



## Fourth Quarter Letter to Members

December 3, 2021



**Thomas (Tom) Kent**  
*NPPD President and Chief  
Executive Officer, Board Chair*



**Sara Patrick**  
*MRO President and CEO*

### From the MRO Board Chair

Dear Members and Stakeholders:

The Midwest Reliability Organization (MRO) Board of Directors held its Annual Member and Board of Directors meeting—the final meeting of the year—virtually on December 2, 2021. Commissioner Matthew Schuerger from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission attended to share his insights on work the commission is doing to support reliable, affordable utility service that is progressively clean. He noted how the ERO Enterprise and state regulatory agencies serve the same consumers and share a common objective of reliable and secure sources of energy. Given the increasingly blurred lines between state and federal jurisdiction, Schuerger emphasized the importance of state and federal collaboration and coordination to achieve common objectives.

The board also heard from NERC's Senior Vice President and Chief Engineer Mark Lauby, who along with MRO Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Richard Burt, reviewed the ERO Enterprise Reliability Risk Framework. Development of the framework is part of an ERO Enterprise strategic initiative to enable more consistent risk assessment processes across North America. This strategic initiative has been overseen by the ERO Operations Leadership Team that is co-chaired by Lauby and Burt. Included in the framework is the Risk Matrix Tool originally created by MRO's Reliability Advisory Council in 2019. Since that time, the tool has matured with input from staff and MRO's Security and CMEP Advisory Councils, and is being considered as a method to prioritize reliability and security risks ERO-wide. Lauby provided information on a variety of tools and processes available through the risk framework to address risk.

The board also reviewed and approved the final version of MRO's 2022-24 Strategic Plan that was developed by the board and staff during September's Strategic Planning session. Three strategic priorities focused on people, processes, and partnerships provide the basis for MRO's initiatives and

objectives over the three-year strategic period. The final version of [MRO's strategic plan](#) is available on the MRO website.

In addition to hearing board committee reports, the board approved several resolutions for outgoing board and organizational group members and recognized the recipients of MRO's annual HERO Award: Mark Buchholz (Western Area Power Administration) and Sharon Koller (American Transmission Company). Buchholz and Koller were selected from several very qualified candidates that were nominated for this year's award and the board expressed appreciation for their dedicated efforts and contributions in support of MRO's vision and mission.

Other actions taken by the board include:

- Appointment of Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Richard Burt as an MRO officer; and
- Review and approval of board committee charter changes and policy revisions.

The board met immediately following the Annual Member and Board Meeting to welcome incoming board members, elect its 2022 chair and vice chair, make 2022 board committee appointments, and approve 2023 meeting dates. Brad Cox, Vice President of Markets and Compliance with Tenaska Power Services Company, will chair the board in 2022 and independent director Dr. Dana Born will serve as vice chair. The following incoming board members will be seated on the board in January:

- Aaron Bloom, NextEra Energy Resources
- Ben Porath, Dairyland Cooperative
- Eric Schmitt, Independent Director
- Daryl Maxwell, Manitoba Hydro
- Paul Roehr, American Transmission Company
- Priti Patel, Great River Energy

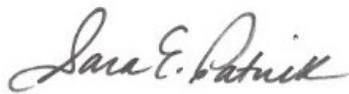
The approved [2023 board meeting dates](#) will be added soon to MRO's meeting calendar.

The board's Organizational Group Oversight Committee (OGOC) also met last week in a joint risk meeting with the leadership of each MRO advisory council and key staff. The purpose of this meeting was to review 2021 accomplishments of MRO's organizational groups, assess reliability and security risks identified through various continent-wide and regional risk reports, and provide direction for 2022 activities in support of MRO's strategic plan. The chair and vice chair of each of MRO's three advisory councils (CMEP, Reliability, and Security) was provided an opportunity to review proposed 2022 work plans with the OGOC and will incorporate feedback before presenting final work plans for OGOC approval in Q1 2022. This meeting was again very productive and well received by all who attended.

You can read more about the discussions and actions taken at the fourth quarter OGOC and board meetings in the full meeting minutes, which will be available on [MRO's website calendar](#) soon. The MRO Board and staff wish you a healthy and happy holiday season!



Tom Kent, Board Chair



Sara Patrick, President and CEO