



MIDWEST  
RELIABILITY  
ORGANIZATION

# A Reliable and Secure North American Bulk Power System

Priority risks and areas of focus for MRO in  
2022

April 7, 2022

# Agenda

- **ERO Risks and MRO Regional Risks**
  - North American-Wide Risks
  - MRO Regional Risks
- **Regional Reliability Risks**
  - Process for Identification and Prioritization
  - MRO Reliability Risk Priorities for 2022
- **Regional Security Risks**
  - MRO SAC Regional Security Risk Assessment (RSRA) Process
  - MRO Security Risk Priorities for 2022
- **CMEP Activities and Risk Analysis**
  - Operations and Planning Standards
  - Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP) Standards





John Seidel

Principal Technical Advisor

# **MRO 2022 Regional Reliability Risks**



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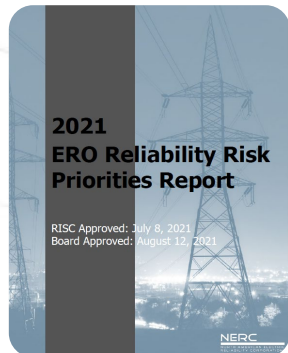
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# North American-Wide Risks

- **The MRO 2022 RRA references several ERO-wide reports that assess North American bulk power system risk:**
  - 2021 ERO Reliability Risk Priorities Report (RISC report)
  - 2021 NERC State of Reliability Report (SOR report)
  - 2021 NERC Long-Term Reliability Assessment (LTRA)
  - NERC/FERC February 2021 Cold Weather Inquiry Report
  - 2022 ERO CMEP Implementation Plan

# Risk Groupings from 2021 Biennial RISC Report



## Grid Transformation



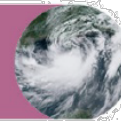
- A. Bulk Power System Planning
- B. Resource Adequacy and Performance
- C. Increased Complexity in Protection and Control Systems
- D. Situational Awareness Challenges
- E. Human Performance and Skilled Workforce
- F. Changing Resource Mix

## Security Risks



- A. Physical
- B. Cyber
- C. Electromagnetic Pulse

## Extreme Natural Events



- A. Extreme Natural Events, Widespread Impact
  - GMD
- B. Other Extreme Natural Events

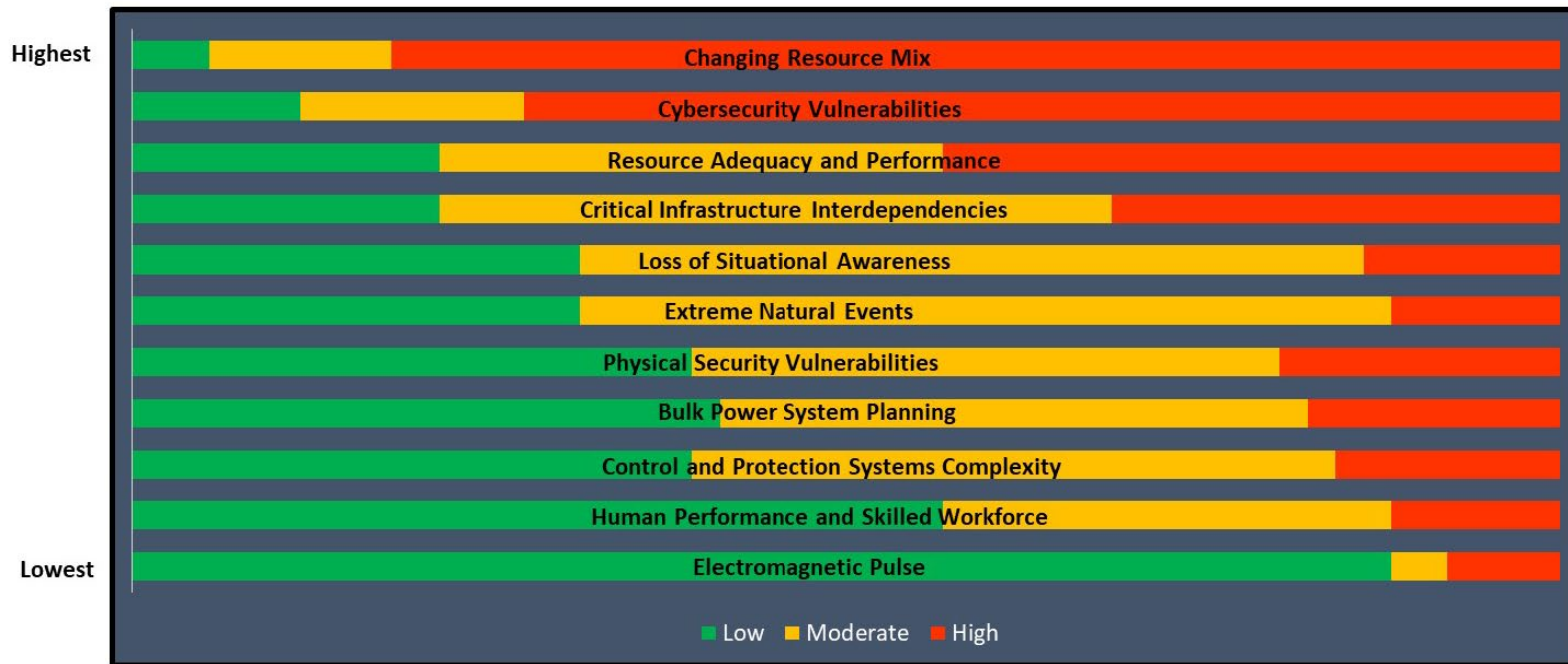
## Critical Infrastructure Interdependencies



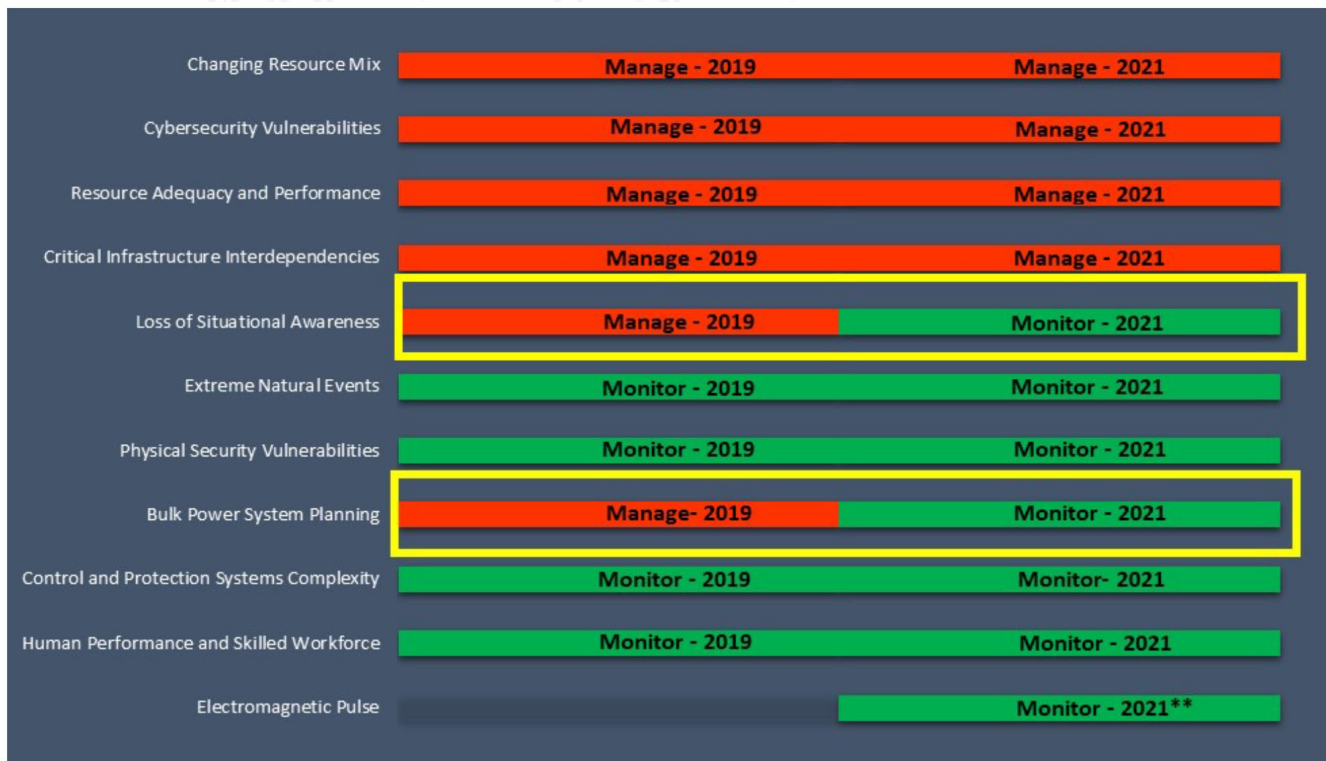
- A. Communications
- B. Water/Wastewater
- C. Oil
- D. Natural Gas

# Risks Rankings from 2021 Biennial RISC Report

## Risk Ranking



# Manage vs. Monitor - 2021 Biennial RISC Report



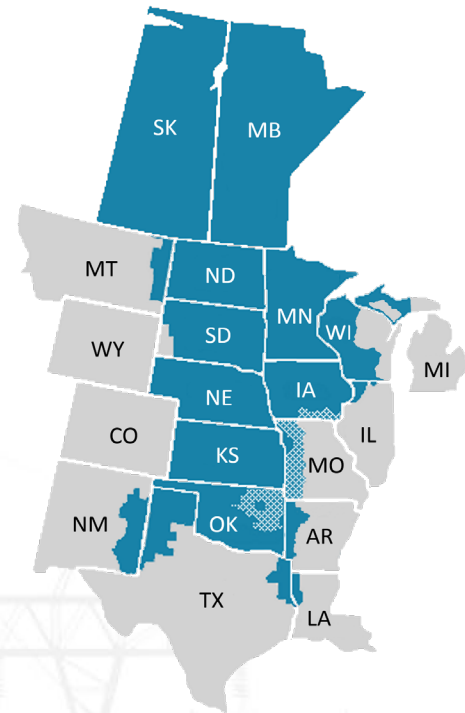
# Identifying Regional Risks

- **Operations and Planning Risks**

- Identified from Planning Coordinator assessments and RAPA data collections:
  - Event Analysis, Misoperations Reporting, Energy Emergency Alerts, NERC Alerts, NERC Lessons Learned

- **Physical and Cyber Security Risks**

- Captured annually in the MRO Regional Security Risk Assessment





# Assessing Regional Risk

- **MRO staff and the three MRO advisory councils collaborated to:**

- Identify risks that may have a higher probability of occurrence and/or impact within the MRO region
- Assess the resulting risks in terms of impact and likelihood, using the MRO Reliability Risk Matrix

## *Risk Assessment*

- ☐ *Severe*
- ☐ *High*
- ☐ *Significant*
- ☒ *Moderate*
- ☐ *Low*
- ☐ *Very Low*



MRO Reliability Risk Matrix - Operations and Planning Reliability Risk Rankings						
Consequence/Impact (C)		Likelihood (L)				
		L1	L2	L3	L4	L5
		Very Unlikely	Unlikely	Possible	Likely	Almost Certain
C5	Severe					
C4	Major			9	2 10	
C3	Moderate		3 4	1		
C2	Minor			8	5 6 7	
C1	Negligible					

	Operations and Planning Risks
1	BPS Modelling Accuracy *
2	Uncertainty of Winter Planning Reserve Margins *
3	Reactive Capability of IBRs and Reactive Resource Adequacy *
4	Inverter Based Resource Modelling and Ride Through Capabilities *
5	Misoperations Due to Errors Occurring During Commissioning *
6	Vegetation Management of 100-200 kV Circuits *
7	Cold Weather Operation of SF6 Gas Insulated Circuit Breakers *
8	Overhead Transmission Line Ratings During Cold Weather *
9	Lack of Energy Assurance Assessments - <b>New</b>
10	Generation Availability During Severe Cold Weather - <b>New</b>

*The four risks in the orange section of the O & P risk heat chart have been identified as having the highest relative risk and are:*

- *BPS Modeling Accuracy*
- *Winter Reserve Margin Uncertainty*
- *Lack of Energy Assurance Assessments*
- *Generation Availability During Severe Cold Weather*

# Top Operational and Planning Risks

## ● BPS Modeling Accuracy

- Many model builders contribute to the development of a single EI model
- The following pieces must fit together accurately to have a reliable set of BPS models:
  - Inverter-based generation (parameters, limitations)
  - The changing characteristics of load
  - Distributed energy resources netting with load
  - Market flow basecase assumptions
  - Interchange balancing between BAs
  - Short circuit modeling for protection equipment



# Top Operational and Planning Risks

## ● Uncertainty of Winter Planning Reserve Margins

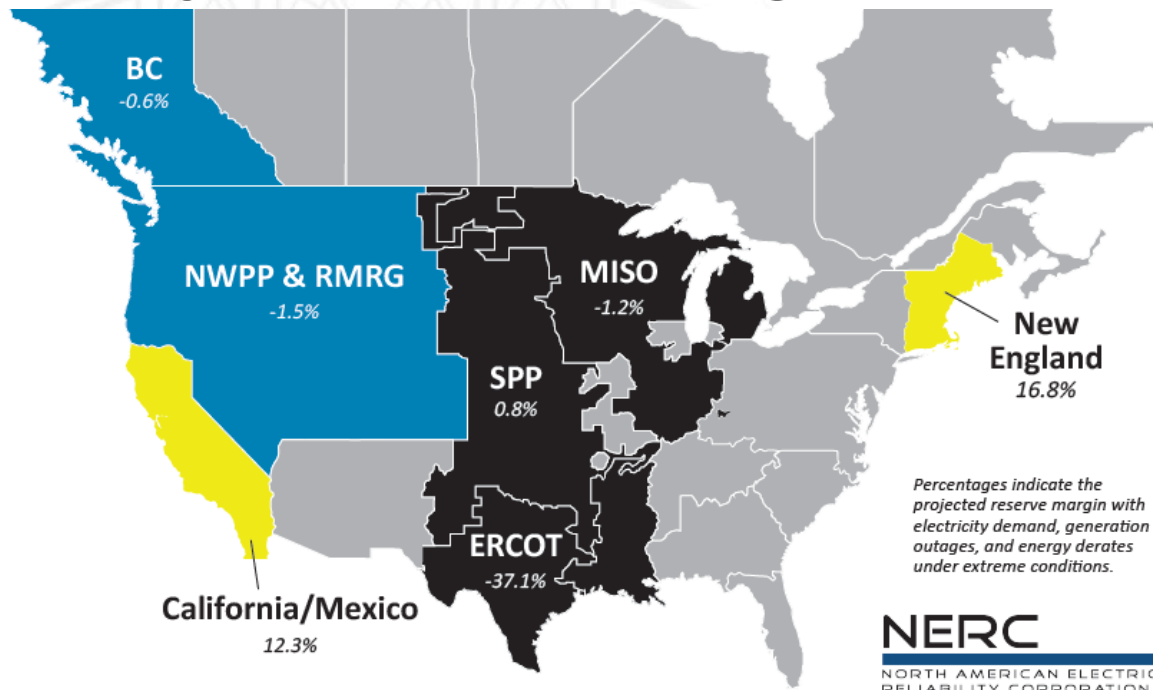
- The 2020/2021 winter planning reserve margins (PRM) for ERCOT, SPP and MISO were forecasted to be 49%, 59%, and 50%, respectively

***PRM = Margin between Anticipated Resources & Anticipated Load***

- In February 2021, all three RTOs experienced unanticipated generation outages combined with unanticipated load spikes and low wind speeds.
- **Result:** Manual firm load shed totaling 23,400 MW  
— *the largest manual firm load in US history.*

# Top Operational and Planning Risks

- Uncertainty of Winter Planning Reserve Margins



# Top Operational and Planning Risks

## ● Lack of Energy Adequacy Assessments

- NERC Energy Reliability Assessment Task Force (ERATF) was formed in February, 2021
- ERATF will lay out the framework for performing energy assurance assessments
- These assessments will compliment the traditional resource adequacy assessments (planning reserve margins)
- Will help assure energy assurance throughout the year, 8,760 hrs.
- Imperative due to the changing resource mix and uncertainty of fuel sources in the real-time.



# Top Operational and Planning Risks

- **Generation Availability in the Southern Midwest During Sub-freezing Temperatures**
  - Natural gas generation often not winterized for sub-freezing temperatures
  - Forced outages occur last minute, resulting in large scale capacity and energy shortages
  - Natural gas generation also subject to fuel shortages and non-firm contracts
  - Natural gas facilities also subject to shutdown during sub-freezing temperatures: ***Electric/Gas Infrastructure Interdependencies***



# 2021 State of Reliability Report

Figure 5.1: 2010 and 2020 North America-Wide Capacity Resource Mix

Table 5.1: Generation Resource Capacity by Fuel Type				
Generation Fuel Type	2010 On-Peak		2020 On-Peak	
	GW	Percent	GW	Percent
Coal	294.9	27.7%	235.9	22.6%
Natural Gas	417.7	39.2%	447.2	42.9%
Hydro	165.6	15.5%	140.7	13.5%
Nuclear	114.0	10.7%	110.1	10.6%
Oil	27.8	2.6%	40.2	3.9%
Wind	17.0	1.6%	24.7	2.4%
Solar	0.0	0.0%	21.4	2.1%
Other	28.9	2.7%	22.2	2.1%
Total:	1,065.8	100.0%	1,042.5	100.0%

## Changing Resource Mix:

Installed wind nameplate = 122 GW in 2020, yet accredited wind capacity at peak load is 24.7 GW (or 2.4% of total resource capacity).

Total capacity has dropped by 23 GW from 2010 to 2020, however total load has increased by about 85 GW in the same 10 years.



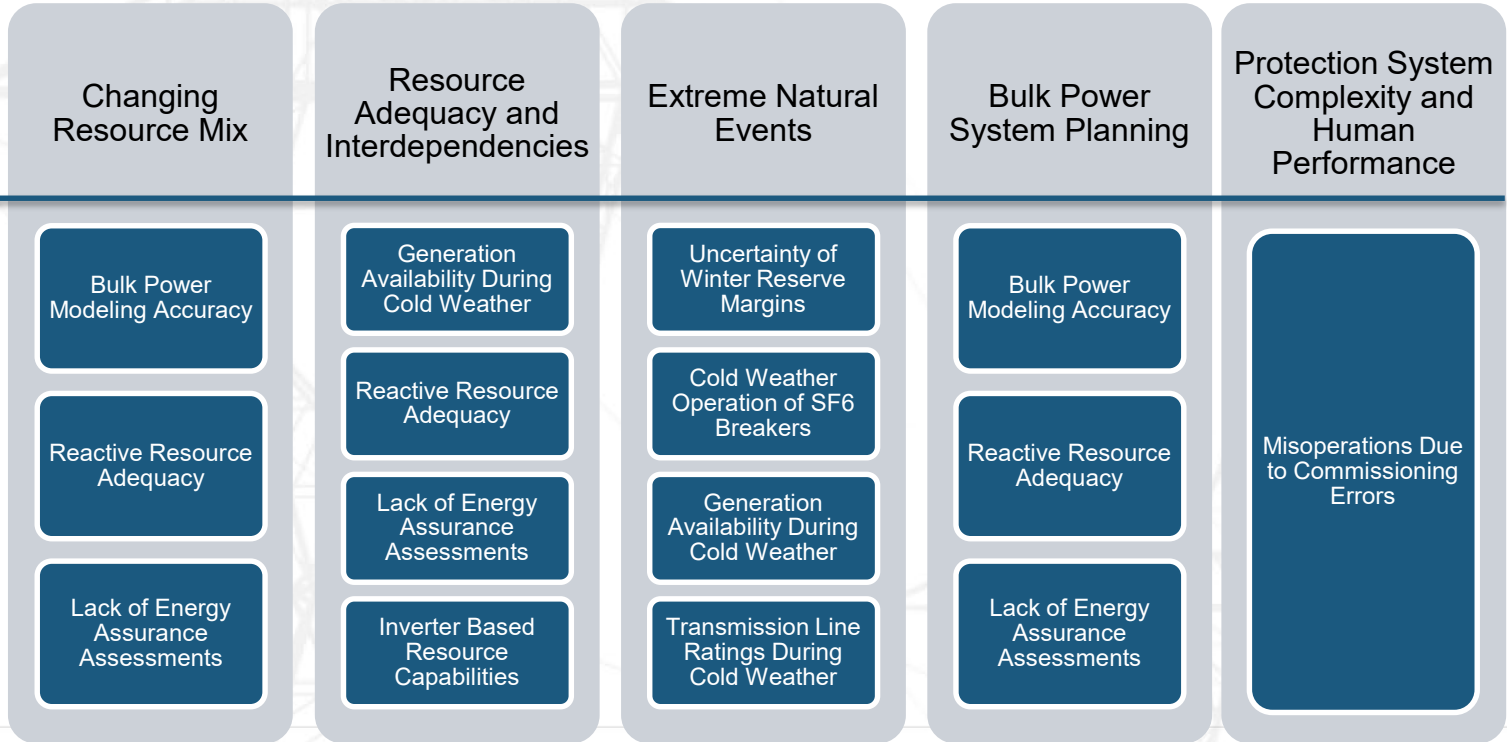
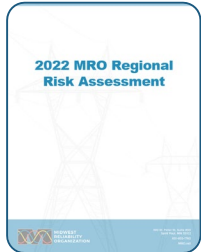
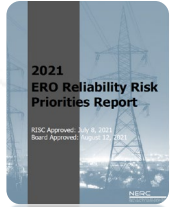
# 2021 Long Term Reliability Assessment

Solar and Wind Nameplate Capacity, Existing and Planned Additions through 2031										
Assessment	Nameplate MW of Solar					Nameplate MW of Wind				
Area	Existing	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3	Total	Existing	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3	Total
MISO	728	10,989	53,756	4,907	70,380	22,854	5,593	14,649	730	43,826
MH	0	0	0	0	0	259	0	0	0	259
SPC	2	10	10	57	79	242	385	200	100	927
SPP	278	444	32,170	149	33,041	27,535	4,604	16,892	0	49,031
<b>Total</b>	1,008	11,443	85,936	5,113	103,500	50,890	10,582	31,741	830	94,043

Solar and Wind Nameplate Capacity, Existing and Planned Additions through 2031

# ERO and MRO

## Reliability Risk Correlation





Steen Fjalstad, Director of Security

# MRO 2022 Regional Security Risks

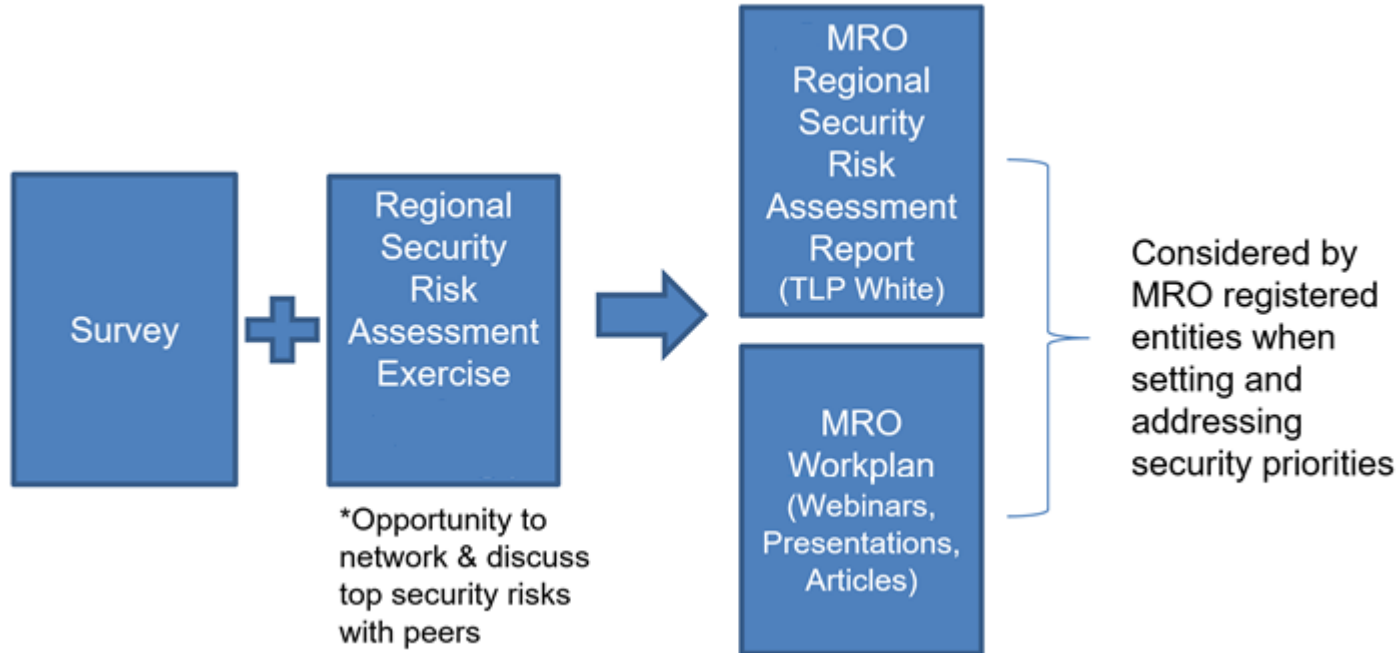


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# MRO SAC Regional Security Risk Assessment (RSRA) Process



# MRO Security Risk Priorities for 2022

MRO Reliability Risk Matrix - Physical and Cyber Security Risk Rankings						
Consequence/Impact (C)		Likelihood (L)				
		L1	L2	L3	L4	L5
		Very Unlikely	Unlikely	Possible	Likely	Almost Certain
C5	Severe					
C4	Major				7	
C3	Moderate			4 5		
C2	Minor		1 6	2 3 8 9 11		
C1	Negligible			10		

	Physical and Cyber Security Risks
1	Inability to Access and/or Apply Threat Intelligence - <b>New</b>
2	Inadequate Resources *
3	Focus on CIP Compliance *
4	Insider Threat *
5	Malware/Ransomware - <b>New</b>
6	Security Awareness & Training - <b>New</b>
7	Supply Chain Compromise *
8	Vulnerability & Support Challenges of Legacy Devices *
9	Asset Inventory & Management - <b>New</b>
10	Network Visibility & Monitoring - <b>New</b>
11	Perimeter Security & Controls - <b>New</b>

*The three risks in the orange section of the security risk heat chart have been identified as having the highest relative risk and are:*

- Supply Chain Compromise
- Insider Threat
- Malware/Ransomware



# Top Cyber and Physical Security Risks

## ● Supply Chain Compromise

- Recent events
  - BPS and corporate
- Impacts other risks
- People
  - Access (OEM, vendors)
- Process
  - Patch management, vendor assessment
- Technology
  - Hardware, software, sub-components



# Top Cyber and Physical Security Risks

- **Insider Threat**

- BPS and corporate
  - Sensitive access with company specific insight
- Remote access & work from home element
- Behavioral indicators



# Top Cyber and Physical Security Risks

- **Malware/Ransomware**

- Recent events
  - BPS and corporate
- Pervasive to all systems
- Exposes internal controls
  - Security awareness, IT/OT convergence, network segmentation, preparedness





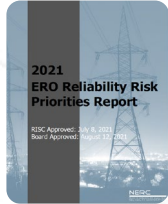
# Top Cyber and Physical Security Risks

- **Focus on CIP Compliance**
  - Rapid change in technologies
    - Rear view mirror vs windshield
  - Administrative burden of evidence gathering
  - Possible false sense of security



# ERO and MRO

## Security Risk Correlation



### Cybersecurity Vulnerabilities

Asset Inventory & Management

Inadequate Resources

Insider Threat

Malware/Ransomware

Supply Chain Compromise

Network Visibility and Monitoring

### Loss of Situational Awareness

Network Visibility & Monitoring

Perimeter Security & Controls

Inability to Access and/or Apply Threat Intelligence

### Physical Security Vulnerabilities

Perimeter Security & Controls

Insider Threat

Security Awareness & Training

Inadequate Resources

### Human Performance and Skilled Workforce

Focus on CIP Compliance

Inadequate Resources

Security Awareness & Training

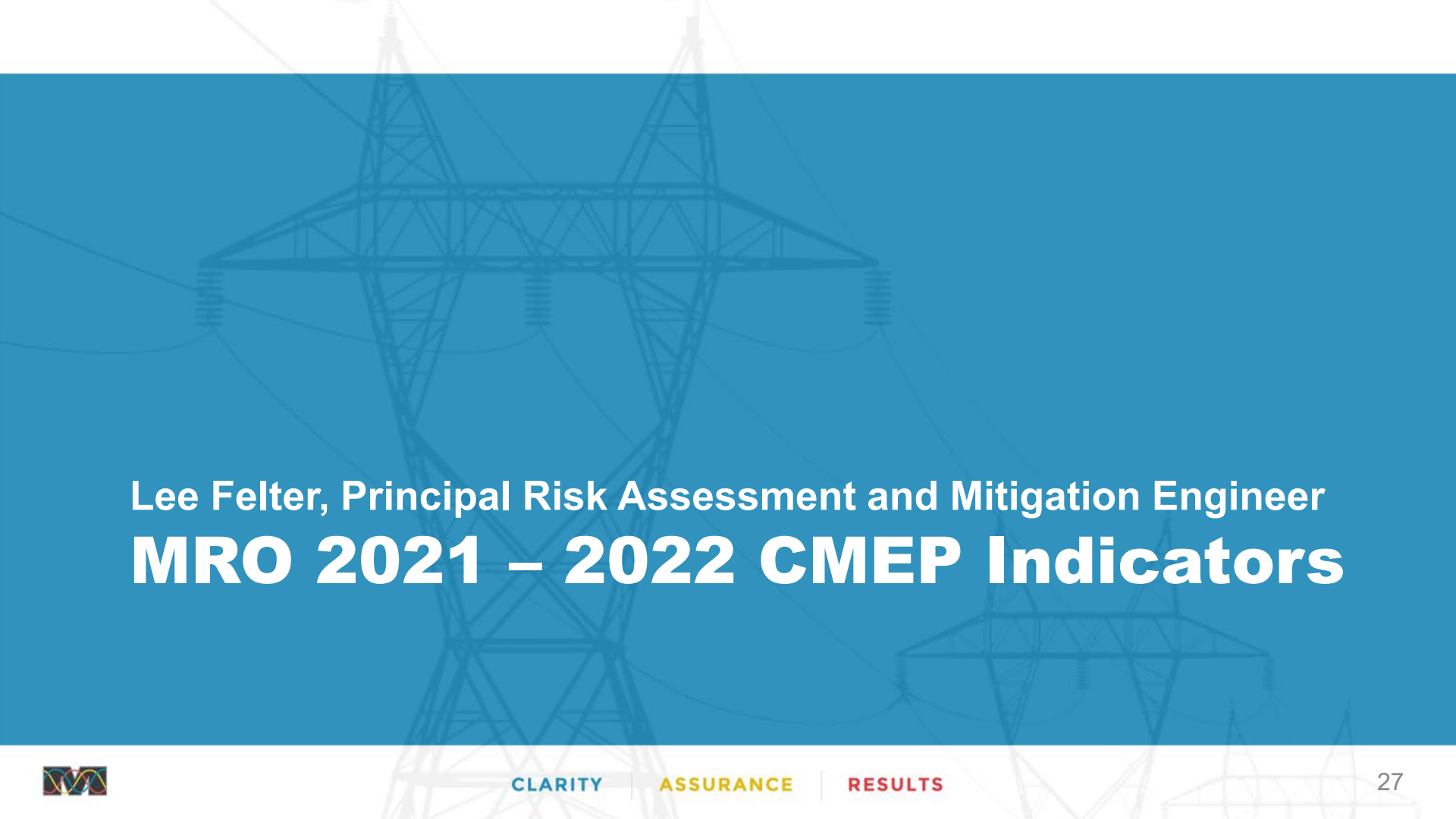
Vulnerability & Support Challenges of Legacy Devices



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Lee Felter, Principal Risk Assessment and Mitigation Engineer

# **MRO 2021 – 2022 CMEP Indicators**



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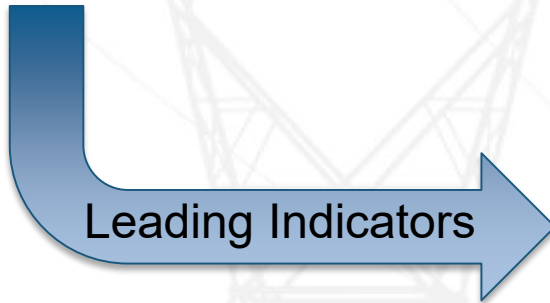
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# Identifying CMEP Highlights

## ● Emergent Standards - observations

- HEROS
- Individual outreach engagements
- SDT involvement



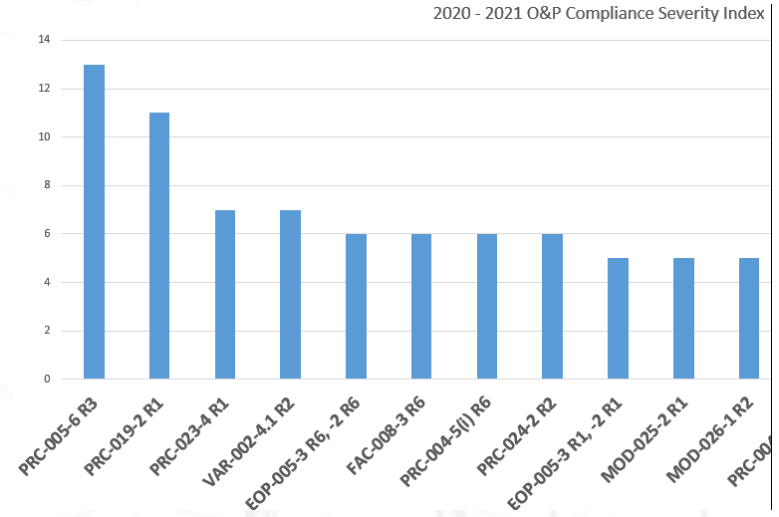
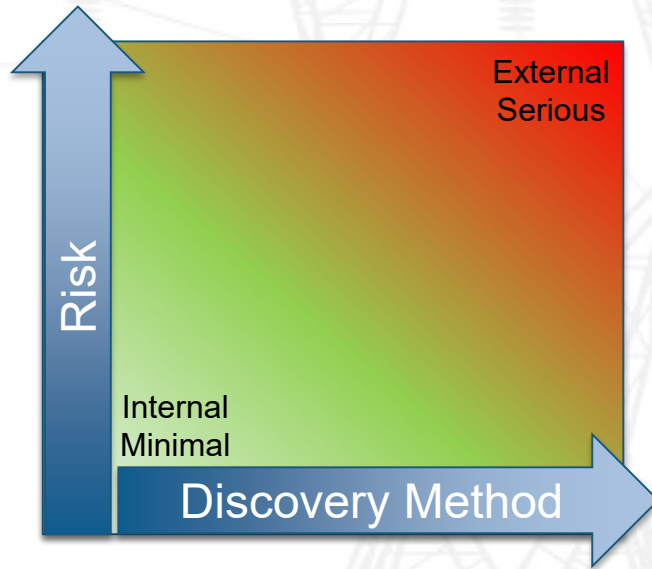
Risk  
Reducing  
Controls

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# Identifying CMEP Highlights

- **CSI = Assessed Risk \* Discovery Method** → Recent Trend Research



# Identifying CMEP Highlights

## ● Recent Trends

- 2021 – 2022 high Compliance Severity Index requirements

- Common root causes
- Other standout observations

Risk  
Reducing  
Controls

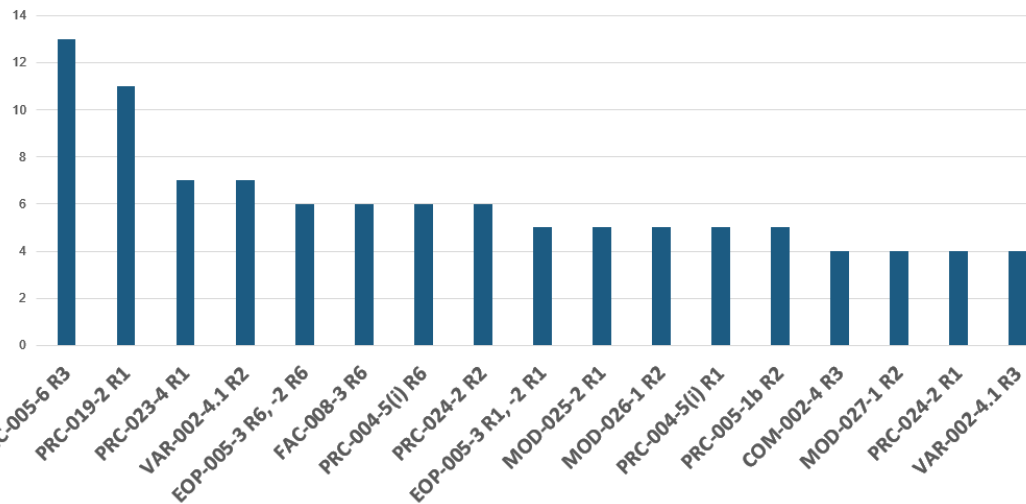
Lagging Indicators

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# High CSI Trends

2020 - 2021 O&P Compliance Severity Index



2020 - 2021 CIP Compliance Severity Index

