



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**



**NERC**

NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC  
RELIABILITY CORPORATION

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**U.S. Department of Energy, FERC and NERC Coordinating Efforts Against COVID-19**

*Agencies Working Together to Support Continued Reliability of Electric System*

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), and the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) are coordinating efforts and working closely with other federal agencies and industry partners to ensure continued reliability of the U.S. electric system in light of the 2019 novel coronavirus, COVID-19.

**Currently, we see no signs of stress to the overall energy system.**

The agencies and NERC are taking the following actions to address the issue:

- As the coordinating agency for Emergency Support Function (ESF) #12, under the National Response Framework, the DOE Energy Response Center has “enhanced watch status” to support the response to COVID-19, including regular engagement with the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), which serves as the lead agency for ESF #8 (Public Health and Medical Services).
- Additionally, the Electricity Information Sharing and Analysis Center (E-ISAC) issued an all-points bulletin on February 5 related to COVID-19, which addressed potential supply chain issues stemming from a manufacturing slowdown in Asia. DOE and FERC are collaborating with NERC, which is preparing to issue a level-2 alert to NERC-registered entities.

- DOE is working with industry partners daily to assess potential long-term impacts due to supply chain disruptions. DOE also is reviewing plans on how to support electric industry mutual aid efforts and any corresponding logistics requirements as a result of COVID-19.
- DOE, FERC and NERC underscore the importance of industry partners following all cybersecurity best practices. Events such as COVID-19 provide hostile actors with enhanced opportunities to conduct nefarious acts, such as phishing email schemes. DOE is working closely with DOE's Office of Intelligence and Counterintelligence, and interagency partners to review data shared through platforms, such as the Cybersecurity Risk Information Sharing Program (CRISP), and to ensure that any relevant threat information is shared with industry partners as soon as possible. The DOE Cybersecurity Capability Maturity Model (C2M2) focuses on the implementation and management of cybersecurity practices associated with the operation and use of information technology and operational technology assets and the environments in which they operate and can help industry partners further protect critical infrastructure from cybersecurity risks.

DOE, FERC, and NERC continue close coordination across the government and with industry and the states and will continue carefully monitoring the situation and supporting response efforts.