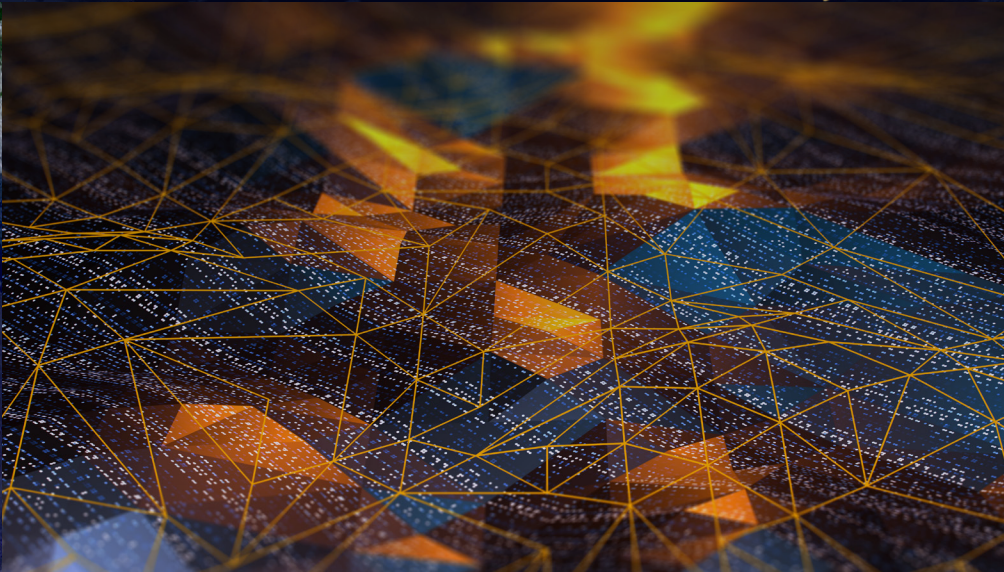
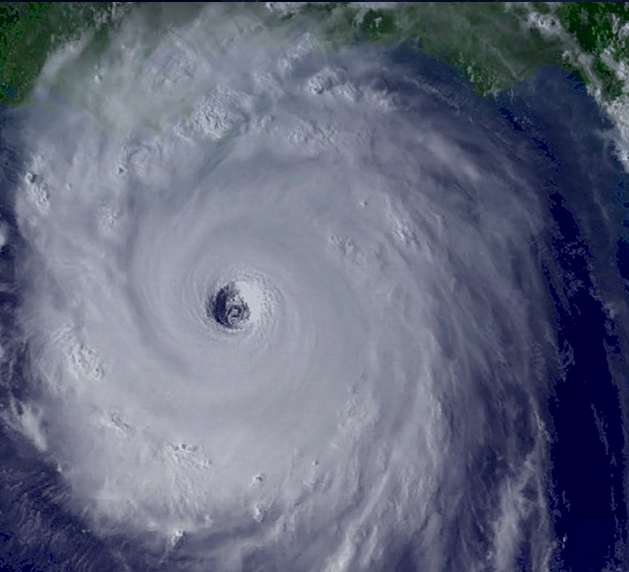




U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
OFFICE OF CYBERSECURITY, ENERGY SECURITY, AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE

# ENERGY SECTOR EXERCISES PROGRAM

## 2022 END OF YEAR REPORT



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**

Office of  
Cybersecurity, Energy Security,  
and Emergency Response



The U.S. Department of Energy’s (DOE) Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response (CESER) addresses the emerging threats of tomorrow while protecting the reliable flow of energy to Americans today by improving energy infrastructure security and supporting DOE’s national security mission. Leveraging preparedness and response activities with a focus on natural and man-made threats to the energy sector helps ensure a stronger, more prosperous, and secure future for the Nation. Throughout 2022, CESER’s Energy Sector Exercises (ESE) Program sponsored, conducted, and supported and/or participated in 36 exercises.

### TOTAL EXERCISES FOR 2022: 36



 CESER Sponsored
  CESER Participated

### THREAT & HAZARD BREAKDOWN



 Natural Disaster
  Cyber
  Other

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM **CESER-SPONSORED EXERCISES**

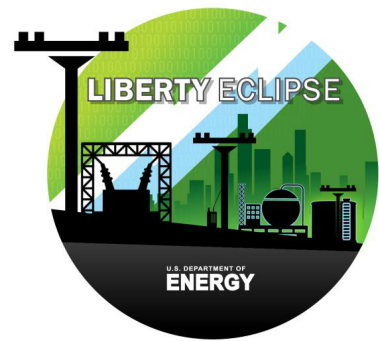
### CLEAR PATH X

Conducted between April and June 2022, the tenth iteration of the Clear Path series included a two-day Communications Drill, a one-day Social Media Drill, and a three-day Functional Exercise with over 82 participants across all three events. The scenario for Clear Path X included multiple hurricanes hitting the United States simultaneously in the Atlantic and Gulf Coast regions. Clear Path X brought together Federal, State, and private sector partners to examine and evaluate their plans, policies, and procedures for a multi-hazard, multi-region national incident. Key discussion topics included restoration crew permitting; identification, prioritization, and deconfliction of key restoration specialties; and employee recovery-focused concerns.



### LIBERTY ECLIPSE 2022 FULL-SCALE EXERCISE

Conducted in fall 2022, this latest engagement served as a pilot effort to demonstrate organizational and operational capabilities to run a testbed environment with industry participants. Allowing for more realistic testing outcomes and exploitation of industry's cyber equipment found at substations, industry participants strongly encouraged the continuation of testbed exercises.



## HIGHLIGHTS FROM

# EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDER SPONSORED EXERCISES

## FRACTURED FREEZE TABLETOP EXERCISE

This two-day, discussion-based TTX was conducted on February 23–24, 2022, sponsored by the National Association of State Energy Officials and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. Following an overview of the scenario, participants discussed the decisions and actions related to response and recovery following a critical infrastructure destabilizing event. The basis of discussion revolved around the organizations' existing operations, recovery, and emergency preparedness plans. The objective of this exercise was to examine the electric cooperative mutual assistance network and interoperability with State energy office plans. The exercise also benefited by building and strengthening relationships between electric cooperatives and State energy officials. The exercise stressed the plans by implementing a polar vortex and earthquake scenario on the New Madrid Fault, happening simultaneously.

## IOWA UTILITIES BOARD STATE ENERGY ASSURANCE PLAN TABLETOP EXERCISE

This discussion-based training and TTX was conducted on September 22, 2022, and sponsored by the Iowa Utilities Board. This exercise included combined planning efforts by U.S. Department of Homeland Security Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency and DOE CESER exercise offices. The seminar's objective was to enhance statewide energy preparedness and, evaluate the public and private sector information sharing and decision-making processes as defined in the Iowa State Energy Assurance Plan, while responding to both natural and man-made cyber incidents.

## PERFECT STORM SEMINAR

This seminar was conducted virtually on August 1, 2022, and hosted by Sam Houston State University examining the identified gaps in Texas' crisis resilience planning and understanding how private sector and government could develop better partnerships for critical infrastructure production such as fuels and chemicals that are needed for the American economy; long-term interruptions that could also affect food, medical, and fuel and have life-threatening impacts to the United States. This exercise illustrated a positive example of cross-jurisdictional efforts to bolster resilience and to better coordinate between partners critical to the energy systems.



## CONCLUSION

Exercises are a critical component of national preparedness and provide an opportunity for continued learning, improvement, and strengthening of resilience. The 2022 exercises that were planned, conducted, evaluated, and supported by the Energy Sector Exercises Program contributed to achieving the commitment the Department has made to preparedness and resiliency for the Nation's energy sector. The continuance of the global pandemic and its impact on preparedness exercises presented challenges; however, the continued adaptive and innovative use of virtual tools and the slow return to in-person and hybrid virtual/in-person exercises provided participants with more engaging and focused discussions. The efficiency, effectiveness, and economics of incorporating virtual tools and conducting virtual exercises can be expected as a standard option for planners into the future. The CESER team increased its focus on non-traditional topics, such as the use of social media in incident response, and addressed unique emerging threats and hazards, allowing the team to think strategically about capabilities and future planning requirements.