



Minutes of the Security Advisory Council Meeting

St. Paul, MN and Webex

November 9, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:39 p.m. Central

Notice for this meeting was electronically posted to the MRO website [here](#). A final agenda, including advanced reading materials, was also posted on November 2, 2022.

1. Call to Order and Determination of Quorum

Security Advisory Council (SAC) Chair Clayton Whitacre called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Rebecca Schneider, Reliability Analysis Administrator, advised the chair that a quorum of the SAC 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, Chair Whitacre highlighted MRO's Standards of Conduct, Conflict of Interest, and Antitrust Guidelines.

3. Diversity Initiative

MRO Director of Security, Steen Fjalstad, provided an overview of an ongoing initiative of the Organizational Group Oversight Committee (OGOC) to increase diversity on MRO's organizational groups. Fjalstad highlighted the nomination cycle and noted experience as a type of acquired diversity. Fjalstad encouraged attendees to consider membership on the SAC or other MRO councils and organizational groups.

4. 2022 Security Conference Debrief & 2023 Conference Plan

Chair Whitacre opened the floor for comments from SAC members. Fjalstad thanked the council for being supportive of hybrid event, noting that this was the first such event since 2019. He also thanked MRO staff and encouraged people to provide feedback to MRO staff. Chair Whitacre presented conference survey results. There was discussion around starting the planning process earlier, having more member-led presentations, and the SAC members assuming a larger role. One member suggested having tracks or breakout sessions next year to offer more content and increase engagement.

MRO Manager of Outreach and Stakeholder Engagement, Cris Zimmerman, shared that MRO's plan is to be more proactive and have speakers and the agenda in place two to three months in advance. Fjalstad suggested June 2023 as a deadline for at least a verbal confirmation from potential speakers for the security conference in September 2023, indicating that MRO has already received verbal confirmation from one speaker. Fjalstad solicited member volunteers to serve on a conference planning committee. A member made a suggestion that each SAC member plan on participating in either the Annual Security Conference or the Regional Security Risk Assessment (RSRA). Discussion ensued.



5. HERO Outreach Effort Discussion

Fjalstad lead the discussion promoting MRO's Highly Effective Reliability Organization Outreach (HERO) program. Fjalstad encouraged entities to reach out to MRO with general questions about improving their company's reliability and security posture.

6. MRO Representatives on NERC Subgroups – Written Reports

NERC Supply Chain Working Group (SCWG)

Tony Eddleman, NERC SCWG Representative, provided an oral report during the meeting. Eddleman noted that he will be ending his term as chair of the working group in December 2022. He solicited volunteers for round two of the SCWG's review of Security Guidelines which must be completed before the Reliability and Security Technical Committee (RSTC) meeting in March 2023. He suggested that more entity volunteers are needed for assistance with projects. Eddleman noted continuing supply chain challenges and efforts to improve reliability, making it less vulnerable. Eddleman reported that the SCWG has increased coordination and discussion with national labs to understand how the working group can better assist industry. Discussion ensued.

NERC Security Integration and Technology Enablement Subcommittee (SITES)

Alan Kloster, NERC SITES Representative, provided an oral report during the meeting. Kloster highlighted two white papers that group has been working on: *Cybersecurity for DERs and Zero Trust Security for Electric OT*. The Cybersecurity paper was presented to the Reliability and Security Technical Committee (RSTC) for comment and the Zero Trust paper will be sent to the RSTC at the December meeting. The group is also seeking volunteers for a New Technology Enablement & Field Testing sub team. Kloster noted that the November monthly call will feature Daniel Arnold from the Grid Integration Group at the Lawrence Berkeley National Lab as a guest speaker. Discussion ensued.

7. MRO Security Advisory Council Threat Forum (SACTF) Update

Brett Lawler, SACTF Chair, provided an overview of the Security Advisory Council Threat Forum (SACTF).

SACTF Threat Call and Annual Statistics

SACTF Chair Lawler presented the threat call statistics. Fjalstad noted that COVID-19 calls may not have been included in the previous years' stats. Fjalstad thanked the SACTF members for their work with the threat calls, noting that 2023 will be the sixth year. Lawler mentioned other regional entities had expressed interest in doing something similar. Fjalstad noted there is participation from entities outside of MRO's region and there may be an opportunity to expose representatives from other entities to the call to help them evaluate whether or not to do something similar.

Work Plan

Chair Lawler presented the SACTF 2022 Work Plan, completed items and future objectives. Fjalstad noted the lack of nominations for the SACTF open seats and suggested consideration on how to move forward.



8. Regional Security Risk Assessment (RSRA) Overview

MRO SAC member Matt Szyda provided an overview on the RSRA highlighting the survey results. There were thirteen risks identified from this year's virtual workshop. The survey results are used to inform the SAC work plan and are provided to MRO for consideration of inclusion in the Regional Risk Assessment (RRA). The report has been created and is currently in draft form – needs formatting. Fjalstad asked whether doing the survey annually is sufficient or whether it would be fruitful to look at risks over a longer period of time, as some risks drop off each year but might still be applicable. Or would a better approach be to do a deeper dive on one or two risks? An agenda item will be added to the SAC Q1 2023 meeting for discussion. Discussion ensued.

To accommodate scheduling conflicts, Chair Whitacre moved the MRO Regional Risk Assessment (RRA) Overview (Agenda Item 10) ahead on the agenda. These minutes reflect the order in which the reports were provided.

9. MRO Regional Risk Assessment (RRA) Overview

MRO Principal Technical Advisor, Mark Tiemeier, provided an update on the Regional Risk Assessment (RRA) highlighting the intent of the assessment and how the assessment determines risk. A team of volunteers from each council partners with MRO operational leadership during a two-day workshop. The team assesses risks based on impact and likelihood and assigns a score, identifying the top two risks. The RRA is currently in the nomination stage and will be presented to the Organizational Group Oversight Committee (OGOC). MRO's operations and leadership team uses the report from the OGOC to develop a work plan for the year. A question was asked about the opportunity for expanding the number of participants in the RRA overview. Tiemeier noted that the goal is to release the final report to the general public in January 2023. Discussion ensued.

10. SAC 2022 Work Plan and Draft 2023 Work Plan

Chair Whitacre lead the discussion and review of the MRO SAC Work plan and updates were made accordingly. The SAC members began drafting the 2023 Work Plan. Discussion ensued.

11. Action Item Review

MRO Security Administrator, Margaret Eastman, noted the action items captured during the meeting.

12. Other Business and Adjourn

Having no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 2:39 p.m.

Prepared by: Rebecca Schneider, Reliability Analysis Administrator

Reviewed and Submitted by: Steen Fjalstad, Director of Security



Exhibit A – Meeting Attendees

SAC Members Present	
Name	Company
Brett Lawler	Xcel Energy
Chad Wasinger	Sunflower Electric Power Corporation
Clayton Whitacre, Chair	Great River Energy
Daniel Graham	Basin Electric Power Cooperative
Douglas Peterchuck	Omaha Public Power District
Jason Nations	Oklahoma Gas and Electric
Matthew Szyda	Manitoba Hydro
Norma Browne	Ameren
Sam Ellis	Southwest Power Pool
Tony Eddleman	Nebraska Public Power District
MRO Staff Present	
Name	Title
Steen Fjalstad	Director of Security
Rebecca Schneider	Reliability Analysis Administrator
Margaret Eastman	Security Administrator
Lisa Stellmaker	Executive Administrator
Mark Tiemeier	Principal Technical Advisor
Cris Zimmerman	Manager of Outreach and Stakeholder Engagement
Kristine Albrecht	Human Resources Generalist
Other Attendees	
Name	Company
Alan Kloster	Evergy



Bryan Dixon	Xcel Energy
Kevin Streater	Xcel Energy
Richard Bou	Xcel Energy
Joseph Knight	Great River Energy
Daniel Moore	Western Farmers Electric Cooperative
Curtis Anderson	SaskPower
Jim Rigg	Lincoln Electric System
Bryan Sherrow	Kansas City Board of Public Utilities
Tiffany Nolden	Madison Gas and Electric
Kara Quesada	Echodyne
Keith Lyons	Manitowoc Public Utilities
David Trojan	ITC Holdings Corp.
Ann-Marie Shy	Southwestern Power Administration
Mike Johnson	Pacific Gas and Electric
David Hanna	Liberty Utilities
Jag Behl	SaskPower
Chuck Beesley	Oklahoma Gas & Electric
Josh Davis	Convergint Technologies
Jeff Fuller	MISO
Jeff Rivers	Sunflower Electric Power Corporation
CJ LaFond	Madison Gas and Electric
Rocky Tolentino	Southwest Power Pool
Peter Grandgeorge	Berkshire Hathaway Energy
Omar Elabbady	Xcel Energy
Tara Lightner	Sunflower Electric Power Corporation
Scott LaMountain	Salt River Project



Rebecca Mann	Sunflower Electric Power Cooperative
Derek Cherneski	SaskPower
Dion Donais	SaskPower
Michael Watt	Oklahoma Municipal Power Authority
Steve Arnold	Independence Power & Light
Mary Agnes Nimis	FERC
Nation Vanmeter	Sunflower Electric Power Cooperative
Shelby Siems	Oklahoma Gas & Electric