# Draft Minutes of the Organizational Group Oversight Committee Meeting

## Hybrid: MRO Offices & Webex

#### September 21, 2022, 1:02 p.m. to 3:41 p.m. Central

*Notice for this meeting was electronically posted to the MRO website* [*here*](https://www.mro.net/event/organizational-group-oversight-committee-2/) *on August 22, 2022. A final agenda, including advanced reading materials, was also posted on September 14, 2022.*

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

Organizational Group Oversight Committee (OGOC) Chair Paul Crist called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. Central. Julie Peterson, Assistant Corporate Secretary and Senior Counsel, advised the chair that a quorum of the OGOC was present. A list of attendees is included as [Exhibit A](#_Exhibit_A_–).

### 2. Standards of Conduct and Antitrust Guidelines

Pursuant to Policy and Procedure 4, Peterson highlighted MRO’s Standards of Conduct, Conflict of Interest, and Antitrust Guidelines.

### 3. Consent Agenda

The consent agenda included draft minutes from the OGOC meeting held on June 22, 2022.

*Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the OGOC unanimously approved the consent agenda.*

### 4. Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program Advisory Council Report

Richard Burt, Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, provided a report on behalf of the Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program Advisory Council (CMEPAC), which was holding its third quarter meeting concurrently.Among the key items, Burt highlighted the CMEPAC Conference, which was a successful event and the first on-site hosted outreach event at MRO’s offices since the pandemic. There were no questions.

### 5. Reliability Advisory Council Report

Bryan Clark, Director of Reliability Analysis, provided a report on behalf of the Reliability Advisory Council (RAC). Clark reported that the RAC met for its third quarter meeting on Aug 17. Key areas of focus for the RAC include preparations for the Annual Cold Weather Preparedness Workshop, assignment of RAC members to NERC organizational groups to facilitate better alignment and promote outreach opportunities. Clark highlighted key accomplishments of the RAC, including submitting articles for publication in the MRO newsletter, hosting a webinar, and review of a significant bulk electric system (BES) event that occurred in the MRO footprint.

In response to a question regarding the cold weather preparedness program, Clark confirmed that the cold weather workshop would include a discussion related to the FERC Notice of Proposed Rule (NOPR) on extreme weather. He also acknowledged a request to provide OGOC members with a clearer sense of what actions have been taken in response to the 2021 cold weather event, and whether industry is better suited today for an extreme cold weather event. He advised that a representative from NERC would be participating in the workshop to help aid in answering this question, and further acknowledged an action item for 2023 to clearly outline for the OGOC what has been done since the event, including the development of new mandatory reliability standards.

**6. Security Advisory Council Report**

Steen Fjalstad, Director of Security, provided a report on behalf of the Security Advisory Council (SAC). Fjalstad welcomed the SAC chair, Clayton Whitacre, and vice chair, Michael Meason.

Among the areas of focus for the SAC, Fjalstad noted that plans are underway for the annual Security Conference, which has approximately 400 total registrants – about 100 in person, and 300 remotely. Fjalstad highlighted the training event held in conjunction with the conference, which will provide training on insider threats, including mental health aspects. This training was selected because insider threat was a highly ranked risk in MRO’s 2022 Regional Risk Assessment. An OGOC member expressed an interest in better understanding the legal aspects of insider threat programs (e.g., right to privacy, etc.), and encouraged having a resource available to answer such questions at the training event if raised. Fjalstad also reviewed the agenda for the Security Conference, which include discussion of extreme weather as a physical threat and innovative ways to think about security for the grid.

Fjalstad reviewed accomplishments of the SAC including the ongoing weekly threat call, outreach such as roundtable events and newsletter articles, and the 2022 Annual Regional Security Risk Assessment (RSRA). He also noted the open seats on the SAC and Security Advisory Council Threat Forum (SACTF), for which nominations were being actively solicited.

An OGOC member asked for more information regarding tri-sector coordination (e.g., joint exercises), such as with E-ISAC and the electric sector. Fjalstad noted recent discussions within the OGOC to explore additional opportunities for coordination with those organizations. Lam Chung, Vice President and Engineer for Strategy, Innovation, and Finance, also noted GridEx as an existing example of tri-sector coordination. An OGOC member also noted a quarterly tri-sector call, which serves as a forum for information sharing across sectors. As a follow-up question, an OGOC member noted a potential concern regarding who may be joining such calls and asked about methods to vet observers on these calls, and whether this is a concern that should be raised to NERC to the extent it has the potential to impact security and reliability. Burt noted call participants for SAC roundtable discussions or weekly threat forum calls are thoroughly vetted for the reasons expressed by the OGOC members.

In response to a question regarding actions take to encourage participation on organizational groups, staff noted cross-promotion of open seats during both the Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program (CMEP) Conference and the Security Conference, as well as efforts related to the OGOC-endorsed campaign to promote diversity of organizational group membership. A member of the SAC added that encouragement from executives of member organizations also helps encourage participation in MRO’s organizational groups.

**7. Agenda for Q4 Annual Risk Meeting With Organizational Group Leadership**

Burt next reviewed a proposed agenda for the fourth quarter Annual Risk Meeting, which is similar to the 2021 agenda. Burt noted feedback from the 2021 Annual Risk Meeting was positive. In addition to slight timing changes, Burt indicated the draft agenda implements a recommendation for the OGOC to provide input not just on what is included in the Advisory Council work plans, but also regarding the priority of those items. The OGOC had no questions regarding the draft agenda.

Burt mentioned the challenges of conducting this type of a meeting in a hybrid format. Therefore, Crist encouraged in person attendance for this meeting.

**8. Quarterly Report on NERC Organizational Groups (Written Report)**

Chair Crist referred the OGOC members to the written quarterly report on NERC organizational groups. There were no questions.

**9. Open Organizational Group Seats (Written Report)**

Chair Crist referred the OGOC members to the written quarterly report on NERC organizational groups. Peterson highlighted that the annual solicitation window for nominations was currently open and slated to close on October 7, 2022. There were no questions.

**10. Risk Round Table: Variable Transmission Line Ratings**

The OGOC entered executive session to conduct a Risk Roundtable regarding variable transmission line ratings.

**11. HERO Award Nominations**

*The OGOC continued in executive session to select the 2022 HERO Award recipient.*

### 12. Adjourn

Having no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 3:41 p.m. Central.

**Prepared by:** Julie Peterson, Assistant Corporate Secretary and Senior Counsel

**Reviewed and Submitted by:** Richard Burt, Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer

# Exhibit A – Meeting Attendees

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| **Organizational Group Oversight Committee Members Present** |
| **Name** | **Sector** |
| Paul Crist, ***Chair*** | Municipal Utility Sector  |
| JoAnn Thompson, ***Vice Chair*** | Investor Owned Utility Sector |
| Aaron Bloom | Generator and/or Power Marketer Sector |
| Ben Porath | Cooperative Sector |
| Charles Marshall | Transmission System Operator Sector |
| Daryl Maxwell | Canadian Utility Sector |
| Dehn Stevens | Investor Owned Utility Sector |
| Eric Schmitt | Independent Director |
| Iqbal Dhami | Canadian Utility Sector |
| Jeanne Tisinger | Independent Director |
| Jennifer Flandermeyer | Regional Director |
| **Other Attendees** |
| **Name** | **Company / Title** |
| Alexis Larson | MRO IT Support Analyst |
| Bill Steiner | MRO Director of Risk Assessment and Mitigation |
| Brad Cox | Board of Directors, Chair (Generator and/or Power Marketer Sector) |
| Bryan Clark | MRO Director of Reliability Analysis |
| Carolina Margaria | MRO Executive Assistant |
| Clayton Whitacre | Security Advisory Council, Chair (Great River Energy) |
| Gayle Nansel | Western Area Power Administration |
| Jeff Norman | MRO Director of Compliance Monitoring  |
| Jessie Mitchell | MRO Director of Communications |
| Julie Peterson | MRO Assistant Corporate Secretary and Senior Counsel |
| Ken Burruss | Midwest Energy, Inc. |
| Ken Gartner | MRO Director of Internal Oversight and Information Technology |
| Lam Chung | MRO Vice President and Engineer for Strategy, Innovation, and Finance |
| Lisa Zell | MRO Vice President General Counsel and Corporate Secretary |
| Mark Tiemeier | MRO Principal Technical Advisor |
| Michael Meason | Security Advisory Council, Vice Chair (Western Farmers Electric Cooperative) |
| Richard Burt | MRO Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer |
| Ron Gunderson | Reliability Advisory Council, Member (Nebraska Public Power District) |
| Sara Patrick | MRO President and Chief Executive Officer |
| Steen Fjalstad | MRO Director of Security |
| Tasha Ward | MRO Director of Enforcement and External Affairs |
| Terri Pyle | Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Progam Advisory Council, Chair (Oklahoma Gas & Electric) |

*The above list may not reflect all meeting attendees*

*as the meeting was open for observation via Webex.*