

Executives advising the President on securing America's infrastructure from catastrophic failure

The President's National Infrastructure Advisory Council (NIAC) comprises senior executives from industry and state and local government who own and operate the critical infrastructure essential to modern life. The Council was established by executive order in October 2001 to advise the President on practical strategies for industry and government to reduce complex risks to critical infrastructure.

The NIAC is the only council of cross-sector executives that examines high-impact risks that could shut down America's critical infrastructure, the majority of which is owned by the private sector. At the President's direction, NIAC members study physical and cyber risks and recommend solutions that reduce risks and improve security and resilience. Members draw upon their deep experience, engage national experts, and conduct extensive research to discern the key insights that lead to practical federal solutions to complex problems.

Now more than ever, America faces complex and escalating risks that require NIAC's real-world insight and independent voice. America's infrastructure systems are now so interconnected that a disaster in one sector can trigger cascading service disruptions in adjacent sectors and regions, creating a domino effect that can threaten national and economic security. NIAC members' specialized cross-sector expertise offers new perspectives and solutions to complex problems.

NIAC has conducted 30 in-depth studies resulting in almost 300 recommendations, addressing problems such as how to:

- **Improve intelligence information sharing** across government and industry
- **Identify and reduce complex cyber risks**, particularly for cyber-physical systems that operate critical processes
- **Better prepare and respond to disruptions (like Superstorm Sandy)** that can ripple across multiple infrastructure systems and paralyze services to entire regions
- **Facilitate cooperative decision-making** among senior executives and federal leaders during imminent threats and disaster response
- **Address the skills gaps and loss of institutional knowledge** in key workforces

