



Summer Newsletter - September 13, 2024

Welcome to the summer edition of DOE's Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response (CESER) State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial (SLTT) newsletter! We are excited to share our updates and announcements with you and encourage you to spread the word to colleagues and friends about this periodic newsletter.

Recent Announcements and Resources

Risk Mitigation Approach Guidebook for State Energy Security Plans

DOE offers this first-of-its-kind guidebook to assist state officials with developing a Risk Mitigation Approach for their State Energy Security Plans (SESPs) and to provide a framework to inform implementation of risk mitigation measures. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law requires SESP to include a "risk mitigation approach to enhance end use reliability and resilience." This guidance complements the Risk Mitigation Strategies Cohort that 39 states are engaged in as part of the [DOE Energy Security and Grid Resilience Cohorts](#) launched in March of 2024.

[Click here to access the guidebook.](#)

DOE Energy Security Online Training

CESER SLTT's new online Energy Security Module 1 course is now live! This training is online, self-paced, and provides the foundational components of energy security. The training is designed for state energy stakeholders including governor's energy offices, state energy offices, public utility commissions, emergency management offices, state

legislators, and staff. You can take the 60-minute course by signing in and registering in the [CESER SLTT Learning Management System](#).

[Click here to learn more.](#)

NGA Energy Cybersecurity Workforce Brief

In partnership with the National Governors Association (NGA), CESER brought together a group of private and public stakeholders to discuss the role of governors in fortifying the cybersecurity workforce within the energy sector. Stakeholders shared their state and industry perspectives on cyber workforce challenges and articulated ways governors and states can expand the cyber workforce pipeline. A new policy brief was published as a follow up from the meeting and discusses the roles governors can play in ensuring an adequate cybersecurity workforce in the energy sector. The major conclusion was that governors are well-positioned to bolster the pipeline of qualified cybersecurity personnel, in both the public and private sector, by spurring interagency collaboration, building relationships with energy companies, strengthening the cyber talent pipeline into the public sector, and establishing programs that prioritize the cyber workforce pipeline.

[Click here to read the brief.](#)

Recent Events and Engagement

Roundtable on Energy Resilience and Security for Territories and Islanded Communities

Island communities often face unique energy challenges. On May 14-16, the NGA Roundtable on Energy Resilience and Security, funded by CESER, brought together territorial and island leaders for an in-depth discussion on energy infrastructure resilience. Governors from Hawaii, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, and officials from Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), and Puerto Rico convened alongside a full house of partners from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and the Department of the Interior (DOI) to discuss shared energy challenges unique to these communities. During the event, territorial and state leaders facilitated in-depth discussions concerning energy security, resilience, and emergency response. Attendees had the opportunity to learn more about investing in clean energy structure, cybersecurity resilience, and emergency management response.

[Click here to learn more.](#)



The NGA Roundtable on Energy Resilience and Security kicked off with governors' representatives from all U.S. territories and islands.

NASEO Energy Security Bootcamp

On June 12 - 14, CESER sponsored the National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO) State Energy Security Bootcamp Training. This bootcamp was held for state agencies who work in state emergency support and energy security planning, and prepared officials to address energy security threats and mature their state energy security planning. The bootcamp focused on addressing energy risk mitigation and management.



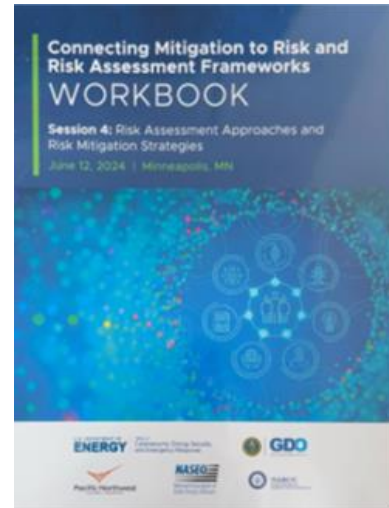
The Energy Security Bootcamp kicked off with a session featuring CESER's Assistant Director of Energy Policy and Partnerships, Brandi Martin, discussing the importance of state input in the energy sector risk assessment that CESER as the Sector Risk Management Agency (SRMA) is creating as designated by the National Security Memorandum 22.

Energy Security and Grid Resilience Cohorts

The DOE Energy Security and Grid Resilience Cohorts Program brings state energy offices, public utility commissions, consumer advocates, and emergency management agencies from different states, territories, and tribes together to exchange ideas and input on best practices for advancing critical energy topics in their communities.

On June 12th, 74 members of both the Risk Assessment Approaches and the Risk Mitigation Strategies Cohorts met for a one-day intensive workshop held in conjunction with the NASEO Energy Security Bootcamp to enhance state risk assessment and mitigation capabilities. The workshop included a security game, technical sessions, and discussion on risk assessment frameworks, risk mitigation prioritization, and specific risks ranging from cyberattacks to wildfires.

Workshop participants joined in a cyber and physical security game, immersing themselves in a fictional scenario role playing as an adversary attempting to attack critical energy infrastructure, then switching roles to play a grid defender. The activity prompted new thinking around common and emerging threats and the difficulty of deploying mitigation measures that would protect energy infrastructure against possible attacks.





Included in the photo above are notes from the cohort workshop that were drawn (in real time) by an artist with a cybersecurity background.

Public Power Utilities Successful Mutual Aid Workshop

On June 27, the American Public Power Association (APPA) hosted a mutual aid workshop sponsored by DOE CESER. Over 90 participants from CESER, FEMA, and the Oklahoma and Kansas offices of emergency management joined for an opportunity to prepare participants for mutual aid situations. This workshop covered the incident command system, state emergency manager presentations, emergency response situations, and case studies.

[Click here to learn more.](#)

Northeast Regional Energy Disruption Workshop

On July 23, CESER funded a Northeast Regional Energy Disruption Workshop in collaboration with NASEO and the National Emergency Management Association (NEMA) in Providence, Rhode Island. Seven northeast states – New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Maine – were represented by state energy office and emergency management agency representatives, alongside the governor's office of Rhode Island, private industry, and other federal partners. These groups participated in an exercise focused on a hypothetical winter-related fuel disturbance in the region in 2025. The workshop allowed participants to discuss and validate roles and responsibilities at a regional level, identify interdependencies between

sectors, and discuss resource prioritization, information sharing, and coordination of actions during a high-level energy emergency.

[Click here to learn more.](#)

Bookmark It! SLTT Resource Library

CESER's SLTT Resource Library contains helpful resources to inform state, local, tribal, and territorial governments with energy security planning, risk awareness, policy, investment decisions, and more. CESER partners with SLTT organizations to develop a suite of tools, analysis, trainings, and useful guides for their members and the public. Resources are tagged according to their Project Partner, Topic Area, and Resource Type. Below is a list of recent additions to the SLTT Resource Library.

- [NGA Roundtable on Energy Resilience and Security for Territories and Islanded Communities](#)
- [NGA Energy Cyber Workforce Policy Brief](#)
- [Public Power Mutual Aid Playbook](#)
- [NCSL Our American States Podcast discusses Cyberattacks and the Energy System | OAS Episode 195 | NCSL Podcasts \(simplecast.com\)](#)
- ONG 101 Video Series: [Linked in the SLTT Resources Library](#)

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