



Winter Newsletter - February 7, 2024

Welcome to the winter 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

NARUC and CESER Launch Online On-demand Cybersecurity Training for State Officials

CESER and the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) designed an online training to institutionalize cyber knowledge and aid Public Utility Commissions (PUCs) in evaluating a utility's cybersecurity maturity. While designed for PUCs, the content is appropriate for a broader energy audience. This training is a progression of an earlier CESER supported resource, NARUC's Cybersecurity Preparedness Evaluation Tool (CPET) Manual. The CPET is designed to be used with the [Questions for Utilities](#) (aligned to the Cybersecurity Capability Maturity Model) on an iterative basis to help PUCs identify cybersecurity gaps,



spur utilities' adoption of additional mitigation strategies, and inform cybersecurity investment decisions.

[Click here to register or learn more about the training.](#)

Blogs and Updates

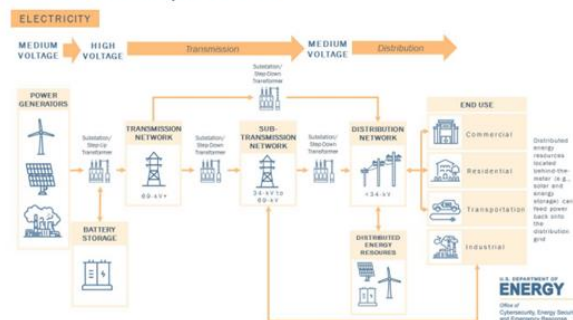
CESER and NASEO Launch State Energy Security Plan Office Hours in 2024 (For State and Territory Energy Officials Only)

State and territory energy officials are continually investing in their State Energy Security Plans (SESPs), convening stakeholders, holding exercises, and adapting to various cyber and physical hazards in real time. CESER and the National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO) have partnered to provide office hours for these officials, to discuss updates, enhancements, and ongoing improvements to their State Energy Security Plans. Wednesday Office Hours are available by appointment, offering an opportunity with DOE and NASEO staff to discuss plan specifics. On Fridays, CESER and NASEO will also hold a group discussion on best practices, lessons learned, and shared approaches to ensuring that these plans are actionable, useful, and responsive to the ever-evolving threat environment. Additional technical assistance will be available throughout 2024, including cohorts, guidebooks, and toolkits. Please email energysecurityplans@hq.doe.gov for more information.

Energy Security and Resilience Learning Series: Electricity Grid Backgrounder

There is a new addition to the CESER [Energy Security and Resilience Learning Series!](#) The [Electricity Grid Backgrounder](#) provides an overview of the energy supply chain including generation, transmission, and distribution and covers how to reduce power outages from threats to these processes.

Exhibit 1. U.S. Electric System Overview



Source: U.S. Department of Energy

NCSL Energy Security Working Group Meeting

The National Conference of State Legislators hosted their first in person meeting of their newly created Energy Security Working Group. The Energy Security Working Group is made up of over 40 state legislators and staff across the country that are interested in a wide array of energy security issues. The event featured an unclassified security briefing, an introduction to the NARUC DOE Cybersecurity Baselines project, and discussion on topical issues like physical security and climate/weather related risks.



NGA Helps NJ and PA State Officials Participate in GridEx VII

GridEx is the largest grid security exercise in North America. Hosted every two years by the North American Electric Reliability Corporation's (NERC's) E-ISAC, GridEx gives utilities, state officials, and partner organizations a forum to practice how they would respond to and recover from coordinated cyber and physical security threats and incidents. GridEx VII took place November 14th and 15th.

The National Governors Association (NGA) has been facilitating state play in the event for the last several exercises and this year helped New Jersey and Pennsylvania engage in the exercise. Later this year, New Jersey and Pennsylvania will participate in an After-Action Workshop to identify best practices, solutions, and identify action steps to address challenges discovered. NGA will subsequently share lessons learned with other states.

Good Reads

2023 Flashback: CESER's SLTT Team Partners with NASEO, NGA, and NARUC to Host Cross-Agency Trainings

CESER's State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Program works regularly with DOE partners and stakeholders to not only prepare them to face threats, but to build relationships and connections that strengthen our overall security and resilience posture. Last Spring, SLTT spearheaded CESER's involvement in two such events that promoted these efforts,

underscoring the heart of emergency response activities: close partnership and collaboration.

[Click here to learn more about these cross-partner trainings.](#)

NERC and FERC Assessments

Each year, NERC – overseen by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) – is responsible for independently assessing and reporting on the overall reliability, adequacy, and associated risks that could impact the upcoming summer and winter seasons as well as the long-term, 10-year period. As emerging risks and potential impacts to reliability are identified, special assessments are conducted that provide insights and guide steps that may be warranted to prevent disruptions to energy supply. The 2023-2024 Winter Reliability Assessment provides an unbiased look at industry's plans for maintaining electricity reliability.

[Click here to read the 2023-2024 Winter Reliability Assessment.](#)

Explore CESER-Supported Resources

- [CESER List of Spotlights 2024.docx \(sharepoint.com\)](#)

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