



MRO Announces Recipients of Inaugural HERO Award

December 3, 2020

SAINT PAUL, MN. Today, at the Midwest Reliability Organization (MRO) Annual Member and Board Meeting, the board recognized the recipients of MRO's Annual HERO Award. This prestigious award provides MRO the opportunity to recognize individuals for their exemplary initiative and commitment to advancing the concept and principles of Highly Effective Reliability Organizations (HEROs) throughout the MRO region and in support of MRO's vision and mission.

The HERO Award is part of MRO's [Volunteer Recognition Program](#) that was implemented in 2020 to acknowledge industry volunteers for their hard work and contributions to the success of MRO.

In July, MRO solicited nominations from industry for this inaugural HERO Award and several candidates were submitted. The board's Organizational Group Oversight Committee (OGOC) reviewed the nominees and their qualifications at its September meeting, and after much discussion, selected two finalists to receive the award.

Please join us in congratulating the following individuals!

- **Dallas Rowley**, Director of System Operations, Oklahoma Gas and Electric
- **Joseph (Joe) DePoorter**, Director of NERC Compliance and Generation Operations, Madison Gas and Electric

OGOC Chair Lloyd Linke from Western Area Power Administration said, "Both Dallas and Joe were selected from a pool of very qualified candidates for their significant contributions to assuring a highly reliable and secure North American bulk power system. Dallas Rowley was instrumental in developing a solution to an immediate and very challenging problem facing MRO and the ERO Enterprise regarding the prioritization of risk, and Joe DePoorter has been a long-term advocate of HERO principles and the MRO organization. His long-standing support has translated to sustainable improvements in reliability of the bulk power system in MRO's region and across North America."

Linke added that the OGOC struggled with selecting a single finalist, as both Rowley and DePoorter exemplify the attributes and qualifications of MRO's HERO Award. The committee ultimately determined that the contributions of both Joe and Dallas merit receipt of this important award.

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Midwest Reliability Organization (MRO) is a non-profit organization dedicated to ensuring the reliability and security of the bulk power system in the central region of North America, including parts of both the United States and Canada. MRO is one of six regional entities in North America operating under authority from regulators in the United States through a delegation agreement with the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) and in Canada under similar arrangements. The primary focus of MRO is developing and ensuring compliance with reliability standards and assessing the grid's ability to meet the demands for electricity.