


Develop and Deploy Cybersecurity Defense for Public Power



*Cybersecurity
resourcing and
advanced
collective
defense of public
power
operational
technology*

The American Public Power Association (APPA) is forming a national support infrastructure to assist community-owned electric utilities with the deployment, maintenance, training, and evaluation of cyber and cyber-physical solutions. APPA is leveraging its unique access to public power utilities to speed deployment of operational technology (OT) cybersecurity solutions. The project forms bridges to and between cybersecurity organizations and state, local, tribal, territorial and federal entities that own and operate electric utilities. This effort refines existing and disparate OT cybersecurity models, frameworks, and monitoring criteria into more uniform hardware specifications and guidance to facilitate improved deployment at public power utilities; establishes a legal framework and applicable agreements between stakeholders to share anonymized data from point to point; and explores partnerships with energy and public sector cybersecurity analysis centers to establish an OT data analysis process and to reinforce collective defense.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Advances the security of operational technology within public power utilities through enhanced coordination with state, local, tribal, territorial, and federal entities
 - Facilitates small and medium public power utility participation in an exchange with cybersecurity and information sharing and analysis centers
 - Deploys automated defense solutions and advanced analytics to securely manage and maintain operational technology assets
- 



OUTCOME

This program develops and refines specifications, criteria, and guidance for successful deployment of OT monitoring systems and creates a request for proposal process to scrutinize commercially available and industry-vetted solutions; delivers a framework, methodology, and platform to allow OT cybersecurity data to move in a secure and anonymized fashion from public power utilities to analysis providers; and curates threat and mitigation information for small and medium public power utilities with limited cybersecurity staff who defend their OT networks.

PARTICIPANTS

ROLE



Facilitates public power utility engagement; creates more uniform hardware specifications and guidance; shares data; and aids in collective defense

CONTACT INFORMATION

Initial Leads:

Richard Condello
Principal Investigator
American Public Power Association
202-457-2915
RCondello@publicpower.org

Akhlesh Kaushiva
Senior Technical Systems and Cybersecurity Advisor
Department of Energy (DOE)
Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response (CESER)
202-287-6062
Akhlesh.Kaushiva@hq.doe.gov

Period of Performance: September 2020 – September 2023

Total Award Value: \$6,000,000
DOE Share: \$6,000,000
Cost Share: \$0

CYBERSECURITY FOR ENERGY DELIVERY SYSTEMS (CEDS)

CEDS projects are funded through DOE CESER, which aims to enhance the reliability and resilience of the nation's energy infrastructure by reducing the risk of energy disruptions due to cyberattacks.

Website: <https://www.energy.gov/ceser>

Date Written: June 2021

