



MRO Expands Coronavirus Response Efforts

March 25, 2020

SAINT PAUL, MINN. In response to the COVID-19 health emergency, MRO has taken a number of steps to ensure the safety and well-being of its members and stakeholders while staying focused on its vision of a highly reliable and secure North American bulk power system.

MRO's May 2020 CIP Conference will now be held via WebEx only. Those who have already registered for the in-person conference do not need to register again, as your registration has been automatically transferred. Please visit the [event announcement](#) for full event details and registration.

Additionally, in an effort to assist operators of the bulk power system to focus their resources on keeping people safe and the lights on during this unprecedented public health emergency, MRO is extending the deadline for the Q2 2020 Self-Certification for CIP-011-2 and TOP-001-4 from June 30, 2020, until September 30, 2020. MRO is also suspending the issuance of the Q3 2020 Self-Certifications for CIP-004-6 and TPL-001-4. MRO is working to determine the impacts of these changes to the overall self-certification schedule and will post a revised schedule on MRO's [website](#) by the end of the week.

The MRO Security Advisory Council Threat Forum (SACTF) has also taken further measures in response to COVID-19. The SACTF continues to hold weekly Threat Calls every Wednesday at 8:15 a.m. Central. Due to current events, there will be a *NEW* weekly SACTF Threat Call in addition to the normal SACTF Wednesday Threat Call. This new weekly call will be held each Thursday at 8:15 a.m. Central to support discussions surrounding COVID-19 planning, benchmarking, response and information-sharing. This meeting will maintain a weekly cadence until such a time that the SACTF determines it is no longer needed. In order to be considered for either call, you must complete the [registration](#) and be approved by the SACTF. Please feel free to contact the MRO Security Administrator at estee.kolles@mro.net or 651-855-1755.

The ERO Enterprise is also working closely together on mitigation efforts. NERC is very active with the Electricity Subsector Coordinating Council (ESCC)* and participates in joint, biweekly ESCC calls with key government partners (Department of Energy, Department of Homeland Security, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and Department of Health and Human Services) in addressing COVID-19. As part of that effort, NERC worked with trade organizations and other entities to help develop and distribute a guidance document designed to support industry leaders in making informed, localized decisions in response to this evolving global health emergency.

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MRO first notified its registered entities of [guidance released by the ESCC](#) on March 11. This guidance was updated on March 24 and the revised document is available on [MRO's website](#) along with other COVID-19 updates, and can also be found on the ESCC website [here](#).

The guide will evolve as additional information and recommended practices are identified. Questions on the guidance document should be directed to secretariat@electricitysubsector.org.

For any intentional non-compliance performed in response to the coronavirus outbreak, including periodic requirements, MRO registered entities should utilize the HEROS@mro.net email for these notifications. MRO will be flexible with regard to the timing of these notifications from registered entities to allow owners and operators of the bulk electric system to focus their resources on critical operations.

*Background on the ESCC: The CEO-led Electricity Subsector Coordinating Council (ESCC) serves as the principal liaison between the federal government and the electric power industry, with the mission of coordinating efforts to prepare for, and respond to, national-level disasters or threats to critical infrastructure. The ESCC focuses on actions and strategies that help protect the energy grid, prevent various threats from disrupting electricity service, and develop capabilities that help the sector quickly respond and recover when major incidents impact the grid

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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.