



Draft Minutes of the Reliability Advisory Council Meeting

Webex

April 6, 2022, 9:02 a.m. to 3:11 p.m. Central

Notice for this meeting was electronically posted to the MRO website [here](#) on March 9, 2022. A final agenda, including advanced reading materials, was also posted on March 30, 2022.

1. Call to Order and Determination of Quorum

The Reliability Advisory Council (RAC) Chair, Dick Pursley called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. Reliability Analysis Administrator, Rebecca Schneider, advised the chair that a quorum of the RAC was present. A complete list of attendees is included as [Exhibit A](#).

2. Standards of Conduct and Antitrust Guidelines

Pursuant to Policy and Procedure 4, Bryan Clark, MRO Director of Reliability Analysis, highlighted MRO's Standards of Conduct, Conflict of Interest, and Antitrust Guidelines.

3. Chair's Remarks

Chair Pursley welcomed new advisory council member, Jeremy Severson and MRO staff member, Rebecca Schneider. Chair Pursley gave an overview of the 2021 RAC accomplishments, highlighting the Cold Weather Preparedness Workshop and the 2021 Reliability Conference. He noted the importance of remaining diligent in the current geopolitical climate in terms of defining and mitigating the risks within our industry. Chair Pursley also noted that unforeseen risks may threaten our efforts to maintain reliability focus and encouraged a collaborative, congenial, cooperative business approach throughout the region. Additionally, he mentioned the importance of promoting the industry as a career opportunity to ensure appropriate staffing levels in light of high impact retirements.

4. New Members' Welcome Presentation

Bryan Clark presented an overview to new members including the MRO organizational structure and an ongoing initiative of the Organizational Group Oversight Committee (OGOC) to increase diversity on MRO's organizational groups. Clark highlighted the OGOC roster and reviewed the guiding principles for council members.

5. Consent Agenda

The RAC reviewed the consent agenda, which included draft minutes from the November 9, 2021 meeting, membership recommendations from the Protective Relay Subgroup (PRS), and charter update recommendations from the PRS.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the RAC approved the consent agenda in its entirety.

6. MRO Board of Directors, OGOC and General Update

Bryan Clark provided an overview of the Board of Directors and OGOC activities, highlighting the agenda for the upcoming board meeting. Clark also provided an overview of the 2021 Organizational



Group Survey results for the RAC and PRS. The RAC received high scores for Overall Experience and Performance of MRO Staff.

7. Reliability and Security Technical Committee Meeting Update

RAC member and Reliability and Security Technical Committee (RSTC) member John Stephens provided an update from the last RSTC meeting. Stephens noted changes to the Generating Availability Data Systems (GADS) reporting requirements to include event data for wind and solar facilities with respect to design and performance. He also noted the name change of the NERC Inverter-Based Resource Performance Subcommittee (IRPS). The February 2021 cold weather event remained a big topic at the meeting. FERC is holding a Technical Conference on Cold Weather Preparedness on April 27-28, 2022. RSTC reviewed a design basis document for natural gas coordination studies, assessing the impact of natural gas facility disruptions on the electric system or vice versa. Stephens mentioned the 6GHz task force, chaired by Jennifer Flandermeyer. There is a NERC survey in progress related to 6GHz usage due April 18, 2022. The Energy Reliability Assessment Task Force (ERATF) submitted a standard authorization request to NERC. RSTC approved a reliability guideline for forecasting practices for distributed energy resources (DER) related to modeling, near term and long-term assessment. The RSTC is reviewing a couple of white papers; one is related to reliability impacts of DER aggregators, and the other one is a reliability standard related to DERs. Discussion ensued.

8. MRO Representatives on NERC Subgroups

NERC Electric Gas Working Group (EGWG) – Jaimin Patel
NERC Inverter Based Resource Performance Subcommittee (IRPS) – David Brauch
NERC System Planning Impacts from DER Working Group (SPIDERWG) – Wayne Guttormson
NERC System Protection and Control Working Group (SPCWG) – Mark Gutzmann
NERC Energy Reliability Assessment Task Force (ERATF) – Open

The NERC Representatives from each subgroup provided verbal reports to the advisory council. Discussion ensued.

9. Update 2022 Work Plan

Action Item Review.

Chair Pursley provided a recap of the 2021 action items. He reviewed the top seven work plan items for 2022 and solicited two volunteers to help MRO develop the Regional Risk Assessment (RRA). The volunteers will be determined at the second quarter RAC meeting in May. The RAC reviewed various action items in the 2022 work plan. Updates were made accordingly. Discussion ensued.

Reliability Risk Matrix Updates.

Clark provided a brief overview of the Reliability Risk Matrix.

2022 Reliability Conference.

RAC member Derek Brown provided an overview of the Annual Reliability Conference that will take



place on May 18, 2022 in Kansas City, Missouri. The conference agenda was reviewed. Chair Pursley asked the members to promote the conference if they can. Discussion ensued.

10. Reliability Coordinator Updates

Midcontinent Independent System Operator Update.

RAC member Durgesh Manjure provided an overview of the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) 2021-22 Winter Operations Report. Manjure noted no major events like last winter and added that 2022 load is close to 2019 levels. He also noted that coal is down to 35 percent in the energy fuel mix. MISO hit a new wind peak of 23.6 GW in January 2022, and a new solar peak of 1.6 GW in February 2022. Manjure noted that energy prices are trending up. A member asked about the tornado that damaged a 500 kV line connecting MISO Midwest to MISO South in December 2021. Manjure had no information regarding the event. Andy Witmeier commented on the Regional Directional Transfer (RDT) that MISO has not changed its operating limits to date on the RDT. The line is out until June 30, 2022, and the joint parties will need to discuss the firm limits available to MISO along the interface. Discussion ensued.

Due to technical difficulties, Chair Pursley adjourned the meeting for lunch at 12:10 p.m. The meeting resumed at 1:07 p.m.

11. RAC Discussion with Organizational Group Oversight Committee

The RAC met with the OGOC in a joint session for one hour. The Annual Reliability Conference agenda was reviewed as well as the top ten 2022 Regional Risks. MRO Sr. Vice President and Chief Operating Office, Richard Burt gave a brief overview of his conference presentation. An OGOC member suggested more focus on regional risks as conference agenda topics. An OGOC member asked about planning ops coordination. An OGOC member asked how the RAC interacts with other entities in the Region. RAC Chair Pursley reviewed the five NERC Groups MRO follows and noted the new ERATF member. An OGOC member suggested reaching out to the NERC reps prior to the RAC meetings for better engagement. Discussion ensued.

To accommodate scheduling conflicts, Chair Pursley resumed the Reliability Coordinator Updates (Agenda Items 10b. and 10c.) after the joint meeting with the OGOC. These minutes reflect the order in which the reports were provided.

Vice Chair Jason Weiers departed the meeting.

12. Reliability Coordinator Updates

Saskatchewan Power Corporation Update.

RAC member Binod Shrestha provided an update during the meeting. Shrestha noted that Saskatchewan Power forecasted a cold winter and reached a new winter peak of 3,910 MW. There were no major operations issues to report. Summer loads are expected to be between 3,250–3,750 MW for May through October. There are some planned generation outages in the off-peak times of the summer. Shrestha reported there were no concerns with fuel level capacities. Wind is only 10 percent of fuel capacity. Transmission line outages are planned between Saskatchewan Power and Alberta for



two weeks in June. Saskatchewan Power expects to be able to serve load and maintain operating margin this summer. Shrestha also provided a few planning related project updates.

Southwest Power Pool Update.

RAC member C.J. Brown provided an update during the meeting. Brown noted that Southwest Power Pool (SPP) reached its winter peak in January 2022 of 41,000 MW. There were no big events this winter. However, he noted concerns regarding limitations on resources. Brown mentioned that SPP set new renewable records, having reached 88.5 percent of load with wind, and 90.2 percent of load with renewables (solar, hydro). There was discussion around generation minimums. Brown also noted that SPP has returned to the office in a hybrid model. Discussion ensued.

13. Assessment Review

MRO Regional Summer Assessment.

MRO Principal Reliability Assessment Engineer, Salva Andiappan, provided an overview of the Regional Summer Assessment (RSA). Chair Pursley solicited four volunteers to form a subgroup to review the RSA before it is released to the public on June 8, 2022. RAC Members Ron Gunderson, Gayle Nansel, Dick Pursley and Nandaka Jayasekara volunteered. Discussion ensued.

MRO 2022 Regional Risk Assessment Update.

MRO Principal Technical Advisor, John Seidel, provided an overview of the MRO Regional Risk Assessment (RRA). Seidel highlighted the top ten operations and planning risks on the Reliability Risk Matrix. Seidel noted a calm winter with no serious events. He mentioned that Ride Through Capabilities of Inverter Based Resources is a hot topic with NERC, and there was an event in Texas recently related to wind. Discussion ensued.

14. Debrief from OGOC Discussion

The RAC Members had a debrief discussion after the joint meeting with the OGOC.

15. NERC Standards Review Forum Update

Nansel provided an overview of the weekly NERC Standards Review Forum (NSRF) meetings. Nansel solicited the members for feedback regarding the type of engagement the group would like going forward.

16. Protective Relay Subgroup Update

MRO Senior Systems Protection Engineer, Jake Bernhagen, provided an update of the Protective Relay Subgroup (PRS). Bernhagen provided an update from the February 22, 2022 meeting, noting a new chair and vice chair and two new members on the PRS. He highlighted the technical presentations and the upcoming FERC/NERC Protection System Commissioning Program Review webinar.

17. 2022 Meeting Dates

Chair Pursley reviewed the 2022 meeting dates for the RAC as well as the other councils and subgroups.



RAC Members Derek Brown, Dwayne Stradford and Ron Gunderson departed the meeting.

18. RAC Member Roundtable

Chair Pursley invited member participants to share other relevant industry observations.

19. Other Business and Adjourn

The RAC was informed that the OGOC had approved the RAC 2022 Work Plan, RAC and NERC new members, and the PRS new members and charter update during their meeting earlier in the day.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:11 p.m.

Prepared by: Rebecca Schneider, Reliability Analysis Administrator.

Reviewed and Submitted by: Bryan Clark, Director, Reliability Analysis



Exhibit A – Meeting Attendees

Reliability Advisory Council Members Present	
Name	Organization
Dick Pursley, Chair	Great River Energy
Jason Weiers, Vice Chair	Otter Tail Power Company
Binod Shrestha	Saskatchewan Power Corporation
CJ Brown	Southwest Power Pool, Inc.
Dallas Rowley	Oklahoma Gas and Electric
Derek Brown	Evergy, Inc.
Durgesh Manjure	MISO
Dwayne Stradford	American Electric Power
Gayle Nansel	Western Area Power Administration
Jeremy Severson	Basin Electric Power Cooperative
John Stephens	City Utilities of Springfield Missouri
Nandaka Jayasekara	Manitoba Hydro
Ron Gunderson	Nebraska Public Power District
MRO Staff Present	
Name	Title
Bryan Clark	Director, Reliability Analysis
Rebecca Schneider	Reliability Analysis Administrator
Estee Nauer	Security Administrator
John Seidel	Principal Technical Advisor
Salva Andiappan	Principal, Reliability Assessment Engineer
Jake Bernhagen	Sr. Systems Protection Engineer
John Grimm	Principal Systems Protection Engineer
Jeff Norman	Director, Compliance Monitoring



Max Desruisseaux	Sr. Power Systems Engineer
Michelle Olson	Compliance Monitoring Administrator
Jeremy Mattke	Principal Compliance Engineer
Ryan McNamara	RAM Engineer III CIP
Steen Fjalstad	Director of Security
Richard Burt	Sr. Vice President and COO
Guests	
Name	Organization
W. Bryn Wilson	Oklahoma Gas & Electric
Andy Witmeier	MISO
Tom Whynot	Manitoba Hydro
Jaimin Patel	Sask Power Corp.
David Brauch	MISO
Mark Gutzmann	Xcel Energy
Wayne Guttormson	Sask Power Corp.
Ricardo Rodriguez	City of Ames
Gail Elliott	ITC Holdings
Mary Agnes Nimis	FERC
Omar Elabbady	Xcel Energy
Terry Harbour	MidAmerican Energy Company
Fred Meyer	Algonquin Power & Utilities Corp.
Justin Fuith	Pro-Tech Power
Michael Ayotte	ITC Holdings
Mark Eastwood	City Utilities of Springfield Missouri
Chris Bellefy	Minnesota Power



Organizational Group Oversight Committee Members Present

Name	Organization
Paul Crist	Lincoln Electric System
JoAnn Thompson	Otter Tail Power Company
Aaron Bloom	NextEra Energy Resources
Iqbal Dhani	Saskatchewan Power Corporation
Jennifer Flandermeyer	Evergy
Charles Marshall	ITC Holdings
Daryl Maxwell	Manitoba Hydro
Ben Porath	Dairyland Power Cooperative
Eric Schmitt	Independent Director
Dehn Stevens	MidAmerican Energy Company
Jeanne Tisinger	Independent Director