



## Final Minutes of the Security Advisory Council Meeting

### MRO Offices, St. Paul, MN / Webex

Wednesday, February 21, 2024, 9:03 a.m. – 3:34 p.m. Central

Notice for this meeting was electronically posted to the MRO website [here](#) on February 1, 2024. A final agenda, including advanced reading materials, was posted on February 20, 2024.

#### 1. Call to Order and Determination of Quorum

Security Advisory Council Chair Ian Anderson called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. Chair Anderson confirmed a quorum 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, Steen Fjalstad, MRO Director of Security highlighted MRO's Standards of Conduct and Antitrust Guidelines.

#### 3. Safety Briefing

Shawn Keller, MRO Outreach Coordinator, presented a safety briefing video for in-person attendees.

Fjalstad recognized Keller for his work on the video. A SAC member provided a personal account of the use of an AED machine and expressed appreciation that MRO has one onsite.

#### 4. Chair Remarks

Chair Anderson discussed the challenges facing entities, such as emerging threats and the increasing pace of change, particularly for operations and security staff. Anderson thanked the members of the council for their service. Anderson discussed the success of the 2023 Security Conference and goals for the SAC in 2024. Discussion ensued.

#### 5. New and Returning Member Welcome Presentation

Chair Anderson reviewed the welcome presentation, and asked SAC members to introduce themselves. Chair Anderson noted open positions on the SAC and encouraged meeting attendees who are not members of the SAC to contact him or Fjalstad if they are interested in becoming involved. Chair Anderson further remarked how the SAC can enhance the work of the E-ISAC.

#### 6. MRO Staff Liaison Remarks

Fjalstad thanked Chair Anderson for his remarks on the welcome presentation and encouraged meeting attendees to contact MRO staff with any questions.

Fjalstad discussed the fourth quarter Organizational Group Oversight Committee (OGOC) meeting and the breakout discussions held during that meeting. Fjalstad noted that the breakout session notes will be discussed during the first quarter 2024 OGOC meeting.



Fjalstad noted the importance of both security and compliance, and discussed the issue of vendor management, which was highlighted by the OGOC. Fjalstad noted that the OGOC complimented the SAC's work. The OGOC recommended that the SAC continue to focus on risks and promote their work more.

Fjalstad encouraged meeting attendees to review Lee Felter, MRO Principal Security Engineer's, work on insider threat.

Fjalstad highlighted the HERO Award and noted that the nomination period is currently open, and that nomination information is available on the MRO website.

Fjalstad noted that all council meetings in 2024 are planned as hybrid, but the council can choose to change to a virtual format.

Fjalstad noted that the MRO Security Department has three areas of focus, along with supporting the SAC:

- Critical Infrastructure Security expertise
- Outreach and training
- Emergency and safety management

## 7. Regional Risk Assessment (RRA) Update

Mark Tiemeier, MRO Principal Technical Advisor, provided an update on the RRA and reviewed the process and risks. Tiemeier noted that Uncertain Energy Availability is noted as an extreme risk, North America wide. The RRA report is available on the MRO website.

Tiemeier discussed an upcoming webinar and plans for revisions to the 2025 RRA and noted that the OGOC risk assessment has been moved to early November, so RRA activities will be earlier in the year to accommodate this new timeline. The risk ranking workshop is tentatively scheduled for September 17, and will provide the opportunity for members of all three councils to provide input. Publication of the report is scheduled for the first week of January 2025.

**Action Item:** Tiemeier requested two volunteers from the SAC to participate in the risk ranking workshop.

## 8. 2024 Regional Security Risk Assessment (RSRA)

Felter noted the aim to increase the efficiency of the RSRA and tailor it to feed into the RRA more effectively. For 2024, the aims are to streamline the survey and leverage existing work. Felter requested volunteers from the SAC to assist in crafting the survey so it focuses on new and emerging risks, with the aim of feeding into the RRA and identifying mitigation activities that are not standards-based and might affect risk ranking.

**Action Item:** Felter requested two or three volunteers from the SAC to assist with crafting the survey and streamlining the process. The anticipated timeline is March and April 2024, with a goal of releasing the survey in May 2024.



The goal is to release the survey in May and collect responses through June to gather emerging risk thoughts into the RRA. Felter noted that the RSRA provides more detailed information than the RRA, and may be used to better target webinars or other items.

Chair Anderson reiterated the importance of this work.

## 9. MRO SACTF Update

SACTF and SAC member Daniel Graham provided an update on threat call statistics and feedback from threat call participants. Graham shared feedback requesting input from outside groups, such as other sectors or the FBI. Discussion ensued.

The council discussed proposed charter and guideline changes. Discussion ensued.

## 10. MRO Representatives on NERC Subgroups Written Reports

*Tony Eddleman (Supply Chain Working Group SCWG)*

Eddleman reviewed leadership of the SCWG and discussed supply chain risk management SAR, and provided an update on the review of CIP-13 requested by NERC.

Fjalstad questioned the level of vendor and consultant participation. Discussion ensued.

*Alan Kloster, Security Integration and Technology Enablement Subcommittee (SITES)*

Kloster provided a written report.

*Marc Child, Reliability and Security Technical Committee (RSTC)*

Child provided a written report.

## 11. Outreach Update

Cris Zimmerman, MRO Manager of Outreach and Stakeholder Engagement, reviewed plans for 2024. Zimmerman noted that the Outreach department is seeking webinar topics, and that six weeks of lead time is needed to schedule and publicize a webinar. Zimmerman discussed plans and timelines for the 2024 Security Conference and provided an update on GridSecCon.

Fjalstad thanked the Outreach team for their work, highlighted GridSecCon. Fjalstad suggested that the SACTF consider providing a panel on the topic of the weekly threat call at GridSecCon. In response to a question from Fjalstad, Zimmerman provided information on expectations related to GridSecCon.

Fjalstad noted opportunities related to the Security Conference, encouraged meeting attendees to contact MRO staff if they would like to be involved.

**Action item:** Zimmerman is seeking volunteers from the SAC to serve on a planning committee for the Security Conference.

The SAC recessed for lunch at 11:48 a.m., and reconvened at 1:02 p.m.



## 12. 2025 Security Conference Dates

Fjalstad shared that the 2025 Security Conference is scheduled for May 13, 2025, in Oklahoma City, OK, in conjunction with the Reliability Conference, scheduled for May 14, 2025. The second quarter 2025 SAC meeting may be May 15, 2025. There will not be a Security Conference in October 2025.

MRO's Outreach department has engaged the Omni hotel for the event.

Fjalstad and Zimmerman noted that the situation is fluid; they are seeking input from council members, and considering options for coordinating the Reliability Conference and the Security Conference as a joint event. Contact Fjalstad and/or Zimmerman with questions and suggestions.

It was noted that 2025 will be the twelfth year of the Security Conference. Zimmerman noted that speakers should be finalized two to three months before the conference.

## 13. SAC Role Definition

Fjalstad introduced the draft of a role definition document that explains expectations of council members in their roles as council member, vice chair, or chair. Discussion ensued.

**Action Item:** MRO staff to ensure the document is linked to the MRO strategy document.

## 14. SAC Member Engagement Survey

Chair Anderson encouraged SAC members to complete the survey and explained that the information gathered will be used to bolster the RSRA and other council work.

A SAC member suggested that the SAC consider what can be learned from the SACTF's success. A SAC member suggested having defined scheduled times to complete tasks for the SAC, and that the SAC try to identify less labor-intensive tasks. Pairing less experienced SAC members with more experienced members to complete tasks.

A SAC member expressed appreciation of the SAC as a resource during the pandemic.

**Action Item:** SAC members to complete the SAC member engagement survey.

## 15. SAC 2024 Work Plan Review and Updates

**Action Item:** MRO staff to review newsletter article engagement, report back to SAC.

**Action Item:** MRO staff to review whether content can be refreshed, discuss the value of items.

[Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the council agreed to redefine risk ranking support on the work plan.](#)

**Action Item:** SAC member Graham will draft language regarding risk ranking and send it to the chair.

[Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the SAC voted to keep the item related to GridSecCon above the blue line in the 2024 work plan.](#)

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the SAC voted to approve the 2024 work plan for submission to the OGO for approval.

## 16. Action Item Review

Tiemeier requested two volunteers from the SAC to participate in the risk ranking workshop.

Felter requested two to three volunteers from the SAC to assist with crafting the survey and streamlining the process. The anticipated timeline is March and April 2024, with a goal of releasing the survey in May 2024.

Zimmerman is seeking volunteers from the SAC to serve on a planning committee for the Security Conference.

MRO staff to ensure the council roles document is linked to the MRO corporate strategy document.

SAC members to complete the SAC member engagement survey.

MRO staff to review newsletter article engagement, report back to SAC.

MRO staff to review whether content can be refreshed, discuss the value of items.

SAC member Graham will draft language regarding risk ranking and send it to the chair.

Fjalstad requested at least one volunteer from the SAC to attend the OGO risk discussions on March 6, 2024. SAC member Glunz volunteered.

## 17. Other Business and Adjourn

A SAC member asked whether it was possible to create a more formal vendor discussion group at MRO and indicated they will be talking with industry contacts on this topic. SAC member referred to CIP-004, and questioned if this could be considered an extension of supply chain standards, and noted this is also relevant to other standards. There was a suggestion that this could be a joint effort with Compliance. Discussion ensued.

Meeting adjourned at 3:34 p.m.

**Prepared by:** Margaret Eastman, Council Secretary

**Reviewed and submitted by:** Steen Fjalstad, Director of Security



## Exhibit A – Meeting Attendees

Security Advisory Council Members Present	
Name	Company
Ian Anderson	Oklahoma Gas and Electric
Clayton Whitacre	Great River Energy
Daniel Graham	Basin Electric Power Cooperative
David Johnson	Oklahoma Gas and Electric
Douglas Peterchuck	Omaha Public Power District
Justin Haar	Minnkota Power Cooperative
Kelly Crist	Engie North America
Norma Browne	Ameren
Patrick Glunz	Nebraska Public Power District
Peter Grandgeorge	MidAmerican Energy Company
Rocky Tolentino	Southwest Power Pool
Tim Anderson	Dairyland Power Cooperative
Other Attendees	
Name	Title
Margaret Eastman	MRO, Security Administrator
Lee Felter	MRO, Principal Security Engineer
Steen Fjalstad	MRO, Director of Security
Anna Martinson	MRO, RAM and Enforcement/External Affairs Administrator
Bryan Clark	MRO, Director of Reliability Analysis
Cris Zimmerman	MRO, Manager of Outreach and Stakeholder Engagement
Jess Syring	MRO, Compliance Monitoring Manager
Kristine Albrecht	MRO, Human Resources Generalist



Lauren McClary	MRO, Meeting Administrator
Lisa Stellmaker	MRO, Executive Administrator and Office Manager
Mark Tiemeier	MRO, Principal Technical Advisor
Rebecca Schneider	MRO, Reliability Analysis Administrator
Shawn Keller	MRO, Outreach Coordinator
Brenda Pernitsky	GridSME
Brenda Davis	PS Energy Group
Boaz Whitmore	Omaha Public Power District
Bryan Sherrow	Kansas City Board of Public Utilities
Daniel Moore	Western Farmers Electric Cooperative
Danny Johnson	Southwestern Power Administration
Darryl Maxwell	Manitoba Hydro
David Garrett	Potter Global Technologies
David Terrazas	Manitoba Hydro
Derek Cherneski	SaskPower
Dion Donais	SaskPower
Jason Chlopak	Nebraska Public Power District
Jeff Fuller	Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO)
Jen McCabe	Utility Services: NERC Compliance Consultants
John Kimlinger	Xcel Energy
Jordan Krueger	Xcel Energy
Ken Ross	SaskPower
Kevin Giles	Evergy
Larry Brusseau	Corn Belt Power Cooperative
Laura Cox	Evergy
Lisa Nguyen	OGE



Mary Agnes Nimis	FERC
Michael Grexa	Oglethorpe Power
PT Wells	Oklahoma Gas and Electric
Paul Elwell	Reliability First
Paul Mehlhaff	Sunflower Electric Power Corporation
Ray Bergmeier	Sunflower Electric Power Corporation
Theresa Reichard	Grand River Dam Authority
Ricardo Rodriguez	City of Ames Electric Administration
Scott Galbraith	AMICO Security
Sharon Mayers	CAM Industrial Solutions
Tony Eddleman	Nebraska Public Power District

*The above list does not reflect all meeting attendees  
as the meeting was open for observation only via Webex.*