



## MRO 2020 Annual HERO Award Recipients



*Dallas Rowley*  
*Director of System Operations,*  
*Oklahoma Gas and Electric*



*Joe DePoorter*  
*Director of NERC Compliance and*  
*Generation Operations, Madison Gas*  
*and Electric*

MRO has a long history of relying on the expertise and dedication of the many members and stakeholder volunteers that support MRO's mission "to identify, prioritize and assure effective and efficient mitigation of risks to the reliability and security of the North American bulk power system by promoting Highly Effective Reliability Organizations® (HEROs)." In 2020, MRO implemented a [Volunteer Recognition Program](#) to acknowledge these volunteers for their hard work and contributions to the success of MRO.

Part of the Volunteer Recognition Program includes an 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 HEROs throughout the MRO region and in support of MRO's vision and mission. MRO staff solicited nominations from industry for the inaugural HERO Award in July of 2020, and received several very qualified candidates. The board's Organizational Group Oversight Committee (OGOC) reviewed the nominees and their qualifications, and after much discussion, selected two finalists to receive the award.

**Dallas Rowley** was a very active member of the Reliability Advisory Council in 2020, serving as emcee for the annual Reliability Conference and leading the council's effort to develop MRO's Reliability Risk Matrix. The Risk Matrix provides a consistent framework for identifying and prioritizing risks to reliability and security, and was used to develop MRO's 2021 Regional Risk Assessment. The tool has been shared with others across the ERO Enterprise.

**Joe DePoorter** currently chairs the MRO NERC Standards Review Forum (NSRF), which is recognized as a model across North America and by NERC and FERC, for effectively and efficiently obtaining industry input in the development of Reliability Standards. DePoorter was also the first chair of MRO's CMEP Advisory Council, and has been a consistent and vocal supporter of MRO initiatives related to

risk-based compliance monitoring and enforcement, including regular presentations at MRO and ERO events and has authored several articles in MRO's newsletter.

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 HRO 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.