



## Final Minutes of the Security Advisory Council Meeting

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

October 12, 2023 from 10:01 a.m. - 2:37 p.m. Central

Notice for this meeting was electronically posted to the MRO website [here](#) on September 22, 2023. A final agenda, including advanced reading materials, was posted on October 11, 2023.

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

SAC Chair Ian Anderson called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. Quorum was determined via roll call. A complete list of attendees is included as [Exhibit A](#).

#### 2. Standards of Conduct and Antitrust Guidelines

Steen Fjalstad, MRO Director of Security conducted a safety briefing for in-person attendees.

Fjalstad highlighted MRO's Standards of Conduct and Antitrust Guidelines. Fjalstad recognized members of other councils and MRO staff attending the meeting.

#### 3. Chair's Remarks

Chair Anderson encouraged members to consider their goals for the SAC as the group moves into planning for 2024.

#### 4. MRO SAC Staff Liaison Remarks

*a. GridEx VII: November 14-15, 2023*

Fjalstad highlighted that MRO will be actively participating in GridEx, will have 4 different roles, and is actively seeking opportunities to observe as entities participate. GridEx will include an executive tabletop on November 16.

Fjalstad encouraged SAC members to work with Lee Felter regarding the threat call planned during GridEx, tentatively planned for November 15, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. Central.

A SAC member noted that their organization has experienced real threats during GridEx, and stressed the importance of clarity regarding what is an exercise to avoid confusion and help participants distinguish the exercise from real threats.

**Action Item:** Fjalstad will work with MRO staff, NERC, and the E-ISAC to ensure consistent language and communicate code of conduct requirements to the region, specifically regarding the differentiation between compliance professionals and those who have no compliance function.

**Action Item:** Fjalstad will work with MRO staff to review expectations around MRO's role during grid emergencies and bring back anything relevant for the MRO SAC's awareness.



*b. OGO Update*

The Q4 2023 OGO meeting is scheduled for December 13, 2023, and will include discussion of the SAC's successes and regional risks. The Q1 2024 OGO risk discussion is anticipated to focus on risks related to supply chain compromise.

*c. HERO Award*

The nomination period is closed. Fjalstad thanked those who submitted nominations. The winner will be recognized at the Q4 2023 Board dinner.

*d. Member Expectations*

There are 5 seats on the SAC open every year. Fjalstad asked council members to consider if they are receiving appropriate and needed support from MRO staff. Fjalstad also noted that every meeting so far has had hybrid options and sought suggestions for improvement to increase attendance. Fjalstad also asked for suggestions regarding how to incentivize travel.

**5. Regional Risk Assessment (RRA), Regional Security Risk Assessment (RSRA), and Insider Threat Project Update**

Lee Felter, MRO Principal Security Engineer, provided an update on the Insider Threat Project. Felter sent documents related to the Insider Threat checklist to SAC members for feedback, including an Insider Threat program maturity spreadsheet. These documents will be updated and published based on the feedback. They are intended to be living documents and will be revised on a regular basis.

SAC members and Fjalstad reviewed the RSRA document. Per feedback on the sensitivity of information in the document, the report will be available on SAC SharePoint (TLP: Amber Strict). Information in the report will be the basis of Felter's discussion points to roll into the RRA. A SAC member suggested that the report be used to inform the SAC work plan for 2024.

**Action Item:** Felter is seeking 2-3 SAC members to volunteer to provide input on areas of annual focus, based on the RSRA report. Felter will work with the SAC to identify volunteers.

A SAC member asked for clarification on whether there will be any public RSRA report? Felter stated that the intention is to keep the report restricted to SAC members, but to provide information to inform the RRA.

Felter thanked all SAC members who provided feedback and input.

**6. 2023 Security Conference Debrief**

Chair Anderson shared his appreciation for the turnout, attendees, and speakers at the conference.

Fjalstad shared his appreciation for all who assisted with the conference, particularly those local to Oklahoma City, and for those who helped find speakers.

Chair Anderson invited SAC members to share their experiences.



A SAC member noted appreciation that all speakers were in-person and suggested an increase in microphone runners to capture the comments and questions from in-person attendees. He also noted the value of inviting real world practitioners as speakers. Discussion ensued.

Chair Anderson encouraged SAC members to inform MRO staff if they would like to hear from a specific vendor. Discussion ensued.

A SAC member praised the conference and the facilities and stated they were impressed.

Chair Anderson solicited feedback from virtual attendees. Discussion ensued.

## **7. MRO SACTF Update**

### *a. MRO SACTF Threat Call and Annual Statistics*

SACTF Chair Lawler reviewed threat call statistics.

### *b. MRO SACTF Threat Call Feedback*

SACTF Chair Lawler reviewed threat call feedback.

**Action Item:** SACTF members hosting the threat call will be asked to distribute the survey question regarding action taken as a result of the threat call more frequently.

Chair Lawler noted a greater presence of operational security members on the call. Chair Lawler expressed appreciation for those who completed the survey and provided comments.

### *c. MRO SACTF Open Source Information Sharing Document*

Chair Lawler discussed the open source document and what is typically included.

## **8. MRO Representatives on NERC Subgroups Written Reports**

### *a. NERC Supply Chain Working Group (SCWG) – Tony Eddleman*

Eddleman reviewed leadership changes on the SCWG. He reviewed 3 security guidelines posted for public comment. He discussed the supply chain guideline in more detail and noted the process of submitting comments. Eddleman shared information on finding information on NERC website.

### *b. NERC Security Integration and Technology Enablement Subcommittee (SITES) – Alan Kloster*

Kloster provided a written report; Marc Child discussed these items in the Reliability and Security Technical Committee report.

### *c. NERC Reliability and Security Technical Committee (RSTC) – Marc Child*

Marc Child provided an update on the RSTC. Discussed RSTC security priorities, action items, and a summary of the discussion of concerns regarding a white paper. Child reviewed progress reports and work plan development. Child noted that the slide deck is available. Child provided an update on the SITES group.

Discussion regarding the risks and benefits of moving operations into the Cloud ensued.

**SAC paused for lunch at 12:21 p.m., reconvened at 1:15 p.m.**



## 9. SAC and SACTF Membership Survey

Chair Anderson led a discussion of the SAC member survey, and the annual survey of the SAC-plus email list members.

The survey is seeking to gauge engagement interest and identify how members of the community prefer to engage, and whether and how they may contribute. The survey is also seeking to encourage engagement by other members of MRO member organizations and seek ways to tap into a greater pool of talent. Chair Anderson solicited SAC members to contribute to the survey. Discussion ensued.

**Action Item:** SAC Members Glunz, Peterchuck, and Anderson will assist by providing feedback on the survey draft.

## 10. Mentorship within the SAC

Chair Anderson initiated a discussion regarding newer professionals entering the security field and the electricity sector. Anderson suggested the possibility of developing a mentorship program to connect newer professionals to mentors and gauging interest via the survey. Discussion ensued.

## 11. 2023 SACTF Work Plan Update

The SAC reviewed the SACTF work plan and discussed plans for 2024.

The SAC discussed gaps between vendor knowledge and industry knowledge and how to improve communication of industry needs. Discussion ensued.

**Action Item:** SACTF members to discuss how to approach vendor coordination and report to the SAC in 2024.

## 12. 2023 SAC Work Plan Updates

The SAC reviewed the 2023 SAC work plan.

The stakeholder survey is in progress and is on track for completion by the end of 2023.

**Action Item:** Felter will meet with the SAC members who volunteered to discuss the stakeholder survey during the week of October 16.

Mark Tiemeier, MRO Principal Technical Advisor, requested that relevant SAC members attend the Risk Ranking Workshop on October 23, 2023. Tiemeier is seeking 2 volunteers from each council.

**Action Item:** Chair Anderson and SAC member Graham will attend the October 23, 2023 Risk Ranking Workshop.

## 13. 2024 Security Conference (Oct. 1&2, 2024); GridSecCon: October 2024

In 2024, GridSecCon is scheduled for the week of October 21, and will be held in the MRO region. There will be significant involvement for the SAC and for MRO staff.

Fjalstad noted that the MRO security conference will be two half days (October 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> 2024). Fjalstad encouraged members of the SAC to share thoughts to help to shape the conference.



#### 14. 2024 Calendar and Meeting Dates

Fjalstad discussed the dates for the 2024 SAC meetings. Meetings are scheduled on:

- February 21, 2024
- May 14, 2024
- August 6, 2024
- October 3, 2024

Fjalstad recommended that the SAC consider whether a full meeting is needed in May or August, or whether they could potentially review the SAC work plan and action items on a short call.

Chair Anderson would like the Q2 or Q3 meeting to be mandatory in person attendance, opened issue for October discussion. The SAC considered whether the February 21 meeting should be virtual, due to weather conditions.

Fjalstad noted that for Q4 2023, MRO will run all council meetings in the afternoon after the security conference. Each council will be assigned its own meeting space.

**Action Item:** The SAC will determine the meeting format for the 2024 council meetings.

#### 15. Action Item Review

**Action Item:** Fjalstad will work with MRO staff, NERC, and the E-ISAC to ensure consistent language and communicate code of conduct requirements to the region, specifically regarding the differentiation between compliance professionals and those who have no compliance function.

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**Action Item:** The SAC will determine the meeting format for the 2024 council meetings.

**Action Item:** Fjalstad to research arranging site visit in conjunction with security conference.

#### **16. Other Business and Adjourn**

MRO staff will email members to gauge interest in leadership positions for 2024; a vote will be conducted via email.

Fjalstad recognized members of the SAC and SACTF whose terms are ending in 2023, returning member Justin Haar, and the SAC and SACTF leadership.

Patrick Glunz announced formation of a Dragos user group, there will be a hybrid meeting on 11/6. Registration due 10/15. Glunz will email registration form on request. Grassroots effort by utilities.

Meeting adjourned at 2:37 pm.

**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
Brett Lawler	Xcel Energy
Chad Wasinger	Sunflower Electric Corporation
Clayton Whitacre	Great River Energy
Daniel Graham	Basin Electric Power Cooperative
Douglas Peterchuck	Omaha Public Power District
Matthew Szyda	Manitoba Hydro
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
Michelle Olson	Compliance Administrator
Alexis Larson	IT Support Analyst
Mark Tiemeier	MRO, Principal Technical Advisor
Michael Spangenburg	MRO, Senior RAM Engineer
Andrew Coffelt	Kansas City Board of Public Utilities



Andrew Penney	SaskPower
Ashley Calderon	Unknown
David Burrus	Alliant Energy
Daniel Moore	Western Farmers Electric Cooperative
Derek Cherneski	SaskPower
Donald Minster	Southwest Power Pool
Hillary Creurer	Minnesota Power
Larry Brusseau	Corn Belt Power Cooperative
Marc Child	Great River Energy
Michael McKenzie	American Electric Power
Michelle Cross	ReliabilityFirst
Olga Oswald	Sunflower Electric Corporation
Owen Veale	Kansas City Board of Public Utilities
Patrick Tuttle	Oklahoma Municipal Power Authority
Ron Ross	ReliabilityFirst
Shawn Eck	Liberty Utilities
Steve Kerrin	EDF Renewables
Tiffany Nolden	MGE
Tom Koch	City Utilities of Springfield
Tony Eddleman	Nebraska Public Power District
Wendy Kalidass	Bureau of Reclamation

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