern United States during the December 23-25, 2022, Christmas weekend. The report outlines the operation and emergency preparation PJM took before the 2022 winter and action operators took during Winter Storm Elliot, details the markets conditions prior and during, lessons learned and recommendations to improve grid reliability. Two major findings of the report include: natural gas fueled generators were responsible for 70% of the unplanned outages and in total 24% of PJM's generating capacity was offline during Winter Storm Elliot.

The U.S. Department of Energy Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response Release New Energy Security and Resilience Learning Series

On August 28, 2023, the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response (CESER) released the first installment of the [Energy Security and Resilience Learning Series](#). This online "How to Works" learning series will provide readers with essential information and background knowledge on key elements of the energy sector. The first three resources released as part of this on-going effort are the [Role of Balancing Authority](#), [Propane Supply Chain](#), and [Refined Petroleum Product Pipelines](#).

Biden-Harris Administration Publishes the National Cybersecurity Strategy Implementation Plan

On July 13, 2023, the White House published the first iteration of the [National Cybersecurity Strategy Implementation Plan](#) (NCSIP). The federal plan outlines 65 initiatives, assigned to 18 agencies, that will implement the Administration's [National Cybersecurity Strategy](#) released in March 2023. The initiatives are broken into five pillars: defending critical infrastructure; disrupting and dismantling threat actions; shaping market forces to drive security and resilience; investing in a resilient future; and, forging international partnerships to pursue shared goals. The 65 initiatives don't encompass all the cybersecurity activities currently or plan be undertaken by federal agencies but are high-impact activities requiring the Administration's observation and coordination. The NCSIP is an evolving document that will be updated annually.