



## Minutes of the Reliability Advisory Council (RAC) Meeting

### WebEx

*November 9, 2021 9:00 a.m. – 3:15 p.m. Central*

*Notice for this meeting was electronically posted to the MRO website [here](#) on October 9, 2021. A final agenda, including advanced reading materials, was also posted on November 5, 2021.*

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

The RAC Chair Dick Pursley called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Meeting Secretary Dana Klem, Reliability Analysis Administrator 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 and MRO Staff Liaison highlighted MRO's Standards of Conduct, Conflict of Interest, and Antitrust Guidelines.

#### 3. Chair's Remarks

Chair Pursley mentioned the OSHA Emergency Standard that was released this week and mentioned he would use that as the topic for the round table to determine the effect of that standard on the members.

#### 4. Member Recognition

Chair Pursley provided recognition and kudos for the RAC Members Allen Klassen, Dean Schiro and Nick Giffin and also RTOS Member Steven Sanders, and presented service award certificates for each. These members conveyed their appreciation for the opportunity to be part of the RAC.

#### 5. Consent Agenda

- a. Approve August 25, 2021 meeting minutes. The RAC reviewed the minutes from the August 25 2021 meeting.
- b. RAC member recommendation to the OGOC for approval.
- c. PRS member recommendation to the OGOC for approval.
- d. MRO representatives on NERC EGWG and SPIDERWG.

*Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the RAC unanimously agreed to approve the consent agenda.*

#### 6. MRO Board of Directors, OGOC and General Update

Bryan Clark provided an overview of the BOD and OGOC activities, highlighting the agenda for the upcoming board meeting. Chair Pursley mentioned the FERC/NERC cold weather event summary and new membership of the Board and asked the group to familiarize themselves.

#### 7. RTSC Meeting Update

*This agenda item was covered after Agenda item 9.*



*Agenda item 11 a. and 11 b. was moved up in the Agenda:*

## **11 Assessment Review**

- a. Review and Accept Long-Term Reliability Assessment (LTRA). MRO Principal Reliability Assessment Engineer, Salva Andiappan provided an overview of the LTRA highlighting assessment periods, 5-Year projected reserve margins, solar and wind nameplate capacity, and solar distributed energy resources (DER). The NERC LTRA report release date is scheduled for December 16, 2021 and the MRO LTRA webinar will be held on December 8, 2021. Discussion ensued.

*Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the RAC unanimously agreed to accept the LTRA report.*

- b. MRO Regional Winter Assessment (RWA). MRO Principal Reliability Assessment Engineer, Salva Andiappan provided an overview of the RWA noting new items in the report, GADs, regional directional transfer limit, TADs Winter Sustained Outages by Cause and Key Findings. Communication and timing of the RWA webinar was mentioned and discussion ensued.

## **8. Key Finding of the RISC Report**

Bryan Clark provided an overview on the key findings of the RISC report highlighting the Establishment of Mandatory Regulation, and the Reliability Issues Steering Committee (RISC)'s four major risks; grid transformation, extreme events, security risks, and critical infrastructure independencies along with recommendations regarding those risks, planning for the future and the efforts currently underway to address the risks. Discussion ensued.

The link for the report is here:

[https://www.nerc.com/comm/RISC/Documents/RISC%20ERO%20Priorities%20Report\\_Final\\_RISC\\_Approved\\_July\\_8\\_2021\\_Board\\_Submitted\\_Copy.pdf](https://www.nerc.com/comm/RISC/Documents/RISC%20ERO%20Priorities%20Report_Final_RISC_Approved_July_8_2021_Board_Submitted_Copy.pdf)

## **9. Update 2021 Work Plan**

- a. Review action items. Chair Pursley provided an overview and the RAC reviewed various action items in the 2021 work plan and updates were made accordingly. Discussion ensued.
- b. Reliability Risk Matrix Updates. Bryan Clark presented an overview of the Reliability Risk Matrix highlighting the MRO Organizational Group structure, the NERC RSTC and its subgroups, the history of the matrix, the ERO Risk Framework, and the MRO RRA
- c. Regional Cold Weather Preparedness Workshop Debrief. Chair Pursley led the discussion on the Cold Weather Preparedness Workshop, highlighting the large amount of attendees and extended kudos to those involved.
- d. 2022 Work Plan. Chair Pursley led the discussion on the draft 2022 Work Plan and updates were made accordingly. Discussion ensued.

*Upon a motion duly made and seconded the RAC unanimously agreed to recommend to the OGOC for approval, above the blue line items in the 2022 work plan.*

*The RAC recessed for lunch at 12:00 p.m. and reconvened at 12:45 p.m.*

*Agenda Item 7 was covered here.*

## 7. RTSC Meeting Update

RAC Member and RSTC Member John Stephens provided an overview of the last RSTC meeting, highlighting guidelines regarding DER modeling and simulation were approved. He noted that a series of significant charter amendments were proposed and gathered a lot of comment and opposition. Voting inconsistency within the group was a major item of contention. The RISC report and work plan items generated from that report were mentioned. The 6 gigahertz frequency expansion for wifi and other communication devices use and the impact this may have on utility communication systems was also discussed. Discussion ensued.

## 10. Reliability Coordinator Updates

- a. MISO. Durgesh Manjure was not in attendance at the meeting, slides were presented on his behalf highlighting the peak loads and reserves for MISO. John Stephens provided the following link: <https://www.eia.gov/electricity/monthly/update/coal-stocks.php>. Discussion ensued.
- b. SPC. Binod Shrestha provided an overview highlighting the peak loads, reserves and planned outages for SaskPower.
- c. SPP. CJ Brown provided an overview highlighting extreme weather conditions and reserve margins. Coal issues are not a concern in SPPs footprint. He further noted, natural gas prices are higher than they've ever been, planned outages are limited this winter, and overall communications are improved. Discussion ensued.

## 11. Assessment Review

- c. MRO RRA. MRO Principal Technical Advisor, John Seidel provided an overview of the MRO Regional Risk Assessment (RRA) highlighting the Operations and Planning Reliability Risk Rankings and Top 10 Risks, and Physical Reliability Risk Rankings and Top 10 Risks. Discussion ensued.

## 12. 2021 FERC/NERC Preliminary Recommendations for Cold Weather

MRO Principal Technical Advisor, John Seidel provided an overview of the Preliminary Recommendations of FERC and NERC for cold weather highlighting preliminary recommendations, revision of current and development of new reliability standards and proposed implementation dates.

## 13. NSRF Update

Gayle Nansel provided an update on the recent status of the NSRF, noting there haven't been many meetings lately but a meeting tomorrow to cover two projects, one of which is the PRC-019.

## 14. MRO Representatives on NERC Subgroups – Written Reports

- a. NERC Electric Gas Working Group (EGWG) - Jaimin Patel
- b. NERC Inverter Based Resource Performance Working Group (IRPWG) - David Brauch.
- c. NERC System Planning Impacts from DER Working Group (SPIDERWG) - Sunny Raheem
- d. NERC Real Time Operating Subcommittee (RTOS) - Steve Sanders
- e. NERC System Protection and Control Working Group (SPCWG) - Mark Gutzmann

The reports were reviewed by the council, and Chair Pursley mentioned going to the NERC website to gather further information on any of these groups.



#### **15. Protective Relay Subgroup (PRS) Update**

The Agenda for the upcoming November 16, 2021 meeting was reviewed by the Council.

#### **16. 2022 Meeting Dates**

2022 Meeting and Conference Schedule and Board meetings were presented. Chair Pursley advised the members to add to their calendars.

#### **17. Review of Action Items**

Dana Klem provided an overview of the action items taken from the meeting.

#### **18. RAC Member Roundtable**

Chair Pursley asked for any roundtable comments from the RAC members. Comments were made by members regarding the OSHA ETS as follows:

- ATC is planning to have the testing option
- Xcel legal counsel determined that they fall under the executive order which, as of January 4, you must be vaccinated, although they will accommodate for medical or religious reasons, however the plan is still in the works
- WAPA as a DOE Agency is under the executive order for mandatory vaccination.
- OGE is still in legal review however will most likely fall under the executive order
- Manitoba Hydro's corporate policy: every employee must have the vaccination or have rapid testing

#### **19. Other Business and Adjourn**

Having no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

**Prepared by:** Dana Klem, MRO Reliability Analysis Administrator.

**Reviewed and Submitted by:** Bryan Clark, MRO Director of 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
Allen Klassen	Evergy, Inc.
Binod Shrestha	Saskatchewan Power Company
CJ Brown	Southwest Power Pool, Inc.
Dallas Rowley	Oklahoma Gas and Electric
Dean Schiro	Xcel Energy
Derek Brown	Evergy, Inc.
Durgesh Manjure	MISO
Dwayne Stradford	American Electric Power
Gayle Nansel	Western Area Power Administration
John Stephens	City Utilities of Springfield Missouri
Nandaka Jayasekara	Manitoba Hydro
Nicholas Giffin	American Transmission Company
Ron Gunderson	Nebraska Public Power District
Members Not Present	
Durgesh Manjure	MISO
MRO Staff Present	
Name	Title
Bryan Clark	Director of Reliability Analysis
Dana Klem	Reliability Analysis Administrator
Estee Nauer	Security Administrator
John Seidel	Principal Technical Advisor



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Salva Andiappan	Principal Reliability Assessment Engineer
<b>Guests</b>	
<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Jeremy Severson	Basin Electric
Josh Verzal	Omaha Public Power District
Mary Agnes Nimis	FERC
Sunny Raheem	Southwest Power Pool
Sing Tay	Oklahoma Gas and Electric