



# Surviving a Catastrophic Power Outage Study National Security Council Tasking

June 14, 2018

**NIAC** The President's National  
Infrastructure Advisory Council

# Background

The Nation has made significant advancements in emergency response and recovery planning over the past decade in response to the growing occurrence of complex disasters. Given the interconnected nature of critical systems and networks, new broad-scale approaches are needed to adequately prepare for, respond to, and recover from catastrophic disasters that can create significant power outages with severe cascading impacts to multiple critical sectors.

# NSC Tasking (issued May 21, 2018)

- ▶ The desired outcome of this study is a greater understanding of how the public and private sectors can work together to further enhance and integrate critical infrastructure resilience with response and recovery actions to mitigate the risks posed by catastrophic power outages.
- ▶ Using the insights gathered during the current scoping effort, the NIAC should develop findings and actionable, pragmatic recommendations.

# NSC Tasking Questions (1/2)

1. What investments, including approaches to increase resilience and reliability, are needed in infrastructure systems and supply chains to minimize the duration, extent, and recovery time for long-duration, large-scale power outages? What are the roles of the private and public sectors in these investments?
2. What critical factors are required to sustain national security; operations within the banking and finance, public health and medical, communications, transportation, and water sectors; and the integrity of the national and regional economies during efforts to restore electric power?

# NSC Tasking Questions (2/2)

3. What is the Nation's readiness to prioritize and coordinate resource sharing among federal, state, and private entities during catastrophic power outages that will mitigate cascading impacts across the lifeline functions?
4. To what extent are regional and national-level vulnerabilities to catastrophic power outages understood, given the diversity and complexity of North American electric generation, transmission, distribution, and storage configurations and markets?
5. Where does the *Power Outage Incident Annex to the Response and Recovery Federal Interagency Operational Plans* fit within the context of public-private preparedness activities?