

Electricity Sub-Sector Coordinating Council Charter

Purpose and Scope

The purpose of the Electricity Sub-Sector Coordinating Council (ESCC) is to facilitate and support the coordination of sub-sector wide, policy-related activities and initiatives designed to improve the reliability and resilience of the electricity sub-sector, including physical and cyber security infrastructure and emergency preparedness of the nation's electricity sub-sector. The ESCC will establish a dialogue between senior industry representatives and Administration officials in order to carry out the role of the Sector Coordinating Council as established in the National Infrastructure Protection Plan (NIPP) for the electricity sub-sector.

The mission of the ESCC is based on the National Infrastructure Advisory Council (NIAC) recommendation to initiate an executive-level dialogue with electric power sector chief executive officers (CEOs) and other senior executives on the roles and responsibilities of the industry in addressing high impact infrastructure risks and potential threats, and is consistent with Presidential Policy Directive 21, Critical Infrastructure Security and Resiliency, and Executive Order 13636, Improving Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity. The ESCC is self-governed, and participation by its constituencies is voluntary. The ESCC is not regulated by any federal agency.

The ESCC will serve as the principal liaison with the Government Coordinating Council (GCC) for energy and its member federal agencies, including the Department of Energy (DOE), which serves as the Sector Specific Agency for the electricity sub-sector, and federal utilities, on issues pertaining to joint planning, preparedness, resilience, and recovery related to events of national significance that may affect the secure and resilient supply and delivery of electricity.

Primary Objectives

Aligned with the energy sector vision and goals, as established in the NIPP for the electricity sub-sector, the primary objectives of the ESCC are to:

- (1) Coordinate with the GCC and federal agencies and other Sector Coordinating Councils;
- (2) Work with the federal government to improve the flow of information and access to classified information;
- (3) Facilitate identification and sharing of tools and technologies to improve electricity sub-sector security and resilience; and
- (4) Collaborate with the federal government on coordinated government-industry preparedness and response planning for events of national significance.

To carry out these objectives, the ESCC will:

- Communicate ESCC activities, information, and developments effectively, and in a timely manner, to the entire electricity sub-sector, consistent with national security considerations.
- Encourage the federal government to declassify and broadly disseminate threat information, as appropriate.
- Promote sharing of information between the federal government and the electricity sub-sector about physical and cyber threats, vulnerabilities, incidents, and potential protective measures affecting sub-sector members.
- Work with the federal government to facilitate the deployment of government tools and technologies related to the purposes described in this charter.
- Work with the federal government to improve access to timely and actionable information by appropriate recipients of such information.
- Identify priorities and risks on an ongoing basis to inform the efforts of both the government and the sector.
- Provide advice and recommendations to the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) on the roles, activities and capabilities of the Electricity Sector Information Sharing and Analysis Center (ES-ISAC).
- Participate in efforts related to the development, implementation, update and revision of the Energy Sector Specific Plan and review of the Energy Sector Annual Report.
- Collaborate with the federal government on relevant research and development efforts.
- Advise the federal government about the risks, benefits, and potential implications of policies and events on the electricity sub-sector.

Membership and Governance Structure

The ESCC consists of CEO level representatives of the asset owners and operators of the North American electricity industry, including:

- generation, transmission and distribution assets, from all ownership categories;
- regional transmission organizations and independent system operators (ISOs/RTOs), represented by a designee of the ISO/RTO Council (IRC);
- NERC, which is the Electric Reliability Organization certified by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission under Section 215 of the Federal Power Act;
- the National Infrastructure Advisory Council (NIAC); and
- the Canadian Electricity Association (CEA), in view of the interconnected nature of the North American electric grid.

It is expected that federal utilities also will participate in the activities of the ESCC.

Officers: The ESCC shall be led by a Chair and two Vice Chairs.

The Chair and the Vice Chairs shall be members of each of the asset owner classes represented by APPA, EEI, and NRECA, as designated by the trade association CEOs. They shall rely upon the staffs of these Associations and NERC to support the activities of the ESCC. The office of Chair shall rotate among the three asset owner classes. Terms for Chair and Vice Chairs shall be for two years commencing on January 1 of the year following designation as an officer.

The Chair, if present, shall preside over all meetings of the members. A Vice Chair shall act as Chair in the absence of the Chair.

Membership: The ESCC shall have 30 members composed of:

- The Chair and Vice Chairs (3 members)
- The members of the Steering Committee (9 members)
- Eighteen additional CEO-level executives drawn from the memberships of the asset owner classes represented by APPA (3 members), EEI (12 members), and NRECA (3 members), respectively. The CEOs of these trade associations shall be responsible for the appointment of the CEO-level executives designated to represent their respective memberships.

There are no limits on the term that a member of the ESCC may serve. In the case of a vacancy on the ESCC of a member other than a Steering Committee representative, the CEO of the member trade association representing the asset owner class for the vacant seat shall appoint a new member to fill the vacancy. Possession of a security clearance is not a condition of membership on the ESCC.

The ESCC will function as a body representing the views of the owners and operators of the nation's electricity infrastructure. To the extent views among members vary, members may express divergent concerns and perspectives.

ESCC Steering Committee: The Steering Committee shall be composed of a CEO-level representative from each of the following:

- American Public Power Association (APPA)
- Canadian Electricity Association (CEA); the CEO of CEA may designate an alternate, who shall be the CEO of a CEA member organization. (The alternate may attend any ESCC meeting with the CEO of CEA, or in place of the CEO of CEA.)
- Edison Electric Institute (EEI)
- Electric Power Supply Association (EPSA)
- ISO/RTO Council (IRC)
- National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA)
- North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC)
- Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI)
- National Infrastructure Advisory Council (NIAC).

A Secretary shall perform administrative functions as directed by the Steering Committee, including scheduling of meetings or conference calls as required to conduct the business of the ESCC and as requested by the government; preparation and distribution of meeting notices, agendas, and minutes; and the maintenance of ESCC records. The Secretary may coordinate with relevant entities as necessary to perform these functions, including but not limited to coordination with the ES-ISAC to support the Secretary's responsibilities associated with communication and dissemination of information to appropriate entities such as the ESCC, or to the electricity sub-sector as a whole.

The Steering Committee shall have the following duties:

- Provide policy direction for the operation of the ESCC,
- Form committees and working groups populated by ESCC members, their employees, and other electricity sub-sector representatives consistent with the ESCC's direction.

- Communicate with the electricity sub-sector beyond the ESCC members with regard to the activities of the ESCC, consistent with national security,
- Appoint a Secretary to conduct the duties of an administrative nature, as specified above,
- Ensure the effective and timely communication of relevant activities, information and developments of the ESCC to the electricity sub-sector, consistent with national security using communications tools and mechanisms including those available through or facilitated by the ES-ISAC and Steering Committee members,
- Provide a process for inclusion of staff and guests as appropriate, and
- Provide such other assistance to the ESCC as may be appropriate.

Meetings

The ESCC will meet at least once a year. ESCC meetings will be noticed to members in writing (electronic transmittal is acceptable) ten (10) or more business days in advance if possible.

Any decisions made by the ESCC with regard to a particular issue shall be made during a duly constituted meeting.

Approval

The Steering Committee of the Electricity Sub-Sector Coordinating Council, as established by the electricity sub-sector and recognized by the Department of Energy, approves this charter.

This document may be amended upon two-thirds majority vote of the Steering Committee members.

Approved on August 5, 2013