Background

Critical infrastructure are the assets, systems, and networks, whether physical or virtual, so vital to the United States that their incapacitation or destruction would have a debilitating effect on security, national economic security, national public health or safety, or any combination thereof.

As noted in the National Infrastructure Protection Plan (NIPP), voluntary collaboration between private sector owners and operators (including their partner associations, vendors, and others) and their government counterparts has been and will remain the primary mechanism for advancing collective action toward national critical infrastructure security and resilience. As the nature of the critical infrastructure risk environment precludes any one entity from managing risks entirely on its own, partners benefit from access to knowledge and capabilities that would otherwise be unavailable to them. This allows more informed decisions when identifying and addressing national critical infrastructure priorities. Participation in this effort is based on a clear and shared interest in ensuring the security and resilience of the Nation’s critical infrastructure and an understanding of the comparative advantage each element of the partnership can bring to achieve this shared interest.

Partnerships enable more effective and efficient risk management. Within the context of the NIPP, a partnership is defined as close cooperation between parties having common interests in achieving a shared vision. For the critical infrastructure community, leadership involvement, open communication, and trusted relationships are essential elements to partnership.

Article I – Official Designation

This organization will be known as the Regional Consortium Coordinating Council (RC3).

Article II – Mission and Purpose

This Charter formally recognizes and establishes the governance of the RC3 as a national forum for regional coordination among alliances for the purpose of critical infrastructure security and resilience (CISR). The mission of the RC3 is to strengthen regional collaborations that enhance protection, security, response, recovery, and resilience of the Nation’s CISR by:

- Promoting and fostering protection, security, and resilience efforts;
- Developing a national policy framework for regional infrastructure protection, prevention, deterrence, response, recovery, and longer term restoration;
- Providing the foundation for regional cross-sector collaboration;
- Fostering the development of risk-based protection and mitigation measures to enable measurable progress towards robust security and disaster resilience; and
- Enhancing the education and awareness of critical infrastructure interdependencies.

Article III – Objectives and Scope of Activity

To accomplish this mission, the RC3 will conduct the following general functions:

- Support the Nation’s critical infrastructure security and resilience plans and strategies, specifically those described in the NIPP;
Regional Consortium Coordinating Council (RC3)

- Promote collaboration and share best practices among regional coalitions in implementing NIPP-related CISR risk assessment, risk-based protection, and disaster resilient activities;
- Facilitate education and awareness of interdependencies of critical infrastructures and key resources and the vulnerabilities of their disruption in a regional context;
- Coordinate regional exercise and training programs, including a focus on multi-jurisdictional and multi-disciplinary collaboration across the public and private sector boundaries;
- Work with Federal, state, local, tribal, territorial, and international governments and private sector entities as appropriate to evaluate and prioritize critical infrastructure interdependencies and their vulnerabilities, including cyber considerations, and to identify regional mitigation strategies;
- Conduct appropriate regional planning efforts and undertake appropriate partnership agreements to enable regional critical infrastructure response, and recovery activities to enhance long-term community resilience;
- Facilitate information-sharing and two-way situational awareness, applying information-sharing tools and platforms provided by government, where appropriate, thus fostering trust among public and private partners by sharing best-practice protocols involving regional consortium partners and highlighting the importance to communities of having adequate threat, warning and emergency communications systems; and
- Inform policy and planning processes, and provide recommendations on critical infrastructure protection, security, and resilience requirements with the Department of Homeland Security, Sector Specific Agencies, the States, and other critical infrastructure partners, as appropriate.
- Maintain close coordination and cooperation with the State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Government Coordinating Council (SLTTGCC), described in the NIPP, through a mutual liaison function.

Article IV - Membership

The RC3 serves as a recognized forum for national coordination and collaboration among regional consortia for the purpose of CISR. All members of the RC3 must align to the mission, purpose activities and scope outlined above.

Membership of the RC3 will consist of organizations that have the specific purpose or mission of enhancing the protection, security, and resilience of the critical infrastructure community. Specific member criteria and responsibilities are specified in the RC3 Bylaws.

The RC3 may not speak or act on behalf of the United States Government or of the Department of Homeland Security and no one other than the RC3’s duly elected officials may speak on behalf of the RC3. No RC3 sub council may exist absent creation by the RC3 Chair or Vice-Chair acting on behalf of the RC3 Chair. The roster of RC3 regional consortia members shall be publicly accessible via a public-facing website.
Article V – Governance and Bylaws

The RC3 shall be governed by an Executive Committee, led by a Chair and Vice Chair. The Executive Committee shall maintain a current charter and adopt bylaws establishing the manner in which the RC3 will operate.

Article VI – Meetings

Specific Meeting definitions, descriptions, decision-making, and quorum definitions are included in the RC3 Bylaws.

Article VII – Records Keeping

Records keeping will be conducted in accordance with the RC3 Bylaws and the approved file plan implemented by the Secretariat.

Article VIII – Communications

Specific descriptions of communicating with members, external to Council entities and/or other critical infrastructure partners are included in the RC3 Bylaws.

Article IX – Working Groups and Special Committees

The RC3 may develop sub councils based upon geographic coordination, topical issues, or any other interdependent factors that it deems relevant to its regional consortia or their member entities.

Additional Working Group and Special Committees information is included in the RC3 Bylaws.

Article X – Critical Infrastructure Partnership Advisory Council (CIPAC) Membership and Representation

The Department of Homeland Security has established CIPAC to facilitate effective coordination between DHS and other Federal infrastructure protection, security, and resilience programs, with the critical infrastructure activities of the private sector and of state, local, territorial, and tribal governments.

The CIPAC represents a partnership between government and critical infrastructure owners and operators and provides a forum in which they can engage in a broad spectrum of activities to support and coordinate critical infrastructure security and resilience matters..

When conducting or participating in CIPAC activities, the Council, and its working groups and committees, will comply with all requirements defined in the CIPAC Charter and guidance issued by the CIPAC Designated Federal Officer within the CIPAC Executive Secretariat.

Article XI – Amendments

Article XII – Duration

This charter shall stay in effect until it is amended by the Executive Committee, or within five years of ratification.
Article XIII – Approval

Approved on March 6, 2018

The Regional Consortium Coordinating Council Chair and Vice Chair hereby approve this charter.

Christopher Terzich
RC3 Chair
Minnesota InfraGard Members Alliance

Tom Moran
RC3 Vice Chair
All Hazards Consortium